

Municipal District of Dundalk – January 2020

Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Dundalk held in the Town Hall, Dundalk on Tuesday 7th January, 2020 at 5.15 p.m.

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Councillor John McGahon

Members: Councillors: M. Butler, E. Coffey, M. Doyle, C Keelan, E. McGreehan, S. Kelly, R. Ó Murchu, L. Reilly, T. Sharkey, A. Watters, M. Yore

Officials: Alan Sherry, Meetings Administrator
Aoife Lawler, Senior Executive Officer
Mark Johnston, Senior Engineer
Frank Pentony, Director of Services
Susan Deery, Acting Senior Staff Officer
Edel O'Neill, Executive Engineer
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer
Frank Magee, Senior Executive Engineer
James Searson, Assistant Engineer
Emer O'Callaghan, Senior Executive Planner

Minute No. 1/20

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Tuesday, 3rd December 2019 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. M Yore and seconded by Cllr. A. Watters

Minute No. 2/20

Matters Arising

When a member expressed their dissatisfaction at their comments in relation to the Planning Department not being included in the minutes of the previous meeting, the meetings administrator explained that the minutes focused on decisions taken and matters arising and other issues were a matter for the media to cover.

Minute No. 3/20

Housing Progress Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting and the following points were addressed:

- The members queries and questions were addressed at the meeting.
- The need to promote Choice Based Letting more was noted.

Minute No. 4/20

Infrastructure, Operations and Marine Progress Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting and the following points were addressed:

- Members were briefed in relation to the strategic housing development proposed for Connolly's field and had their comments and observations noted by the Planning officials.
- The difficulty of turning right onto Stapleton Place unless the pedestrian crossing is pressed to stop the traffic oncoming traffic on the R132 was raised for investigation.
- The need to clear the leaves from the footpath at Rocky Hill was highlighted.
- The urgency of putting a one way system and markings in place in Dowdallshill burial ground was raised.
- It was agreed to review the closing of public parks to ensure they were not open after closing time.
- The need to provide additional car parking in Aisling Park was highlighted along with trees on public open space encroaching on private houses.
- The problem of tree roots damaging the footpath in Aghameen Park was highlighted.
- It was suggested that an awareness campaign needs to be done in relation to electric cars not remaining at charging points longer than permitted.
- It was suggested that there needs to be a review of the bottle bank locations in Carlingford.
- The need to repair a large pot hole on the Ardee Road at Knockbridge was noted.
- It was suggested that a HGV restriction was needed on the L7615.
- The need to ensure burial grounds were locked at night was raised.
- The issue of the road to the hospital flooding was raised.
- It was suggested that covert surveillance should be used at Maxwell's Row to tackle illegal dumping.

Minute No. 5/20

Taking in Charge Report

The members had their queries and questions answered at the meeting and it was agreed to include estates in Dromiskin in the next report.

Minute No. 6/20

Part 8 Carlingford Lough Greenway - Omeath Pier to National Border

This matter was deferred to a future meeting.

Minute No. 7/20

The Issues of Underage Gambling in Ireland

This matter was deferred to the February meeting.

Minute No. 8/20

Dundalk Allocations of Members Community Grants

This was proposed by Cllr. M. Yore and seconded by Cllr. M. Butler and agreed by the members.

Minute No. 9/20

Mount Avenue LIHAF

The members were given a presentation and had their queries and questions answered.

Minute No. 10/20

Notice of Question

Submitted by: Cllr. C. Keelan

“Will the Council take steps to make the playing equipment in Lennon-Melia Court safe and secure for the local community together with appropriate fencing?”

Reply:

The Assistant Parks Superintendent will carry out an inspection on site.

The members noted the reply.

Minute No. 11/20

Notice of Question

Submitted by: Cllr. C. Keelan

“Can the members be provided with a report on the current level of gaseous extraction from the former landfill site, Newry Road and the likely timeframe to develop it into public amenity such as playing pitches?”

Reply:

The following are gas quantities extracted at Dundalk Landfill via the flare on an annual basis from 2014 to 2018 in kg's per annum.

- 2018- 162,102 kg
- 2017- 161,929 kg
- 2016- 181,159 kg
- 2015- 193,276 kg
- 2014- 201,796. Kg

We do not have a final figure for 2019 but we are likely to have similar quantities as in 2018, the average methane content of the gas varies between 22 and 30 percent and oxygen content between 0.5 and 4.5 percent.

It is the advice of the Waste Management & Environment section that the Dundalk Landfill site would not be suitable for playing fields in the short term, as gas is still being extracted and monitored. Any development works would likely interfere with site infrastructure such as gas wells, capping and capping liner. Any construction would also have associated health and safety risks with possible uncontrolled gas release, disturbance of waste and damage to the site.

In the medium to longer term, any form of access for the general public would also result in a need for significant investment in securing infrastructure such as manhole covers, gas manifolds and vents. The whole proposal would then need to be approved by EPA, which is not guaranteed.

I would therefore suggest that it may be a matter of several years before this site becomes safe and suitable for use as a public amenity space.

The members noted the reply.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meeting Administrator: _____