

Municipal District of Dundalk – January 2021

Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Dundalk hosted in the Council Chamber County Hall, Dundalk on Tuesday 12th January at 5.15 p.m. and attended remotely over MS Teams.

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Emma Coffey - Present in Chamber

Members: Remote Attendees: Councillors M. Butler, E. Corrigan, M. Doyle, C. Keelan, S. Kelly, A. McKevitt, K. Meenan, L. Reilly, J. Reilly, T. Sharkey, A. Watters, M. Yore.

Officials: Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator - Present in Chamber
Thomas McEvoy, A/Director of Services - Present in Chamber
Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services - Remote
John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer - Remote
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer - Remote
James Searson, Assistant Engineer - Remote
Martin McCreesh, Senior Executive Engineer - Remote

Minute No. 1/21

Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 1st December 2020 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. M. Yore and seconded by Cllr. A. McKevitt.

Minute No. 2/21

Matters Arising

Cllr. M. Yore requested an update on the following:

- Non-slip measures on Market Square
- Application for Cycle lane funding
- Engagement with Dundalk Track Committee on grant funding

Cllr. K. Meenan suggested that perhaps a defined walking track through the square could be made and kept clear.

Members were advised that cycle lane funding application was being submitted along with a list of projects on Friday. Cllr. M. Yore requested a copy of the list of projects be submitted to all members.

Minute No. 3/21

Housing Progress Report

Paddy Donnelly Director of Services, introduced John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer as Aoife Lawler's replacement to housing and John was welcomed to housing by the members.

The following items were raised by the members and addressed by Director of Services on foot of queries raised:

- The current Housing Needs Assessment
- Sites for retirement villages
- Maintenance calls on Sugar
- The higher statistics of housing applications and homeless persons in Dundalk

A proposal was made by Cllr. T. Sharkey to request to bring the following to the Housing SPC:

- To acknowledge that 50% of Homeless/Social housing applicants are in Dundalk
- And 50% of allocations should therefore be in Dundalk.

This was seconded by Cllr. A. Watters and the proposal was passed.

Members also received updates on the following items that were raised:

- Rough Sleeper survey carried out over a week in 2020
- Voids - 62 completed in 2020, unaware of further stimulus scheme in 2021
- Retrofit funding possibility on windows and doors in 2021
- Current Covid construction restrictions and critical site identifications
- Anti-social behaviour process and estate management coordination with HSE and An Garda Siochana
- Delay on the 2021 North East Housing Strategy and possible time frame
- Support given and availability of Isolation Units for homeless services and Winter Ready programme
- Household Budget scheme payment for rent and tackling rent arrears
- Housing Grants - carry-over of 2020 priority applications and incoming 2021
- Kitchen Garden name change will be acknowledged in future housing reports.

Minute No. 4/21

Operations and Marine Progress Report

Members discussed the report as issued and highlighted the following as requiring further action:

- Gritting
 - Request for gritting in various locations including Market Square, Rock Road, etc
 - Request made for provision of grit/salt banks for community use on non-gritted areas in various locations and to assist footpath gritting
 - Review of gritting routes requested to take account of accident data on roads

- Road Repairs
 - Update requested on Batchelor's Walk Road surface and Irish Water works requested
 - Request for update on Castletown Road School low cost safety measures
 - Gullies blocked in various locations at Dublin Road, at Clermont Road, Dundoogan
 - Lennonstown Road, broken drain causing flooding 24/7, road being undermined
 - Coillte tree logging causing damage to Ballymascanlon Road, Ravensdale to Ballymakellet
 - Pearse Park at Harp Brewery – was resurfaced but tarmac went in to drains.
- Footpath repairs in various locations
- Illegal dumping and cost of removal/disposal of 52 IBCs as reported in The Argus requested.
- Dowdallshill Graveyard, signage being ignored, request for review, road markings and larger 8x4 signage
- Staff Resources - Increase in outdoor staff allocation requested in Dundalk to deal with littering
- Market Square and risk of slips.

Minute No. 5/21

Infrastructure Report

- Balmers Bog update requested
- Increase in footpath size at Mount Hamilton requested
- Speed Safety

The members were advised that the Next Speed Limit Review will be May 2024

- A request was made to re-establish a Speed Limit Committee and for a dedicated staff member to be assigned to collate data up to 2024
 - Various speed safety concerns raised including at Ghan Road, Carlingford – ramps requested
 - Newry side of Omeath – speed survey request
 - Advance traffic calming plans requested for Lis na Dara estate
- Town and Village Renewal update requested
 - A request was made for a proper discussion forum to be organised on the Bridge Street junction at St. Nicholas Avenue Corner and that a special meeting be organised.
 - A breakdown of the €5m grant for road maintenance allocation by TII was requested.
 - An update on when pedestrian lights on Avenue Road and Main Road Blackrock would be functional
 - Timescale of when we would hear about application funding response for Bridge St works requested

Martin McCreesh, Senior Engineer advised on all operations matters and John O'Hagan Senior Engineer advised on all Infrastructure matters raised.

Minute No. 6/21

Taking in Charge Report

An issue of uncollected bonds was raised by Members and the Local Government Audit Report 2018 referred to. Members also queried the hold up on taking in charge of Lis na Dara, Tudor Grove and Elm Park.

James Searson, Assistant Engineer advised on all matters raised.

Minute No. 7/21

Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) Nomination

Cllr. M. Yore proposed Cllr. C. Keelan be nominated to this position. Cllr. J. Reilly seconded the proposal and there were no objections.

Minute No. 8/21

Declaration to have Estates Taken in Charge

To recommend to the Council that the roads in the developments listed below be declared Public Roads from a date agreed by the Council or 7 days after the date given in the attached reports all considered in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.

Furthermore, in accordance with Section 180 (4) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended to recommend that the Council take in charge any public open space, public lighting, unallocated car parks, sewers (excluding service connections) and water mains within the grounds of the developments listed below.

- Stamanaran (Phase 2), Blackrock, Co. Louth
- Cois Cuainn, Point Road, Dundalk, Co Louth

The Stamanaran (Phase 2), Blackrock, Co Louth development was proposed by Cllr. L. Reilly and seconded by Cllr. M. Doyle.

The Cois Cuainn, Point Road, Dundalk, Co Louth development was proposed by Cllr. M. Butler and seconded by Cllr. E. Coffey.

Minute No. 9/21

Dundalk Allocation of Members Community Grants

To approve Members Community Grant Allocations as circulated with the agenda.

Proposed by: Cllr. A. Watters
Seconded by: Cllr. L. Reilly

Minute No. 10/21

Dublin/Belfast Economic Corridor Nomination

Cllr. A. McKeivitt nominated Cllr. S. Kelly to the governance/oversight committee of the Dublin/Belfast Economic Corridor, this was seconded by Cllr. C. Keelan and there were no objections by other members.

Minute No. 11/21

Notice of intention to review the School Periodic Bye-Laws

John O'Hagan advised of delay in review of periodic school speed limits due to Covid and limitation of putting this on public display, a request was made for the proposal to be re-circulated to members and this was agreed.

Minute No. 12/21

Sympathies

Cllrs. M. Yore, L. Reilly, K. Meenan, C. Keelan and E. Coffey issued condolences to the family and friends of Liam Reilly, Bagatelle and all members expressed agreement with same.

Cllr. K. Meenan offered condolences to the O'Donnell family on the death of Stephen O'Donnell.

Cllr. L. Reilly expressed condolences on the death of Gerard Smith.

Minute No. 13/21

Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to the Community Section and the Sports Centre on being the base for the televised Operations Transformation programme.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meeting Administrator: _____