

Municipal District of Dundalk – November 2017

Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Dundalk held in the Town Hall, Dundalk on Tuesday, 7th November, 2017 at 5.15 p.m.

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Councillor John McGahon

Members: Councillors: M. Butler, A. Campbell, E. Coffey, M. Dearey, M. Doyle, C. Keelan, R. O'Murchu, P. Savage, T. Sharkey, A Watters & M. Yore

Officials: Joan Martin, Chief Executive
Frank Pentony, Director of Services
Bernie Woods, Director of Services
Pat Finn, Senior Engineer
Vincent Toner, Senior Executive Engineer
Brona O'Reilly, Administrative Officer
Alan Sherry, Meetings Administrator

Apologies: Councillor E. Corrigan

Minute No. 88/17

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 3rd October 2017 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. E. Coffey and seconded by Cllr. A. Campbell

Minute No. 89/17

Matters Arising

- It was raised that the members are due to receive a presentation in relation to the operation of the HAP scheme at the December meeting.

Minute No. 90/17

Budget 2018

The Head of Finance outlined the current financial position and proposed that €60,000 would be made available to each Municipal District for its discretionary budget. It was

proposed by Cllr. M. Dearey, seconded by Cllr. M. Butler and agreed by the members to the allocation of €60,000 for 2018.

Minute No. 91/17

Presentation on Clanbrassil Street, Dundalk.

Garret Maguire of BDP, Consultants gave a presentation in relation to the outline for the upgrade of Clanbrassil Street and answered questions and noted comments made by the members.

Minute No. 90/17

Setting of date for the January 2018 meeting

The Meetings Administrator requested that the January Municipal District of Dundalk meeting be held on Tuesday 9th January, 2018 at 5.15 pm in order to facilitate the issuing of the agenda and replies to the members following the closing of the Council offices over the Christmas period. This was proposed by Cllr. M. Doyle, seconded by Cllr. E. Coffey and agreed by all.

Minute No. 91/17

Housing and Communities Progress Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting and the following points were addressed:

- The length of time being taken to assess tenant's rents was highlighted as an issue to be addressed by the Housing Department in order to reduce the level of arrears.
- The view was expressed that there was too much emphasis on approved housing bodies rather than the local authorities providing social housing, at central Government level.
- The members were informed that a capital allocation of €64,500 had been announced for County Louth under the RAPID scheme with a closing date for proposals of 24th November, 2017. The member's approval was sought for the upgrade, extension and consolidation of the existing Community CCTV schemes at Muirhevnamor and Coxes Demesne and the installation of CCTV in Doolargy. In the course of the debate, in which the very short time frame and relatively small sum of money on offer was acknowledged, some members expressed support for the proposal while others stated how unsatisfactory the proposal was and also the lack of information provided before the meeting.

To accept proposal in relation to CCTV in RAPID Areas

Proposed by Cllr. M. Butler and seconded by Cllr. M. Doyle.

There followed a roll call vote.

For: Cllrs. M. Butler, E. Coffey, C. Keelan, J. McGahon
Total 4 (four)

Against: Cllrs. A. Campbell, M. Dearey, M. Doyle, R. Ó Murchú, T. Sharkey, A. Watters, M. Yore
Total 7 (seven)

Absent: Cllrs. E. Corrigan, P. Savage

The proposal was defeated

To hold a special meeting to consider proposals for the use of capital funding under the RAPID scheme

Proposed by Cllr. T. Sharkey and seconded by Cllr. A. Campbell.

There followed a roll call vote.

For: Cllrs. M. Butler, A. Campbell, E. Coffey, M. Dearey, M. Doyle, C. Keelan, J. McGahon, R. Ó Murchú, T. Sharkey, A. Watters, M. Yore.
Total 11 (eleven)

Against: 0 (None)

Absent: Cllrs. E. Corrigan, P. Savage

The motion was carried

Minute No. 92/17

Infrastructure, Operations & Marine Progress Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting and the following points were addressed:

- The need for traffic calming measures at Newry and Armagh road was raised, along with issues such as the audit of bollards, railings at the graveyard and the road sweeper frequency.
- It was requested that a meeting take place involving all stakeholders to examine the issue of taxi ranks in the town.

Minute No. 93/17

Allocation of Community Grants

Proposed by: Cllr. E. Coffey
Seconded by: Cllr. M. Dearey

And resolved:

To approve members Community Grant Allocations (No. 63) as listed on the report circulated with the agenda.

Minute No. 94/17

Notice of Motion:

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Dearey

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Yore

" That this Council initiate a plan and use the CPO process to unlock the development potential of Bridge St. Dundalk, by assembling parcels of idle and derelict properties to allow for innovative new residential and business uses. (Examples might include a student accommodation quarter and/or a Digital Business Cluster.)

REPLY:

Louth County Council are actively reviewing all available lands and property as part of the Rebuilding Ireland Programme.

The members agreed the motion.

Minute No. 95/17

Notice of Motion:

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Yore

Seconded by: Cllr. J. McGahon

"That Dundalk Municipal District introduce with immediate effect restriction of all HGV over 5 tonne in Maxwell Row and St. Nicholas Avenue due to safety concerns of residents".

REPLY:

This matter came before council a number of years ago and at that time a traffic survey was conducted which concluded that the percentage of HGV's using Maxwell Row/St Nicholas Ave was less than 1%.

Since that time the road surface has been renewed (2016) and speed ramps have been installed on St Nicholas Avenue which would have the effect of further restricting the speed of all traffic in the area. Subject to resources and other priorities for such undertakings Operations will as soon as is practical install the traffic survey equipment to determine whether or not a HGV restriction should apply to Maxwell Row/St Nicholas Avenue.

*Following the discussion it was agreed to carry out another survey as soon as possible.
The members agreed the motion.*

Any Other Business:

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meeting Administrator: _____