

Municipal District of Dundalk – December 2020

Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Dundalk held in The Council Chamber Co. Hall, Dundalk on Tuesday 1st December 2020 at 5.15 p.m.

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Emma Coffey

Members: Councillors: M. Butler, E. Corrigan S. Kelly, A. McKevitt, K. Meenan, L. Reilly, J. Reilly, T. Sharkey, A. Watters, M. Yore

Officials: Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator
Frank Pentony, Director of Services
Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services
Mark Johnson, Senior Engineer

Apologies: Cllr. C. Keelan

Minute No. 99/20

Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 3rd November 2020 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. S. Kelly and seconded by Cllr. A. McKevitt.

Minute No. 100/20

Matters Arising

None

Minute No. 101/20

Housing Progress Report

Cllr. T. Sharkey advised of statistics of Housing Need in Louth and wanted it noted that Dundalk Municipal District had a much higher percentage on the housing list than in the mid-Louth area, and thought this should be given consideration in the Development Plan and in distribution of allocations. A query on HAP which was described as a volatile provision of housing was raised.

He queried whether any consideration was given as to whether mental health and relationship breakdown issues impacted on the need for units of homeless accommodation for single male occupants as the age and gender profile of Homeless figures indicated that a large % was made up of Males of certain age bracket.

Cllr. E. Coffey enquired if Drogheda figures were similar to Dundalk and Cllr. T. Sharkey confirmed that they were.

Members asked about Housing Maintenance provision and Cllr. K. Meenan asked if the Minister had commented on same.

Cllr. E. Corrigan enquired if Covid had prevented access to Housing.

Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services for Housing advised members that presentation figures were up since Covid as more resources were diverted to Homeless HAP and phone lines were opened to those wishing to avail of services. He also advised that Dundalk and Drogheda were growth centres with greater housing stock reflecting need and the Minister was aware of maintenance funding issues.

Minute No. 102/20

Operations and Marine Progress Report

Members discussed the report as issued and highlighted the following as requiring further action:

- Sweeping of leaves/broken glass in various locations
 - Around shopping areas
 - Schools
 - On cycle lanes
 - On footpaths forcing pedestrians onto roads
 - Ravensdale Church
 - Hyde park and cycle lanes around

It was suggested that the council review its policy on tree planting at roadside to include non-deciduous trees.

- Signage requested / Review of signage:
 - At schools
 - To Faughart Graveyard
 - In Dowdashill Graveyard to direct traffic of one way system
 - At Barrack St / Jocelyn St Junction
 - Blackrock beach behind bus garage to advise it is public
- Road safety issues advised
 - Ballymac road around bus stop
 - Junction at Shrine
 - Hoeys Lane Dundalk
- Update on any Non slip measures requested on the surface of The Square
- Cycle lanes
 - requested on Newry Road Bypass
 - Improvements requested on Avenue Rd to Dublin Rd and
 - Request Council to talk to NTA for connectivity to DKIT, Nat. Pen etc
 - Change name of Grey way
- Query on what €1m active travel fund was used for
- Back of Carlingford Library was described as Jungle
- Drainage/flooding problem requiring action in the following areas:
 - Clermont Road, – ongoing 2.5 years
 - Red Cow roundabout
 - Lennonstown Road
- Footpath repairs
 - in the Laurels/St Oliver Plunkett Park Area

- to increase the size at Mount Hamilton Estate
- to pull back foliage on old Dublin Road from Fairways to Sextons
- Update on gates at Dowdalshill Graveyard and light in graveyard.
- An audit of bins was requested at Blackrock
- Request for CCTV at Blackrock Park estate
- Lowering of Water pressure in Rathcor from 5 to 2.5 bars was described as problematic
- Green area at Greenore dug up and causing anger with residents.
- Request council work with bodies to secure any sports grant funding available
- Request for Council to purchase the Old Windmill was made
- Breakdown on Low Cost Safety Measures criteria for funding for 2021

Mark Johnson, Senior Engineer advised on all operations matters raised. Members were advised that lowering of water pressure was a matter for Irish Water, however the council were aware of the water conservation efforts and that 1 bar was deemed sufficient for households, Blackrock bins were sponsored by local tidy town groups.

Directors of Services, Paddy Donnelly and Frank Pentony advised that Anti Social Behaviour was a matter for gardai and CCTV was not going to be installed at Blackrock park due to monitoring issues and data protection issues regarding filming of underage children. It was also indicate that the purchase of the Old Windmill had been explored but it was deemed not a viable project at this time.

Minute No. 103/20

Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) Nomination

Cllr. S. Kelly proposed that this item be deferred until the January meeting, Cllr. A. McKeivitt seconded the proposal.

Minute No. 104/20

Dundalk Allocation of Members Community Grants

To approve Members Community Grant Allocations as circulated with the agenda.

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Yore
Seconded by: Cllr. S. Kelly

Minute No. 105/20

Sympathies

Cllr. E. Coffey issued condolences to Cllr. C. Keelan and the family and friends of Siobhan McKeever.

Cllr. L. Reilly offered condolences to the Mulligan family on the death of their son Jason.

Cllr. S. Kelly offered condolences to Billy Lawless.

Minute No. 106/20

Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to Omeath who was runner-up in the 2020 Pride of Place competition, Dundalk Football Club, Louth-Mourne Team, Mickey Harte and EPS Project.

Minute No. 107/20

Amendment of Standing Orders to Facilitate Remote Attendance

Proposed by: Cllr. E. Coffey

Seconded by: Cllr. L. Reilly

It was agreed to amend standing orders to facilitate remote attendance and that the wording of the amendment was in line with County Council and other District Standing Order Amendments.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meeting Administrator: _____