



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

Cruinniú de Cheanta Bhaile Átha Fhirdia / Municipal District of Ardee – March 2024

Minutes of Municipal District of Ardee meeting – hosted in the Dermot O'Brien Room, Ardee Civic Offices, Ardee on Thursday 7th March 2024 at 4:30pm

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: **Councillor:** Dolores Minogue

Members: **Councillor(s):** Paula Butterly Bernie Conlon, Pearse McGeough, John Sheridan, Jim Tenanty

Apologies: **Councillor(s):** None

Officials: Bernie Woods, Director of Services
Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator
Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer
Claire Hughes, Senior Executive Engineer
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer
Finbar Gethins, Senior Executive Officer
Declan McMahon, Senior Executive Engineer

Minute No. 15/24

Minutes of Meeting held on 1st February 2024

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the 1st February 2024 was

Proposed by: Cllr John Sheridan

Seconded by: Cllr Jim Tenanty

And approved

Minute No. 16/24

Matters Arising

A typo was noted and agreed for amendment

Updates were sought on other items which are recorded under the Roads Section item

Minute No. 17/24

Allocation of Ardee Tidy Town Project Scheme Grants as provided for under Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001

Members considered the proposed allocation of funding for Tidy Town Grants as set out before them. Following some discussion in which queries were raised; Finbar Gethins Senior Executive Officer advised Members that all Tidy Town groups who had applied were being allocated full funding. An overview of applications received within the Municipal District area was verbally given to Members.

Approval of Grants as set out before Members was

Proposed by: Cllr Paula Butterly

Seconded by: Cllr Bernie Conlon

And resolved

Minute No. 18/24

Nomination for Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor Committee (DBEC)

Members were advised that on foot of the resignation of Cllr Bernie Conlon from DBEC that a further nominee was sought from the Municipal District of Ardee which would then go to Council for ratification.

Cllr Conlon advised that the Committee Meetings can be held anywhere between Belfast and Dublin and unfortunately, some had clashed with other engagements she had had.

Cllr Tenanty asked if there were many meetings between now and the local elections in June and **proposed** that Cllr Conlon might consider staying on until then. Cllr Conlon agreed that there was likely to be only one further meeting before June and she would consider this.

Cllr Minogue **seconded** Cllr Conlon remaining on the Committee and it was resolved that Cllr Bernie Conlon would revoke her resignation and remain as the nominated Ardee MD Representation on the Committee of the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor for the term of this council.

Members were advised that this would need to go to full Council for ratification as written resignation had been received.

Minute No. 19/24

Litter Management Plan 2024 -2026 – Ardee Municipal District

Claire Hughes Senior Executive Engineer presented Members with an overview of the 'Ardee Municipal District Litter Management Plan 2024 – 2026' as set out before Members on the agenda.

The following items of concern were highlighted by Members:

- Dumping of domestic waste in public bins in Ardee Town
- Dog fouling
- Erection of posters on roadside
- Replacement of bottle banks previously in the Philipstown area requested
- A campaign was requested to encourage uptake of Brown Bins

Approval of the Plan was

Proposed by Cllr Bernie Conlon

Seconded by Cllr Dolores Minogue
And agreed.

Minute No. 20/24

Housing Progress Report

Members noted the report as circulated at the meeting.

Declan Grimes, Senior Executive Engineer updated Members on progress of planned developments in the Ardee Municipal area under the Accelerated Housing Programme. A revised design at Ravel Grange, Dunleer was presented to Members following earlier requests that consideration be given to leaving lands around the school undeveloped should the school require future expansion. The revised plans now allow half an acre between the units and the school but allows for social units only and not affordable units. Should the school wish to expand in future they will need to make any necessary approaches to obtain the land.

While generally Members welcomed the schemes, Cllr Butterly expressed disappointment at the lack of affordable units, the removal of Councillor input into the Accelerated schemes and considered that the Department were dictating from on high. Members were advised that the land had originally been bought for social units and while Affordable Housing can be put onto the lands this is not funded by the Department but there are other funded schemes to assist first time buyers.

Other items discussed under this agenda item include:

- An update request on the Repair and Lease Scheme in Castlebellingham
- Problems encountered getting contractors to carry out works on Croí Conaithe units

Minute No. 21/24

Physical Development Report

Members noted the report as set out before them. John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer answered all queries raised. Items discussed included:

- Ardee Bypass
- Insufficient funding to allow completion of planned N2 Ardee to Castleblaney design works
- Dunleer Fire Station land purchase

Minute No. 22/24

Roads and Local Services Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting. Declan McMahon Senior Executive Engineer addressed matters raised. Finbar Gethins Senior Executive Officer also responded to some items raised during Matters Arising.

Along with potholes, footpath repair, flooding at junctions, traffic calming, road safety and signage requests, traffic light sequencing and traffic light repair, road resurfacing, road lines painting, painting of parking bays, road subsidence, bridge works, the following items were highlighted:

- Collon Playground land ownership transfer is still unresolved with funding for the playgrounds due to lapse imminently
- A noisy manhole on Annagassan Main St. is the responsibility of Uisce Eireann
- No line painting will be carried out on roads where resurfacing works are planned later this year
- The TII are going to carry out a feasibility and options report on improvement to the junction from Castlegarde to the N33
- Impacts of severe weather on road surface was discussed

Minute No. 23/24

Road Works Programme 2024

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

Members were advised that the €700,000 allocation to the Reclaimed Asphalt Pilot programme was all within 20 km of Ardee, and that 4 of the 6 Traffic Calming Schemes were within the Ardee Area. A list of bus stop locations will be furnished to Members

Other items highlighted included:

Speed limit signage

Ramp request at Potters field

The pedestrian crossing in Dunleer location is at a desire line for children crossing

Approval of the Programme was

Proposed by Cllr Jim Tenanty

Seconded by Cllr Dolores Minogue

And agreed by Members.

Minute No. 24/24

Notice of Motion Cllr Pearse McGeough

Seconded by Cllr John Sheridan

At the Green in Castlebellingham as you turn off the R132 onto R166 vehicles currently stop at the junction with Brewery Street which has poor visibility when vehicles are parked at the designated parking spots on that road. I am proposing that we realign that junction, installing a STOP sign at the end of Brewery Street and upgrade the road markings to make the R166 continuous thereby improving safety.

Reply from D. Jones, Director of Services, Placemaking and Physical Development

Following consideration of the suggested realignment of this junction, the District technical team are satisfied to implement same, subject to available resources.

Cllr McGeough welcomed the response as issued and was supported by Cllr Sheridan on his motion.

Minute No. 25/24

Condolences

Condolences were offered to:

- Hubert Murphy on the death of his father
- the family and friends of all those who had died in the area.

Minute No. 26/24

Agreement to meet in committee following the Meeting to discuss Discretionary Funds

The Cathaoirleach suggested that all meet in committee following the meeting to discuss the 2024 discretionary fund allocation. All Members were present and all agreed to do.

As there was no other business the meeting concluded.

The Minutes were confirmed on:

Date:

4 April 2024

Cathaoirleach:

D. Wing

Meeting Administrator:

A. Shanahan