



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

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

Minutes of Municipal District of Dundalk Meeting – Council Chamber, Town Hall, Dundalk -
Tuesday, 4th July 2023 at 5:15pm

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Councillor Seán Kelly

Members: Councillor(s) Emma Coffey, Edel Corrigan, Conor Keelan, Seán Kelly, Andrea McKevitt, Kevin Meenan, Robert Nash, John Reilly, Tomás Sharkey, Antóin Watters, Maeve Yore.

Apologies: Councillor(s) Marianne Butler, Liam Reilly

Officials: Eamonn Woulfe, A/Director of Services
Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator
John Lawrence, A/Director of Services
Paddy Connolly, Senior Executive Engineer
Keith McArdle, Assistant Engineer
Terry Hamilton, A/Senior Executive Officer
Olivia McCormack, Senior Executive Officer
Christopher Kelly, Executive Engineer
Brian Brooks, A/Executive Planner

Minute No. 54/23

Minutes of Annual Meeting held on Tuesday 6th June 2023

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Tuesday 6th June 2023 were confirmed on the

Proposal of Cllr Maeve Yore
Seconded by Cllr Emma Coffey

And approved.

Minute No. 55/23

Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on Tuesday 6th June 2023

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Tuesday 6th June 2023 were confirmed on the

Proposal of Cllr Maeve Yore
Seconded by Cllr Andrea McKevitt

And approved.

Minute No. 56/23

Matters Arising

None raised

Minute No. 57/23

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 Antóin Watters

Seconded by: Cllr Andrea McKeivitt

And resolved

Minute No. 58/23

Proposed Taking In Charge of Cul na Rath, Omeath

Members considered the recommendation of the Director of Planning Thomas McEvoy, and agreed by resolution to appoint the roads in the development known as Cul na Rath, Knocknagoran, Omeath public roads in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993; and further agreed to approve the taking in charge as set out before them in accordance with Section 180 (4) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, (as amended). This was

Proposed by: Cllr Maeve Yore

Seconded by: Cllr Antóin Watters

And resolved

Minute No. 59/23

Part 8 - Living in Carlingford Visiting Carlingford Regeneration Scheme for Approval

Following some discussion, Members considered the Chief Executive Report as set before them in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), and agreed to approve the Part 8 as presented to them. This was

Proposed by: Cllr Andrea McKeivitt

Seconded by: Cllr Antóin Watters

and confirmed by resolution.

Minute No. 60/23

Housing Progress Report

Members noted the report as circulated at the meeting and John Lawrence A/Director of Services addressed all matters raised by the Members.

The following items were highlighted:

- Retrofit works; the standard, efficiency of same and the communication from staff to residents was praised.
- A decrease in the turnover time for processing Social Housing Applications was noted and welcomed.
- Grants - applications remain open to inpatients who require work to be released from hospital.

- A 2nd quote is often requested where the 1st quote on application is regarded as excessively high. Consideration will be given to provision of benchmark costs of works sheet, but Louth County Council is not in a position to recommend or pay builders
- Louth County Council Housing Team holds regular meetings with Approved Housing Bodies on tenancy and other issues.

Minute No. 61/23

Roads and Local Services Report

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

A recent IBAL report which labelled Dundalk as 'seriously littered' was widely discussed and condemned by Members who opined that this was not reflective of the general reality on the ground. Queries were raised around possible solutions and regarding regulation of clothes banks, vapes and nitric oxide capsules and it was suggested that even if business labels were put on items it was the user dumping the items and not the vendor. Local Communities, Tidy Town Groups, BIDS and Louth County Council outdoor staff were praised by Members for their work around the town and a concern was raised that fatigue would set in based on the report. The Cathaoirleach advised of an upcoming meeting of MD members with the Chamber of Commerce and Tidy Town Groups in advance of the next Council meeting on the 17th July.

Various other items were queried including low cost safety works, the road works programme, pothole and road repairs, weeds/overgrowth and hedge cutting, sightlines at junctions, road safety concerns, resurfacing, maintenance schedules etc all of which were responded to by Paddy Connolly.

Minute no. 62/23

Taking in Charge

Keith McArdle, Assistant Engineer, welcomed queries on the report as presented to them. Members thanked Keith for progress on various sites in the area, and raised queries which were responded to on other sites.

Minute No. 63/23

Notice of Motion: Cllr John Reilly

Seconded by: Cllr Robert Nash

'Calling on Louth County Council to deploy sufficient staff to process applications from telecommunications companies in the rollout of 4g and 5g coverage throughout north Louth'

Reply from J. McGuinness, Director of Services, Organisational Development

Staffing is a matter for the executive.

Cllr Reilly discussed the need for broadband and mobile coverage in the North Louth Area. Eamonn Woulfe A/Director advised that while Louth County Council welcomes interest in planning applications from telecommunication companies, staffing was a matter for the Executive.

Minute No. 64/23

Notice of Motion: Cllr Antóin Watters

Seconded by: Cllr Maeve Yore

This Municipal District calls for Water Services to be returned to local authorities including Louth County Council to ensure they are responsive to the local need and subject to local democratic oversight in the future. We also call on the Government to set a date for a referendum on the public ownership of Water Services.

Reply from J. McGuinness, Director of Services, Organisational Development

This is a matter for the members.

Speaking on the motion Cllr Watters highlighted the need for local knowledge and representation which he feared would be lost with the move of services to Uisce Éireann.

As there was no other business the meeting concluded

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

Date: 5 Sept 2023

Cathaoirleach: 

Meeting Administrator: 