

Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Dundalk held in the Town Hall, Dundalk, on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2014

**In attendance:**

**Cathaoirleach:** Cllr. D. Breathnach

**Members:** Councillors: M Butler, E. Corrigan, M. Dearey, M. Doyle, C. Keelan, J. Loughran, J. McGahon, K. Meenan, P. Savage, T. Sharkey, M. Yore

**Officials:** Joan Martin, Chief Executive  
Bernie Woods, Head of Finance  
Frank Pentony, Director of Services  
Gerry Kelly, Senior Engineer  
David Storey, Senior Executive Officer  
Fiona Downes, Meetings Administrator

**Apologies:** Cllr. J. Green  
Paddy Donnelly, Meetings Administrator

**Minute No. 22/14**

**Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2014, were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. M. Dearey and seconded by Cllr. M. Butler.

**Minute No. 23/14**

**Matters Arising**

Re Minute No. 19/14 Cllr. M. Butler enquired re status of same. The Director of Services advised that that the notice would be published next Wednesday.

Re minute 18/14 Cllr. M. Doyle enquired re progress on conducting survey. The Senior Engineer advised that it would be tackled at the end of the year subject to funding being available under the Road Works Programme 2014.

**Minute 24/14**

**Municipal District Budgetary Plan**

The Chief Executive, outlined the provisions of the Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Dundalk as well as outlining the new multi-stage process under the Local Government Reform Act and advised that there is a discretionary piece of money to be spent according to priorities and that the members may adopt the Draft

Budgetary Plan of €50,000 with or without amendments. There is a facility in the legislation for charges to be increased or decreased which would result in an addition or subtraction of income from the general municipal allocation. The Chief Executive suggested leaving it as is and to decide at a later stage where the monies are to be spent.

A discussion followed covering the following areas:

- Look at budget as part of overall budgetary process and that it must be given same priority.
- Look at the population of towns and how the budget is apportioned between the municipalities. There must be a sense of equity. That the amount allocated to Dundalk is disproportionate.
- The Dundalk Environs Plan must be considered and that the projects undertaken must be visible, sustainable real projects such as solar powered pedestrian beacons outside schools that have no pedestrian crossings in place.
- The importance of a seamless delivery of service across the three different areas, in areas such as winter gritting, street cleaning etc. How can the winter gritting service be provided as before when Louth County Council has reduced the number of gritters from seven to four and whether a health and safety impact assessment has been carried out with regard to reducing the crew from a two man crew to one man operation and whether the four gritters can cover what seven did previously.

The Chief Executive noted all comments made and advised that the same funding will be there and it is the accumulation of the three old budgets.

Regarding the comments made about the winter gritting the Chief Executive advised that this was an operational matter and that it was a matter of finding efficiencies and cutting back on costs.

The Senior Engineer gave a briefing re winter gritting and that all other private operators and some councils operate on this basis. The routes have been reorganised and can be carried out by the four gritters. They have estimated a cost saving of €160,000 per annum and that there will be additional savings with less rest time being utilised.

Cllr. M. Doyle commended the council for the proposed efficiencies.

**Proposed by:** Cllr. M. Doyle

**Seconded by:** Cllr. M. Butler

**And resolved.**

That the Draft Budgetary Plan of €50,000 be adopted.

**Minute 25/14**

**Louth Heritage Forum**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. M. Butler  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. D. Breathnach  
**And resolved.**

That Cllr. M. Dearey be elected as representative to the Louth Heritage Forum.

**Minute 26/14**

**Housing & Communities Progress Report**

The Senior Executive Officer gave a briefing on the new Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) and that a full presentation would be given at the October council meeting. The members noted the report for September 2014 and queries in relation to same were addressed by him. These included issues around anti social behaviour (ASB) and private rented dwellings and whether the HAP tenant is under the control of the ASB policy, homelessness – how much is avoidable and due to lack of access to rent supplement especially relating to single men with no dependents, consideration of designated housing units for homeless persons through the Housing SPC, provision of localised version of housing report, provision of housing clinics for Dundalk

The Council is to seek advice on whether tenants in receipt of HAP in private rented dwellings could be made sign up to an anti social behaviour code.

**Minute 27/14**

**Operations, Infrastructure & Marine Progress Report**

The members noted the report for September 2014 and the queries in relation to same were addressed by the Director of Services. These included issues around Clanbrassil Street Improvement Works and timing of works being January, i.e. sale time, the organising of official opening of Greenway-Omeath to Carlingford scheme, the proposed second level school and park at Marshes Lower and that discussions are still ongoing with the landowner and that the council is still doing inspection with regard to taking in charge of estates but that a revised circular is due to be published by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government in the near future.

**Notices of Motion**

**Minute 28/14**

**Proposed by: Cllr. M. Doyle**  
**Seconded by: Cllr. J. McGahon**

"That this Municipal District assess the use of the lane/road beside Toolfix, Dublin Street by vehicles entering and exiting the car park at the rear. It appears to be currently used in a manner which is unsafe."

**Reply**

**The Council will examine this matter and will prepare a report for the Members on the outcome of its investigations.**

The members stated that the traffic volumes using both the lane at Toolfix and Stapleton Drive have increased due to the change in road layout at Tesco's, and that HGVs and buses are unable to turn right and cannot complete 360° angle turn at the roundabout. They requested that increased priority be given to the supply of above mentioned report and that perhaps improved signage be provided.

**Notices of Question**

**Minute 29/14**

**Cllr. T. Sharkey**

'Has a safety audit been carried out on the N53 and what are the findings?'

**Reply**

**A Stage 4 Road Safety audit in accordance with the requirements of NRA HD 19/12 – Road Safety Audit was conducted on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2013. The findings of the report have been acted on. At the request of the members, Council staff consulted with the Gardai and reviewed recent traffic accident information. No factors of relevance to the roadway were identified as contributory causes.**

There being no other business the meeting concluded.

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cathaoirleach: \_\_\_\_\_

Meetings Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_