

Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Dundalk held in the Town Hall, Dundalk, on Tuesday, 5th April 2016 at 5.15 pm.

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. M. Doyle

Members: Councillors: M. Butler, E. Corrigan, J. Cassidy Green, M. Dearey, C. Keelan, J. Loughran, J. McGahon, K. Meenan, P. Savage, T. Sharkey, M. Yore

Officials: Joe McGuinness, Director of Services
Mary Murtagh, Meetings Administrator
Pat Finn, Senior Engineer
Gerry Kelly, Senior Engineer
John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer

Minute No. 39/16

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 1st, March, 2016 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. P. Savage and seconded by Cllr. M. Yore.

Minute No. 40/16

Matters Arising

- Cllr. J. Green requested that the correct spelling of her name be noted for future records.

Minute No. 41/16

Amenity Grants

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Butler
Seconded by: Cllr. M. Yore

And resolved.

To approve the proposed Amenity Grants for Community Groups and Residents Associations in the Dundalk Municipal District as set out in the schedule included with the Agenda.

During discussion in the matter the issue of a fairer distribution of grants was raised with a request for the matter to be examined in the context of Tidy Towns groups in rural areas, who cover extensive areas, receiving less than some urban based

Residents Associations. J Lawrence, Acting Senior Executive Officer confirmed that the matter would be examined fully prior to next year's scheme.

Minute No. 42/16

Filling of a vacancy on the Cross Authority Committee arising from the cessation of membership of Cllr. D. Breathnach.

Proposed by: Cllr. C. Keelan
Seconded by: Cllr. P. Savage

And resolved.

That Cllr. E Coffey fill the vacancy on the Cross Authority Committee arising from the membership of Cllr. D. Breathnach,

Minute No. 43/16

Housing and Communities Progress Report.

Members noted the report as circulated with the Agenda.

Minute No. 44/16

Infrastructure, Operations and Marine Progress Report

Members discussed the Report as circulated with the Agenda and the following matters were addressed:

- Urban Development Fund- F. Pentony, Director of Services advised that the design and Part 8 process is expected to be complete late 2016 with appointment of consultants in early 2017.
- Members stressed the importance of consultation and the need to lever off the project to reinvigorate the Living Cities Initiative and include "Living over the shop" as an objective.
- Municipal District Allocation 2015- Members requested confirmation of works that are deemed to have been constructed to standard.
- Colaiste Cuchulainn- Local Authority has written to Department of Education, no update as yet on how far the tendering process has advanced but Department needs to release funds before site purchase can be undertaken.
- N53- in discussion in relation to remaining works. Preliminary work undertaken on Options Report.

- Class 3 Roads- Review/ Audit required to establish condition of Roads- No money available for works.
- DPM Venures is new street sweeping contractor following tendering process.
- Bellurgan Strait- 4” pipe inadequate for proper drainage. Pothole problems need to be addressed. G. Kelly, Senior Engineer undertook to examine.
- LMETB leasing of Marist School- need to examine if there are any conditions in planning permission that the Board should be aware of to eliminate further risk.

Minute No. 45/16

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. J. McGahon
Seconded by: Cllr. P. Savage

“That Louth County Council move immediately to remove the recently installed bollards on the cycle lane at St. Marys Road Dundalk.”

Reply:

The cycle track at St. Mary's Road is a requirement of the planning permission for the redevelopment of the Marist school. The cycle track has been designed in compliance with the guidance set out in the National Cycle Manual. The bollards are an integral element of the design of the cycle track and their function is to prevent traffic tracking onto the cycle track. The Council does not intend removing these bollards as to do so would be prejudicial to the safety of vulnerable road users cycling to and from school.

During a lengthy discussion members expressed dissatisfaction at the lack of consultation, the use of bollards along the street and the fact that the section of Cycle Lane doesn't go anywhere or link to existing infrastructure. Notwithstanding that the cycle lane was provided as part of Planning Permission issued by an Bord Pleanála, Members unanimously agreed that a redesign must be examined to minimise the visual impact which currently is not in keeping with the character of the existing streetscape and that there should not be any further installation of cycle lanes without proper integrated planning. P. Finn, Senior Engineer to examine and revert.

Minute No. 46/16

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. T. Sharkey
Seconded by: Cllr. E. Corrigan

"That a review be carried out into the volume of parked traffic at Hill Street with a view to resolving the difficulties residents have in parking and accessing at their homes."

Reply:

This matter will be examined and a response issued in due course.

Cllr. T. Sharkey clarified that the Motion referred to Gosling Terrace, Hill Street where residents need access to parking spaces. G. Kelly, Senior Engineer agreed to examine further and revert to members.

Minute No. 47/16

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. J. McGahon
Seconded by: Cllr. M. Butler

"In order to entice more people into Dundalk Town Centre, Louth County Council should introduce half price pay parking on Saturday's for a trial period of three months and then review the situation thereafter."

Reply:

The pay parking scheme currently in operation was adopted by the elected members and followed a statutory consultation process. The scheme provides for reduced parking fees at holiday periods but does not provide for reduced parking on Saturdays. Such a provision would require an amendment to the scheme which would necessitate a full review using the statutory process.

Pay parking has proved an effective measure in ensuring that parking spaces are turned over and that all day parking in premium locations is prohibited on that basis it is not recommended that the scheme be reviewed at this time.

Cllr. J. McGahon, indicated that he was happy for the matter to be progressed in accordance with the reply with Members, during discussions, highlighting the need for replacement of Pay Parking machines and the introduction of a Smart Parking Solution.

Minute No. 48/16

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. C. Keelan
Seconded by: Cllr. M. Yore

"In light of the ongoing traffic problems in the vicinity that this Council seeks to install an all- way or four way stop crossing at Marmion's Cross, Kilcurry."

Reply:

This matter will be examined and a response issued in due course.

During discussion members requested that the Roads Section examine the feasibility of introducing a four way stop at the crossroads. G. Kelly, Senior Engineer indicated that he would favour such an option and would revert with proposals in the matter.

Minute No. 49/16

Notice of Question- Cllr. J. McGahon

"Will Louth County Council provide a detailed update on the application for funding for the Bellurgan Embankment"

Reply:

The Council has submitted a proposal to the Office of Public Works (OPW) to upgrade the Bellurgan Embankment flood defences. Discussions have been held with the OPW on the detail and it is expected that these will be concluded within a matter of weeks. In the interim funding in the amount of €45,000 has been sanctioned by the OPW to enable the Council stockpile material on site. This work is currently ongoing.

Members noted the response and, in response to a request for clarification, P. Finn, Senior Engineer indicated that he would provide more detailed clarification on the timeframe.

Minute No. 50/16

Notice of Question- Cllr. C. Keelan

"In relation to the present status of St. Patrick's Cemetery, Dowdallshill I would appreciate clarification of the following:

(a) As funds have been allocated to replace the railings in the Cemetery in this year's Council budget what is the expected start date for these works?

(b) When can we expect to receive a report on the present condition of the Cemetery and a list of works undertaken etc, in advance of the forthcoming partum Sunday as was indicated last year.

Reply:

(a) Tenders are being prepared at present so it is not possible to give a start date at this time. When a contractor is appointed we will be in a position to give a start date.

(b) Works are ongoing at the cemetery in order to maintain the grounds, particularly areas damaged as a result of the very wet spring. Grass cutting season has started and extensions to pathways etc. will be carried out as required with funding already provided in the Capital Programme.

Members noted the response and requested clarification on the timeframe for the appointment of the contractor. Members also asked that one special meeting of the Municipal District should be held annually to discuss St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Minute No. 51/16

Vote of Sympathy

Members passed a vote of sympathy with Andrew Lawrence, Temporary Clerical Officer on the recent death of his father.

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

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meetings Administrator: _____