



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

Cruinniú de Cheanta Bardasach Bhaile Átha Fhirdia / Municipal District of Ardee

Minutes of the Municipal District of Ardee meeting hosted in the Dermot O'Brien Room, Ardee Civic Offices, Ardee on 7th September 2023 at 4.30 p.m.

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Councillor Dolores Minogue

Members: Councillors: Paula Butterly, Bernie Conlon, Pearse McGeough, John Sheridan, Jim Tenanty

Apologies: Councillor(s): None

Officials: Joe McGuinness Director of Services
Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator
Bernie Wood, Head of Finance
Willie Walsh, Senior Executive Officer
Declan McMahon, Senior Executive Engineer
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer
Terry Hamilton, Senior Executive Officer
Olivia McCormack, Senior Executive Officer
John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer
Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer

Minute No. 67/23

Update on Staff Changes

Director of Services Joe McGuinness advised Members of changes to the Senior Management Team, including two new Directors of Services having commenced, David Jones and Ger Murphy. He also advised that Bernie Woods, would be attending Ardee Meetings on behalf of the Chief Executive, and he would be attending Drogheda Meetings. Members thanked Joe for his attendance, welcomed Bernie and wished Joe well in Drogheda.

Minute No. 68/23

Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 6th July 2023

Following clarification that full day parking was available in 3 public car parks in Ardee, namely at the Library, Bridge St., and the Car Park beside the Dee Hub and there was no four hour limit as previously advised, the amended minutes of the July monthly meeting as held on Thursday 6th July 2023 were confirmed on the

Proposal of Cllr Jim Tenanty
Seconded by Cllr Bernie Conlon
And approved.

Minute No. 69/23

Matters Arising

Members requested and received updates on various items including:

- Overgrown trees from private property which will be examined by the area engineer for enforcement on land owner

Minute No. 70/23

Municipal District of Ardee Casual Trading Bye-Laws 2023

Willie Walsh Senior Executive Officer responded to Members queries on the draft Casual Trading Bye-Laws as presented to them. Members were advised of no change to the two existing bays in the town. A request was made that both bays be clearly marked as currently only one is marked. Approval of the Casual Trading Bye-Laws was

Proposed by: Cllr Jim Tenanty
Seconded by: Cllr Dolores Minogue
And agreed by Members

Minute No. 71/23

Housing Progress Report

Director of Services Joe McGuinness introduced Declan Grimes Senior Engineer who had recently commenced with Louth County Council Housing team working on Housing for All to Members. 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:

- There is an ongoing call for Expressions of Interest in the provision of Turnkey Units to sell to the Council.
- Part 5 units representing up to 10% of multi unit developments are sought. Negotiations on price are discussed with Developers.

Minute No. 72/23

Roads and Local Services Report

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

Items discussed included:

- A new pedestrian crossing proposed for Dunleer village had to be dropped from this years Low Cost Safety Work Scheme due to increased costs of works. Requests for change of location of crossing can now be considered for the next scheme
- A stone mason has been appointed to carry out works on bridges on the R161 and R215
- Requests for works to footpaths, repainting of signage and repairs to road will be passed on to the Area Engineers for consideration but lack of funding is restricting some planned works from progressing

Minute No. 73/23

Physical Development Report

John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer, welcomed queries on the report as presented to Members. The following items were highlighted:

- There is no change to Ardee Bypass which is still going through the court system

As motions before the MD fell under this agenda item, it was

Proposed by Cllr Jim Tenanty
Seconded by Cllr Bernie Conlon
And agreed by all Members to hear these now.

Minute No. 74/23

Notice of Motion: Cllr John Sheridan
Seconded by: Cllr Pearse McGeough

"That Louth County Council would update Ardee Municipal District on what the plans are for safety measures on the R166 at Coopers Cross, Castlebellingham and when they will be implemented. The junction has currently no safety measures except a standard yellow junction sign that does not give motorists, cyclists nor pedestrians adequate advance warning of such a tight blind bend on a junction. Ardee Municipal District seeks urgent action on this matter"

Reply from W. Walsh, Acting Director of Services, Placemaking and Physical Development

There is data showing previous accidents at this location. Accordingly, traffic and speed surveys will be carried out and the results analysed during the coming months. It may qualify for funding in 2024 under the Low Cost Safety Grants Scheme if deemed of sufficient risk to motorists.

Speaking on this motion Cllr Sheridan spoke of a dozen locations in Ardee awaiting surveys and thought that nationally the Government need to support traffic calming and not wait for accidents to happen in order that action can be taken.

Cllr McGeough citing a near fatal accident of a child spoke in agreement giving details of a dangerous road between Castlebellingham and Annagassan

Cllr Butterly supporting the motion spoke of the need for a speed limit consultation with public participation and more funding allocated

Cllr Minogue spoke to support the motion but also that enforcement of speed is a matter for An Gardaí, and urged all Road Users to be mindful of others. Speaking of road safety Cllr Minogue asked if trucks could be diverted at school drop off times to the Carrick Road.

Cllr Tenanty advised of parents breaking the law dropping off school children and not using the 2 assigned drop off areas, and noted that on one morning where the garda car was parked in the area no laws were broken

It was suggested that the Road Safety Officer would engage with the school on mobility planning

Minute No. 75/23

Notice of Motion: Cllr Dolores Minogue

Seconded by: Cllr Jim Tenanty

That LCC explore lands for a new bus stop station with parking for commuters within the town boundary of Ardee and a park and ride on the outskirts of the town.

Reply from W. Walsh, Acting Director of Services, Place Making and Physical Development

All day parking on the approaches to the Motorway by commuters sharing cars was identified by Transport Infrastructure Ireland as an issue which could be mitigated by the appropriate location of a park and ride facility, which they have since provided adjacent to Dundalk. This issue, generated by access for commuters to the motorway system, is not one addressed or funded by local authorities.

Speaking on the response received Cllr Minogue thought that the first part of the motion regarding a bus stop station was not answered, and that the idea of a Park and Ride would alleviate much of the congestion in the town.

Cllr Tenanty supporting the idea of a Park and Ride advised that he had a similar motion in 2017 when 2 areas were earmarked for a similar scheme. He supported land identification for same in the town.

Cllr McGeough asked about the Dundalk Park and Ride and as it was a pilot, how it was measured. John O'Hagan advised that the council were engaging with TII to take over, he also advised that initially a bus stop had been proposed at the Park & Ride.

Before moving on to the next section, Joe McGuinness advised members that a feasibility study had been submitted to TII to move the Pedestrian Crossing at the Bank of Ireland southwards. While awaiting approval the current pedestrian crossing has been refreshed to make it more visible.

Minute No. 76/23

Placemaking Report

Olivia McCormack and Terry Hamilton, Senior Executive Officers, welcomed queries on the report as presented to Members. The following items were highlighted:

- Work is continuing on Ardee 2040 with TII to approve their part in the next couple of months. Funding will be applied for in one package when ready. A detailed design is to be prepared
- Ministerial consent has been sought on plans for Ardee Castle. The Team are ready to go to tender for design stage once consent has been granted
- It is hoped to get plans for the Town Center Dunleer project to public consultation as soon as possible

Minute No. 77/23

Castlebellingham Health Check Report

Members noted the report as presented to them and comments were made on improvement works within the village. The engagement of council staff with stakeholders and property owners was praised. A community and consultative Health Check was requested for the village.

Minute No. 78/23

LIS Report

Members noted the report as presented to them and it was commented on that only four out of 12 roads applied for would get improvement works. Members asked if it was possible to receive the full list of applications and how they were ranked.

It was clarified that LIS applied to Private Roads, while CIS applied to Public Roads.

Minute No. 79/23

Lightsource BP request to present outline of proposed solar farm project at Derrycammagh & Bawn at October Meeting

Members were advised of a request to receive a deputation from Lightsource BP and approval of same was

Proposed by Cllr Jim Tenanty
Seconded by Cllr Paula Butterly
And agreed by all Members.

Minute No. 80/23

Any Other Business

Members were advised queries on the Ardee LAP were more relevant for the Council Meeting as the Council is the Planning Authority.

An update was given on the Boil Water Notice in Ardee which was described as precautionary due to low chlorine levels. A comment was made that the map was hard to follow as it did not detail placenames.

A reminder was given that the Public Joint Policing Committee Meeting is on Tuesday the 19th of September.

Joe McGuinness was again thanked for his work with the MD.

Minute No. 81/23

Condolences

Condolences were extended on the death of Louth County Council recently retired staff member Ciaran Kinney to his family and wife Bernadette, and to the family and friends of all who had passed on in the area

As there was no other business the meeting concluded.

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

Date: 5 Oct 2023

Cathaoirleach: D. Uiney

Meeting Administrator: A. O'Sullivan