

Municipal District of Dundalk - April 2021

Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Dundalk hosted in The Council Chamber County Hall, Dundalk on Tuesday 6th April at 5.15 p.m. and attended remotely over MS Teams

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Emma Coffey - Present in Chamber

Members: Remote Attendees: Councillors M. Butler, E. Corrigan, M. Doyle, C. Keelan, S. Kelly, A. McKevitt, K. Meenan, L. Reilly, T. Sharkey, A. Watters, M. Yore.

Apologies: Councillors C. Keelan, J. Reilly.

Officials: Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator - Present in Chamber
Frank Pentony, Director of Services - Present in Chamber
John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer - Remote
Mark Johnson, Senior Engineer - Remote
James Searson, Executive Engineer - Remote

Minute No. 35/21

Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 2nd March 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. A. Watters and seconded by Cllr. M. Yore.

Minute No. 36/21

Matters Arising

- None arising

However updates arising from previous reports were requested under this section as follows:

- Minute No. 22/21 - Active Travel funding applications
- Minute No. 23/21 - Breakdown of number of outdoor staff and associated staffing expenditure requested per MD
- Whether request for letter in 2019 to TII concerning junction at Ravensdale ever elicited a response

Frank Pentony advised that a press release had issued on Active Travel which was confirmed as having been circulated to all Members. The other matters were to be further checked.

Minute No. 37/21

Housing Progress Report

Members discussed the report as issued, the need to maintain property was discussed in depth.

John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer, advised on all Housing items raised and the following items were agreed to be followed up:

- Tenant at Peter Street encountering antisocial behaviour (ASB) outside property
- Updated social housing delivery report to issue

Minute No. 38 /21

Operations and Marine Progress Report

Members discussed the report as issued. Mark Johnson, Senior Engineer advised on all Operations items raised.

The following items were highlighted:

- Illegal dumping and how to counteract it
- Provision and cleaning of cycle lanes, traffic calming areas
- Public lighting outside estates
- Private and public lands causing drainage issues

Members were advised on Level 5 restrictions affecting works.

Minute No. 39/21

Taking in Charge Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting and James Searson, Executive Engineer responded on all Infrastructure Matters with Frank Pentony, Director of Service also responding on some matters.

On request James Searson updated members on the terms 'paper bonds/ cash bonds /bonds available and no bond' as mentioned in report. It was suggested by members that an extra column be added to show where bonds were spent on works once expended.

Minute No. 40/21

Dundalk Allocation of Members Community Grants

To approve Members Community Grant Allocations as circulated with the agenda.

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Yore

Seconded by: Cllr. S. Kelly

Minute No. 41/21

Road Works Programme

Members welcomed the report as circulated at the meeting and Mark Johnson responded on all Operation Matters.

The following items were clarified:

- Road Works Programme gave sufficient consideration to drainage.
- Dublin Road into Dundalk would be restored when cycle lanes were installed.

Minute No. 42/21

Notice of Motion

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

“That Louth County Council assess the junction of Seafield Road/Coast Road/ Rock Court Blackrock and install public lighting to ensure maximum safety for pedestrians and motorists.”

Reply from Ms. C. Duff, Director of Services, Operations and Mr. F. Pentony, Director of Services, Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development:

The area engineer in Operations will assess the junction and accident records. There are no works planned for this location in 2021. Due to the current budgetary constraints for new public lighting and the ongoing maintenance and energy costs associated with same, there are no plans to install new lighting at this location in 2021.

A discussion took place around public lighting with several members discussing the need to remove the ‘Public Lighting Moratorium’. It was suggested that members attend a workshop coming up to next budget on this.

Minute No. 43/21

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. C. Keelan

That the boundary of the flood relief scheme, which is being undertaken for this Council by the Black & Veatch / Nicholas O'Dwyer Joint Venture Consulting Engineers, be extended on its north-eastern boundary to take in the Flurry River Catchment, its tributaries and estuary and the lands as far as the rising ground at Jenkinstown, to at least as far as the 6 metre ODM contour adjacent to the High Watermark of Spring Tides (HWOST)."

Cllr. C. Keelan on offering apologies for this meeting had requested that the motion be deferred to next meeting.

Minute No. 44/21

Notice of Motion

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

“That Louth County Council repair and install a footpath from end of Medebawn estate to bungalows opposite Maxol Garage Avenue Road to enable pedestrian safety and connectivity.”

Reply from Ms. C. Duff, Director of Services, Operations:

The area engineer in Operations will assess the location. There is no works planned for this location in 2021.

It was agreed that Operations would provide cost estimate to Members.

Minute No. 45/21

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. A. McKeivitt
Seconded by: Cllr. S. Kelly

"Calling on Louth County Council to explore all avenues of funding available including but not limited to Clár funding, Safety Measure Funding, Roads budget in order to install ramps and other such safety measures at Bellurgan N.S. similar to those in place at Rampark N.S. and Dulargy N.S."

Reply from Ms. C. Duff, Director of Services, Operations:

It is not LCC policy to install ramps but engineered traffic calming and road safety measures based on evidential collision data, observable road speed and traffic volumes; funds are allocated on that basis. It's not possible to conduct traffic surveys during lock downs. Clár funding is currently open to schools to apply for road safety measures; NTA 'safe to school' funding has also opened this week for applications from schools.

Minute No. 46/21

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. A. McKeivitt
Seconded by: Cllr. S. Kelly

“Calling on Louth County Council to install additional safety ramps and a continuous white line along the Lordship straight to allow for a safer stretch of road for all users. The continuous white line should be positioned on the entire extent of the road, from Annaloughan to the Old Hall Road in Lordship.”

Reply from Ms. C. Duff, Director of Services, Operations:

It is not LCC policy to install ramps but engineered traffic calming and road safety measures based on evidential collision data, observable road speed and traffic volumes; funds are allocated on that basis. It's not possible to conduct traffic surveys during lock downs.

Minute No. 47/21

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. A. Watters

Seconded by: Cllr. A. McKeivitt

“Call on Louth County Council to carry out an urgent inspection of the coastline and road at Bellurgan Point, Dundalk. The recent storms and high Spring tides have had a serious impact on the coastline and the bank is being eroded at an alarming rate. There are large clumps of the bank and stone defences washed away. The road has been undermined and is a serious health and safety issue. Without action, Businesses and Residents will be left with no access. We need urgent remedial works and new coastal protection in place as soon as possible.”

Reply from Mr. Frank Pentony, Director of Services, Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development:

The Infrastructure CRFAM section will carry out an inspection of the area in question and revert back to the Member.

Minute No. 48/21

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. A. Watters

Seconded by: Cllr. A. McKeivitt

“Call on Louth County Council to carry out a road safety audit at Bellurgan National School/Bellurgan United FC and introduce appropriate traffic calming measures as a matter of urgency.”

Reply from Ms. C. Duff, Director of Services, Operations:

It is not LCC policy to install ramps but engineered traffic calming and road safety measures based on evidential collision data, observable road speed and traffic volumes; funds are allocated on that basis. It's not possible to conduct traffic surveys during lock downs.

The motions raised by Cllrs. A. McKeivitt and A. Watters were a matter of some discussion between members, with council officials advising that ramps were not the preferred calming measure due to hindrance to emergency service vehicles.

Mark Johnson was requested to give a briefing to members on preferred road safety measures at next meeting in order that Members would better advise public.

Minute No. 49/21

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. E. Coffey
Seconded by: Cllr. A. McKeivitt

“That, in recognition of the logic that our proposed coastal greenway infrastructure should be located on top of our proposed tidal flood-risk mitigation infrastructure on the Castletown river embankment, Navy Bank/Lord Limerick Embankment and Blackrock area. That this Council ensures and extends the terms of reference of our flood-risk mitigation consulting civil engineers to include examining and reporting on the provision of the coastal greenway infrastructure as an element of the proposed tidal flood-risk mitigation infrastructure.”

Reply from Mr. Frank Pentony, Director of Services, Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development:

The brief for the Consultants as part of this flood relief scheme already includes for the review / design of a Greenway, in an integrated, comprehensive and planned manner. The new Greenway will be designed, planned and constructed in conjunction with the viable structural and non-structural options and measures for the effective and sustainable management of flood risk flood risk in Dundalk and Blackrock, subject to the availability of funding.

Cllr. E. Coffey confirmed that this concerned certain developments including on the Lower Point Road and that Greenway walks should be on the coast not through housing estates and requested that all viable options be looked at where possible.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meeting Administrator: _____