



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

Cruinniú Bardasach Dhún Dealgan / Municipal District of Dundalk – December 2023

Minutes of Municipal District of Dundalk Meeting - Town Hall, Dundalk - Tuesday, 5th December 2023 at 5:15pm

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Councillor Seán Kelly

Members: Councillor(s) Marianne Butler, Emma Coffey, Edel Corrigan, Conor Keelan, Andrea McKeivitt, Kevin Meenan, Robert Nash, John Reilly, Liam Reilly, Tomás Sharkey, Antóin Watters, Maeve Yore.

Apologies: None

Officials: Eamonn Woulfe, A/Director of Services
Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator
Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer
Paddy Connolly, Senior Executive Engineer
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer
Keith McArdle, Assistant Engineer
Adrian O'Sullivan, Road Safety Officer

Minute No. 103/23

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on Tuesday 7th November 2023

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Tuesday 7th November 2023 were confirmed on the

Proposal of - Cllr Antóin Watters

Seconded by - Cllr Maeve Yore

And approved.

Minute No. 104/23

Matters Arising

None

Minute No. 105/23

Allocation of Members Community Grants provided for under Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001

Members considered the Community Grants as approval of same was

Proposed by: Cllr Maeve Yore

Seconded by: Cllr Antóin Watters
And resolved

Minute No. 106/23

Agree Date for January Municipal District Meeting

In accordance with Standing Order no. 1 it was agreed by resolution to hold the January Municipal District Meeting 2024 on the 9th of January 2024 in the Town Hall Chamber at 5.15pm. This was

Proposed by: Cllr Maeve Yore

Seconded by: Cllr Emma Coffey

And as there were no objections it was so resolved.

Minute No. 107/23

Taking in Charge Cúl na mBalla

Keith McArdle, Assistant Engineer invited questions from Members on the report as presented to them on Taking in Charge measures. The following items were discussed:

Approval of the proposal that the roads in the development known as Cul Na Bala Carlingford be declared Public Roads in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993. And furthermore, in accordance with Section 180 (4) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended that the Council take in charge any public open space, public lighting, unallocated car parks, sewers (excluding service connections) and water mains within the grounds of the development, was

Proposed by: Cllr Antóin Watters

Seconded by: Cllr Emma Coffey

And Agreed

Minute No. 108/23

Taking in Charge Seaford Gardens

Approval of the proposal that the roads in the development known as Seaford Gardens Blackrock, be declared Public Roads in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993, and furthermore, in accordance with Section 180 (4) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended that the Council take in charge any public open space, public lighting, unallocated car parks, sewers (excluding service connections) and water mains within the grounds of the development, was

Proposed by: Cllr Antóin Watters

Seconded by: Cllr Emma Coffey

And Agreed

Minute No. 109/23

Housing Progress Report

Members noted the report as circulated at the meeting.

Cllr Keelan raised concerns about a number of houses he had to inspect during canvassing, and a number of houses he'd seen where boilers are located in bedrooms of Council Tenants. He advised he was aware of a number of aged stock in Dundalk and Drogheda but was not familiar with Dunleer, and wanted to know what extent is this a major issue with Housing Stock. He opined that this was not safe for Mothers and Fathers in bedrooms with children, stating that it was a poor reflection

of the Local Authority and not a reflection on staff. He requested a comment from Director Woulfe as Chief Fire Officer and offered to show media present a bedroom with a boiler. Senior Engineer Declan Grimes advised that he would look to see if a report could be organised and advised that Energy Retrofits would replace boilers with air to heat systems. Director of Services Eamon Woulfe suggested that boilers constructed within specific legislation may not be a problem. It was suggested that lack of servicing of boilers may be problematic.

Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer addressed all other matters raised by the Members.

The following items were highlighted:

- A request was made to highlight the need to have pre mortgage approval when applying for Affordable Housing
- A boiler maintenance programme is planned for 2024
- Ongoing communication takes place between the Council Housing Team and Affordable Housing Bodies
- Anti Social Behaviour was noted in communal areas of Patrick Tierney Crescent
- A communication campaign to inform the public about how to apply for housing and the criteria for allocations was requested

Minute No. 110/23

Roads and Local Services Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting. Paddy Connolly, Senior Executive Engineer addressed matters raised.

Along with potholes, footpath repair, traffic calming, road safety and signage requests, sign relocation & sign cleaning, road resurfacing, road lines and yellow box repair & painting, painting of parking, lighting of bus shelters, the following items were highlighted:

- Recent accessibility works to roads and footpaths were praised by Members
- Traffic congestion towards the bypass at the Gateway Hotel was attributed simply to volume of traffic. Traffic light sequencing had been adjusted several times to no avail
- A sign welcoming people to Dundalk but placed in Bellurgan will be addressed
- No response has been received on a request for funding to roads damaged in funds
- The JCB Pro is currently tackling estates in Dundalk – a request was made for regular schedules to be provided on News on a Page
- Inland fisheries are reminding farmers to liaise with them with regard to river clearing
- Dangerous wall in Cypress Gardens Bay Estate is responsibility of Developer
- It is considered that sufficient stock is in place for winter gritting
- A request to review traffic light sequencing on Newry Road into town to ease congestion from Ballymac Roundabout was made
- A request to grit the Market Square surfacing was made
- There is a requirement for homeowners to ensure that there is no run off from residence into road

It was proposed that a letter issue to Minister McConalogue, the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine of Ireland, to highlight the plight of farmers with damaged private roads following flooding.

This was

Proposed by: Cllr Andrea McKeivitt

Seconded by: Cllr Antóin Watters

And approved.

Members were reminded of standing orders on submission of Motions, and it was agreed that a letter would issue once exact wording was forwarded to the Meetings Administrator in writing.

Members referred to a request at an earlier meeting for a letter to issue and were advised that the wording for same had not been received but it would issue when it was received.

Minute no. 111/23

Physical Development Report

Members discussed the report as issued and John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer, advised on all items raised. As well as updates being given on planned works to Narrowwater Bridge and the Greenway, the following items were highlighted/discussed:

- ABTA (Area Based Transport Assessment) surveys are currently underway with traffic counts being carried out at various locations, this will help inform the LAP (Local Area Plan).
- There were no tenders received for a recently advertised Bikeshare Scheme
- Mount Avenue works are on budget and on time

Minute No. 112/23

Road Safety Presentation

Road Safety Officer Adrian O'Sullivan gave Members a presentation on Road Safety measures and included statistics on road fatalities both nationally and locally.

Members were advised of extension of the 'Gift of a Lift' Christmas Card scheme from the previous year to encourage people not to drive while under the influence cards were distributed to any Member who wished to avail of same and Members were advised that cards are available to download from our website in both Irish and English.

Minute No. 113/23

Place of February Meeting - Standing Order No 6

Members agreed by resolution to hold the February 2024 meeting of the Dundalk Municipal District in Faughart Community National School to coincide with 'Brigid 1500 – Louth Birthplace of Brigid' celebrations. This was

Proposed by: Cllr Emma Coffey

Seconded by: Cllr Marianne Butler

And agreed by all Members present.

Minute No. 114/23

Notice of Motion - Cllr Conor Keelan
Seconded by: Cllr Seán Kelly

That this Council adds St. Mary's Road to next year's roadworks programme.

Reply from D. Jones, Director of Services, Placemaking & Physical Development

The Road Works Programme 2024 will be produced on evidence-based data including usage and traffic loading, and engineering surveys utilising Pavement Survey Conditions Index (PSCI) ranked surfaces, (scored from 1 to 10 by Roads Technical Team) and in the context of available budget.

St. Mary's Road will be inspected to determine whether it should be considered for inclusion in the Road Works Programme 2024 within the context outlined above.

Cllr Keelan expressed disappointment that there were no engineers at the meeting during this segment.

Minute No. 115/23

Notice of Motion - Cllr Conor Keelan
Seconded by: Cllr Seán Kelly

That this Council install a Children at Play sign at the junction of New Street/Broughton Street and Mary Street Court.

Reply from D. Jones, Director of Services, Placemaking & Physical Development

There is no approved Children at Play sign included in the Department of Transport Traffic Signs Manual. Louth County Council can only install approved signs in compliance with this Traffic Signs Manual.

Cllr Keelan advised he had an issue with the comment and suggested that Fatima had signs, he stated that he disagreed and opposed the contents of the reply.

Minute No. 116/23

Notice of Motion - Cllr Robert Nash
Seconded by: Cllr John Reilly

"That Louth County Council as a matter of urgency seek funding through whatever means possible to install footpaths on the Rock road in Blackrock. Such a project needs to be completed for the safety of residents and school children in the area"

Reply from D. Jones, Director of Services, Placemaking & Physical Development

Previous proposals by Louth County Council to install a footpath on the Rock road Blackrock will be reviewed, with a view to examining options to progress the project, including funding opportunities.

Cllr Nash welcoming the response from the Director advised of previous funding obtained which had been handed back to the Dept., he referred to a natural walkway and viable footpath on the Rock Road.


Cllr Meenan suggested that motions be taken during the section in order that relevant staff are present.

Cllr Keelan said that staff should have the decency to stay at the meeting and requested this minuted. On asked for clarification by the Meeting Administrator, Cllr Keelan commenced to refer to email correspondence with the Meeting Administrator raising his voice at which stage the Cathaoirleach advised that the meeting was concluded.

As there was no other business the meeting concluded

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

Date: 9 Jan 2024

Cathaoirleach: 

Meeting Administrator: Aile Quaney