

Municipal District of Dundalk – March 2021

Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Dundalk hosted in The Council Chamber County Hall, Dundalk on Tuesday 2nd March 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. McKeivitt, K. Meenan, L. Reilly, J. Reilly, T. Sharkey, A. Watters, M. Yore.

Officials: Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator - Present in Chamber
Frank Pentony, Director of Services - Present in Chamber
John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer - Remote
Martin McCreesh, Senior Executive Engineer - Remote
David Hanratty, Senior Engineer - Remote

Minute No. 21/21

Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 2nd February 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. Liam Reilly and seconded by Cllr. Sean Kelly.

Minute No. 22/21

Matters Arising

Updates were requested on:

- Balmer's Bog Tender
- Any response from NTA on extension to bus routes and any associated safety audits

In response to clarification requests raised, Members were advised:

- Active Travel Funding applications to be circulated to members
- Corporate Services were in discussions on the Pitch and Putt club on Navy Bank.

Minute No. 23/21

Housing Progress Report

Members discussed the report as issued and John Lawrence, A/Senior Executive Officer, advised on all Housing items raised..

Clarification was requested on the following items by the members:

- Whether it would be possible to increase rents to cover maintenance
- If internal capital receipts were not required to be spent on landbanks would they be available for maintenance

Minute No. 24/21

Operations and Marine Progress Report

Members discussed the report as issued, Martin McCreesh, Senior Executive Engineer advised on all Operations items raised.

Clarification was requested on the following items by the members:

- Breakdown of number of staff and associated staffing expenditure requested per MD
- Maps to be uploaded to Decision Time for easier identification of issues by Members
- A letter to issue to TII by Operations on better lighting required at Ravensdale junction
- Personal attacks on social media following media report on Cathaoirleach objection to graffiti incidents

Minute No. 25/21

Infrastructure Report

Members discussed the report as issued, Frank Pentony, Director of Services and John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer advised on all Infrastructure items raised.

The following items were highlighted by Members:

- The Minister is written to for an update on funding proposal for Bridge Street.

Minute No. 26/21

Dundalk Allocation of Members Community Grants

To approve Members Community Grant Allocations as circulated with the agenda

Proposed by: Cllr M. Butler

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Yore

Minute No. 27/21

Climate Action Video

David Hanratty, Senior Engineer introduced a Climate Action Video compiled by CARO (Climate Action Regional Office) for Members which was well received.

Minute No. 28/21

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. C. Keelan

Seconded by: Cllr. E. Coffey

"Given the lack of clarity regarding URDF funding for the Bridge Street project that Infrastructure make a separate Low-Cost Safety Submission calling for much-needed improvements to the uncontrolled pedestrian crossing at the junction of Bridge Street and the Blayney Road which has been a long-held objective of members since before the abolition of Dundalk Town Council."

Reply from Ms. C. Duff, Director of Services, Operations:

The Low Cost Safety schemes have a Department (DTTAS) applied upper limit of 30k limit in 2021 and cannot be used for new pelican crossings, which cost in excess of 60k.

Minute No. 29/21

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. C. Keelan

Seconded by: Cllr. A. McKevitt

"In recognition of her contribution to Irish life and culture, and that of her family, that Louth County Council erect a plaque at 5 Seatown Place, where Dorothy Macardle spent much of her childhood."

Reply:

This is a matter for the Members.

Minute No. 30/21

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. A. Watters

Seconded by: Cllr. K. Meenan

“Call on Louth County Council to complete the footpath at the back of the Top Petrol Station on Howe's Hill in Omeath connecting to the Mullach Alainn estate. The footpath is unfinished and it is a serious health hazard as people have to walk on the road on their way into the village.”

Reply from Ms. C. Duff, Director of Services, Operations:

Louth County Council do not have a budgeted programme of footpath extensions during 2021, footpath repairs are made to certain locations where public liability is an issue. Other funding sources are available through Town and Village renewal schemes.

Minute No. 31/21

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. A. Watters

Seconded by: Cllr. K. Meenan

“Call on Louth County Council to introduce a four stop junction at McGrath's Cross, Ardtullybeg, Riverstown, Dundalk. The junction is very dangerous and I would also request the Council speak to landowners with a view to purchase land to help improve visibility.”

Reply from Ms. C. Duff, Director of Services, Operations:

The Louth County Council safety improvement schemes are selected in 2021 using a risk based approach using analysis of 13 years of collision data from the RSA, cross referenced with vehicle numbers, road speed and road classification, to determine the optimal location to expend very scarce funds. In order to acquire land, it is often necessary to pursue a CPO which places an additional burden on Louth County Council.

Minute No. 32/21

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllrs. A. McKeivitt & J. Reilly

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Yore

“That Louth County Council writes to the Minister of Finance and AIB headquarters to support the reinstatement of the AIB ATM in Carlingford.”

Reply:

This is a matter for the Members.

In support of motion by Cllrs. A. McKeivitt and J. Reilly, Members requested that a letter issue to each of the AIB, the Minister and Brinks in support of an ATM on the main street in Carlingford.

Minute No. 33/21

Motion on Suspension of Standing Orders

The Cathaoirleach suggested that as the time allotted in Standing Orders was about to run out that Standing Orders be suspended for 15 minutes to allow all motions to be discussed. There were no objections to this motion.

Minute No. 34/21

Condolences and expressions of sympathy were extended by the members as follows:

- Jack Bellew, Commons Road, Dromiskin
- Bernardina Grossi, Ballybarrack, Ardee Road, Dundalk
- Donal Carney, Knockbridge, Dundalk
- Clodagh O'Connor, Seatown Place, Dundalk
- Gerry Matthews, Legion Avenue, Dudnalk
- Sean McDonald, Riverstown, Dundalk

Congratulations were extended by the members as follows:

- To all those involved in the EPSO Project run through Dundalk BIDS
- Women in politics on the eve of International Womens Day

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meeting Administrator: _____