

## *Municipal District of Dundalk – January 2016*

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Dundalk held in the Town Hall, Dundalk, on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2016 at 5.15 pm.

### **In attendance:**

**Cathaoirleach:** Cllr. M. Doyle

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

**Officials:** Frank Pentony, Director of Services  
Joe McGuinness, Director of Services  
Mary Murtagh, Meetings Administrator  
Pat Finn, Senior Engineer  
Gerry Kelly, Senior Engineer

**Apologies:** none

### **Minute No. 01/16**

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2015 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. C. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. J. McGahon.

### **Minute No. 02/16**

### **Matters Arising**

- N53 – Restoration of side Roads. NRA are willing in principle to fund, subject to evidence based date of damage. A further survey will be undertaken when weather conditions permit and a report will be provided at the next meeting of the Municipal District.
- Bellurgan Embankment – very little progress achieved. OPW still finalising report which it is hoped to have prior to next meeting.
- Urban Development Fund – not approved as yet.

### **Minute No. 03/16**

### **Votes of Sympathy**

- Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services, on the death of his father.
- Mary Capplis, Operations Section, on the death of her mother.
- Family of the late Dermot McElroy.

**Minute No. 04/16**

**St. Patrick's Day Parade**

A letter from the Dundalk St. Patricks Day Committee was circulated to members, the contents of which was noted by members. The committee was seeking a contribution of €2,000 towards the operational costs of the 2016 parade.

**Minute No. 05/16**

**Dundalk FM**

Members were advised of a request from Dundalk FM seeking the nomination of two members to sit on the board of the station. It was noted that meetings were held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month at 7.00 pm.

Members agreed to defer decision to February to enable members confirm availability / interest.

**Minute No. 06/16**

**Draft Economic and Community Plan**

J. McGuinness, Director of Services, advised members that the draft plan was not finalised as yet. It was agreed to defer the matter to the February meeting and noted that the members of the Municipal District must make a statement on the economic and community goals of the plan.

In response to a query from Cllr. M. Dearey the Director of Services acknowledged the delay in having PPN Representation nominated on the various bodies / committees with particular reference to the Drugs Forum. The Director confirmed that the secretariat had been advised of the urgency in completing the nominations, and it was agreed that the Drugs Forum would be established and meet in advance of the PPN nomination.

**Minute No. 07/16**

**Housing and communities Progress Report**

Mr. J. McGuinness, Director of Services, presented the Housing and Communities progress report dated 5<sup>th</sup> January 2016. During discussion on the report Mr. McGuinness addressed the following issues:

- Cox's Demesne Regeneration Project – Fingal Co. Co. are acting as consultants for the next phase, which is advancing. Noted an error in the report – scheduled completion should read Jan 2017 and not 2016.
- Staff are currently being trained on the Tenant Purchase Scheme which will be advertised shortly. Tenants will also be communicated with directly. Work is also in progress to identify 'purchasable' units.

- Members queried the low inspection rate of apartments compared with other local authorities and were advised that the inspection rate is increasing as the HAP model is being advanced.
- Caravans illegally parked at New Inn despite presence of boulders. Noted that traveller accommodation is a difficult area governed by law, and that due process must apply in dealing with issues on a case by case basis.
- Dave Storey, Senior Executive Officer, was wished well in his new role with Fingal County Council. J. McGuinness, Director of Services, confirmed that he would be the interim point of contact for members on housing issues until Mr. Storey's replacement is in place.

### **Minute No. 08/16**

#### **Dundalk Appointed Stands By-Laws (2012)**

Superintendent Gerard Curley and Sergeant John O'Flaherty joined the meeting to discuss the matter, which was on the agenda on foot of a Notice of Motion passed at the December Meeting. Issues that were addressed during the discussion included:

- Possible impact on commercial trade as a result of the additional ranks.
- The possibility of using loading bays for the dual purpose of taxi ranks during specific hours. It was noted that this would be very difficult to operate, but it was recommended that possible technology options should be explored in partnership with businesses through BIDS.
- Superintendent Curley confirmed that the provision of the additional ranks, while not removing the entire problem, has been effective in removing congestion / obstructions at night time.
- It was agreed that, as the Bye Laws are having a largely positive effect, they should remain in place and the matter considered further at a future meeting in due course.

### **Minute 09/16**

#### **Infrastructure, Operations & Marine Progress Report**

Mr. G. Kelly, Senior Engineer, and Mr. Pat Finn, Senior Engineer, addressed issues in relation to the report which was circulated with the agenda.

- Bellurgan Embankment – concern that the area is a high flood risk and local properties are unable to get insurance. Still awaiting approval from OPW.
- General flooding issues – large portions of developments on sand. CFRAM studies looking at measures to combat flooding – Dundalk rates highly nationally in terms of priority.

- Condition of tertiary roads in county of major concern – G. Kelly, Senior Engineer, circulated the draft Restoration Improvement Multi-Annual Programme and asked members to revert to him with comments / observations. The amended report will be on the February agenda for discussion / approval.
- Fuel tanks / petrol pumps have been decommissioned on Clanbrassil Street.
- Update requested on current status of septic tank inspections / remediation works.
- Problems as a result of lack of drains / gully cleaning – noted that this was a resource matter.
- Regular flooding in Avondale / Meadow View.
- Illegal dumping at New Inn – fines have been issued. Cameras required to identify further offences.
- Suggestion that the illuminated bollards on the ECCO road are not functioning due to damage from flooding – no report of this issue to Operations, but will check situation.
- National review of speed limits being advertised shortly. Agreed that councillors will be issued with the guidance documents in relation to setting speed limits. Public will have 2/3 weeks to respond – elected members will have a number of opportunities.

**Minute No. 10/16**

**Notice of Motion**

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

"That Louth County Council conduct a survey of traffic and design on the LP316723 (Knockbridge to Martin's Cross) in order to compile a number of measures to improve safety for residents and road users"

**Reply:**

**This matter will be examined and a report prepared for the Municipal District meeting in due course.**

Noted that the presence of sharp bends is creating problems and that the preparation of the report should be time framed.

**Minute No. 11/16**

**Notice of Motion**

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

"That a full audit of the condition of roads in the Sheelagh, Hackballscross, Roche and Kilkerry areas be carried out to arrange a comprehensive schedule of road strengthening and repair after the 3 month closure of the N53"

**Reply:**

**A pavement condition survey was carried out on the local roads prior to the N53 road closure. A further survey on these roads will take place after the N53 is reopened (which was on Monday 23rd November). The results of both surveys will be compared in order to quantify any deterioration in the pavement condition in the interim period.**

Concern was expressed by members about the delay in preparing the second report. P. Finn, Senior Engineer, advised it is a matter of record that the second survey would be undertaken but weather conditions made it impossible to date.

**Minute No. 12/16**

**Notice of Motion**

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

"That the members be furnished with a list of all outstanding reports arising from notices of motions and questions due to this District area, together with any additional reports due arising from correspondence from members, together with expected delivery date."

**Reply:**

**There is quite a large body of work associated with this request. Work will commence on identifying the outstanding items and a report will issue as soon as possible.**

M. Murtagh, Senior Executive Officer, confirmed that work had commenced on preparing the report and would continue with a view to completion as soon as possible.

**Minute No. 13/16**

**Notice of Motion**

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

"Due to the historic problems with drainage in the Fr. Murray Park estate, that this Municipal District Council initiate a study and resolves to put in place a sustainable long-term solution to the issue."

**Reply:**

**This matter will be examined and a report prepared in due course.**

The response to the motion was noted.

**Minute No. 14/16**

**Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by: Cllr. M. Doyle**

**Seconded by: Cllr. M. Yore**

"That the Old Golf Links Road be prioritised for resurfacing, particularly in the vicinity of Felda"

**Reply:**

**The section of road in question was to be improved as part of a development, but as the development has not been completed the work has not been carried out. In addition, part of the development site in question has been transferred to another developer which complicates the matter further. If the work was to be carried out by the Council, the money could be recovered from the developers. The matter is being referred to Planning Enforcement for attention.**

The response was noted and it was confirmed that a number of inter department discussions have taken place to date in the matter.

**Minute No. 15/16**

**Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by: Cllr. M. Butler**

**Seconded by: Cllr. M. Dearey**

"In accordance with Appendix Five (Taking in Charge of Estates) of the Dundalk & Environs Development Plan 2009 - 2015, that Louth County Council organise a plebiscite of residents of Bellfield Mews, Heynestown in order to initiate the taking in charge process."

**Reply:**

**In accordance with Section 180(3)(a) of the Planning & Development Act, 2000-2010, Louth County Council shall carry out a plebiscite to ascertain the wishes of the owners of the houses within Bellfield View, Haynestown and where the majority of the owners are in favour of Bellfield View being taken in charge, the Planning Authority shall initiate the procedures for taking-in-charge under Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993. It is anticipated that the plebiscite will be initiated before the end of January 2016.**

Response noted and appreciated. The main issue is public lighting within the estate.

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan, seconded by Cllr. M. Butler it was agreed to expand the motion to include Fort Terrace, Doylesfort Road. P. Finn, Senior Engineer agreed to check and revert in relation to this development of five houses.

**Minute No. 16/16**

**Notice of Question – Cllr. J. McGahon**

"Louth County Council by means of a compulsory purchase order recently obtained No. 3 St Brigids Tce., Dundalk. Can Louth County Council provide a clear timetable as to when work will commence on this derelict home in order to make it habitable once again?"

**Reply:**

**Louth County Council has now confirmed the CPO of 3, St Brigids Terrace, Dundalk. This is now subject to a final appeal to the High Court. If no appeal is made the Council will take this unit into social housing stock and commence renovation works. This is likely to be in Springtime as both design team and contractor need to be procured.**

Cllr. McGahon noted and accepted the response.

**Minute No. 17/16**

**Notice of Question – Cllr. M. Doyle**

"Could the Council outline what work has been done to date to provide a footpath along the Rock Road in Blackrock and what would need to be done to provide this essential piece of infrastructure along this road, bearing in mind how many children walk along this road to both St. Oliver's and St. Francis' Schools?"

**REPLY:**

**A footpath has been provided on a section of the Rock Road in the vicinity of the St. Francis' School. There is a long term proposal to widen this road and provide footpaths, and the project actually went to CPO approximately 10 years ago. However, due to the rising costs of land acquisition and the downturn in the economy the project was mothballed. No grants have been made available in the last 5-6 years for projects of this nature and the cost involved is outside of the scope for funding from our own resources.**

Cllr. Doyle requested if it would be possible to downgrade the original plan to provide a more cost effective, achievable solution, perhaps through the provision of a footpath on one side of the road only. The Senior Engineer is to examine and revert.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cathaoirleach: \_\_\_\_\_

Meetings Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_