

Municipal District of Dundalk – February 2015

Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Dundalk held in the Town Hall, Dundalk on Tuesday, 3rd February, 2015.

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
Paddy Donnelly, Meetings Administrator

Apologies: none

Minute No. 13/15

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13th January, 2015 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. M. Yore and seconded by Cllr. M. Dearey.

Minute No. 14/15

Matters Arising

Cllr. Doyle raised the matter of Minute No. 02/15, where the reference to Minute No. 56/14 should read Cllr. Doyle and not Cllr. Butler. The matter is to be amended.

Minute No. 15/15

Proposed Twinning with the City of Pikeville, U.S.A.

That in accordance with Section 75 of the Local Government Act, 2001 the members would consider the proposal to proceed with the twinning arrangement with the City of Pikeville, Kentucky, U.S.A.

There followed a lengthy discussion in the matter of the twinning and clarification in regard to the role of the Municipal District in this matter. The Meetings Administrator confirmed to the members that Section 75 of the Local Government Act, which is again outlined in the Local Government Reform Act, 2014 confers a Reserved Function on the Municipal District to engage in twinning arrangements. The members sought further clarification in relation to the City of Pikeville, and what

benefits such a twinning would bring to the City of Pikeville and the Municipal District of Dundalk.

It was proposed that further information be circulated to the members as quickly as possible and that a Special Meeting be agreed to consider the matter in full.

The Cathaoirleach, in summing up the members views, outlined that there was no objection to the twinning but that members sought further clarification in order to comply with their obligations under Section 75 of the Local Government Act.

Minute No. 16/15

Housing & Communities Progress Report

Mr. David Storey, Senior Executive Officer presented the Housing & Communities Progress Report dated 21st January, 2015. Mr. Storey addressed the members' queries in regard to the report, and clarified issues regarding the HAP Scheme and the Choice Based Letting Scheme. The members attention was also brought to details in relation to Anti Social Behaviour contained within the report.

Minute No. 17/15

Operations, Infrastructure & Marine Progress Report

Mr. Gerry Kelly, Senior Engineer presented the Operations and Marine Progress Report dated 23rd January, 2015. Members attention was also drawn to the Infrastructure Progress Report dated 26th January that was circulated with the agenda.

Mr. Kelly in responding to the members queries advised that the draft Road Works Programme circulated with the agenda would now have to be reframed following the announcement earlier in the day of the grant allocations to the Council for Road Works Programmes in 2015. Mr. Kelly outlined that there was in fact a 9.68% reduction in the grant allocated and there was no indication in regard to the Community Involvement Scheme. The Senior Engineer and his team would now reframe the Road Works Programme and present again to the members at an opportune time.

Cllr. Doyle raised the matter of traffic calming and outstanding reports in regard to speed ramps, speed survey at Old Muirhevna, and the issue regarding Rogers Lane. Members were advised that the reports were imminent as had been outlined at earlier meetings.

Members raised a number of issues including; funding for Bellurgan embankment; the proposed new school site for Louth Meath Education Training Board; damage to concrete road pavements; road markings on the R176; illegal dumping in the Cox's Demesne area; progress on the works at Racecourse Road; sewage on the Greenway; and Low Cost Safety Measure proposals.

The Director of Services, Mr. Frank Pentony also addressed the member's queries in regard to water quality, and confirmed that the water quality is in accordance with the Drinking Water Regulations. He and his team have had discussions with the EPA, together with authorities in Northern Ireland and Monaghan County Council. There were no incidents of fish kills or other distortions to water in the River Fane which supplies the Cavan Hill water treatment facility. Water continues to be produced in the normal manner and tested in accordance with the regulations. The Director assured the members that there is no issue with the quality of water being supplied to the network. When further information is to hand the Director of Service will revert to the members in regard to the ongoing queries and concerns that have been raised.

Minute No. 18/15

Notice of Question

Cllr. Maeve Yore

"Is there a Capital Scheme planned for the refurbishment and renewal of footpath from Post Office to Bank of Ireland Clanbrassil Street on both sides of road, and when will it be implemented?"

REPLY:

There are no plans to extend the scheme proposed for the South end of Clanbrassil Street, which was not upgraded when the area outlined was renewed. Further projects are subject to suitable funds being available.

The Notice of Question and response was noted by the members.

Minute No. 19/15

Correspondence

The members noted correspondence from St. Patrick's Day Festival Committee. The members were advised that through the Economic Development Unit, funding would be provided as in the past to the festival committee.

Minute No. 20/15

Special Meeting

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Declan Breathnach in accordance with Standing Order No. 4 proposed a Special Meeting to deal with the single item of the proposed Twinning with the City of Pikeville, Kentucky, U.S.A.

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The Cathaoirleach proposed that the meeting be held at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday 10th February at the Town Hall, Dundalk. This was agreed.

There being no other business the meeting concluded.

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

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meetings Administrator: _____