



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

Cruinniú Bardasach Dhún Dealgan / Municipal District of Dundalk

Minutes of Municipal District of Dundalk Meeting – Faughart Community National School -
Tuesday, 6th February 2024 at 5:15pm

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Councillor Seán Kelly

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

Apologies: Councillor(s) Liam Reilly, Tomás Sharkey

Officials: Eamonn Woulfe, A/Director of Services
Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator
Paddy Connolly, Senior Executive Engineer
John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer
Olivia McCormack, Senior Executive Officer

Minute No. 8/24

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on Tuesday 9th January 2024

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Tuesday 9th January 2024 were confirmed on the

Proposal of: Cllr Maeve Yore
Seconded by: Cllr Emma Coffey
And approved

Minute No. 9/24

Matters Arising

Cllr Keelan expressed dissatisfaction that two Notices of Question that had been noted in his absence at the previous meeting were not in the minutes. The Cathaoirleach referred to Min. No. 7/24 and read the minute as follows *“Response to two Notices of Question raised by Cllr Keelan as set out on the agenda were noted in his absence.”*

Cllr Keelan made some personal comments about the ‘Minute Taker’ and the Meeting Administrator asked that the Cathaoirleach direct the Councillor to stop shouting and pointing at her and reminded all present of the Code of Conduct. Both the A/Director and Cathaoirleach advised Cllr Keelan his comments were inappropriate and requested him to stop. Cllr Keelan ignored the instructions of the Cathaoirleach.

Cllrs Butler and Meenan suggested it was not unreasonable for the full Notice of Question and response to go in the minute.

Minute No. 10/24

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 John Reilly

Seconded by: Cllr Andrea McKeivitt

And resolved

Minute No. 11/24

Housing Progress Report

Members noted the report as circulated at the meeting, and John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer responded to all queries raised.

The following items were discussed:

- Units for the Energy Retrofit Scheme are prioritised based on the current state of property.
- The first Affordable Housing Scheme in years was to take place the next day with 10 units launching in Dundalk, this was hoped to be the first of many schemes. Members were cautioned that allocations would be made on a first come first served basis, with those who already having approval in principle getting priority
- Members were advised of engagement between Louth County Council Housing Team and Clann Approved Housing Body (AHB) regarding issues raised by tenants of Greater Haven, which is run under an Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Louth County Council
- Market St houses were asked to be considered for the retrofit scheme
- Confirmation was given that annual maintenance will be required to heat pumps and contractor appointed
- Disappointment at the timeframe to pay out Croí Conaithe grants was expressed all round. Units have to be works complete, inspected by a Louth County Council appointed contractor, and a charge applied to property
- An allegation that AHB tenants with disabilities are discriminated against was not accepted but the Housing Team is happy to investigate any concerns raised
- A request for SLAs for all AHB properties could not be accommodated as only those remaining in Louth ownership and managed by an AHB would have an SLA

Cllr Keelan was asked by the Cathaoirleach to retract a comment he made naming a private individual as being sacked by Clann which he refused to do stating "it's a fact. It's a fact, look it up." Further direction given to Cllr Keelan on this conduct during this section item was ignored.

Minute No. 12/24

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:

- There are no plans to implement weight restrictions on a shortcut road to the Ballymacscanlon Roundabout
- Recent accessibility works to roads and footpaths were praised by Members
- A request for David Jones, Director of Services to address the next meeting on flood measures will be passed on, however there is no response still from the Department on funding
- Repairs to accident damaged bridges has been referred back but resources are limited
- Queries on Dundalk Local Area Plan (LAP) should be referred to Planning
- Concerns raised about safety at Sextons junction should be addressed under Active Travel plans
- The Speed Limit Review will soon be commencing and there will be opportunity to make submissions
- Dangerous wall in Cypress Gardens Bay Estate is responsibility of Developer but LCC will examine
- Drain cleaning requests should be submitted in to Sean Reilly as contractor is currently clearing
- Vehicles blocking access and egress to properties and parked on double yellows at night should be referred to Gardaí

Minute no. 13/24

Placemaking Report

Members considered the report as issued and Olivia McCormack, Senior Executive Officer, advised on all items raised.

The following items were highlighted/discussed:

- Omeath works are progressing to schedule
- Carlingford submission is going into the Department for consideration this week
- Approval received from the Department to tender on St. Nicholas Quarter works, expect to commence in Q2
- Concern raised on Pedestrian Crossing on Bridge Street and a review was requested on whole area from Legion Ave, Park Ave, Castletown Road – and a query made as to whether this could be looked at under LAP. Members were advised the Bridge Street junction was a difficult one and new crossing which was going in was in line with DMURS and considered all safety aspects along the desired line

Minute No. 14/24

Notice of Motion: Cllr. John O'Reilly

Seconded by: Cllr. Edel Corrigan

That LCC request that The OPW takes over the control and maintenance of Faughart Graveyard as a Heritage Site.

Reply from J. McGuinness, Director of Services Organisational Development

Matter for the Members.

Cllr Edel Corrigan indicated support of this motion subject to amendments. A discussion followed

wherein some suggestions were made, and including to replace the words ‘OPW’ with ‘Louth County Council’. It was suggested by the Meeting Administrator that this might indicate a significant alteration which would change the substantive motion and would certainly have altered the Executive Response. Members were advised that amendments can propose to add or take away words but should not substantively alter the original motion.

Minute No. 15/24

Amendment to a Notice of Motion in accordance with Standing Order no. 25

An amendment to Cllr John Reilly’s motion was proposed by Cllr Edel Corrigan to insert the following **highlighted** words:

That LCC request that “LCC and/or” the OPW takes over the control and maintenance of Faughart Graveyard as a Heritage Site, “and brand it as a Legends View Point.”

This was **Seconded by: Cllr Conor Keelan**

And Members considered as follows:

Name	In Favour	Against	Abstain	Absent
Marianne Butler	1			
Emma Coffey	1			
Edel Corrigan	1			
Conor Keelan	1			
Sean Kelly	1			
Andrea McKevitt	1			
Kevin Meenan	1			
Robert Nash	1			
John Reilly	1			
Liam Reilly				1
Tomás Sharkey				1
Antóin Watters	1			
Maeve Yore	1			
	11	0	0	2

And the amended motion was passed.

Minute No. 16/24

Notice of Motion: Cllr. Conor Keelan

Seconded by: Cllr Emma Coffey

"That a new permanent pedestrian crossing be facilitated in the Park Street area in the vicinity of the alleyway across the road to Matthews Pharmacy and Hollands Shop. This would aid and assist pedestrian activity in the area, assist trade and commerce and also help efforts to halt dereliction in the area."

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

The proposed location is less than 100m from the pedestrian crossing at the traffic signals at the

junction of Anne Street and Park Street. Accordingly, the provision of another crossing in such proximity to an existing crossing cannot be justified.

Speaking on the Executive response, Cllr Keelan wanted it pointed out that this was brought to the floor on behalf of business owners on Park Street, and that there was a vacant property there that needs something done to it.

Minute No. 17/24

Notice of Motion: Cllr Sean Kelly
Seconded by: Cllr Edel Corrigan

That Louth Co Co look at all funding avenues for the upgrade and ongoing maintenance of the Astro Turf pitch at Ashling Park playground. That proper signage and lighting is installed to ensure maximum usage by local residents and that the Council will undertake to secure the pitch at nighttime to avoid anti-social behaviour.

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

Funding avenues for the upgrade of the MUGA (Multi Use Game Area) at Ashling Park will be examined, as funding opportunities arise. In the interim, necessary repairs to the surface of the MUGA will be carried out, as well as maintenance to the parameter fence.

Responding to this motion, Cllr Kelly noted that the request to secure the pitch at nighttime had not been addressed.

Minute No. 18/24

Notice of Question: Cllr Andrea McKeivitt – Noted

The Members noted response made to Notice of Question as it appeared on the agenda before them and as raised by Cllr. Andrea McKeivitt

Minute No. 19/24

Correspondence requests outside of the Notice of Motion / Standing Order process

During the meeting the following letters were requested:

Letter Request 1

It was proposed by Cllr Corrigan and seconded by Cllr Kelly in light of recent escalation of Anti Social Behaviour in a Social Housing Estate, that a letter issue to the Housing SPC to urgently look at the estate management policy

Letter Request 2

It was proposed by Cllr Keelan that a letter issue to the Department to remove boilers from bedrooms

Letter Request 3

It was proposed by Cllr Watters that a letter issue to Wicklow County Council for attendance at Dundalk MD to advise on implementation of recent periodic speed limit measures. This was seconded by Cllr McKeivitt

Letter Request 4

On foot of a request from Cllr Keelan that a letter issue on flood damage roads, Members suggested this had already issued so Cllr Keelan said he wanted a second letter to issue

Letter Request 5

Cllr Yore proposed that a letter issue to Failte Ireland, RTE and Virgin Media to express displeasure on the limited media coverage of Brigid 1500 celebrations in Louth. This was seconded by Cllr Watters.

Members were previously reminded of standing orders on submission of Motions for letters at previous meetings.

Minute No. 20/24

Brigid 1500

Members spoke to recognise and thank the local School for providing the venue for that evenings meeting. As well as giving recognition to Dundalk BIDs, and Louth County Council for Brigid 1500 events, praise was also given to local community groups involved in recent St Brigid/Brigid of Faughart Celebrations.

It was confirmed that Louth County Council and Dundalk BIDs had funded the light show in Market Square and that these lights were now in the ownership of LCC and BIDs and could be put to future use. Cllr Emma Coffey praised the business owners of Dundalk for their funding of BIDs
Cllr Edel Corrigan handed out a locally commissioned poem to all present.

Minute No. 21/24

Standing Order no. 69 – Suspension of Standing Order no. 5

As it was 7.15pm, the Cathaoirleach enquired if Members wanted to suspend standing orders for 15 minutes to allow further discussion of items.

A **Proposal** to do so was made by Cllr Watters and **Seconded** by Cllr McKevitt, and a suspension of standing order no. 5 which states “The municipal district members shall rise not later than 7.15 pm” was put to the floor. A vote was requested but a show of hands was suggested. As on questioning no member objected, and the following members were present it was taken that this fulfilled the requirement that at least two-thirds of the members present vote in favour to suspend. Present were:

Name	In Favour	Against	Abstain	Absent
Marianne Butler	1			
Emma Coffey	1			
Edel Corrigan	1			
Conor Keelan	1			
Sean Kelly	1			
Andrea McKevitt	1			
Kevin Meenan	1			
Robert Nash	1			
John Reilly	1			
Liam Reilly				1

Tomás Sharkey				1
Antóin Watters	1			
Maeve Yore	1			
	11	0	0	2

Minute No. 22/24

Condolences

Members offered condolences to the family and friends of the following people:

Anne Sloane: Wife of Peter Sloane "Killowenville" Avenue Road Dundalk
 Barry Callan: Son of Brian & Vivienne Callan, Bishops Court Dundalk
 Damian Kindlon: Father of Fiona, Niamh and Orla Kindlon "Tangmere" Avenue Road Dundalk
 Riona McCoy: Louth County Council staff member and wife of Michael McCoy, Doylesfort Grove, Dundalk

Minute No. 23/24

Standing Order no. 50 – Resolution to meet ‘In Committee’

The Cathaoirleach suggested Members might meet in committee to discuss a proposed civic reception and all members present on questioning agreed to do so, thus fulfilling the requirement of having at least one-half of the total number of municipal district members vote in favour. Members present were:

Name	In Favour	Against	Abstain	Absent
Marianne Butler	1			
Emma Coffey	1			
Edel Corrigan	1			
Conor Keelan	1			
Sean Kelly	1			
Andrea McKeivitt	1			
Kevin Meenan	1			
Robert Nash	1			
John Reilly	1			
Liam Reilly				1
Tomás Sharkey				1
Antóin Watters	1			
Maeve Yore	1			
	11	0	0	2

The media reps left the meeting.

Cllr Yore formally proposed that a local group in Dundalk be recognised for their service to the town, (*name redacted as in committee*) this was seconded by Cllr Keelan following some discussion.

The Meetings Administrator advised that the protocol for granting a Civic Reception was as follows:

- MD discuss in committee
- CPG should be informed of proposal for noting
- If agreed, the recipient should be contacted to confirm that they will accept
- A formal proposal should be made at MD meeting under Section 74 of the Local Government Act as amended, and a roll call vote held

Cllr Keelan who again raised his voice at the Meetings Administrator contending that he had brought in the ability for Dundalk MD to bestow their own civic awards, was advised that the legislation allowing a Municipal District to make a Civic Award is set out in the Local Government Act, and the same legislation allows Freedoms to be granted.

It was noted that the proposal could be brought to the attention of the CPG the next day. The Cathaoirleach advised that he could contact the group to see if they would be willing to accept.

It was agreed that the vote could be taken at this meeting to make an award subject to the groups confirmation of acceptance, and the award event date and times agreed thereafter.

All Councillors present indicated agreement of making an award, namely:

Name	In Favour	Against	Abstain	Absent
Marianne Butler	1			
Emma Coffey	1			
Edel Corrigan	1			
Conor Keelan	1			
Sean Kelly	1			
Andrea McKeivitt	1			
Kevin Meenan	1			
Robert Nash	1			
John Reilly	1			
Liam Reilly				1
Tomás Sharkey				1
Antóin Watters	1			
Maeve Yore	1			
	11	0	0	2

There being no other business, thanks was again proffered to the School and Board for hosting the meeting and the meeting concluded.

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

Date:

5 March 2024

Cathaoirleach:



Meeting Administrator:

