

Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Dundalk held in the Town Hall, Dundalk, on Tuesday, 3th May 2016 at 5.15 pm.

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. M. Doyle

Members: Councillors: M. Doyle, E. Coffey, J. Cassidy Green, M. Dearey, C. Keelan, J. Loughran, J. McGahon, K. Meenan, P. Savage, M. Yore

Officials: Frank Pentony, Director of Service
Mary Murtagh, Meetings Administrator
Pat Finn, Senior Engineer
Gerry Kelly, Senior Engineer
Therése McArdle, Administrative Officer
Angela Dullaghan, Conservation Officer

Apologies: Cllr. Marianne Butler

Minute No. 52/16

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 5th, April, 2016 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. M. Yore and seconded by Cllr. M. Dearey.

Minute No. 53/16

Matters Arising

- Minute 35/16 amended to reflect the fact that it referred to Cllr Yore's Notice of Motion "That the Dundalk Municipal District take ownership and resolve the broken sewerage drain at Hazelwood Avenue, Bay Estate that has been an issue for seven years" and that the Motion was seconded by Cllr P. Savage and approved by members.
- Minute 50/16- St. Patrick's Cemetery, Dowdallshill to be listed as an Agenda Item for the July meeting of the Municipal District.
- Minute 45/16- agreed to discuss re-design of St Mary's Road cycle lanes during discussion on the Infrastructure Operations and Marine Progress Report.
- Minute 44/16- Urban Development Fund- clarified that contractors would be appointed in early 2017.

Minute No. 54/16

Suspension of Standing Orders

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

And resolved.

To suspend Standing Orders to allow members to be briefed on the Fire Safety Issues at Ath Leathan apartments.

Minute No. 55/16

Members expressed concern at the serious issues that have emerged in relation to fire safety at the development. A copy of the Press Statement was circulated to members who requested that, in future, such statements should be copied to member for information. Members noted that there was an obvious problem in terms of compliance monitoring and agreed that much more invasive inspections are required rather than relying on the integrity of the developer to comply with the specified requirements. The issue of the validity of security for Mortgage Companies was also raised and it was stressed by members that a timeframe for enforcement procedures needs to be agreed, addition resources need to be put in place to increase inspections of large scale developments and a system put in place for keeping the residents of Ath Leathan informed. Further agreed that the Chief Fire Officer should attend the next meeting to update members or, if more appropriate in terms of enforcement action being progressed, provide a report to members on the current position.

Minute No. 56/16

Part 8 Housing Development Clos na Manach, Carlingford.

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

And resolved.

That in accordance with Section 179 (4) (b) of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 to confirm the Chief Executives Report dated 25th April 2015 for Part 8 – 10 No Dwellings at Clos na Manach, Carlingford.

Minute No. 57/16

BIDS Presentation

Mr Tom Muckian Chairman of BIDS and Mr Martin McElligot Town Centre Manager attended the meeting and briefed members by way of a Powerpoint Presentation on Progress being made on various initiatives including:

- Christmas Lights 2016- Visuals for Town Centre lighting welcomed by members who were advised that they provided a new modern concept that will form the new lighting structure for the next five years.
- Townwatch- working with Gardai on new communication system to deliver a zero tolerance response to Retail Crime.
- Marketing Programme- App launched as joint initiative with Dundalk Tidy Towns- future plans to add Trails/ Walking Routes.
- Destination Dundalk- over 42,000 people in six weeks for Frostival 2015/2016. Plans to introduce summer programme by re-launching the Maytime Festival in 2017.
- Independent Traders Day planned for summer 2016.
- Data Analytics being used to predict and measure visitor/ footfall numbers.

Members congratulated Mr. McElligot and Mr. Muckian on the work to date and the plans for the future. During discussion the following issues were raised by members:

- The fact that the attitude to Retail Staff in Retail Outlets is key to success in terms of Customer satisfaction.
- The need to ensure the removal of “Welcome to Dundalk- Pay Parking in Operation” signs on approach roads.
- The need for better weed management to create a positive impression.
- Vacancy of key Retail Properties in town centre and the need to continue discussion on Rates to see if the matter can be addressed.

Minute No. 58/16

Peace IV Partnership

Ms. Therése McArdle, Administrative Officer, updated members, by way of a Powerpoint Presentation on the current status of the Peace IV Programme and the requirement to establish a Peace Partnership Committee to make recommendations to the LCDC on project submissions. Ms. McArdle advised members that a tendering process was almost complete to appoint consultants to prepare the Local Peace IV Action Plan under the specific themes of Children and Young People, Shared Spaces and Services and Building Positive Relations. Members were advised that the allocation under the programme for Louth was the second highest for the six councils in the Border Region at just over €3.5 million.

Following discussion in the matter members agreed to list the appointment of a member from the Municipal District to the Peace IV Partnership as an Agenda Item for the June Meeting.

Minute No. 59/16

Housing and Communities Progress Report

Members noted the report circulated with the Agenda.

Minute 60/16

Infrastructure, Operations & Marine Progress Report

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

- Accessibility Upgrade- 75% of total budget paid at this stage. Cllr. M. Yore expressed concern at the standard of the works and requested that a further inspection be carried out to examine perceived shortcomings in the completion of the works.
- Low Cost Safety Measures- McSweeney Street/ Culhane Street going to tender shortly. Carrick Road will consist of traffic calming rather than Pedestrian Crossing. Rock Road/ St. Francis School- traffic calming measures being implemented.
- Members once again expressed concern at the design of the cycle lanes at St. Marys Road. P. Finn, Senior Engineer advised that he had further examined the issue and acknowledged the opposition to the bollards. It was noted that at the April meeting members unanimously agreed that a re-design was required. Mr. P. Finn agreed to look at the matter again pointing out that any redesign would require budget provision and would also be subject to an independent Safety Audit. Members unanimously agreed that a re-design must be progressed in the current year with a view to providing funding in the 2017 Annual Budget to carry out identified works.

Minute 61/16

Notice of Motion:

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

"That the Council check the adhesion coefficient of the racecourse road from before the 2nd bungalow on left (Cairn's resident) to the Lets Bingo hall to ascertain the reason why so many accidents have taken place in this location over the last number of years".

Contractor currently undertaking testing of surface of Racecourse Road, results expected before Christmas or very early in the New Year.

Members noted the response and requested that the matter be progressed.

Minute 62/16

Correspondence.

Members noted the correspondence received from Irish Water. On the proposal of Cllr. M. Yore seconded by Cllr. E. Coffey it was agreed to write to Irish Water requesting a timeframe within which it is expected the proposed works will be carried out.

Minute No. 63/16

Any other Business

- On the proposal of Cllr. M. Doyle seconded by Cllr. M. Dearey it was agreed to hold the AGM of the Municipal District at 5.00p.m. on Tuesday 7th June immediately before the monthly meeting.
- Cllr. M. Butler was congratulated on the birth of her son.
- Ms. M. Murtagh, Meetings Administrator was wished well in her Retirement from Louth County Council.

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

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meetings Administrator: _____