



Comhairle Contae Lú  
Louth County Council

## **Cruinniú Bardasach Dhún Dealgan / Municipal District of Dundalk – September 2024**

Minutes of Municipal District of Dundalk Meeting – Council Chamber, Town Hall, Dundalk -  
Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 5:15pm

### **In attendance:**

**Cathaoirleach:** Councillor Séan Kelly

**Members:** Councillor(s) Marianne Butler, Emma Coffey, Ciaran Fisher, Sionnain McCann, Shane McGuinness, Kevin Meenan, Fiona MhicConchoille, Robert Nash, John Reilly, Antóin Watters, Maeve Yore.

**Apologies:** Councillor Andrea McKevitt,

**Officials:** Joan Martin, Chief Executive  
Eamon Woulfe, A/Director of Services  
Bryan Coughlan, Meetings Administrator  
Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer  
Paddy Connolly, Senior Executive Engineer  
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer  
Noel Treanor, Senior Executive Engineer  
Keith McArdle, Assistant Engineer  
Declan Conlon, Executive Planner

### **Minute No. 83/24**

#### **Motion to Suspend Standing Orders**

Standing Orders were suspended on the **proposal of Cllr. Emma Coffey** and the **seconding of Cllr. Antoin Watters** in order to mark the retirement of Joan Martin, Chief Executive, who was in attendance. A number of members spoke to congratulate Ms. Martin and to thank her for all of her work for the town and county.

Ms. Martin spoke of the privilege she felt in being able to spend 45 years working for her county. She thanked the members and noted that even though there may be disagreements in the Chamber, they were all on the same team and working for the same objective.

### **Minute No. 84/24**

#### **Minutes of Annual Meeting held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

An amendment was made to minute 72/24 on the

**Proposal of –** Cllr Maeve Yore  
**Seconded by –** Cllr Antoin Waters

**And resolved**

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024 were confirmed on the

**Proposal of -** Cllr Maeve Yore  
**Seconded by -** Cllr Robert Nash  
**And approved.**

**Minute No. 85/24**

**Minutes of the monthly meeting held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June were confirmed on the

**Proposal of -** Cllr John Reilly  
**Seconded by -** Cllr Antoin Watters  
**And approved.**

**Minute No. 86/24**

**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 Maeve Yore  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Sean Kelly  
**And resolved.**

**Minute No. 87/24**

**Agree date for Special Meeting in October to consider the Municipal District of Dundalk Discretionary Budget**

A time of 9.40am on 21<sup>st</sup> October was agreed

**Proposed by:** Cllr Emma Coffey  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Robbie Nash  
**And resolved.**

**Minute No. 88/24**

**Agree date, time and recipients for Dundalk Municipal District Awards**

It was agreed to hold the Awards on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Sean Kelly  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Maeve Yore  
**And resolved.**

## Minute No. 89/24

### Part 8 Inner Relief Road Dundalk – Active Travel Scheme

John O'Hagan introduced the project. A number of Members, including Councillors Yore and Meenan, cited the Part 8 process to date as being a good example of public consultation and spoke in favour of the project. Observations were put forward by Councillors Nash, Reilly and Butler which were responded to by the staff working on the project.

The Part 8 was approved as presented on the

**Proposal of:** Cllr. Maeve Yore  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Emma Coffey  
**And Resolved.**

## Minute No. 90/24

### Taking in Charge – Coulter Place, Armagh Road, Dundalk

Keith McArdle presented the proposed Taking-in-Charge which was approved on the

**Proposal of:** Cllr. Antoin Watters  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Maeve Yore  
**And Resolved.**

## Minute No. 91/24

### Taking in Charge – Mullach Alainn, Omeath

This was deferred until the next meeting.

## Minute No. 92/24

### Taking in Charge – Dundoogan, Dundalk

Keith McArdle presented the proposed Taking-in-Charge which was approved on the

**Proposal of:** Cllr. Emma Coffey  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. John Reilly  
**And Resolved.**

## Minute No. 93/24

### Nomination of Members to Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Newry Mourne Down

- Cllr. Antoin Watters was nominated on the **proposal of Cllr. Kevin Meenan** which was **seconded by Cllr. Sionainn McCann**.
- Cllr. Robert Nash was nominated on the **proposal of Cllr. John Reilly** which was **seconded by Cllr. Emma Coffey**.
- Cllr. Shane McGuinness was nominated on the **proposal of Cllr. Emma Coffey** which was **seconded by Cllr. Sean Kelly**.
- Cllr. Fiona MhicConchoille was nominated on **the proposal of Cllr. Antoin Watters** which was **seconded by Cllr. Kevin Meenan**.

## Minute No. 94/24

### Housing Progress Report

Members noted the report as circulated at the meeting and Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer addressed all matters raised at the meeting.

The following items were highlighted:

- In response to queries regarding retrofitting from Cllr. Fisher and Cllr. Kelly, Declan Grimes informed the meeting that the focus has been on older stock and older persons dwellings. The distribution of funding across the county was discussed and Cllr. Kelly stated that expenditure should reflect the population distribution. Nonetheless, he praised the work being done and stated that Louth is punching above its weight nationally.
- In discussion regarding the social housing waiting list, Declan Grimes informed members that the Council were regularly meeting with developers with the objective of acquiring units. In particular there is a focus on obtaining 4 bed units, a shortage of which is causing some of the backlog on the waiting list.
- In response to a question from Cllr. Maeve Yore regarding the Council's strategy for dealing with anti-social behaviour, Declan Grimes stated that the Council's Estate Management team are working with tenants and An Garda Síochána to tackle anti-social behaviour.
- The requirement for boiler maintenance is increasing significantly and over 250 will have preventative maintenance undertaken this year. In relation to heat-pumps, there are maintenance arrangements in place and they will be serviced every 12 months.
- The application process for Disabled Persons Grants was raised by Cllr. Sean Kelly, who highlighted the problem that arises where applicants submit partially completed applications and receive all of the paperwork back to them as a result. A holding period was put forward as a potential solution.

## Minute No. 95/24

### 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, cycling infrastructure, road safety and signage requests and illegal dumping, the following items were highlighted:

- Many members expressed appreciation for specific works undertaken recently across the district, including pothole repairs on the Rock Road, road improvements in Cooley such as the Turf Road and resurfacing on the Coe's Road.
- Particular issues with the provision of school wardens were raised by Cllr. Marianne Butler and Cllr. Sean Kelly.
- There is a particular issue with the condition of the Ramparts River on which Paddy Connolly will revert to members.
- A number of members sought access to a 'pothole register' to avoid a duplication of cases being raised .

In addition to the matters raised above, there was considerable discussion had regarding the timing of undertaking the road-works programme. The timeline was set out by Paddy Connolly who highlighted that the funding is only received from central government mid year, after which there is a procurement phase to be undertaken. It was **proposed by Cllr. Antoin Watters** that the Dundalk MD would write to the Department and request that funding is received earlier in the year. This was **seconded by Cllr. Sean Kelly**.

## Minute No. 96/24

### Biodiversity Working Group

Helen Hanratty presented to the meeting and provided an overview of the Biodiversity Working Group, including:

- How it relates to existing national and local policies
- Its work
- Its composition
- Meeting arrangements

Members were asked to nominate one person from the District to join the Biodiversity Working Group. Cllr. Marianne Butler was nominated to the working group.

**Proposed by:** Cllr. Sean Kelly  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Robbert Nash  
**And approved**

## Minute No. 97/24

**Notice of Motion:** Cllr. Shane McGuinness  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Robert Nash

*Will this council confirm if the Rock Road Footpath which previously received funding from the Town and Village Scheme in which time had run out on the funding allocation. Is it being included in the Local Area Transport Plan to permit it to be eligible for funding and can it be included by whatever funding possible.*

*This scheme is one which is essential to the local area and the safety in particular of pedestrian and school children alike.*

### Reply from T. McEvoy, Director of Strategic Economic Development

*The Rock Road footpath at Blackrock is included in the Draft Local Transport Plan that accompanies the Draft Dundalk Local Area Plan 2024-2030, currently on display.*

*As with all projects, this will only proceed if and when funding is available.*

## Minute No. 98/24

### Condolences

Condolences were offered to the families of the following people who had recently passed away:

- Marian Gorham RIP
- Jim McLaughlin RIP
- Marie Hearty RIP

**Minute No. 99/24**

**Congratulations**


Congratulations were offered to the following:

- Kate O'Connor on her Olympic debut
- Eve McCrystal of her Paralympic success
- Michael Dawe on his retirement from Louth Fire & Rescue

As there was no other business the meeting concluded.

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

**Date:** 8/10/24

**Cathaoirleach:** 

**Meeting Administrator:** 