

Municipal District of Dundalk - May 2021

Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Dundalk hosted in The Council Chamber County Hall, Dundalk on Tuesday 4th May 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, S. Kelly, K. Meenan, L. Reilly, J. Reilly, T. Sharkey, A. Watters, M. Yore.

Apologies: Councillors C. Keelan, A. McKeivitt.

Officials: Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator - Remote
Frank Pentony, Director of Services - Present in Chamber
Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services - Remote
John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer - Remote
Mark Johnson, Senior Executive Engineer - Remote
Frank Magee, Senior Engineer - Remote
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer - Remote

Minute No. 50/21

Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 6th April 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. M. Butler and seconded by Cllr. S. Kelly.

Minute No. 51/21

Matters Arising

- It was noted that Cllr. J. Reilly's name appeared in apologies but also in attendees. It was agreed to amend previous minutes to reflect that Cllr. J. Reilly was not present.
- Cllr. M. Yore requested updates on Minutes 26 & 36/21 and Cllr. M. Butler requested updates on Minute 44/21.

Minute No. 52/21

Housing Progress Report

Members discussed the report as issued and Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services advised on all Housing items raised.

Officials were told that Fianna Fáil members had met with Housing Minister Darragh O'Brien and advised that he said if funding was needed for windows and doors that application should be made to the Department.

The following items were clarified for the members:

- Housing are working with An Garda Síochána to identify those engaging in Anti-Social Behaviour around Muirhevnamór and where identified they will be sanctioned in line with tenancy agreements.
- 53 Units of Housing have been approved for funding under a 10 year Retrofit Scheme to improve BER rating to B2 rating. These will be chosen from County at large and must meet various criteria, including ability of rating to be reached.
- Where housing applicants can give genuine reason for late return of Housing Needs Assessment forms, consideration of reason will be made on an individual basis, however the message to applicants is to engage.
- Transfers are prioritised on various criteria including health but must be managed to avoid spike in voids.

Minute No. 53/21

Proposal to Suspend Standing Orders

It was proposed by the Cathaoirleach to suspend Standing Orders (as provided for under Standing Order No. 69), to move a Presentation on the Preparation of the Part 8 for the N53 Hackballscross to Rassan Road Improvement Scheme, to be heard before the Operations Report. Members were questioned as to whether there was anyone in disagreement, no member disagreed.

Minute No. 54/21

Presentation on the Preparation of the Part 8 for the N53 Hackballscross to Rassan Road Improvement Scheme

Ursula O'Higgins, Shane Tobin - Aitkins Global, Ambrose Clarke, Killian Lee, & Tony Buckley - WRDO joined the meeting.

Ursula O'Higgins gave a presentation to Members on the proposed Part 8 for the N53 Road Improvement Scheme which was well received. Members praised the team on work to date and requested clarification on location of proposed subways and other items on the map which was given.

It was noted by Members that there was a fatality on this road earlier in the day and Members expressed sympathies to the family and friends of the man who had died, RIP.

Minute No. 55/21

Operations and Marine Progress Report

Members discussed the report as issued Mark Johnson Senior Engineer advised on all Operations items raised.

The following items were clarified for the members:

- €200,000 annual funding was provided by IPB insurers to spend on slip, trip, fall areas in Dundalk and Drogheda based on accident data.
- LCC are trying to encourage a 'leave no trace' culture and provision of extra bins goes against this

- Funding was available for cycling signage, and school cycling signs could be accommodated Operations crews were fully back
- No update available on CCTV and litter enforcement
- Revamp work was commencing on 9 outdoor public conveniences

The following non operation items were raised and clarified as follows:

- Balmer's Bog was Exempted Development and did not require a Part 8
- Parklets were built to standard 125mm to match standard footpath sizes so there was sometimes a disparity where paths were lowered for accessibility reasons which created a lip. Issues raised by Members on accessibility to Parklets would be raised with BIDS
- Crossing issues on Dublin Rd at Sextons and Fairways should be referred to Infrastructure
- Bus stop review referred to infrastructure
- Outdoor Dining query was a matter for Colette Moss
- Irish Water manholes query referred to Irish Water and Martina Sheeran
- Graveyard queries and Famine Village referred to Brendan McSherry.

Minute No. 56/21

Periodic Speed Limit Signage

Members were advised that documents attached were for noting. A discussion ensued.

Cllr. M. Yore advised that she was not happy with 50kph speed limit in some areas as it was too high.

Cllr. M. Butler stated that LCC used to regularly review speed limits and publish these in Iris Oifigiúil but queried if we had done this in the last 5 years.

Cllr. L. Reilly requested clarification on the status of the Speed Limit Committee as was and asked if it could be reformed.

Frank Pentony advised that the next review was due in 2023 and that a review had been carried out in effect in 2019.

Minute No. 57/21

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. S. Kelly

Minute No. 58/21

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. Conor Keelan

"That the boundary of the flood relief scheme, which is being undertaken for this Council by the Black & Veatch / Nicholas O'Dwyer Joint Venture Consulting Engineers, be extended on its north-eastern boundary to take in the Flurry River Catchment, its tributaries and estuary and the lands as far as the rising ground at Jenkinstown, to at least as far as the 6 metre ODM contour adjacent to the High Watermark of Spring Tides (HWOST)."

Reply from Mr. Frank Pentony, Director of Services, Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development:

The area referred to by the Member was not identified as an area most likely to be impacted by future coastal and fluvial flooding and therefore was not included in the Dundalk CFRAM Study. A proposal to the OPW for the extension to the Dundalk Flood Relief Project would require further detailed engineering analysis, assessment and extensive public consultation required to produce a FRMP for the area and to bring it into alignment with the rest of the Dundalk FRMP, in doing so as part of the Dundalk / Ardee Flood Relief project would increase significantly the Project timescale, not to mention additional funding which would first have to demonstrate compliance with the required Cost Benefit Criteria.

As Cllr. C. Keelan was not present the motion could not be heard.

Minute No. 59/21

Correspondence

Correspondence was noted.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meeting Administrator: _____