

Minutes of monthly meeting of Ardee Town Council held in Mid-Louth Civic Services Centre, Fairgreen, on Wednesday 12th February, 2014

In Attendance: Councillors: Fintan Malone (Chairperson), Padraig McKenny, Pearse McGeough, Finnan McCoy, Dolores Minogue, Mary Kavanagh, Leonard Hatrick, Michael Farrelly.

Apologies: Cllr. Jim Tenanty.

Officials: J McGuinness, Director of Services & Town Clerk
P. Judge, Senior Executive Engineer.

MINUTE 08/14

Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. F. McCoy and the seconding of Cllr. M. Farrelly, the minutes of the meeting of 8th January, 2014 were adopted.

MINUTE 09/14

Matters Arising

A number of matters were discussed arising from the previous meeting including;

- A positive welcome was made to the response from the Louth GAA County Board with regard to the utilisation of any available lands at Ardee for a County Grounds.
- It was agreed that the previous vote of sympathy to the late Nelson Mandela should actually be conveyed to the Embassy of South Africa.
- It was noted also that there was no response from Bus Eireann in relation to a bus stop issue.

MINUTE 10/14

2012 Statutory Audit

On the proposal of Cllr. P. McKenny and seconding of Cllr. M. Farrelly it was agreed to defer the above matter to the March meeting.

MINUTE 11/14

Proposed Name Change for 'Castleguard' Road

J. McGuinness, Director of Services, circulated a reply received from the Student Council of Ardee Community School. After some discussion it was agreed to extend the period for considerations for names for this road and that a further letter issue to both the Student Council to thank them for their submission, and to Ardee Historical Society seeking their assistance in the matter.

It was noted that to date the following names were under consideration;

- The Mount Road
- Eamon Cant Road
- Turfman Road
- Cuchulainn Road
- Link Line
- Johnny Callans Road
- Castleguard Road
- The Boreen
- The Fishermans Wharf
- Aiken Road.

It was agreed that all these names would be reviewed at the March meeting and a final shortlist of three names would be referred to the Louth Local Authority Place Names Committee for a final decision.

MINUTE 12/14

Local Area Hackney Licence – Taxi Regulations 2003

J. McGuinness briefed the Council in relation to the implication of the regulations and the members noted same. A number of issues in particular were discussed including local services, existing local bus and train services, lack of rural transport services, and existing hackney services. On a general basis it was considered that there is a general need for local hackney services and on the proposal of Cllr. F. McCoy and seconding of Cllr. D. Minogue this principal was agreed.

MINUTE 13/14

Memorial Art Project

Cllr. P. McKenny advised of his original proposal and updated the Council on his individual findings. He advised on the significant local interest that has been generated for this event and on the proposal of Cllr. P. McKenny and seconding of Cllr. F. Malone it was agreed that an open night would be held in an effort to confirm all the names of those who were killed in the First World

War from the Ardee locality. It was agreed that this matter would be held in Ardee Castle at a date to be agreed in March. It was also agreed that the members would endeavour to have the project completed before the cessation of Ardee Town Council. A number of other matters were discussed on this theme including;

- Names of deceased,
- Arts consultation and,
- Public Consultation.

MINUTE 14/14

Planned Works

Padraig Judge, Senior Executive Engineer circulated a Report of Works Planned. A number of particular issues were discussed including;

- Pothole at McGuinness farm,
- Dangerous trees,
- Flood risk assessments,
- Major Emergency Plan.

On the proposal of Cllr. F. Malone and seconding of Cllr. M. Farrelly it was agreed that the Council would write to the Office of Public Works for a comment in relation to recent media report that Ardee and environs was considered an area of high risk of flooding and also request the report in relation to the issue of rivers silting.

In conclusion the Chairman took the opportunity to commend all staff who had been working in the area over the recent storms.

MINUTE 15/14

Correspondence

A. Letter from the Minister for the Environment, Phil Hogan

This correspondence was noted

B. Correspondence from Ardee Active Retirement

Members noted the response received which related to media coverage of a previous debate. On the proposal of Cllr. P. McGeough and seconding of Cllr. F. McCoy it was agreed to write to Ardee Active Retirement and to commend them for their work and to advise that on this particular matter they were never apportioned any blame on any matter in relation which was under discussion at Ardee Town Council.

C. NRA Speed Limit Correspondence

This matter was noted by the members.

MINUTE 16/14

Notice of Motions

A. Bantry Town Council

“That Bantry Town Council have decided to seek a plebiscite from the people of Bantry to give them a say, not given to them by government, regarding the future of Bantry Town Council. We ask the opinion of all Town Councils and encourage them to consider seeking a similar plebiscite.”

This matter was noted by the members.

B. Passage West Town Council

“This Town Council proposes that the relevant Derelict Sites Legislation be amended to facilitate an increase in the levy applied to properties included on the Derelict Sites Register from 3% to 10%.

Given the lower level of market values in recent years, the levy of 3% is not a sufficient deterrent to ensure properties do not become or remain in a derelict condition, and a change in legislation is required to bring about the type of disincentive necessary to achieve the goal of removing or preventing dereliction”

This matter was noted by the members.

C. Kilkee Town Council

“At the December Monthly Meeting of Kilkee Town Council the elected members agreed to write this letter to you (Dr. James Reilly T.D.) asking that you cap the prescription fee at €10 for the long term ill and pensioners regardless of the number of items on the prescription. The members felt that people were now prioritizing items on prescriptions and not buying all the items as they cannot afford them.”

The members unanimously supported this motion.

D. Ballina Town Council

“That Ballina Town Council calls on the Minister for Finance to revoke the solid fuel carbon tax due to the dependency of the vast majority of Irish families using this source of heating; that this Motion is circulated to all Town Councils for their support.”

The matter was noted by the members.

MINUTE 17/14

Conferences

The members noted same.

MINUTE 18/14

Any Other Business

Ardee Pay Parking Scheme

J. McGuinness advised the members that this matter was for adoption at the February meeting of Louth County Council. He advised that he intended keeping the matter under review and would revert to the members if the matter did not prove to be successful.

The members noted and expressed some concern in relation to the likely issues that will arise.

St. Patricks Day Parade

It was noted and agreed that there would be a Gathering Exhibition held in the Malone Room in Ardee on St. Patricks Day between 2.00 and 5.00 p.m.

Roads

A number of small issues were raised in relation to

- potholes at the back of the Bank of Ireland,
- ramps at De La Salle,
- Cherrybrook potholes and,
- Taking in charge – issues with same.

Housing Adaptation Grants

On the proposal of Cllr. F. Malone and seconding of Cllr. P. McKenny it was agreed to write to the Minister for the Environment to see could additional funding be provided for Louth County Council in this regard. Members also noted the recent changes to the grant scheme which included a compliance with the Local Property Tax requirements.

This concluded the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____