

Minutes of monthly meeting of Ardee Town Council held in Mid-Louth Civic Services Centre, Fairgreen, on Wednesday 11th September 2013 at 7.30pm

In Attendance: Councillors F. Malone (Chairperson),
P. McKenny, J. Tenanty, D. Minogue,
P. McGeough, F. McCoy

Officials: Joe McGuinness, Director of Services
Padraig Judge, Senior Executive Engineer

Apologies: Cllr. L. Hatrick, Cllr. M. Farrell
Miriam Roe, Town Clerk

MINUTE 56/13

Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. F. Mc Coy and seconded by Cllr. J. Tenanty, the minutes of the meeting of 10th July 2013 were adopted.

MINUTE 57/13

Matters Arising

A number of members raised matters in relation to the cessation of the pay parking pilot and this was discussed at considerable length, it was also noted that there is a motion on the matter before Louth County Council at their scheduled meeting of September 16th.

The following matters in particular were raised;

- Alternative systems.
- Any quotas or targets set by wardens.
- Linking of non payment of commercial rates with pay parking losses.
- Contractual arrangements.

In all matters J. McGuinness, Director of Services and Area Manager for Mid Louth, responded.

MINUTE 58/13

Planned Works

P. Judge circulated a report in relation to planned works in Ardee Town and surrounding areas for the forthcoming month. These matters included;

- New junction layout at John St.
- Footpath railings at Scoil Mhuire Na Trocaire.
- Verge cutting and trimming generally.
- Ongoing maintenance of road signage in Ardee.
- Road gulley cleaning at Jervis St. and Kells Rd.
- Works at Analog, Ardee.

A number of additional matters were raised by the members including the installation of road speed warning signs on N2 after St. Marys GFC, matters in relation to the John St. junction and whether the bus stop in the same area had been altered.

P. Judge also gave a response in relation to matters raised at earlier meetings in relation to speed surveys at De La Salle Terrace and traffic count at Sean O'Carroll St.

Members noted the following in relation to De La Salle Terrace, that while the speeds fall below the threshold for traffic calming, it was noted that there were higher speeds at night and earlier in the morning and P. Judge undertook to review this aspect in particular.

The members noted also the traffic count in relation to Sean O'Carroll St. which was undertaken over a 19 day period and saw a 2% presentation of heavy goods vehicles out of a total count of 12,600. The members noted that this was considered not an excessive amount.

MINUTE 59/13

Notice of Motions

1. Cllr. P. McGeough

"That this Council calls on the Government to give official recognition status to Irish Sign Language which would improve the lives of our deaf and hard of hearing citizens".

On the proposal of Cllr. P. McGeough and seconded by Cllr. J. Tenanty this motion was passed and it was also agreed that this motion should be passed to all other Councils.

2. Cllr. F. Malone

“Eamon Ceant lived in Ardee in the late 1881-1892 and went to school in Ardee; with the celebrations of 1916 approaching, there is an opportunity for Ardee to prepare itself for these celebrations as funding may be available”.

A discussion ensued in relation to this motion which is linked also to concerns about the lack of progress in relation to the Ardee Castle facility. An amended motion proposed by Cllr F. Malone and seconded by Cllr P McKenny sought that the Council invite Brian Walsh, Museum Curator, to discuss the possibility of making some form of celebration of the Eamon Ceant link with Ardee as part of the 1916 commemorations and also discuss progress generally on the Ardee Castle project.

MINUTE 60/13

Notice of Motion from Other Councils

Macroom Town Council

“That Macroom Town Council calls on Minister Phil Hogan to write to all Town Councils explaining the breakdown of exact savings that are to be made by the proposed abolishment of Town Councils”

This motion was agreed unanimously.

Kilkee Town Council

“That Kilkee Town Council calls on Minister of State Jan O’Sullivan to give special consideration to the social houses that remain under the control of former Town Commissioners when considering applicants under the ‘Energy Efficiency Investment’.”

This motion was noted.

MINUTE 61/13

Correspondence

The response from Bus Eireann regarding bus shelters was noted and it was agreed that further information should be sought on the solution that was put in place in Co. Cavan.

MINUTE 62/13

A.O.B

Cllr. Tenanty raised the matter of a proposed Gathering event in relation to calling together all former Town Councils and Town Commissioners for Ardee and that an event had been scheduled for November next. It was agreed that all would unanimously support the event and would forward on any useful data, photographs or documents which could form part of an exhibition.

Cllr. P. McGeough raised the matter of poor lighting in relation to traffic lights at Bank of Ireland and P. Judge, Senior Executive Engineer, agreed to review this matter.

Cllr. P. McKenny noted the recent planning application for a new psychiatric unit to be developed within Our Lady of Lourdes complex in Drogheda and expressed a concern that this had not been located in Ardee. On the proposal of Cllr. F. McCoy it was agreed that the Council would write to the HSE seeking their future plans for St. Brigids and adjoining lands.

Cllr. F. McCoy proposed that a letter of condolence be issued to the family of the late Richard McKenny who was an active member of the Louth Mans Association of New York and who recently passed away.

Cllr. D. Minogue enquired about the proposal to award Civic Honours to the under 12 five-a-side soccer team from the Boys Monastery School in Ardee who recently won an All Ireland event, and it was noted that a ceremony is planned for the Autumn in conjunction with the school.

Cllr. Minogue also enquired about the possibility of facilitating a visit by the Dermot O'Brien family to the Mid Louth Civic Centre to visit and view the Dermot O'Brien room in that facility. She also praised Darren Weldon from the locality who is organising a Mother and Fathers Run and other matters associated with Ardee Athletic Club.

Cllr. McCoy congratulated the Vice Chair of Ardee Town Council and the Ardee Traders in relation to the handling of an event which honoured Thomas McCabe who recently won the World Power Lifting Championship.

On the proposal of Cllr. F. Malone and seconded by Cllr. D. Minogue a vote of congratulations and welcome was passed to the new County Manager, Ms Philomena Poole, and an invite was extended for her to attend the next, or any, appropriate meeting of this council.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____