

Borough District of Drogheda – November 2018

Minutes of the Meeting of the Borough District of Drogheda held on Monday, 5th November 2018, at Barlow House, West Street, Drogheda.

In attendance:

Mayor: Cllr. Frank Godfrey

Members: Cllrs: P. Bell, J. Byrne, T. Byrne, R. Culhane, K. Flood, P. Smith, O. Tully

Officials: Frank Pentony, Director of Services
Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services
Paddy Connelly, Senior Executive Engineer
Noel Treanor, Executive Engineer
Christine Mullen, Administrative Officer

Apologies: Cllrs. K. Callan, D. Saurin

Minute No. 109/18

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on 1st October, 2018 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. T. Byrne and seconded by Cllr. P. Smith.

The minutes of draft budget meeting held on 16th October, 2018 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. T. Byrne and seconded by Cllr. P. Smith.

Minute No. 110/18

Matters arising

- A further request to view the letter furnished to the Mayor by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was raised.

Minute No. 111/18

Housing Progress Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting, and the following points were addressed:

- The issue of lack of funding for heating repairs was raised and Members were informed that Housing Maintenance requests were being dealt with on a priority basis.
- An update on the Homeless count was requested, and Members were informed that the Council would carry this out with the stakeholders involved.
- Members queried if Louth County Council was participating in the new scheme whereby estate agents can source properties for social housing.
- The vacant property at Lourdes Square was raised.

- Members asked for cost of bringing derelict properties into social housing standards and informed that a revised budget was needed from central government to deal with derelict properties/sites.
- The waiting time on the Housing list was raised, and Members were informed that some applicants are housed quicker through the Choice Based Letting scheme.
- The number of vacant houses was requested.
- The Council's power in relation to squatters in private lands/properties was queried.
- The income figure under the tenant purchase scheme was requested.

Minute No. 112/18

Operations, Marine and Infrastructure Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting, and the following points were addressed:

- An update on the graffiti database was requested.
- An update on the works on Termonfeckin Bridge and Ballymakenny Stone Wall was again requested.
- Traffic calming measures for 2019 was discussed.
- Concern was raised about the lack of yellow boxes on Donore Road at the bus station.
- The re-instatement of Mary Street was raised.
- Cleaning of sites after Halloween, in particular, a site at Ballsgrove where a car was burnt out.
- An update on ramps and refurbishment of the CCTV in Rathmullen was requested.
- Query why Louth County Council is the only local authority not to apply for €37 m minor roads fund.
- Report requested on diversion route for heavy vehicles at Platin Road / Mary Street.
- Report on feasibility of a small roundabout on the Dublin Road at Wheaton Hall.
- Works at Sunday's Gate welcomed and a request for flashing lights.
- Request to contact Bus Eireann regarding bus shelters at bus stops, particularly, George's Street.
- The patch work repair works carried out on Bachelor's Lane raised.
- Lights needed at Bexcells' Lane.
- Another bridge requested at Drogheda Port.
- North Cross route congestion was raised.

Minute No. 113/18

Drogheda Allocation of Members Community Grants

This was proposed by Cllr. P. Bell, seconded by Cllr. P. Smith and agreed by the members.

Minute No. 114/18

Sympathies were extended to the families of Phillip McCabe, Tommy McLoughlin, Larry Cunningham and the Brodigan family (from Cllr. T. Byrne).

Congratulations were extended to the Newtown Blues and the Dundalk Football Team.

Minute No. 115/18

To agree a date for the January 2019 Borough District of Drogheda Meeting

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Bell, seconded by P. Smith and agreed by the members to hold the January meeting of the Borough District of Drogheda on 7th January, 2019.

Minute No. 116/18

Part 8 Report in respect of Development Works at 68-69 West Street, Drogheda

This was proposed by Cllr. P. Bell, seconded by Cllr. P. Smith and agreed by the members.

Minute No. 117/18

Part 8 Report in respect of Refurbishment Works at Drogheda Civic Offices, Fair Street

This was proposed by Cllr. T. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. O. Tully and agreed by the members.

A discussion on the submissions received took place. A request for the figure on how much was received from the Insurance from the fire at the Council offices in Fair Street in 2009 was requested. The timeframe for delivery of this project was requested. The consultants and staff of Louth County Council were thanked for their work on the proposed refurbishment works.

Minute No. 118/18

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Bell
Seconded by: Cllr. P. Smith

"That this Council in response to littering crisis in Drogheda convene a special workshop meeting with the relevant Council Officials and Elected members for the purpose of considering and agreeing the most effective response to this criminal activity which is having a profound negative impact on the image and environment of our town, surrounding villages and townlands."

REPLY:

The Council has been aware of the issue with litter in Drogheda, and our response to date includes the following:

From the beginning of February of this year we have deployed an extra litter warden to Drogheda in addition to the warden previously assigned there on a permanent basis.

We have also increased our regular 5-hour foot patrols in which we target an area with all 6 of the litter wardens operating in County Louth. There have already been 4 such in Drogheda this year, (up from a full annual figure of 4 during all of 2017).

We have also tasked our three traffic wardens with reporting on any littering that they encounter during the course of their traffic warden patrols.

The wardens have issued some 221 fixed penalty notices so far in 2018 (up to 26th June) reflecting a significant increase in enforcement activity in Drogheda in the current year over previous years. Many of these will result in prosecutions in the latter half of the year (Note: unpaid fixed penalty notices are forwarded for prosecution within 6 months of their issue).

The wardens on the ground report an improvement in the occurrence of littering in the targeted areas of the town resulting from their enforcement efforts in the year to date. They are targeting continued improvements as the year progresses.

Consistent and effective enforcement provides the only real route to progress on this issue. With this in mind, the council will continue to deploy its available resources to best effect in order to tackle the issue of littering in Drogheda and throughout the County, and will keep progress on the issue under review.

The Members noted the reply. It was noted that the response was not keeping in line with the Motion. It was agreed that this issue would be brought to the attention of the Operations Department with a view to establishing a workshop.

Minute No. 119/18

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. F Godfrey
Seconded by: Cllr. P. Smith

"That the Borough District of Drogheda carries out a Health & Safety report on the deteriorating state of Ship Street and its houses on the Marsh Road, and issue a report to the Council."

REPLY:

The Council is investigation the ownership of the dwellings on Ship St and will report back to Council on its finding when completed.

The Members noted the reply.

Minute No. 120/18

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Bell
Seconded by: Cllr. T. Byrne

"That Louth County Council take necessary steps to ensure pedestrian safety for the residents of Knockbrack Downs and Knockbarck Close by installing a pedestrian crossing on Matthews Lane, essential road markings, additional weight restriction signs and electronic speed signs."

REPLY:

A traffic and pedestrian survey will be undertaken at this location to assess fully the extent of the problem and the requirement for a solution. Subject to verification of need on the basis of this survey, low cost safety funding will be sought to enable works to be carried out at this location during the coming year.

The Members noted the Motion.

Minute No. 121/18

Notice of Motion

**Proposed by: Cllr. F. Godfrey
Seconded: Cllr. P. Smith**

"That Louth County Council reclaims the North Quay port area (from old Sound Shop on North Quay to Donor's Green), presently being used by the Port Company for on-street car parking and for port business and commerce. Louth County Council should reclaim this area and make it available for the use of the people of Drogheda for river walks and other recreational and tourism facilities."

REPLY:

North Quay, The Mall and Merchants Quay are owned by the Drogheda Port Company and there are no plans to acquire the property by Louth County Council.

The Members noted the Motion. It was noted that the Port Company have co-operated with the Council during the Fleadh Cheoil 2018 and provided civic space at this area.

Minute No. 122/18

Notice of Motion

**Proposed by: Cllr. P. Smith
Seconded by: Cllr. P. Bell**

"Calling on the Council to carry out speed tests on the Old Slane Road and the Mell Road as a matter of urgency. Both roads converge at Leonard's Cross, a dangerous junction and for the Engineering Section to give their opinion for the need or not, for a pedestrian crossing at this junction or other appropriate location."

REPLY:

This junction has been included in the 2019 Low Cost Safety proposal that was sent to the Department some weeks ago.

The Members noted the Motion. It was noted if the funding application is successful and the low cost safety measures are implemented, the Council can then determine what is required.

Minute No. 123/18

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Bell and agreed by the Members to suspend standing orders and extend the meeting time by a further 5 minutes.

Minute No. 124/18

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. K. Flood
Seconded by: Cllr. J. Byrne

"This Council, recognising that the recent removal by Louth County Council of parking spaces on the North Strand has had a severely adverse affect on the ability of North Strand Residents to park on their own street, will reintroduce all previously removed parking spaces or provide alternative parking arrangements for residents on the North Strand."

REPLY:

During the course of works to improve road safety and the public realm at the North Strand Road during August 2018, in the order of 10 parking spaces on the south side of the road were removed, thereby widening the usable carriageway width to safely accommodate traffic movements which includes HGV traffic using the Port. The improvement to the public realm and to traffic movements will benefit the residents of the area.

Parallel parking for residents is already provided on the other side of this road; there are approximately 12- 14 no. spaces left on the north side for an equivalent number of residential houses.

The Members noted the Motion.

Minute No. 125/18

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. K. Flood
Seconded by: Cllr. J. Byrne

"This Council will provide speed ramps or alternative traffic calming measures in the Termon Abbey estate."

REPLY:

The South Louth Area office have added this estate to the speed check list and it will be carried out this month. The results of that check will then determine if Traffic Calming Measures are required and what kind of speed control should be deployed.

The Members noted the Motion.

The meeting then concluded.

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

Date: _____

Mayor: _____

Meeting Administrator: _____