

Municipal District of Ardee – September 2022

Minutes of the Municipal District of Ardee meeting hosted in the Dermot O'Brien Room, Ardee Civic Offices, Ardee on Thursday 1st September 2022 at 4.30 p.m.

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Councillor Paula Butterly

Members: Councillors: Bernie Conlon, Dolores Minogue, Pearse McGeough, John Sheridan, Jim Tenanty

Officials: Joe McGuinness Director of Services
Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator
John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer
Wille Walsh, Senior Executive Officer
Declan McMahon, Senior Executive Engineer
John O'Hagan, Senior Executive Engineer

Minute No. 83/22

Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 1st July, 2022 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr Bernie Conlon and seconded by Cllr Pearse McGeough.

Minute No. 84/22

Matters Arising

- Updates were requested on items which had arisen in previous meetings.
- The Cathaoirleach reminded Members to log operational matters through the Electoral Reps system on Sugar in the first instance
- Director of Services Joe McGuinness advised Members of a change in Directorates and that future reports would encompass the new headings and changes recently made

Minute No. 85/22

Suspension of Standing Orders as allowed under Standing Order no. 69, to receive a deputation without prior written notice of subject matter as allowable under Standing Order no. 45.

Members unanimously agreed to suspend standing orders to receive a deputation from Ardee Traders following the ordinary business of the meeting, without prior notification of subject matter in writing as allowable under Standing Order no. 45 in the event of a majority vote, and as they had agreed to receive a deputation at July meeting.

Minute No. 86/22

Housing Progress Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting, and John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer answered queries raised.

- Concerns were raised by Members about recent announcement by Energy suppliers on upcoming price increases to customers. Profits made in the first half of the year by same Suppliers were cited. Queries were raised about Social housing tenants with no central heating, John Lawrence advised that the national retrofit scheme for social houses continued and was 100% funded by the Dept., but that the Executive were aware of many units still requiring retrofitting.

Following some discussion it was

Proposed by: Cllr Dolores Minogue

Seconded by: Cllr Bernie Conlon

And agreed by all councillors that a letter should issue from the Ardee Municipal District citing strong concerns about increasing prices and the pressure on families and individuals who may have to choose between food or fuel. It was confirmed that the Members would confer amongst themselves on who to send the letter to and on the exact wording. Cllr Pearse McGeough was to then email the agreed details to the Meeting Administrator to issue on behalf of the Members.

Minute No. 87/22

Operations and Marine Progress Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting and Declan McMahon, Senior Executive Engineer responded on all Operations Matters.

The following items were highlighted:

- Operations were thanked for Work carried out at various sites and projects
- There is no start date set for the Low Cost Safety Programme works on lands at Tinure
- Yellow box marking upgrades requests at various locations

Minute No. 88/22

Infrastructure Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting and John O'Hagan, Senior Executive Engineer responded on all matters raised. The following items were highlighted:

- The New Bus Stop at Church St., was noted and staff were thanked

- New bus stop requests should be made directly to the NTA (National Transport Authority) but to cc Louth County Council on any requests
- Near misses should be notified to the Area Engineer by email as they happen who can inform the NTA when they are reviewing accident data for road safety measures.
- Dunleer Fire Station tenders for design consultants are being assessed.

Minute No. 89/22

Briefing on the MD Litter Management Plan

Senior Executive Officer Willie Walsh advised on the report as issued, advising Members that all sites were back to pre-covid usage and capacity.

- The location of bottle banks was discussed with another request for replacement banks in Philipstown and Collon.
- Operations were thanked for supplying Litter pickers to encourage people to pick up at beaches were noted and described as useful, and for supplying solar bins
- Vehicle related littering of straw from uncovered transportation of hay bales was discussed in depth. It was suggested that this was an offence under the Litter Pollution Act, and ultimately it was agreed to refer this to the Climate Energy and Environment SPC for further exploration.

Minute No. 90/22

Notice of Motion: Proposed by Cllr Pearse McGeough

Seconded by: Cllr Jim Tenanty

"That Louth County Council in conjunction with TII to carry out a safety audit on the Ashville junction of N2 with the LP 2253 47 at Funshog. A northbound vehicle turning right into the junction has only a short distance of visibility (of on -coming southbound traffic) due to a bend in the road. This results in turning vehicle having to accelerate to negotiate this dangerous junction "

Reply from C. Duff, Director of Services, Operations

Previously low cost safety works were undertaken along this section of the N2 to warn of the series of bends (warning signage) and improvements were made to skid resistance. Two separate Road Safety Inspections (HD17) were carried out by TII, one in 2017 and one more recent. Both of these recommended simplifying the junction and creating a single point of entry to the side road. The works priority indicated in both inspections is low and is therefore unlikely to be funded. The issue of stopping sight distance was not picked up in the inspections. Discussions have also taken place with TII on realigning this section previously but there are currently no plans for realignment south of Ardee.

Speaking on the motion Cllr McGeough welcomed the response but suggested that the sightlines and stopping distance might be re-examined as the road was 100kmph. John O'Hagan advised that the draft report was awaited. Cllr Tenanty supporting the motion

compared the junction to that at Dillonstown and suggested that the removal of the slip road from Dillonstown had improved matters and perhaps similar could be considered here.

Minute No. 91/22

Notice of Motion: Proposed by Cllr Jim Tenanty
Seconded by: Cllr Dolores Minogue

I am asking this council to consider holding a Public meeting to discuss the issues surrounding the delays in proceeding with the Ardee N52 bypass.

Reply from C. Duff, Director of Services, Operations

The outcome of the judicial Review in the High Court against An Bord Pleanála (of which LCC is a Noticed Party) in relation to this scheme is the key milestone for this project progressing. The Council is not proposing to hold a public meeting. The next steps will be considered when the outcome of judicial review is released.

A considered discussion took place about this motion, with all Councillors reiterating their commitment to the construction of the By-Pass but with differing opinions about the holding of a public meeting while a judicial review was ongoing. It was agreed not to proceed with the holding of a public meeting at present.

Minute No. 92/22

AOB

Members were advised of upcoming training and conferences and reminded of the Budget Workshop the next day.

Minute No. 93/22

Deputation from Ardee Traders

Patricia McDonald representing Ardee Traders Members attended the meeting. Items discussed included:

Commuters taking the bus from Ardee and Workers parking for the day in spaces that could be utilised by shoppers: Various solutions were discussed and suggested including pay parking, reintroduction of traffic wardens on a part time or sporadic basis, sourcing land to accommodate long term parking, a joint campaign between LEO and the Traders to discourage those leaving cars in prime shopping locations. It was agreed that Councillors and the Executive would discuss options and revert to traders.

Other items raised included Christmas Lights and lighting of Ardee Castle.

Following some discussion on these items, the Cathaoirleach thanked Ms McDonald for her attendance.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

The Minutes were confirmed at a meeting of the Municipal District held on:

Date:

6th Oct 2022

Cathaoirleach:

Paula Buckley

Meeting Administrator:

Apa Joney