

Cruinniú Bardasach Dhún Dealgan / Municipal District of Dundalk – September 2022

Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Dundalk hosted in the Chamber of Dundalk Town Hall, on Tuesday 6th September at 5.15 p.m.

In attendance:

Leas Chathaoirleach: Councillor Seán Kelly

Members: Councillors Marianne Butler, Emma Coffey, Edel Corrigan, Maria Doyle, Conor Keelan, Andrea McKeivitt, Liam Reilly, John Reilly, Tomás Sharkey, Antóin Watters, Maeve Yore.

Apologies: Councillor Kevin Meenan

Officials: Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services
Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator
John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer
Martin McCreesh, Senior Executive Engineer
Paddy Connolly, Senior Executive Engineer
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer
William Walsh, Senior Executive Officer

Daigniú Miontuairiscí / Confirmation of Minutes – Ordinary Meeting

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday, 5th July 2022 were confirmed on the

Proposal of Cllr Maeve Yore

Seconded by Cllr Andrea McKeivitt

And approved.

Minute no. 75/22

Matters Arising

The following updates were requested, and advice given on Minutes from previous meeting:

Min. 68/22 – Members were advised that Keith McArdle would be taking over from Gerry McCormack on Taking in Charge

Min. 67/22 – Typo noted in minute – should refer to 'coastal' sand instead of 'costal' sand

Director of Services Thomas McEvoy advised Members of a change in Directorates and that future reports would encompass the new headings and changes recently made. A request was made to put changes on Decision Time, which Members were advised would be accommodated.

Thomas McEvoy also sought and got agreement to meet on the draft discretionary budget at 9a.m. before the main October Council meeting.

Minute no. 76/22

Housing Progress Report

Members discussed the report as issued and John Lawrence, Director of Services, advised on all Housing items raised.

The following items were highlighted:

- Duiche Roden - an update on expected delivery of units was given
- Previous request for the number of Tenancy Support officers in Approved Housing Bodies active in the County could not be ascertained as yet
- Section are aware of increasing antisocial behaviour in Dun Doogan, a breakdown of warning letters by estate is not available
- Over 330 tenants are on the transfer request list
- Applicants who have submitted a completed application for housing support are given a receipt which would enable application tracking
- Additional staff have been reassigned to housing assessments to decrease assessment time

Minute no. 77/22

Operations and Marine Progress Report

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

Road safety measures including traffic counts and calming, redirection of traffic flow, filter lanes and lights, line repairs, footpath repair and maintenance, hedge and overgrowth cutting, flooding reparation, drainage, speed ramp maintenance measures, signage were requested at various areas

The following items were highlighted:

- The annual gully clearing process is commencing which may assist with many flooding issues raised, however increased rainfall will cause flooding

- New Casual Trading Bye-laws have been delayed following legal advice around Municipal District requirements
- The burning of newly refurbished and reopened toilets at Blackrock was referred to An Garda Síochána
- It is better value for money to contract line installation than to purchase and maintain machinery
- Members requested that Taxi stand bye-laws again be considered and traffic counts completed following return of normal traffic
- A list of school warden locations was requested
- Temporary signage while Monksland school operates out of community centre will be considered
- Clock on Clanbrassil Street is running slow
- A query was raised around flagpole installation at Thomas Clarke Peace Gardens and flying of flag at same

The following will be brought back to Management Team:

- A Memorial stone request for miscarriage loss in St. Patrick's Cemetery will be brought to Management
- Joint firework event with Warrenpoint as a cross border display event

Minute no. 78/22

Infrastructure Report

Members discussed the report as issued and John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer advised on all items raised.

Following a request made for a letter to issue to the War Memorial Committee updating them on the WWI memorial, Director of Services Thomas McEvoy updated members on current status of Memorial.

Capital programme updates were requested CFRAMS, Greenway, and Active Travel. Verbal updates were given but further request for attendance presentations were made. Clarification was sought on ownership of various properties/lands.

Minute no. 79/22

Litter & Bring banks Report

Senior Executive Officer Willie Walsh advised on the report as issued, advising Members that all sites were back to pre-covid usage and capacity.

- Members welcomed fines issued but requested breakdown by area
- A suggestion was made that community wardens be employed on a commission basis per fine issued

- A request for installation of a map of alternative bottle banks at each bank was made so people will know the nearest other bank when units are full
- The difficulty in enforcing fines for dog fouling was discussed
- An increase in the number of bins provided especially in park areas was requested with Muirhevnamore being noted as having no bins within it

Minute No. 80/22

Member's Community Grants September 2022

In accordance with Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended, approval of the Member's Community Grants September 2022 as presented by Members were

Proposed by: Cllr. Marianne Butler

Seconded by: Cllr. Emma Coffey

And approved.

Minute No. 81/22

Motion: Cllr. Sean Kelly and Cllr. Edel Corrigan

Seconded by: Cllr Antóin Watters

That the relevant Council officials formally request engagement from Irish Rail to carry out a joint safety audit and report in regards to trees positioned along O'Hanlon Park and Fr Murray Park, Dundalk. That both parties agree and implement a programme of works for the ongoing pruning, cutting back and general maintenance of trees at this location.

Reply from Ms. C. Duff, Director of Services Operations

In relation to the trees that are growing on LCC land these were risk assessed in January 2018. Works that were identified was carried out at the end 2018. Currently there are no plans to carry out any work at this location. The next cycle of inspection is schedule for 2023. Irish rail as owner or occupiers of the land upon which trees are growing are responsible for maintenance and management.

Speaking on the motion Cllr Corrigan stated that she was very disappointed with the response given which she considered conflicted with other responses received at earlier meetings. She had understood that a previous request to replace existing trees with ones more suitable would be looked at, and that a five-year cycle of inspections was not substantial.

Cllr Kelly echoed Cllr Corrigan's disappointment, and suggested that the purpose of raising a motion was collaboration and for a conversation to take place. He considered the existing trees were very overgrown and affected light for residents who feared storms, and queried the responsibility and liability if a tree falls causing damage.

Minute No. 82/22

Motion: Cllr. Sean Kelly and Cllr. Edel Corrigan

Seconded by: Cllr Antóin Watters

That a working group be established by the local authority within the first quarter of 2023 to develop a programme of works and seek required funding for improvement of infrastructure and housing in the Coxes Demesne area, that this working work include and develop plans in conjunction with local residents and community groups in the area. Quarterly progress reports to be issued to this committee for review.

Reply from Mr. P. Donnelly, Director of Services Housing

The focus of the Housing Directorate in respect of housing delivery is set out in the Housing Delivery Action Plan 2022- 2027. The plan details the local objectives which align to the Housing for All initiative. These objectives are supported by the funding streams currently available from Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage. Furthermore, the Maintenance team continue to roll out a very ambitious Energy Retrofit Scheme which encompasses properties across the Social Housing portfolio including units in the Coxes Demesne Area. The establishment of a working group as proposed would not serve any practical purpose and could not access any funding sources that the staff in the Directorate are not already accessing or are in a position to react to should alternative funding opportunities arise.

Cllr Corrigan advised that she was very disappointed with the lack of collaboration and felt complete and utter disappointment at the response. She advised as background that an estate management committee had previously existed which had fallen over the last number of years, which had members of the Local Authority, An Garda Síochána and Residents. Citing social deprivation, unemployment in areas of focus and not taking away from services provided, she considered that a joint committee would bring back trust from the local community and local authority and would like to discuss this further with the Director.

Cllr Kelly considered that there should be a working group to join up all other groups and lamented the response received.

Cllr Doyle echoed disappointment with the response from officials.

Minute No. 83/22

Motion: Cllr Maeve Yore

Seconded by: Cllr Antóin Watters

“That LCC apply for National Active Travel Funding for improved & new footpath and new cycle Lane from Red Barns Rd/ Long Avenue roundabout to Rock Road and up to and include Hardys Lane to connect with new cycle Lane on bye pass”

Reply from Thomas McEvoy, A/Director of Service of Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development

The National Transport Authority (NTA) are currently undertaking a national study of County Cycle Networks with its main objective to develop a connected and coherent cycle network across each county (both urban and rural areas) to act as guide for a future infrastructure investment. The aforementioned routes will form part of the information captured and will be either classified a Primary or Secondary route for Active Travel Infrastructure and be ranked in priority to obtain funding in the coming year(s).

Cllr Yore speaking on the motion requested an update when and if routes were approved.

Minute No. 84/22

Condolences

Condolences were extended to the family and friends of:

Patsy McCabe, former staff member of Louth County Council

Des Casey, Carrick Road, who had been heavily involved in promotion of football

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date: 4th Oct 2002

Cathaoirleach: Ken Meen

Meeting Administrator: Aida Quoney