

Minutes of Annual Budget meeting of Ardee Town Council held in Mid-Louth Civic Services Centre, Ardee on Wednesday 13th December 2013 at 6.30 pm

Members: Councillors: Fintan Malone Michael Farrelly, Pearse McGeough, Finnan McCoy, Mary Kavanagh, Fintan Malone, Pdraig McKenny, Dolores Minogue, Jim Tenanty

Officials: Joe McGuinness, Director of Services
Pdraig Judge, Senior Executive Engineer
Miriam Roe, Town Clerk
Bernadette Woods, Head of Finance

Apologies: Cllr Leonard Hatrick

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B Woods presented the draft budget for 2014 to the Members, stating that the figures were based on the 2013 expenditure. Railway Walk works were completed so was not included in 2014. Gratuity payment for Councillors were provided for and also Councillors remuneration and expenses to the end of May. The LGF contribution did not change from last year and using resources available, the rate in the euro would remain as 2013.

Discussion followed with a number of questions being raised by the Members.

B Woods answered the question asked by Cllr Tenenty regarding Cllrs gratuities. She stated that the figure the gratuities were based on the details as set out in the Departments Circular from 2004. This is the circular in place at this moment in time and therefore the one which had to be used.

Cllr McGeough asked for clarification as to why there was an overrun on the amount spent on conferences. B Woods to provide breakdown for the next meeting.

Cllr McGeough asked what was the balance in reserve and what would happen to this after May. B Woods responded that it was approximately €75,000. This figure was also to be clarified for the next meeting. These monies would be ring fenced to be spent in the local area.

Cllr Malone asked what would happen to the lands currently in the ownership of Ardee Town Council including, Fairgreen, Riverside Walk and College Park. There was a genuine concern among the Members that these lands would be preserved for the people of Ardee and would not be sold off. B Woods responded that there was an ongoing project to identify all lands and

this was being confirmed with the Land Registry. She also reminded the Members there was an opportunity in the Local Area Plan and Development Plan to zone these lands for certain preferred usage.

J McGuinness advised the Members that any lands that the Council would wish to dispose of would still be subject to a Section 183.

Cllr McGeough stated that these lands were an asset belonging to the town and should be preserved for the townspeople.

Cllr Malone asked if provision could be made in the budget for a tourist guide for the town. It was suggested that the money used in the Improve our Town section of the budget be used for such.

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Adoption of 2014 Budget

In conclusion, on the proposal of Councillor McCoy and seconded by Councillor Minogue, it was proposed the Budget 2014 be adopted as stated.

A vote was taken with the result as follows:

For the adoption of the Budget 2014 - Cllr Kavanagh, Cllr McCoy, Cllr Farrelly, Cllr Tenanty, Cllr McKenny, Cllr Malone, Cllr Minogue,

Total Votes in Favour: 7

Against the adoption of the Budget 2014 - Cllr McGeough

Total Votes Against: 1

Absent - Cllr Hatrick

That concluded the meeting

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____