

Municipal District of Dundalk - January 2022

Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Dundalk hosted over MS Teams on Tuesday 11th January at 5.15 p.m.

In attendance: *(All attendance was remote)*

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. M. Doyle

Members: Councillors M. Butler, E. Corrigan, S. Kelly, A. McKeivitt, K. Meenan, L. Reilly, J. Reilly, T. Sharkey, A. Watters, M. Yore

Apologies: Councillors E. Coffey, C. Keelan

Officials: Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator
Frank Pentony, Director of Services
Catherine Duff, Director of Services
John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer
Padraig Judge, Senior Executive Engineer
Martin McCreesh, Senior Executive Engineer
Gerry McCormack, Assistant Engineer
Emer O'Callaghan, Senior Executive Planner
Alan Sherry, Senior Executive Officer

Minute No. 1/22

Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 7th December 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. Marianne Butler and seconded by Cllr. Antoin Watters.

Minute No. 2/22

Matters Arising

- Minute 115/21 - Bin at AIB not yet reinstalled. Members were advised bin has been purchased, operations will follow up on installation.
- Minute 116/21 Coxes Demense - update on funding and works sought
- Minute 117/21 - an update on whether the traffic light sequence was checked - Members were advised this was done and report is to be examined.
- Minute 118/21 - ESB report on Balmers Bog update request to be referred to Infrastructure.

Minute No. 3/22

Housing Progress Report

Members discussed the report as issued and John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer advised on all Housing items raised.

The following items were highlighted by the members:

- Halliday's Mill units transfer to Cooperative Housing Ireland is complete, 85 units offered to tenants and occupancy commencing from next week.
- The average waiting time to process a social housing application is about 12 weeks.
- The homeless action team are engaging with occupants (3 males and 1 female) of tents set up on council lands and have offered Emergency Accommodation which has not been taken up, engagement will continue.
- Housing maintenance and any indication of grant funding,
- Requests for improvement works funding to Muirhevnamor which had previously looked for a regeneration scheme some 15 years back is unlikely unless further energy retrofit scheme is announced.
- Works to Ecco Road and Patrick Tierney Crescent at entry will result in resurfacing of road and very small footpath improvement works at junction entrance only. Funding Application is with Department and response is awaited. No particular works are planned to footpaths or boundary walls except to repair wall damage at first house as you go in.
- Members expressed disappointment that upgrades to footpaths and boundary walls at existing properties are not being dealt with in Ashling Park and Patrick Tierney Crescent to bring them in line with new builds.

Cllr. Sean Kelly formally proposed that the Minister be written to, seeking funding for housing maintenance in the Dundalk area.

This was seconded by Cllr. Kevin Meenan. Exact wording of the letter contents will be forwarded to all Members and the Meeting Administrator by Cllr. Sean Kelly.

Minute No. 4/22

Operations and Marine Progress Report

Members discussed the report as issued, Martin McCreesh, Senior Executive Engineer advised on all Operations items raised.

- Works to the Avenue Road roundabout, Rock Road side to address severe flooding and ponding during rain, are to be carried out by a contractor at night.
- Request to check Crowne Plaza traffic lights as they seems to break often
- Request for works on Templetown approach to beach, will be looked at, resources depending
- Bollards missing adjacent to Garda Station in Carlingford
- Limited funding available for footpaths will be used mainly for accessibility works, tactile crossing to be installed at Greengates
- Traffic speed count report to be furnished to Members. Members were advised only 3 out of 22 locations surveyed showed a speeding issue.
- New speed limit appeals process launched by Minister Eamon Ryan in December.
- Update request for any plan to tackle illegal signage on roadside.
- Gritting - request made to add alleged accident black spot in Dromiskin to the gritting route pending proper remediation works to stretch of road.
- There are 6 proposed Gritting routes in total; details to be confirmed to Members.
- Concern raised on junction at new Industrial Park on Armagh Road.

- Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) have advised operations they may consider footpath at Newtownbalregan.
- Update requested on disabled parking spots including Omeath

The following non operation matters were raised:

- Members were advised to refer issue raised on poor/dim lights in Muirhevnamor/Dunnes Stores area to Mark O'Neill.
- Members were also reminded that broken street lights should be logged on the DEADSURE app with the pole number and Airtricity would action.
- Corporate lands where tents are, was described as problem area for littering which affects river and long term solution requested for land use.
- Request for EV charging point in Omeath to be passed to Michael McGrath.

Minute No. 5/22

Taking in Charge Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting and Gerry McCormack, Assistant Engineer, responded on all matters with Frank Pentony, Director of Services responding also on some matters.

From the items discussed the following matters were noted:

- Golden Ridge plebiscite has to be completed and signed by residents prior to taking in charge being considered.
- Suil na Mara was subject to a paper bond and there is no money for repairs.
- Cul na Bala lighting issues have been looked at by Airtricity, costing of €4000 estimated, under consideration.

Frank Pentony, Director of Services advised that paper bonds are no longer accepted, cash bonds are requested per unit now. No funds are currently available from Department to upgrade unfinished estates. Will talk to Department to see if any scheme pending.

Minute No. 6/22

Part 8 - Mount Avenue

The Cathaoirleach Cllr. Maria Doyle advised members of 'a connection by marriage to someone who has made a submission and to err on side of caution' she left the meeting for the duration of the discussion on this topic. Leas Cathaoirleach Cllr. Kevin Meenan took over the meeting.

Members referred to the Chief Executive Report on the proposed Part 8 at Mount Avenue.

Members requested in particular if the following items could be implemented:

- To put a condition in that none of the houses could be occupied until all services in place
- The speed limit in estate to be set at 30km from outset.

Frank Pentony, Director of Services advised that the works were going to tender, and that the roads will be in place before houses are due. He was unsure about whether a speed limit could automatically be set without going through the bye-laws but as this is a council estate it will automatically be in charge once built so won't have to be taken in charge to implement reduced speed.

In accordance with Section 179 (4)(c) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), it was:

Proposed by: Cllr. Maeve Yore

Seconded by: Cllr. Marianne Butler

And resolved that the proposed development may be carried out as recommended in the Chief Executive report.

Minute No. 7/22

Update on Urban & Rural Regeneration Development Fund Projects

Members received an update on the following Urban & Rural Regeneration Development Fund Projects from Alan Sherry, Senior Executive Officer which was well received.

- Living in Carlingford Visiting Carlingford - Meeting RPS and appointing consultant to do topographical surveys
- St Nicholas Quarter and Backlands - Awaiting Department approval of submitted documents to progress
- Omeath Placemaking Scheme - Working through tenders - first phase pass/fail assessed, looking at appointing consultant in February
- Long Walk Masterplan - Met main property owner on 21st December 2021 and established monthly meetings with Developer.

On foot of requests for a more specific meeting on St. Nicholas Quarter and the design plans, Alan Sherry, Senior Executive Officer advised that until a consultant was appointed and the scheme progressed that there was no more detail than that in the original funding application. He would re-circulate the original design to Members.

As there was no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date: 1st February 2022

Cathaoirleach: Maria Doyle.

Meeting Administrator: Cilla Quinlan

