

Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Dundalk held in the Town Hall, Dundalk, on Tuesday, 3rd November, 2015.

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. M. Doyle

Members: Councillors: D. Breathnach, M. Butler, E. Corrigan, M. Dearey, J. Green, C. Keelan, J. Loughran, J. McGahon, P. Savage, T. Sharkey, M. Yore

Officials: Joan Martin, Chief Executive
Bernie Woods, Head of Finance
Frank Pentony, Director of Services
Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services/Meetings Admin.
David Storey, Senior Executive Officer
Gerry Kelly, Senior Engineer

Apologies: Cllr. K. Meenan

Minute No. 101/15

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Maria Doyle proposed a vote of sympathy to Mr. Frank Pentony on the death of his brother Mr. Paul Pentony.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Cllr. Green back after her absence and congratulated her on the birth of her baby.

Minute No. 102/15

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 6th October, 2015 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. P. Savage and seconded by Cllr. M. Yore.

Minute No. 103/15

Matters Arising

Cllr. Keelan raised the matter of Minute No. 99/15. Mr. Gerry Kelly advised that the work was ongoing and that the matter would be reported back to the members as soon as possible.

Minute No 98/15, Cllr Breathnach sought an update in relation to the N53 closure and queried if the project as on time and if the road would open as advertised. The

Meetings Administrator is to revert to the members confirming same as soon as possible.

Minute No. 98/15, Cllr Sharkey raised the matter of the N53 upgrade and sought clarification in regard to works carried out in support of this project.

Minute No. 104/15

Draft Budgetary Plan 2016

The Cathaoirleach acknowledged the attendance of the Chief Executive, Mrs. Joan Martin and the Head of Finance, Ms. Bernie Woods.

The Chief Executive set out that under the provisions of the Local Government Reform Act it is now her duty to consult with the Municipal District Members in relation to a draft Budgetary Plan, and she advised the members it is her intention to propose a €50,000 allocation as the discretionary spend for the Municipal District. This will be taken alongside the other expenditure that will be brought to the Municipal District for their attention, including the Road Works Programmes and other matters that may arise during the year. The members were advised by the Chief Executive that it was within their right to amend local charges, for example in relation to pay parking, and to increase or decrease such charges. Any such change would be reflected on their Municipal Allocation. There were no proposals to amend local charges and members welcomed the draft Budgetary Plan.

A discussion ensued in relation to the ratio of allocation to the Municipal Districts, with Councillors Breathnach and Dearey raising the matter of the population of the Municipal District of Dundalk versus the other Municipal Districts of the county. The Chief Executive pointed out that as the amount was of the order of €50,000 that finding a mechanism to divide out such a provision was not practical.

The Chief Executive in response to members' queries about additional funding opportunities confirmed to the members, that she and her staff explore every option to examine all opportunities for additional funding, and every effort will be made to secure any such external funding sources.

In relation to Tourism, the Chief Executive confirmed that she together with the Director for Planning and Economic Development are to meet Tourism Northern Ireland with a view to working together on joint initiatives where identified funding opportunities may be available.

There followed a further discussion in relation to the Municipal Allocation, and on the proposal of Cllr. Dearey and seconding of Cllr. Breathnach it was agreed that the

approach taken by the members in relation to the joint party approach on how the funding will be allocated should continue in the current year.

Cllr. Sharkey proposed that the Cathaoirleach write to the Mayor of the Borough District of Drogheda outlining to members of the Borough District of Drogheda how the Municipal District of Dundalk had managed their allocation.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the Chief Executive and the Head of Finance for their attendance.

Minute no. 105/15

Urban Development Fund – Designated Urban Centre Grant Scheme

Mr. Frank Pentony presented to the members details of an Urban Centres Grant Scheme that had been announced and indicated that there had been a very short response time permitted. He outlined that this scheme had originated from the Northern and Western Regional Assembly where he understood that there was a total funding package available of €14 million. He expected that Dundalk as a Gateway town could qualify for a possible €2 million grant allocation, of which there would be a match funding element. The Director went on to outline to the members the broad outline of the submission that had been made was in relation to the Church Street, Bridge Street and St. Nicholas Quarter, and it was towards the regeneration of the area to include improvements in footpaths and street furniture and to extend the free WIFI facility available at the Town Square right to the end of Bridge Street.

There was a lengthy discussion in relation to the project with suggestions that other areas could be looked at including linkages from the Town Centre to the Marshes Shopping Centre. The Director in outlining more detail of the scheme assured the members that the best value for this grant could be obtained by the broader plan that had been submitted, but this matter will revert to the members in due course and a Part 8 Planning Regulation procedure would be required.

The members welcomed the scheme and congratulated the Director of Service for his and his staff's initiative in progressing this application. The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Doyle, looked forward to the matter coming back before the Municipal District in the not too distant future.

Minute No. 106/15

Housing and Communities Progress Report

Mr. David Storey, Senior Executive Officer presented the Housing and Communities progress report dated 23rd October, 2015. Mr. Storey addressed the members queries in relation to same which included a request for an update in relation to the

Regeneration Programme in Coxs, the methodology of the Rough Sleepers Count planned for 30th October, issues in relation to Anti-Social Behaviour, the HAP Scheme, issues in relation to accommodation for refugees in the County Louth Area, and the Choice Based Letting Scheme.

Mr. Storey confirmed that the Regeneration is in three phases with 14 units being provided in the first phase and 7 units in the second phase. The third phase, which included a block of accommodation suitable for elderly residents and a community centre, had not yet been approved and this matter may in time come back before the Municipal District.

Mr. Storey also confirmed that he had signed off on the electronic version of the Choice Based Letting and he expected that within a short period of time at least one Municipal District will be up and running under an electronic version of the Choice Based Letting Scheme.

Mr. Storey confirmed that an indication had been given to the Department that there were no lands currently available in the ownership of the Council that would be suitable for the housing of refugees/asylum seekers.

Minute No. 107/15

Infrastructure, Operations and Marine Progress Report

Mr. Gerry Kelly addressed the members queries in relation to the report dated 23rd October, 2015. Mr. Kelly confirmed that works were ongoing in relation to the Disability Access Improvement Schemes and if there were issues with same he would investigate the matter and revert in due course.

Minute No. 108/15

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. E. Corrigan
Seconded by: Cllr. J. Loughran

"I ask that the Council provide an 'in committee' briefing to the Councillors on the current claims of ownership of lands along / and adjacent to the Castletown River, between the Castletown Bridge, Saint Nicholas Avenue and Boyle O'Reilly Terrace."

The Meetings Administrator confirmed that the matter of an 'in committee' meeting was provided for in Standing Order No. 50, and on the basis of the proposal seconded with no alternative view, he was happy to confirm that the Director of Services would provide this briefing 'in committee' for members following the normal business of the December Municipal District meeting.

Minute No. 109/15

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. J. McGahon
Seconded by: Cllr. M. Butler

"That Louth County Council considers the construction of a pedestrian footpath in Ravensdale from Crilly's Garage to the T-junction with the R174"

REPLY:

This would require a footpath 550 m long, in a largely rural location which does not have street lighting, nor the density of population to warrant the provision of a footpath. The provision of a footpath at this location would be a low priority as there are a number of locations in much greater need of footpath facilities, which require funding.

Minute No. 110/15

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. J. McGahon
Seconded by: Cllr. C. Keelan

"That Louth County Council consider the introduction of traffic calming measures outside Scoil Eoin Baiste, Fatima, as a matter of urgency."

REPLY:

This matter will be considered as part of a proposal under the 30kph Scheme for the Fatima area.

Minute No. 111/15

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Breathnach
Seconded by: Cllr. C. Keelan

"That Dundalk Municipal District resolve to take in charge the Willow Grove Estate road network as part of our Road Programme in the coming 2015/16."

REPLY:

Following a request from the Residents Association on 12 th September 2014 the Council conducted a Plebiscite under Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000. The majority of house owners (66%) were in favour of having the development taken in charge by the Council. As a result of this the Planning Compliance Section carried out a condition assessment of Willow Grove and compiled a cost estimate of the value of works to be carried out to bring the development up to a standard fit for taking in charge. The estimated value of over ground works is approximately €225,000. The developer has ceased trading. An assessment on the condition of the water and drainage

infrastructure is currently awaited. A report on the options open to the Council will be prepared once the quantum of works required to bring the estate to an acceptable standard is established.

Minute No. 112/15

Housekeeping

The Meetings Administrator circulated the Meeting Schedule for 2016 and brought to the members' attention a request to hold the January Municipal District of Dundalk meeting on Tuesday 12th January, 2016 at 5.15 pm in order to facilitate acceptance of Motions and Questions from members following the Christmas leave. This was proposed by the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. M. Doyle and seconded by Cllr. Breathnach and agreed by all.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

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

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meetings Administrator: _____