

## **Municipal District of Dundalk – March 2022**

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Dundalk held in the Council Chamber of Dundalk Town Hall, on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 5.15 p.m.

**In attendance:**

**Cathaoirleach:** Cllr. M. Doyle

**Members:** Councillors M. Butler, E. Coffey E. Corrigan, C. Keelan, S. Kelly, A. McKevitt, K. Meenan, J. Reilly, A. Watters, M. Yore.

**Apologies:** Councillors L. Reilly, T. Sharkey.

**Officials:** Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator  
Frank Pentony, Director of Services  
Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services  
John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer  
Mark Johnston, Senior Engineer  
Thomas McEvoy, Head of Enterprise, Local Enterprise Office  
Frank Magee, Senior Executive Engineer

### **Minute No. 15/22**

#### **Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. Andrea McKevitt and seconded by Cllr. Antóin Watters.

### **Minute No. 16/22**

#### **Matters Arising**

Updates were given as requested on previous minutes including:-

- Minute No. 4/22 – changes to the gritting route are still under consideration.
- Minute No. 11/22 – traffic lights at the Green Church to be assessed for works on automation.
- Dowdallshill Graveyard plot owner families to be written to re green no kerb policy.
- CCTV legislation change is awaited in order to use for enforcement.

### **Minute No. 17/22**

#### **Housing Progress Report**

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

- Members were advised that while the provision of both bath and shower facilities in tenanted properties was made available in some void repairs, this was not possible in all properties.
- Advertising of Choice Based Lettings properties will be looked at to see if further breakdown including whether shower/bath can be given.

### Minute No. 18/22

#### **Operations and Marine Progress Report**

Members discussed the report as issued and Mark Johnston, Senior Engineer advised on all Operations items raised.

Apart from requests for footpath repairs, illegal dumping enforcement, drainage works at various locations the following items were noted:

- Consideration will be given to the provision of basketball hoops and cement table tennis tables in parks.
- Assistance from the probation services will be requested on sanding of wooden benches.
- Weight restrictions on roads creates problems for farmers, bin lorries and is only considered as a last resort.
- Electricity supply for trailers in Carlingford is under consideration.
- Provision and allocation of works following Athletic Grant Track funding received will be discussed with Community.
- €160k will be spent on drainage works, circa 50k annually; a number of requests for gully and drain works was made.
- Bad odour at Rockmarshall road was noted.
- Sightlines due to parking at old night club at Ravensdale will be checked.
- Dowdallshill lane repairs planned in parts but not all of graveyard.
- Works on footpaths will be concentrated on areas of claims/trips/slips/falls. €150k budgeted county wide.
- School Warden requests should be referred to Adrian O'Sullivan, Road Safety Officer.
- Increased stencilling and provision of bin stickers re dog fouling is ongoing to raise awareness.
- Ice Hill Park access and egress will be examined to counteract risk of cars being locked in after hours.
- Works carried out by Dundalk Tidy Towns over the weekend where over 60 bags of rubbish and overgrowth were removed from the ramparts was praised.
- Where ramps fall into disrepair, generally complete replacement is required at a cost of circa €3k per ramp. Sometimes ramps need to be pared back due to height.

### Minute No. 19/22

#### **Infrastructure Report**

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting and Frank Pentony, Director of Services and Frank Magee, Senior Executive Engineer responded on all Infrastructure matters.

The following matters were noted:

- Active Travel funding for Xerox to Greengates was for design of scheme and not works.
- The island to the nursing home on the bypass at the Crowne Plaza would form part of any planning permission.
- Cars meeting late at night at cemetery causing concerns.
- Infrastructure staff are currently working with TII to improve sections of hard shoulder at Newtownbalreagan and will work on a minor improvement scheme on N53.
- A Road Safety Audit was called for at Ard Easmuinn Station.
- Members were advised that Taking in Charge of older estates with no cash bond was difficult as the budget was not there, unless the Department come up with a new funding mechanism. Infrastructure can write to the Department but there is no guarantee of funds.
- Requests were made for regular updates on schemes including St. Nicholas Quarter so Members can engage with residents.
- Tree/Bush blocking visibility noted at top of McEntee Avenue and a request for a roundabout made. Members were advised of unsuitability for roundabout but the visibility issue would be addressed with operations.
- An update was requested on bus shelters.
- For the most up to date info on flood relief measures in the area Members and public were advised to refer to the website <https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/dundalk/home/>
- Officials were advised that parking continued on road near Majors Hollow Roundabout and that a bus stop used by school children poses a safety risk. Members were advised that the council is not the authorised body for parking enforcement at this location but had made every effort to encourage use of the park and share.

### **Minute No. 20/22**

#### **Road Works Programme 2022**

Members welcomed the programme as presented to them and Mark Johnston, Senior Engineer answered all queries raised.

Among the items raised the following were highlighted:

- Footpath works and road works have different funding streams and tenders etc which affects the ability to carry out works consecutively.
- Flat roads are harder to drain; new gullies are installed prior to resurfacing works.
- Local Tertiary roads need to apply for CIS funding.
- Roads that form part of CFRAM Scheme were not included in programme.
- Funding received for the programme was 30% than that allocated the previous year.
- Priority was given to the worst roads and bridges.

## **Minute No. 21/22**

### **Dundalk Allocation of Members Community Grants**

In accordance with Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended, approval of Allocation of Members Community Grants as notified to the Elected Members was

**Proposed by:** Cllr. Marianne Butler

**Seconded by:** Cllr. Emma Coffey

And Resolved.

## **Minute No. 22/22**

### **Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. Maeve Yore

**Seconded by:** Cllr. Marianne Butler

“That LCC carry out inspection/assessment of road in Wallace’s Cove Blackrock and include on Road Works Programme for 2022/2023.”

### **Reply from Ms. C. Duff, Director of Services, Operations:**

Wallace’s Cove is currently on the 2022-2024 multi-annual RI program, included for resurfacing works in Year 2 of the program (2023) - subject to normal funding levels being approved by Department.

Cllr. Maeve Yore welcomed the response as issued.

## **Minute No. 23/22**

### **Solidarity with Ukraine**

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Maria Doyle advised Members of the lighting of corporate buildings to stand in solidarity with Ukraine. Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator advised that flags had been ordered and would be put up once received.

## **Minute No. 24/22**

### **Retirement of Frank Pentony, Director of Services**

The Cathaoirleach noting it was Frank Pentony, Director of Services last meeting as Director with Dundalk Municipal District, thanked him on behalf of all Members for his service to Louth, to the Municipal District and to Elected Members both as a whole and on an individual basis.

Frank Pentony, Director of Services advised that as he had attended his first official meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1989 as Finance Officer in the chamber of Dundalk Town Council it was fitting that this location was his last meeting. He told Members he loved being a public servant and

while it had its challenges he looked back at some of the more memorable achievements proudly, having served 46 years the following Tuesday. He thanked Members and the press for their support over the years.

Members wished Frank the best of health and a happy retirement.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date:

5 April 2022

Cathaoirleach:

Mara Doyle

Meeting Administrator:

A. Ryan

