

Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Dundalk held in the Town Hall, Dundalk on Tuesday, 2nd December, 2014

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. D. Breathnach

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

Officials: Frank Pentony, Director of Services
Gerry Kelly, Senior Engineer
David Storey, Senior Executive Officer
Nessa McCartan, Senior Staff Officer

Apologies: Paddy Donnelly, Meetings Administrator

Minute No. 45/14

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 4th November, 2014, were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. M. Doyle and seconded by Cllr. P. Savage.

Minute No. 46/14

Matters Arising

In reference to Minute No. 31/2014 regarding taking in charge of developments, Cllr. Keelan enquired about the status of same. Mr. F. Pentony, Director of Services advised the members that the local authority will take in charge the piped infrastructure of estates that are up to standard, and that this infrastructure will in due course transfer to Irish Water.

In reference to Minute No. 35/2014, Cllr. Keelan and Cllr. Doyle enquired about the status of the taxi bay. The Director of Services reported that An Garda Siochana have confirmed that bye laws will be enforced at weekends.

Regarding Minute No. 39/2014 and the installation of a gate on the Racecourse Road, in response to Cllr. Keelan's enquiry on the status of same Mr. Gerry Kelly, Senior Engineer advised that there was no update at this time.

In reference to Minute No. 36/2014 regarding seaweed on Blackrock Beach, Cllr. Doyle requested to see a report on the matter from the EPA. The Director of Services advised that he would seek same from the EPA.

Minute No. 47/14

Draft Protocol for the attendance of An Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council at functions/events

The members were advised that they could revert to Mr. P. Donnelly, Meetings Administrator with their comments. A short discussion ensued during which the Cathaoirleach noted that the Borough District of Drogheda had requested that the matter be referred back to CPG.

Minute No. 48/14

Nomination to the Place Names Committee

Proposed by: Cllr. E. Corrigan

Seconded by: Cllr. K. Meenan

And resolved

That Cllr. T. Sharkey be elected as representative to the Place Names Committee.

Minute No. 49/14

Housing & Communities Report

Mr. David Storey, Senior Executive Officer presented the Housing and Communities Progress Report dated 24th November 2014 and addressed the members queries in relation to same. This included advising the members that HAP figures would be included in the monthly report to council.

Cllr. Meenan requested a report on the training provided to Housing staff in dealing with people with mental health issues.

Cllr. Dearey requested a presentation on the recent housing announcements by Minister Kelly.

Cllr. Sharkey requested that both the Municipal District and full council discuss the Irish Water briefing released about the recovery of debt from local authority tenants.

Cllr. Savage suggested that 'cubicles' similar to those at some airports be utilised for overnight safety and the Senior Executive Officer advised that the suggestion would be referred to the Director of Service for Housing and the Homeless Forum.

Minute No. 50/14

Operations, Infrastructure & Marine Progress Report

Mr. Gerry Kelly, Senior Engineer presented the Report for the month of November and addressed the members queries. The Senior Engineer advised that he would report on the issues raised regarding traffic at the new Tesco's at the next meeting. He also agreed to revert to the Superintendent regarding the joy riding issues at Majors Hollow roundabout and surrounding area.

Minute No. 51/14

Notice of Motions

Proposed by: Cllr. K. Meenan
Seconded by: Cllr. J. Green

"That Dundalk Municipal District council calls for the Government to immediately reverse water charges, which are unfair and unjust double charges being forced on already struggling households."

Reply:
This is a matter for the Members.

The members were in support of this motion.

Minute No. 52/14

Proposed by: Cllr M. Yore
Seconded by Cllr. P. Savage

"That Louth County Council address and resolve the traffic management issue at Marshes Road leading from Marshes Shopping Centre to new Tesco store to install double yellow lines immediately to prohibit parking both sides of road leading to congestion/accidents"

Reply:
The parking at this location does need to be addressed particularly at the roundabout. It is recommended that double yellow lines be installed on the south-east side of the road, thus allowing parking on one side only. In addition, double yellow lines need to be installed at the roundabouts"

The Director of Services noted that there is a long stay local authority car park facility at the Ramparts which is underused. The members requested that any opportunities in this regard be investigated.

Minute No. 53/14

Proposed by: Cllr T. Sharkey

Seconded by Cllr. J. Green

"That this Municipal District Committee calls for the installation of traffic calming measures to facilitate pedestrian access from Loughantarve estate in Knockbridge to the school, shop, church and community centre amenities in Knockbridge village."

Reply:

This matter will be investigated and a report prepared for the Municipal District.

The Senior Engineer detailed that the Area Engineer is investigating this matter, and that the matter will be reported to the Municipal District when it is deliberated on.

Minute No. 54/14

Notice of Questions

The members noted the following questions and replies.

Cllr C. Keelan

"Due to the fact that the Planning Office recently granted permission to the OPW in relation to the former Customs Site on the Newry Road, what has become of the inspection report that was promised to me at the April Meeting of Dundalk TC last about the overgrown and unsightly nature of the site?"

The members noted the report submitted on this matter.

Minute No. 55/14

Cllr. C. Keelan

"Can the elected members be provided with a list of all outstanding reports from motions adopted at Louth County Council and Dundalk Town Council which now pertain to the Dundalk Municipal District Area and an expected delivery date for each?"

Reply:

According to our records the following engineering reports are outstanding:

- **Speed survey at Haggardstown School – Survey already completed and findings are been assessed at the moment. Report should be available in December 2014.**
- **January 2014 - Crossing point at St. Patricks Cemetery, Dowdallshill – Proposal was submitted with others to the NRA for funding in 2015, under the Low Cost Safety Measures.**
- **April 2014 - Review of refusal to install weight restriction at St Nicholas Avenue/ Maxwell's Row – This has been examined on two occasions already and is not considered a priority, at the moment.**
- **September 2014 - Speed ramps and restriction on HGVs using St Alphonsus Road (East) – Report will be available in February 2015**
- **September 2014 - Speed survey at Old Muirhevna, Dublin Road - Report will be available in February 2015**
- **October 2014 - Use of Rogers Lane - Report will be available in February 2015**
- **November 2014 - Traffic lights or other traffic calming measures at Castletown Cross/Mill Road/Mount Avenue - Report will be available in March 2015**

Cllr. Keelan noted that the report at January 2014 was in relation to a crossing point and also to traffic calming.

Minute No. 56/14

Cllr. Mark Dearey

“When will the road speed monitoring equipment be deployed again and can I be provided with dates for speed monitoring on McSweeney St. and the Cooley upland roads?”

Reply

It is proposed to carry out speed surveys at various locations during the period December 2014 to March 2015 when McSweeney Street can be surveyed. The Cooley uplands roads are rural roads with a default speed limit of 80kph. However, drivers are legally required to drive at a speed suitable for the road geometry. Regardless of the results of a speed survey, we would not be recommending a reduced speed limit in such an area, as such a limit would most probably never be enforced by the Gardai. Therefore we would not be recommending a speed survey be carried out at this location.

Minute No. 57/14

Cllr. M. Yore

“What time does street cleaning on main streets take place each day? & could leaves etc be cleared seasonally to ensure safety of pedestrians throughout the

morning, but especially on Thurs and Friday mornings when senior citizens are out shopping?”

Reply

The pedestrian areas and footpaths are swept between 7 am and 11 am every day, including weekends. The road sweeper cleans from 4 am to 12 am on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Leaves are included in these sweeping operations.

Minute No. 58/14

Cllr. T. Sharkey

“In relation to the revetments recently installed at Blackrock beach, what was the total cost of the works, which contractor carried out the works and was the work monitored during and after construction and what measures are being taken to repair the recent damage to these works?”

Reply

The works were carried out by direct labour at a cost of €33,875.87. The works were supervised by the Area Engineer. Temporary works to protect the damaged revetment will be carried out, and funding for a permanent solution will be sought for 2015.

Minute No. 59/14

Correspondence

Correspondence from Kierans Avenue Pharmacy regarding barriers between Lidl and the Avenue Centre was noted by the members. The Director of Services will report back on this matter at the next meeting.

Minute No. 60/14

Date of Next Meeting

Members agreed that the date of the next meeting would be Tuesday, 13th January 2015.

Minute No. 61/14

Any Other Business

Cllr. J. McGahon proposed a vote of congratulations to the O'Mahonys GFC on winning the Leinster Intermediate Club Final, and this was seconded by Cllr. P. Savage.

There being no other business the meeting concluded.

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

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meetings Administrator: _____