

Municipal District of Ardee – November 2015

Minutes of Municipal District of Ardee meeting held in the Mid Louth Civic Services Centre, Ardee, on Thursday, 5th November, 2015, at 5.30 p.m.

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach:	Cllr. C. Markey
Members:	Councillors: T. Cunningham, P. McGeough, D. Minogue, L. Reilly, J. Tenanty
Officials:	J. Martin, Chief Executive J. McGuinness, Director of Services B. Woods, Head of Finance G. Kelly, Senior Engineer L. Duff, Meetings Administrator
Apologies:	None

Minute No. 91/15

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 3rd October, 2015.

Proposed by: Cllr. T. Cunningham,
Seconded by: Cllr. D. Minogue

Minute No. 92/15

Matters arising

In regard to Minute No. 83/15 Cllr. Cunningham clarified that the Captain of the Louth Lady's football team was Michelle McMahon, Glyde Rangers and not Grace Lynch.

Minute No. 93/15

Cllr. Minogue sought an update on Ardee Castle and Playground. The Chief Executive advised that both the Castle and the Playground would be included in the draft three year Capital Programme for 2016, 2017 and 2018 with proposed spending for Castle and Playground recreational facilities. She advised that it will cost approximately €1.2m to do the works to the Castle and that it was hoped to have Part 8 in by first quarter of next year. She stated that the building plans for the Castle and adjacent house will address issues such as fire access and disability access. The Chief Executive addressed the Members queries in relation to the Castle and advised that there were no plans yet in relation to running and use of same. The members welcomed the news in relation to the Castle.

Cllr. Tenanty asked that they be the first to be contacted when the Part 8 is ready. The Chief Executive confirmed that the Part 8 would come to the Municipal District firstly.

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The Chair, Cllr. Markey asked that discussions in relation to the use of the Castle be driven from this Municipal District and the Chief Executive advised that a workshop for brainstorming could be set up.

Cllr Minogue asked if an increase in the 50% refund of rates on vacant premises could be looked at. The Chief Executive advised that 50% was allowed for in the draft budget and if Members decide to increase this then these monies would have to be found elsewhere, but that it was a matter for the Members. Ms. Bernie Woods, Director of Services, suggested that those in difficulty should contact the finance section whereby they could work together to address payment issues and a payment plan could be set up. Cllr. McGeough stated that a Rate Collector would be a progressive move in the collection of rates and the Chief Executive advised that she was open to putting someone on the ground to collect but that there was a shift away from cash payments and towards electronic payments.

The Chief Executive addressed issues in relation to funding for Derelict Buildings.

Cllr. Reilly queried what plans were made in relation to Centenary 2016. The Chief Executive advised that a consultative forum was set up and public consultations were held. She advised that it was hoped to launch the Louth Centenary Programme in December or early January.

Minute No. 94/15

Draft Budgetary Plan 2016

The Chief Executive advised that there was a new legal obligation whereby she was obliged to consult with the Municipal District Members for each Municipal District in the local authority's functional area in relation to the Municipal District Budgetary Plan.

The Chief Executive advised that she proposed to continue with the €50,000 allocation to each of the three Municipal Districts as was the case last year. She clarified that this funding was discretionary money in addition to road works programmes and other programmes of works that would be carried out in the area and that the members could allocate to specific projects within the Municipal District area.

She advised that a resolution was passed at Drogheda Municipal District Meeting on 2nd November, 2015, seeking an allocation of €140,000 similar to East Meath and that no such proposal was made at Dundalk Municipal District Meeting on 3rd November, 2015. She advised that she must now consider same and review the budget. She advised that while all three Municipal Districts will receive the same amount it will not be €140,000.

Minute No. 95/15

Mr. Joe McGuinness presented the Housing and Communities Progress Report dated 23rd October, 2015, and addressed the Members' queries in relation to same. Among the matters raised were Part 8 in relation to Tierney Street Ardee, HAP, Homelessness and the new Incremental Purchase Scheme for Tenant Purchasers.

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Cllr. Tenanty asked if a HAP clinic could be set up in Ardee and Mr. McGuinness confirmed that it was hoped to have same in place by January 2016.

In response to a statement from Cllr. McGeough in relation to landlords evicting tenants, Mr. McGuinness advised that tenants should consult with and take advice from the PRTB and that the dispute resolution process was on our web site.

Mr. McGuinness advised that a Section 183 in relation to land at Funshog, Ardee would be coming before the full Council.

Minute No. 96/15

Mr. Gerry Kelly presented the Infrastructure, Operations & Marine Progress Report dated 22nd October, 2015, and addressed the Members' queries in relation to same.

Cllr. Reilly sought an update on Louth Village Playground funding and Mr. Kelly advised that same would be completed this year and that he would revert with update.

Cllr. Tenanty sought clarification on who was responsible for cutting ditches on land that we CPO'd as ditches at Coole and Mullenstown required cutting. Mr. Kelly confirmed that the Council were responsible and that he would investigate.

Following a request from Cllr. Cunningham, Mr. Kelly advised that he would remind the Overseers in relation to cleaning of gullies and drains.

Cllr. McGeough sought update on landscaping and construction of headwall at Station Road, Castlebellingham and Mr. Kelly advised that he would revert with update.

Cllr. McGeough also queried if the ditch in front of St. Olivers Park could be topped. Mr. Kelly will investigate.

Minute No. 97/15

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. P. McGeough

Seconded by Cllr. C. Markey

"I wish to call for the provision of a footpath from St Peters Nursing Home to Coopers Cross and from Coopers Cross to the speed limit sign on the Annagassan Road in Castlebellingham."

REPLY:

There is an existing footpath from the nursing home to Coopers Cross, but none from Coopers Cross to the speed limit sign, a distance of 230 m. A footpath would connect approximately 10 dwellings into the village, but it would be conditional on funding being available.

Cllr. McGeough asked if something could be done in relation to a footpath as he feels the nursing home should be connected to the village.

Minute No. 98/15

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. J. Tenanty

Seconded by Cllr. T. Cunningham

"That a weight restriction be put on Sean O'Carroll Street, Ardee to prevent large vehicles from using this narrow street, as it has become congested and a danger to residents and motorists."

REPLY:

The imposition of a weight restriction on Sean O'Carroll Street requires further investigation before it can be recommended to Ardee Municipal District Council. The ability of HGV's to turn into Ash Walk needs examination before a final recommendation can be made.

Mr. Kelly is to clarify whether the bottom of Sean O'Carroll Street was taken in charge.

Minute No. 99/15

Halloween

The Chair, Cllr. C. Markey congratulated the Gardai on a good job done at Halloween, whereby they had plenty of staff on duty. Cllr. Tenanty also congratulated St. Mary's for the fireworks display and asked that a letter of congratulations be issued to both.

Minute No. 100/15

The Chairperson, Cllr. Markey, circulated a letter from Annagassan Tourism who are currently involved in developing an innovative project with Catoira in Spain with the aim of promoting the Viking history of Annagassan, Dundalk, and the Viking Village of Catoira in Spain. He advised that they were looking for a letter of support from Louth County Council and he confirmed the request did not involve twinning and that they were not seeking funding. The members agreed to same. Mr. McGuinness suggested that this matter should also be referred to the Economic Development section.

Minute No. 101/15

The Members agreed that the venue for December meeting would be Clogherhead Fishermans Co-op.

The Meetings Administrator, Ms. Liz Duff, circulated to the Members a calendar of meetings for 2016. She asked that the members consider the later date for the January meeting to facilitate the circulation of the agenda and to complete the response to the Motions and Questions. The Members agreed that the date of the January meeting would now be scheduled for Thursday 14th January, 2016.

Minute No. 102/15

Vote of Smypathy

A vote of sympathy was extended to the family and friends of the late Stephen Melia, former Louth footballer.

Minute No. 103/15

Cllr. Minogue queried the increasing number of care homes in the Louth area. Mr. McGuinness will look at planning enforcement when she identifies areas.

There being no other business the meeting concluded.

The Minutes were confirmed at a meeting held on:-

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meetings Administrator: _____