



Comhairle Contae Lú  
Louth County Council

## **Cruinniú de Cheanta Bardasach Bhaile Átha Fhirdhia / Municipal District of Ardee – January 2023**

Minutes of the Municipal District of Ardee meeting hosted in the Dermot O'Brien Room, Ardee Civic Offices, Ardee on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 4.30 p.m.

### **In attendance:**

**Cathaoirleach:** Councillor Paula Butterly

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

**Officials:** Joe McGuinness Director of Services  
Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator  
John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer  
Declan McMahon, Senior Executive Engineer  
Keith McArdle, Assistant Engineer

### **Minute No. 1/23**

#### **Change of Location March Meeting as allowable under Standing Order no. 6**

In accordance with Standing Order no. 6, all Members agreed to hold the March Meeting of Ardee Municipal District in the Market House Dunleer. This is subject to inspection and agreement on suitability of venue by Cathaoirleach and Director of Service. The Meeting Administrator also advised of a requirement for the meeting to be cost neutral.

### **Minute No. 2/23**

#### **Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022 were confirmed on the  
**Proposal of** Cllr John Sheridan  
**Seconded by** Cllr Dolores Minogue  
And approved.

### **Minute No. 3/23**

#### **Matters Arising**

Members received updates following requests on various items including:  
Lighting at Mullins Cross – a renewed appeal for lighting was made  
New signage on N2 with revised messages going up on Tuesday

A discussion on Graveyards at the next MD meeting was requested and agreed with a briefing note to issue from Director of Services Joe McGuinness.

Minute no. 127/22 – clarification was given that sensor lights are not currently being considered for discretionary funding but previous applications for CCTV and Thumblocks will be assessed as priority.

### **Minute No. 4/23**

#### **Housing Progress Report**

Members noted the report as circulated at the meeting. John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer addressed all matters raised by the Members.

The following items were highlighted:

- All 14 Stoney Lane units have had offers issue – a mix of single and family units as there are 2 bed properties
- Housing applicants who were removed due to income limits will be reassessed back to November 2021 due to recently revised income limit levels
- St John of Gods are directly responsible for Tierney St units through the Capital Acquisition Scheme
- Applicants advise when they no longer have housing need

### **Minute No. 5/23**

#### **Roads and Local Services Report**

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting. Declan McMahon, Senior Executive Engineer addressed matters raised.

The following items were highlighted:

- Sugar Ref 321100 – Pedestrian light outage reported - will be referred to Area Engineer
- Inclement weather has hindered some works such as line painting and pothole repair
- Gritting policy based around urban areas and inter urban routes, where possible salt deposits will be considered but community involvement to disperse would be required. Understanding that salting by individuals where done with good intent and not reckless will not incur liability.
- New pedestrian crossings contain islands as refuge points, and crossing is not designed for lighting, slower speed advised
- Dromin National School footpath to church request made as children are bussed to church
- Consideration of solar panels or turbine powered public lighting requested

### **Minute No. 6/23**

#### **Taking in Charge Report**

Keith McArdle, Assistant Engineer invited questions from Members on the report as presented to them on Taking in Charge measures. The following items were discussed:

- Contractors of Cloughan Bridge with an unavailable bond are now working on another estate – residents are concerned the original estate will be left unfinished and not taken in charge
- The bond for Chapel View will be left to complete the estate if the Developers do not respond to correspondence issued
- Irish Water have been asked to address water pumping issues in Knockfergus
- Queries on Rockfield and Mullavalley Village will be examined at a later date
- Fosters Close -Cllr Jim Tenanty declared a possible conflict of interest and left the meeting - Members were advised that while the estate is gated it cannot be considered a public road and cannot be taken in charge. On questioning Keith McArdle advised he is willing to meet the owner of the gate should he consider removing the gate.

### **Minute No. 7/23**

#### **Notice of Motion - Cllr. Dolores Minogue**

**Seconded by:** Cllr Paula Butterly

*That Ardee Municipal explore the possibility of holding a firework event in Ardee similar to that which was held under Ardee Town Council and more recently in the Cooley area.*

#### **Reply from T. McEvoy, Director of Strategic Economic Development**

*While the Council would consider a contribution to an event under our festival grants scheme which would incorporate a licensed and insured fireworks display, or in the case of the recent display in the Cooley area form part of a Cross Border initiative, the Council does not plan to host a fireworks display.*

Speaking on the motion Cllr Minogue advised that having contacted the Director Thomas McEvoy she was satisfied that an event was possible on private grounds once insurances were in place. St. Marys were happy to hold an event if funded and indemnified. Members supported this motion, suggesting that an organised fireworks display counteracted anti-social behaviour of individuals purchasing illegal fireworks, and led to a greater sense of community.

### **Minute No. 8/23**

#### **AOB**

Members requested a discussion around Irish Water, with all present expressing annoyance around various and ongoing water outages over the Christmas and New Years period from the 21<sup>st</sup> December up until full restoration of supply around the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of January. The perceived lack of communication from Irish Water to Councillors and to the general public and around the expected restoration of service was highlighted. It was suggested that this should be brought up at the monthly Council meeting.

It was noted that Dundalk MD had submitted a motion requesting a meeting with Irish Water in Cavan Hill and Ardee Members asked to be included in any visit.

### **Minute No. 9/23**

#### **Congratulations**

Members offered Congratulations to themselves for trialing the cessation of the Tracker and full reliance of the Sugar system which is now being followed by other Districts.

The Government were commended for proposing Legislation that would introduce what is called

a "soft" opt-out register for organ donation. Cllr Tenanty reminded District Members that he had forwarded such a motion to Ardee Town Council in 2006 which was supported by Members and which went to Ministers and Senators at the time demonstrating that local policies and decisions can make an impact Nationally.

Congratulations were extended to the various Retirement Groups for what were by all accounts very successful Christmas parties funded by the Ardee Municipal District Discretionary Fund.

### Minute No. 10/23

#### Condolences

Condolences were extended to the families and friends of all who had died in the locality recently especially over the Christmas period. A high number of funerals was noted in the area over the previous number of weeks.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded.

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

**Date:**

2 Feb 2023

**Cathaoirleach:**

Paula Sully

**Meeting Administrator:**

Alan Momeny