

Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Dundalk held in the Town Hall, Dundalk, on Wednesday, 2nd December, 2015.

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. M. Doyle

Members: Councillors: D. Breathnach, M. Butler, E. Corrigan, J. Green, C. Keelan, J. Loughran, K. Meenan, P. Savage, M. Yore

Officials: Frank Pentony, Director of Services
Mary Murtagh, Meetings Administrator
David Storey, Senior Executive Officer
Pat Finn, Senior Engineer
Gerry Kelly, Senior Engineer

Apologies: Councillors: M. Dearey, J. McGahon, T. Sharkey

Minute No. 113/15

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Maria Doyle welcomed Ms. Mary Murtagh to the role of Meetings Administrator and was supported by the members in expressing thanks to Mr. Paddy Donnelly for his efficiency and helpfulness in the previous eighteen months.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the members for agreeing to reschedule the meeting to facilitate her attendance at the Regional Tidy Towns Awards and congratulated groups in the Dundalk Municipal District who received awards on the night.

Minute No. 114/15

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 3rd November, 2015 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. P. Savage and seconded by Cllr. J. Loughran.

Minute No. 115/15

Matters Arising

- No decision as yet on the application for Urban Development Fund – some queries raised on the application being addressed. Decision expected before Christmas.
- Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Maria Doyle, confirmed that she had written to the Mayor of Drogheda outlining the process followed by Dundalk Municipal District in allocating their €50,000 budget.

- Update on N53 was circulated to all members on 25th November.

Minute No. 116/15

Cox's Demesne Regeneration Scheme

Mr. Stephen Cull, Project Manager for the Regeneration Scheme delivered a powerpoint presentation which highlighted the progress and success of the scheme since it was initiated in 2006. Following the presentation, Mr. Cull and Mr. David Storey, Senior Executive Officer, responded to issues raised by the members including the following;

- The necessity to build on the success of the current engagement process with the residents which was facilitated by the Louth Volunteer Centre. Members were advised that Louth Volunteer Centre were engaged and paid by the Council to co-ordinate the consultation with residents and that the contract would cease at the end of the year, by which time two formal Residents Associations would be in place. The Council will then engage on an on-going basis with these representative groups on the basis of community rather than individual gain.
- Tender evaluation for the next 7 houses will be submitted to the Department before Christmas and the urgency in commencing this phase was stressed.
- The OPD units and Community Centre phase will require consultation and will be subject to Planning, and is not expected to progress to tender until 2017.

Minute no. 117/15

Housing and Communities Progress Report

Mr. David Storey, Senior Executive Officer, presented the Housing and Communities Progress Report dated 23rd November, 2015.

In response to a query, Mr. Storey confirmed that while one case had been identified prior to the Rough Sleepers Count, there were no recorded rough sleepers on the night of the count.

The local authority was complimented on work to date in relation to boarded up/derelict houses. Mr. Storey confirmed that a proactive approach was being taken to try to identify properties suitable for possible CPO with a view to submitting a funding application to the Department. A process was also being undertaken to identify properties in Bank ownership with approximately 30 such properties identified nationally to date.

Minute No. 118/15

Infrastructure, Operations and Marine Progress Report

Mr. Gerry Kelly, Senior Engineer, and Mr. Pat Finn, Senior Engineer, addressed members queries in relation to the report dated 20th November, 2015.

- G. Kelly agreed to revert to members with exact locations for low cost safety measures on the Carrick Road.
- Agreed that G. Kelly would circulate members with additional applications for inclusion in the Lower Speed Limits for Housing Estates. Noted 21 additional applications received of which 7 are eligible.
- Contractor currently undertaking testing of surface of Racecourse Road – results expected before Christmas or very early in the New Year.
- G. Kelly not aware of any issues with Disabled Accessibility Report works but will meet Cllr. Yore on site to examine if necessary.
- Agreed that a meeting would be arranged in relation to issues at Carnbeg.
- P. Finn, Senior Engineer, confirmed that full completion of N53 project is expected before Christmas. Cycle lanes will be provided/expanded.
- P. Finn advised that it was not intended to provide bus bays as it is not considered a frequent/high use bus route. On a point of order, Mr. Finn agreed to re-examine the approved Part 8 to see if bus bays included/feasible and to revert to the members.
- It was confirmed that minor roads used during the project would be re-surveyed with the results compared to the original survey to identify any damage, which will be repaired to original standard.
- In relation to Pobalcholáiste Chú Chulainn, F. Pentony, Director of Service, confirmed that the Council was awaiting responses from An Bord Pleanála but in the interim discussions are taking place with LMETB about the tendering process.
- Agreed that F. Pentony, Director of Service, would examine the position in relation to footpaths in Hazelwood Avenue, Bay Estate and revert.
- Confirmed that €50,000 is being spent for stockpiling at Bellurgan embankment, but still awaiting final approval for the overall project.
- F. Pentony, Director of Service, confirmed that meetings had been held with traders groups in relation to Christmas lights, and that while progress had been made in some areas, none had been achieved in others. Louth County Council pays running costs and offered subvention to traders for lights but

solution must be a partnership approach. Agreed that every effort should be made to resolve the situation including further meetings as necessary.

Minute No. 119/15

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Doyle

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Butler

"That Kearney's Lane, Blackrock, be declared a public road under Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993 (as applied by Section 180 of the Act of 2000)"

Reply:

The Council only takes in charge any additional roads where the provisions of Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, have been completed. Kearney's Lane is not an estate for the purposes of the Planning and Development Act 2000.

Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993, is a discretionary power to declare a road to be a public road. However, the financial implications for the Council of doing so must be considered and the Council must be satisfied that the road is of general public utility.

This laneway is very narrow, in poor condition and services a small number of houses. There is no footpath so some houses open directly onto the laneway. Declaring the road to be a public road could create a liability for the Council. Also, having regard to the Roads Budget we do not have funding to maintain any additional public roads.

There are many similar roads/laneways in the County which are not public roads and have not been taken in charge by the Council.

Having regard to the above the Council does not propose to declare this road to be a public road.

Members unanimously agreed that Louth County Council should commence the Public Consultation Process in relation to the taking in charge of Kearneys Lane, Blackrock.

Minute No. 120/15

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. C. Keelan

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Yore

"That this Municipal District initiates a review of the Dundalk Appointed Stands Bye-Laws (2012) to assess its impact to date and that we invite the Garda Superintendent to the next available meeting to discuss this item"

Reply:

This is a matter for the Members. Members may wish to refer this matter to the Strategic Policy Committee for consideration.

It was agreed by the members to invite the Garda Superintendent to the next available meeting of the Municipal District to discuss the issue and to also report to the relevant SPC in the matter.

Minute No. 121/15

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. C. Keelan
Seconded by: Cllr. E. Corrigan

"Given the significant traffic volumes on the Armagh Road, that this Municipal District initiate a feasibility study to attempt to install traffic calming measures and/or ramps at the junction of Lennon Melia Terrace/rear entrance to the Lisdoon Arms to complement measures already present at Lios Dubh/Coulter Place. Additionally, as the Armagh Road was unsuccessful as a low cost safety measure last year, that it would be re-submitted again by the local authority for 2016 funding."

Reply:

The Lennon Melia Terrace junction will be examined in 2016 with a view to the introduction of traffic calming measures in line with the Traffic Calming Policy. The Low Cost Safety applications for 2016 had to be submitted to the Department in October 2015 and the list is included in this month's operations report. Unfortunately it was not possible to include the Armagh Road due to prioritisation and limited funding potential.

The response was accepted but the preference for installation of ramps to complement existing measures was highlighted, subject to full consultation with the residents.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

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

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meetings Administrator: _____