

Municipal District of Dundalk – June 2018

Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Dundalk held in the County Chamber, County Hall, Dundalk on Tuesday, 5th June 2018 at 5:15 p.m.

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Councillor Conor Keelan

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

Officials: Frank Pentony, Director of Services
Aoife Lawler, Senior Executive Officer
Emer O'Callaghan, Senior Executive Planner
Vincent Toner, Senior Executive Engineer
Mark Johnston, Senior Engineer
Alan Sherry, Meetings Administrator

Minute No. 52/18

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 1st May 2018 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. M. Doyle and seconded by Cllr. P. Savage.

Minute No. 53/18

Matters arising

- Details of the relevant Act and the procedure for the taking in charge of an estate were requested.
- Members requested that updates requested in the previous meeting be circulated as soon as possible.
- It was agreed to provide an update in relation to the Flurry River.
- It was also undertaken to ensure the members receive a briefing in relation to funding of capital projects for Tidy Towns.

Minute No. 54/18

Housing and Communities Progress Report

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

- Queries raised by the members were answered by the Senior Executive Officer, Housing.
- In the course of a discussion in relation to the level of rent arrears a report was sought in relation to the likely timeframe for the arrears to be paid, along with details of the causes of the arrears, but was refused due to the amount of resources required to prepare that information. Some concerns were expressed at resources being diverted to producing reports rather than addressing the issue.

Minute No. 55/18

Operations, Marine and Infrastructure Report

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

- Members requested information in relation to when the 30km/h scheme would be reopened for submissions.
- Action was requested in relation to the tennis courts in Carlingford both in terms of basic maintenance and more significant improvement works.
- The poor condition of Avenue Road after the street cleaner had been on it was noted for investigation.
- Members were informed that the clerk of works would be monitoring the repair of the pot holes on the Dublin Road.
- It was agreed to circulate a list of burial grounds being maintained by the Council.
- The need to address speeding at Hoey's Lane was raised.
- The condition of the public toilets in Carlingford was highlighted.

Minute No. 56/18

Dundalk Allocation of Members Community Grants

This was proposed by Cllr. M. Yore and seconded by Cllr. M. Doyle and agreed by the members.

Minute No. 57/18

Part 8 Planning Report - Development consisting of a replacement dwelling at 218 Cedarwood Park, Coxes Demesne, Dundalk and all associated works.

This was proposed by Cllr. M. Butler and seconded by Cllr. E. Coffey and agreed by the members. Members emphasised the need for the footpaths to be addressed.

Minute No. 58/18

Notice of Motion:

Proposed by: Cllr. E. Coffey

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Yore

"Calling on LCC to immediately issue on the spot fines to owners of dogs who do not collect or carry bags to clean up dog fowl on the public roads and footpaths of the town in accordance with the Bye laws passed by LCC in 2015."

REPLY:

The issues dealt with under the Dog Litter and Dog Control Bye-Laws 2015 have already been provided for under other enactments, specifically the issue of dog control in a public place is dealt with at Section 9 of the Control of Dogs Act 1986 as amended, and the issue of dog fouling is dealt with at Section 22 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997. Section 28 of that Act also provides for the issue of a Fixed Penalty Notice for such an offence.

Louth County Council has been actively using these provisions to manage dog fouling in our public places. As dog walking is often an activity conducted late in the evening or early in the morning, as persons in charge of dogs are aware of the fact that dog fouling is an offence, and as there is no way of connecting a deposit with a particular dog owner without witnessing the occurrence, enforcing the law and issuing penalties presents certain difficulties. Nevertheless, Louth County Council continues in its enforcement efforts and issues fixed penalty notices on an ongoing basis for this offence, 8 so far this year.

Aside from issuing fixed penalty notices for instances where such offences have been witnessed by our wardens, our wardens combine to carry out on a regular basis joint foot patrols in targeted areas during which the litter vans carrying anti dog fouling signs to raise awareness are parked at various locations in the targeted area. Leaflet drops are done in housing areas, and dog walkers are approached and questioned as to whether they carry bags to remove the dog waste. In general the wardens report a very high rate of persons carrying dog waste bags.

The Dog Litter and Dog Control Bye-Laws 2015 were made pursuant to Section 199 of the Local Government Act 2001, which provides at S 199(2)(b) that a bye-law may not be made in respect of matters which have already been controlled or regulated under any other enactment.

It was suggested that the matter be referred to the relevant strategic policy committee for discussion.

Members agreed the motion.

Minute No. 59/18

Notice of Motion:

Proposed by: Cllr. E. Coffey

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Yore

"To ensure that there are Dog Fowl bins in our public parks particular at the entrances of Murihevna Mor Park to ensure that there is proper and adequate bins to dispense of such waste."

REPLY:

Currently there are bins close to the entrances of Muirhevna Mor Park as follows:

- One dedicated dog fouling bin at the Tom Bellew Avenue entrance,
- One general waste bin close to the Hoey's Lane entrance.

There is no evidence of overuse or excess demand (i.e. overflowing events) at either of these two bins.

While Louth County Council has installed a number of dedicated dog fouling bins at public locations in the past and retains and empties these on a regular basis as part of its street cleaning processes, members of the public are encouraged to dispose of bagged dog waste into general waste/litter bins. The bins dedicated to dog fouling, along with the general waste bins, are subject to some degree to illegal disposal of domestic waste. Accordingly, as all such waste (dog fouling and litter/waste) is non-recyclable and destined for disposal to landfill, it is intended to focus on the provision of general waste/litter bins rather than on dedicated dog fouling bins.

Members emphasised the need for bins in all parks and agreed the motion.

Minute No. 60/18

Notice of Motion:

Proposed by: Cllr. T. Sharkey

Seconded by: Cllr. A. Watters

"That Louth County Council publish the most recent PCSI rating of each road in the Municipal District of Dundalk, including the approximate date of that PCSI rating."

REPLY:

This is a technical assessment used by the Engineering team in parallel with other parameters and local knowledge of the road network. The publication of such a report without the context of budgets, local engineering knowledge and the other technical parameters would not be in accordance with local and indeed national best practice.

A roll call vote followed:

For (6): Cllrs. M. Butler, M. Dearey, C. Keelan, R. Ó Murchú, T. Sharkey, A. Watters

Against (0): (None)

Abstain (2): Cllrs. E. Coffey, M. Yore

Absent (5): Cllrs. A. Campbell, E. Corrigan, M. Doyle, J. McGahon, P. Savage

The proposer emphasised the need for the information to be published. The members noted the reply.

Minute No. 61/18

Notice of Question:

Proposed by: Cllr. C. Keelan

"Can the members be provided with a report on the arrangements for the forthcoming patron in St Patrick's Cemetery, Dowdallshill including the arrangements for the communications system to be in use on the day?"

REPLY:

Louth County Council is making arrangements for the late closing of the Cemetery gates in the coming months in order to facilitate those who will be tending to the graves of Family members in the lead up to the Annual ceremony in July. Arrangements will also be put in place to augment the permanent toilet facilities with temporary units as in previous years. In respect of the hire of a public address system, as the infrastructure used last year was not suitable and did not meet the requirements of those personally attending the annual event it is necessary to revert to the original arrangement whereby the Parish would identify and engage the provider of such equipment . Louth County Council will make a contribution to the hire of the equipment.

The members noted the reply.

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: _____