

Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Dundalk held in the Town Hall, Dundalk, on Tuesday, 1st March 2016 at 5.15 pm.

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. M. Doyle

Members: Councillors: J. Cassidy Green, C. Keelan, J. Loughran, K. Meenan, P. Savage, T. Sharkey, M. Yore

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

Apologies: Councillors: D. Breathnach, M. Butler, E. Corrigan, M. Dearey, J. McGahon

Minute No. 26/16

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 2nd, February, 2016 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. P. Savage and seconded by Cllr. M. Yore.

Minute No. 27/16

Matters Arising

- The Cathaoirleach Cllr. M. Doyle advised members that she proposed to take matters arising from the Monthly Progress Reports during discussion on the reports as listed on the Monthly Agenda.
- Members were circulated with a printed version of the Status Report on Notices of Motions/ Questions raised at the Dundalk Municipal District since its establishment. Members to review and advise the Meetings Administrator of any errors/omissions.
- Taking in Charge of Estates- Management Report for April Meeting of Louth County Council will include a report in the matter.

Minute No. 28/16

Presentation by Louth Tidy Towns Together

Mr. L. Maginer, Chairman of the network Louth Tidy Towns Together joined the meeting and delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the contribution Tidy Town

Groups in Louth make to the County's environmental management as well as tourism and economic development. He was joined by Mr. W. Duffy(Dundalk Tidy Towns) and Mr A O'Connor(Grange Tidy Towns) in addressing issues raised by members which included the following:

- Green Spaces in housing estates being under utilised and the need for the Local Authority and Residents Associations to be more productive in their presentation and maintenance. Tidy Towns to potentially have a role in developing plans for the better utilisation/ presentation of green spaces.
- The contribution Tidy Towns groups could make to the Transition Towns Initiative which complements the objectives of Tidy Towns.
- The need for Tidy Towns to be active in the SPC and Planning process to ensure their input into the development of towns and villages.
- The Role of Community Employment Scheme and TÚS personnel in Tidy Town activity.
- The contribution made by Tidy Towns Groups is the presentation and/or maintenance of Graveyards and Derelict/ Vacant Sites.
- The Roles of Tidy Town Groups in “adopting” bring banks for presentation purpose which does not conflict in any way with the role of the service providers in servicing the sites.

Members complemented Mr. Maginer on the presentation and congratulated Tidy Towns Groups in the Municipal District and throughout the County on their excellent work programme.

Minute No. 29/16

Housing and Communities Progress Report

Mr. J. McGuinness, Director of Services presented the Housing and Communities Progress Report dated 23th February 2016. During discussion on the Report Mr. J McGuinness addressed the following issues:

- The recent advertisement calling for Expressions of Interest in Housing Provision received 30 Responses, 15 of which are in the Dundalk Municipal District. All Responses require to be examined in detail.
- .No major schemes in the County submitted to the Department for funding but significant leasing would potentially result from the Expressions of Interest.
- The Dunleer lands form part of a national bundle being procured by the National Treasury Management Agency with the Ballymakenny lands a substitute should any of the 6 sites in the procurement package not progress.

- Louth County Council will get full market value for the land in Dunleer which will result in the development of 75 to 90 housing units.

Minute No. 30/16

Infrastructure, Operations and Marine Progress Report

Members discussed the Report as circulated with the Agenda and the following matters were addressed:

- Taking in charge of Belfry Mews and Fort Terrace
- Old Golf Links Road upgrade- referred to Planning Enforcement.
- Status update required on the works carried out under the 2015 Municipal District allocation.
- P. Finn, Senior Engineer provided a verbal update on the Knockbridge to Martins Cross Road.
- G. Kelly, Senior Engineer agreed to amend future reports to include the type of work being carried out as part of the Roadworks Programme.
- The larger Clanbrassil Street Refurbishment Scheme now includes the smaller section that was the subject of an earlier proposal
- The survey undertaken on the Castleblayney Road on 28th January doesn't demonstrate any significant deterioration in pavement surface from the survey undertaken on 24th June 2015, apart from in one small area
- Low Cost Safety measures proposals for Culhane Street, Mc Sweeney Street and Carrick Road distributed to members at the meeting. Members to revert to P. Finn, Senior Engineer with comments/suggestions before Aprils meeting of the Municipal District.
- Documentation circulated on minor works proposed for Demesne Park- P. Finn, Senior Engineer agreed to examine if the speed ramp proposed at "Jimmys" could be replaced by a Pedestrian Crossing.
- Pedestrian Crossing required at Kennedy's/ Railway Station on Carrick Road.
- The introduction of a town wide speed limit should be considered.
- Funding available for Rock Road, Blackrock- proposal being finalised at the moment.
- Safety Audit needed on main commercial area of Dundalk- a number of manhole covers are missing

- Clarification provided that the Centenary Garden for Dundalk is to be located at the Fairgreen

Minute No. 31/16

Approval of Multi Annual Roadworks Programme

On the proposal of Cllr. P Savage seconded by Cllr. M. Yore the programme was approved.

Minute No. 32/16

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Dearey
Seconded by: Cllr. M. Butler

" That Louth County Council begin without delay the process of installing traffic calming and pedestrian crossing infrastructure in or around Moorland Row, Forkhill Road. The need is acute given the shop now opened across the road and the desire line it creates for the very large population of young and old people on the opposite side of the road in Coulter Place and Lennon Melia Tce and Court"

Reply:

This matter will be examined with a view to making an application for funding under the low cost safety programme in 2017. Currently there is no evidence of pedestrian accidents recorded on the system, but the opening of the shop may have an impact on these figures.

While the proposer gave a cautious welcome to the response he stressed the need to re- examine the issue of bollard provision as the presence of a shop has created the need for safe pedestrian crossing. Cllr. Dearey requested that the matter be re-examined with a view to providing a solution early next year.

Minute No. 33/16

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Doyle
Seconded by: Cllr. M. Yore

" That the Council carry out a plebiscite at Sandymount Drive, Blackrock, with a view to taking it in charge"

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 Sandymount Drive, Blackrock and where the majority of the owners are in favour of Sandymount Drive 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 in March 2016.

Cllr M. Doyle indicated that she was happy with the response.

Minute No. 34/16

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Yore
Seconded by: Cllr. P. Savage

" That Dundalk Municipal District address and resolve the serious issue of ongoing flooding caused by storm pump in Coe's Road not operating correctly in the last four years and all drains in estate not cleared and cleaned regularly"

Reply:

The Coe's Road pumping station is a matter for Irish Water and the matter has been referred to them previously.

Cllr. Yore advised that she had been informed that the floor of the Pumping Station was not sufficient to take the weight of the new pump and she was joined by other members in expressing frustration at the perceived ambiguity in relation to Irish Water/ Local Authorities responsibility for addressing such issues of concern.

Minute No. 35/16

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Yore
Seconded by: Cllr. M. Doyle

"That Dundalk Municipal District take ownership and resolve the broken sewerage drain at Hazelwood Avenue, Bay Estate that has been an issue for seven years"

Reply:

This is an issue for Irish Water

Cllr. Yore advised the meeting that the sewer had collapsed the previous wall and that it was very difficult to know what to tell people in response to representations.

It was agreed to issue a letter to Irish Water on this and the previous motion expressing the members dissatisfaction with the lack of action to address the issues.

Minute No. 36/16

Notice of Question- Cllr. J. Greene

" What correspondence has the council had in relation to Ard Dealgan since July 2015? Also, I'd like to be furnished with all correspondence."

Reply:

The Council has had discussions with a number of Approved Housing Bodies in relation to a re-development solution and has also highlighted the site to the Department of Environment has a site that should be re-developed. Discussions are continuing in this regard and when these matters are concluded the members will be advised.

In response to a request from Cllr. Greene for a timeframe to conclude the matter J. McGuinness, Director of Services indicated that while a timeframe was not available the matter was a high priority for the Local Authority.

Minute No. 37/16

Notice of Question- Cllr. J. Greene

" What is the designation of Ard Dealgan if it isn't an unfinished housing development?"

Reply:

Ard Dealgan is not one of the estates identified by the DoE Unfinished housing estate review, however it is on the Derelict Sites Register.

J. McGuinness, Director of Service once again confirmed that Ard Dealgan was not one of the sites identified as unfinished.

Minute No. 38/16

General Election

As a result of his success in the recent General Election Declan Breathnach TD would no longer serve as a member of Louth County Council and the Dundalk Municipal District. Deputy Breathnach asked the Cathaoirleach Cllr. M Doyle to convey his gratitude to the members and officials of the Local Authority for their support over the twenty five years of this membership of Louth County Council. Members congratulated Deputy Breathnach on this success and wished him well in National Politics.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

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

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meetings Administrator: _____