

Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Dundalk held in Creative Spark, Clontygora Drive, Muirhevnamor, Dundalk on Tuesday, 3rd March, 2015 at 5.15 pm.

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
David Storey, Senior Executive Officer
Gerry Kelly, Senior Engineer
Paddy Donnelly, Meetings Administrator

Apologies: none

Also in Attendance: Sarah Daly, Creative Spark

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Declan Breathnach welcomed the members to Creative Spark, and thanked Sarah Daly, Manager of Creative Spark and her team for the invitation to host the meeting there. Ms. Daly presented an overview of the work of Creative Spark and addressed the member's queries in relation to same.

The meeting formally commenced with the Cathaoirleach addressing the members in Irish and inviting their contributions 'as Gaeilge', as it was Seachtain na Gaeilge. He also thanked Sarah Daly on the member's behalf.

Minute No. 24/15

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 3rd February and the Special Meeting of 10th February were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. M. Doyle and seconded by Cllr. M. Dearey.

There were no matters arising.

Minute No. 25/15

Extinguishment of Right of Way

The members noted a report dated 11th February 2015 in regard to the extinguishment of a Right of Way at the public open space located at the side of No. 4 Aghameen Park, Dundalk. The members, having considered the report, agreed on the proposal of Cllr. K. Meenan and seconding of Cllr. M. Butler to confirm the extinguishment of the Right of Way.

Minute No. 26/15

Establishment of a Twinning Subcommittee

Cllr. C. Keelan proposed that a subcommittee be established for the purpose of considering and managing any twinning arrangements that came before the Municipal District. It was agreed that a committee would be established under the Chairmanship of the Cathaoirleach and that two other members, Cllr. C. Keelan and Cllr. J. McGahon, would also sit on this committee. The committee will meet as required.

Minute No. 27/15

Joint Policing Committee

The members were asked to consider a nomination for Chairperson designate for the Dundalk Joint Policing Forum, which formed part of the Joint Policing Structure.

Cllr. J. Loughran was proposed by Cllr. T. Sharkey, and seconded by Cllr. E. Corrigan.

As there were no other nominations Cllr. J. Loughran was deemed elected as Chairman of the Dundalk Joint Policing Forum.

Minute No. 28/15

Housing and Communities Progress Report

The members noted the Housing and Communities Progress Report dated 23rd February 2015 which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Mr. David Storey, Senior Executive Officer addressed the member's queries and clarified issues in relation to Choice Based Lettings and the house building programme. In response to queries Mr. Storey advised that applications for HAP were still open at this stage.

Minute No. 29/15

Operations, Infrastructure and Marine Progress Reports

Mr. Gerry Kelly, Senior Engineer, presented a report dated 18th February 2015 which included proposals in relation to the revised Road Works Programme. Mr. Kelly addressed the member's queries in relation to same, and outlined the changes that had been made as a result of the reduction in funding for the Road Works Programme. The Road Works Programme was agreed on the proposal of Cllr. P. Savage and seconding of Cllr. M. Yore.

The Senior Engineer agreed to revert in regard to funding available for flooding projects as requested by Cllr. J. Loughran.

Notices of Question

The following questions and replies were noted by the members;

Minute No. 30/15

Cllr. C. Keelan

"While recognising the significant investment by Louth Local Authorities in the community centre in the Lios Dubh estate on the Armagh Road to date, this facility has been idle for some time. What plans have the local authority to put it back to use, given that Lios Dubh is a large local authority housing estate with a growing population of many young families?"

Reply:

Multiple attempts have been made to source an appropriate operator, to no avail. Louth County Council is currently endeavouring to progress the matter with Women's Aid (Dundalk) Ltd and the North East Family Support Network (NEFSN).

Minute No. 31/15

Cllr. C. Keelan

"Can the local authority confirm that the Planning Office have given approval for an additional field entrance on the Racecourse Road East?"

Reply:

The Council have no application for an additional field entrance on Racecourse Road East.

Minute No. 32/15

Cllr. E. Corrigan

"What actions are being taken to address the issue of ongoing illegal dumping at Oakland Park, Cox's Demesne, Dundalk?"

Reply:

This location consists of a laneway with part way along it a grassed, open-space area fenced off by the Council some years ago in conjunction with the Rapid Programme. The laneway is gated at the front, to restrict access to local residents thereby limiting the potential for illegal dumping. However, this gate is maintained by the residents in an open position thereby rendering it ineffective as a barrier to dumping. This gateway was put in place by the Council to provide the residents with control of access to the laneway. The residents were supplied with keys.

The illegal dumping currently evident at the site is largely confined to the sides of the laneway beyond the fenced off open space, and consists of domestic waste. Despite a number of visits and inspections by the litter wardens, no evidence of the identity of the culprits was found.

This persistent illegal dumping cannot be addressed in a sustainable way by Louth County Council without the cooperation and the active engagement of the local residents. The Council has on a number of previous occasions engaged with the residents to find a sustainable solution, fencing off the grassed open space area at the centre of the lane and providing the gate at the front of the lane. We then removed existing dumped waste on the basis of ongoing cooperation from the residents to prevent future dumping. However, the efforts of the residents in this regard were not sustained.

If this matter is to be addressed sustainably, the residents need to commit to keeping the gate closed and locked to properly restrict access to the site, and ideally, should help to identify the culprits. The Council can only consider intervening to clean up the area if it receives credible assurances from the residents with regard to their commitment in this regard.

Minute No. 33/15

Correspondence

The members noted correspondence from the Mayor of Rezé, France.

Minute No. 34/15

Members were reminded of the requirement to return their annual declarations.

There being no further business the meeting concluded.

The Minutes were confirmed at the meeting held on:-

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meetings Administrator: _____