

Municipal District of Dundalk – June 2016

Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Dundalk held in the Town Hall, Dundalk on Tuesday, 7th June, 2016 at 5.30 p.m.

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Councillor Mark Dearey

Members: Councillors: M. Butler, E. Coffey, E. Corrigan, M. Doyle, C. Keelan, J. Loughran, J. McGahon, K. Meenan, P. Savage, T. Sharkey, M. Yore

Officials: Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services
Gerry Kelly, Senior Engineer
Pat Finn, Senior Engineer
John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer
Fiona Downes, Meetings Administrator

Apologies: Frank Pentony, Director of Services

Minute No. 69/16

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 3rd May 2016 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. P. Savage and seconded by Cllr. M. Doyle.

Minute No. 70/16

Matters Arising

- Minute 55/16 – members agreed to include updated report on Ath Leathan apartments on the July agenda. J. Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer advised that a meeting with the fire safety personnel that installed same into the apartments had taken place and that movements on the rectification measures required were progressing. He also advised that the cost of these works falls with the owners / developers.

Minute No.71/16

Housing and Communities Progress Report

Members discussed the report dated 25th May 2016 as circulated with the Agenda and J. Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer addressed the following matters:

- The expected increase of anti social behaviour during the summer months and street drinking in areas such as Doolargy was raised
- Cox's Demense Phase 2B & 2C – status of scheme.
- The increase in the use of the homeless services and the low number of social housing units being constructed in the Dundalk area.
- Members requested that the Minister for Housing be written to advising that they believe that the local authority is best placed to deliver housing once they are given the tools to do so.
- Submission of the condition survey report of existing housing stock when completed.

Minute No.72/16

Infrastructure, Operations & Marine Progress Report

Members discussed the report dated 17th May 2016 as circulated with the Agenda and P. Donnelly, Director of Services, G. Kelly, Senior Engineer and P. Finn, Senior Engineer addressed the following issues:

- The question re the accessibility upgrade works was addressed under this heading as the members expressed their concerns at the standard and quality of works carried out and enquired who had signed off on the works to enable payment to the contractor. G. Kelly, Senior Engineer advised that discussions are ongoing at present with the contractor to rectify issues before any outstanding monies owed to the contractor would be paid.
- Repairs to the wall at Carlingford Harbour and the possibility of employing a Harbour Master.
- P. Finn, Senior Engineer to furnish report at a future meeting re schedule of works on Clanbrassil Street.
- Concerns were expressed re upcoming bonfire night. P. Donnelly, Director of Services advised that the council will remove materials, talk to community groups, the fire service and check known trouble spots.
- Members requested that the Municipal District should write to the Superintendent re the drinking bye laws.
- G. Kelly confirmed that no programme of works has been agreed for the 2016 allocation of funds.
- Phase 4 N53 road realignment. P. Finn, Senior Engineer advised that the options report was discussed with TII inspectors but Louth have not been advised of any available funding for the works.

- Enquiry re whether there is a system for checking conditions of footpaths.
- Cllr. Savage proposed the extinguishment of the right of way at the Red Cow and Cllr. C. Keelan seconded same

Minute No. 73/16

Nomination of one member onto Peace IV Partnership

Nominations were taken for a representative from the Dundalk Municipal District to sit on Peace IV Partnership:

Cllr. J. Cassidy Green – proposed by Cllr. K. Meenan and seconded by Cllr. M. Yore.
Cllr. P. Savage – proposed by Cllr. M. Doyle and seconded by Cllr. E. Coffey.

There followed a roll call vote.

For Cllr. J. Cassidy Green: Cllrs. Corrigan, Loughran, Meenan, Sharkey, Yore
Total 5 (five)

For Cllr. P. Savage: Cllrs. Coffey, Dearey, Doyle, Keelan, McGahon, Savage
Total 6 (six)

Absent : Cllr. Butler and Cllr. Cassidy Green Total 2 (two)

Cllr. P. Savage was elected to represent the Dundalk Municipal District on the Peace IV Partnership.

Minute No. 74/16

Notion of Motion:

Proposed by: Cllr. J. McGahon
Seconded by: Cllr. M. Doyle

"In order to tackle the high level of litter in Carlingford, Louth County Council should install a Big Belly Bin along the promenade."

REPLY:

Apart from the purchase price of a Big Belly Bin, there is an annual maintenance charge and an annual telemetry charge to be paid on each one. The main advantage of these bins is the ability to tailor collections from them in accordance with their usage as reported through their telemetry. However, unless all of the bins in an area have telemetry reporting when a collection is needed, regular collections at a standard frequency will continue to be required to cater for all of the older litter bins. Therefore the advantage of the telemetry associated with the Big Belly Bins is lost, and the extra purchase cost and annual

maintenance and licensing costs associated with them in the case of isolated installations are unjustified in terms of performance.

The supplier of the Big Belly Bins informs us interalia that:

'The largest efficiencies are gained when an entire street, collection route, or entire zone is covered by Big Belly,' and

'The costs of units are drastically reduced on certain volume levels.'

Louth County Council will meet with the suppliers to get a better understanding of the costs and benefits associated with the deployment of these bins and the scale of any such deployment that would be required to provide an acceptable level of value for money. However it is likely to be constrained by the upfront costs of replacing older bins with these bins on the scale required.

Cllr. McGahon was pleased with the Council's positive response and that Carlingford was the ideal village for same due to high volume of tourists.

Minute No. 75/16

Notion of Motion:

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Yore
Seconded by: Cllr. J. McGahon

'That Dlk Muncipal District provide a road to the front of houses in Villa Park/Greenaces as per planning conditions to ensure access for emergency services as per petitions lodged 7 years ago by residents''

REPLY:

No provision has been made within the current budget for this proposal.

Members queried when funding would be made available. P. Donnelly, Director of Services advised that there was no plans for same and that the Chief Fire Officer doesn't have concerns re access. He informed the members that it was a matter for the members at budget time.

Minute No. 76/16

Notion of Motion:

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

"That this Municipal District carry out a review of the volume of parked traffic in the two areas listed below:

a) Castle Road

b) The greater Demesne area with a specific focus on Park Drive up to Ice House Hill

in recognition with the difficulties that residents have in parking and accessing their homes in those areas at present."

REPLY:

Castle Road and the greater Demesne area sit just outside the pay-parking area of Dundalk, and are the first ports of call for those drivers who wish to avoid paying to park within the commercial centre of the town. This phenomenon occurs regularly where pay-parking is in place and the same is occurring at Hill Street, Bother an Iarainn etc. and can cause difficulties for residents. In an attempt to prevent this happening, the Council has provided three long-stay car parks and an additional private sector long-stay car park is also available. While these long-stay car parks are not at full capacity they are well used in the main. There is sufficient capacity in the long-term car-parks in the demesne area to facilitate those parking just outside the pay-parking area. However there will always be a group who will not pay for parking, and if we were to extend the pay-parking areas, we would only push the problem further away from the town centre.

While the extension of the pay-parking area may facilitate some residents, it creates difficulties for people visiting these same residents and only transfers the problem further from the town centre. Therefore it is not recommended to change the current set up, but rather to keep it under review.

Notices of Question

The following Notices of question were noted by the members:

Minute No. 77/16

Cllr. M. Yore

" Accessibility Upgrade Dlk Municipal District Discretionary Budget €48k - That this Council furnish breakdown of monies spent in each area and were overheads budgeted into and how much were these? Who was the Contractor and who in Council signed off on works completed to date to say up to standard?"

REPLY:

The funding was distributed as follows, Dundalk €25,000, Knockbridge €5,000, Blackrock €7,500, Carlingford €7,500, Omeath €5,000. No overheads were charged into this funding, nor were wages charged.

Minute No. 78/16

Cllr. C. Keelan

With regard to Estate Management Policy 2016, recently adopted at LCC, and the section on Estate Focused Management subsection 10, can the elected members be informed of

A) What alleyways on estates or specific parts of estates do the Estate Management team hope to bring to the Municipal District to close-off during the remainder of our elected term?

B) The proposed timeframe.

C) What obstacles have been encountered in this process to date in not closing off more problematic areas that are contributing to anti-social behaviour issues?

REPLY:

A) Currently the Council is preparing documents for commencement of the process for extinguishment of the Public Right of Way (PROW) at the following 3 No. Locations,

- 27 Drive I, Muirhevnamor
- 63 Aghameen, Muirhevnamor
- 66 Doolargy, Muirhevnamor.

B) It is envisaged that the statutory process will be concluded by Q3 2016.

C) The Council is desirous of the timely execution of works necessary to effect the extinguishment of PROW when approved, however this is subject to the availability of both a staffing and financial resource.

Cllr. Keelan enquired why Castle Heights was not included in proposed extinguishment of right of way. J. Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer advised that Castel Heights is not an extinguishment of a right of way and that works are required re the removal soil and the erection of a double fence which is estimated to cost €15,000.

Minute No. 79/16

Cllr. J. McGahon

"Will Louth County Council provide a full update on the works to restore the Ghan Wall, Carlingford."

REPLY:

At this time the appointment of a Conservation Architect for the restoration of the wall and Folly at Ghan House is ongoing. The Conservation Architect will produce construction contract documents, undertake the tender process for the works and supervise the works during construction. Arrangements for a detailed laser survey of the site are being progressed at present.

G. Kelly advised that funding has been provided this year which would enable some works to be carried out this year.

Any other business

- Votes of sympathy were extended to the family, friends and colleagues of Áine Gaynor, a council staff member.
- Cllr. M. Dearey wished to congratulate the Louth Hurlers on their recent achievement.
- Cllr. T. Sharkey queried whether it was possible to have a substitute for Cllr. Savage on the Peace IV Partnership when he would be unable to attend same. To be checked with Ms. Therese McArdle.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meeting Administrator: _____