

Municipal District of Dundalk – October 2021

Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Dundalk hosted in The Council Chamber County Hall, Dundalk on Tuesday 5th October at 5.15 p.m.

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Maria Doyle

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

Apologies: Cllr. C. Keelan.

Officials: Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator
Frank Pentony, Director of Services
John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer
Gerry McCormack, Assistant Engineer
Martin McCreesh, Senior Executive Engineer

Minute No. 94/21

Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 7th September were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. Liam Reilly and seconded by Cllr. Emma Coffey.

Minute No. 95/21

Matters Arising

- Minute No. 85/21 - Resurfacing of Seafield Manor query raised and answered
- Minute No. 91/21 - Blackrock Beach safety audit raised. The Cathaoirleach advised dissatisfaction with response from Joe McGuinness which was read to Members by the Meetings Administrator.
- Minute No. 90/21 - Members confirmed they wanted a 9.30 a.m. slot for Budget meeting in November.
- Minute No. 86/21 - Members requesting an update on Housing Estate Speed limit byelaws were advised of an end of year target.

Minute No. 96/21

Housing Progress Report

Members discussed the report as issued and John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer, advised on all Housing items raised.

The following items were highlighted:

- Housing maintenance budget in Louth -v- other counties
- Confirmation that there is a checklist for properties prior to re-letting previously vacant properties - request made for this list to be forwarded to Members by Housing

Minute No. 97/21

Operations and Marine Progress Report

Members discussed the report as issued. Martin McCreesh, Senior Executive Engineer advised on all Operations items raised, and agreed to refer some operation items such as queries on traffic counters, illegal signage on roadways and roundabouts, removal of bins, tree maintenance back to members of staff.

Among the items raised, the following were highlighted:

- A request was made for Willie Walsh, Senior Executive Officer to attend next meeting to report on various items such as bin removal, parking issues at various locations and removal and extension of pay parking in areas, illegal signage on roadside and roundabouts etc.
- Disparity and variety of quality of signage on roundabouts under the sponsorship scheme cited and confusing directional arrow at DK Credit union sponsorship sign.
- Road safety issues highlighted by principal of Bush School to Elected Reps, some items were advised to be referred back to the Department of Education and ETB property section. A request was made for joint meeting onsite with all parties.
- Immediate need for Disabled Parking Bays in Omeath prior to larger infrastructure works stated.
- Traffic light sequencing issues in town, and broken button causing frequent changes at traffic lights at railway station, causing tailbacks.
- Road works on Armagh Road are being carried out by a developer under a road opening licence to facilitate a new junction going into a development and are subject to planning conditions.
- Installation of restraints on Ability Swing at St. Helena's Park still outstanding.

The following non operation items were raised:

- Cycle Lanes - falls under Active Travel
- Noise pollution - refer to Environment
- Requests for a briefing and update on Bridge Street to be forwarded to Infrastructure.
- Request for TII to meet with Councillors to be referred to Infrastructure to action
- Similarly request for NTA/Bus Éireann to meet Councillors to be referred to John O'Hagan
- Sextons, Old Dublin Road, request for temporary speed limit is a matter for Infrastructure.
- Road work safety concerns should be referred to Jerome Lambe Health and Safety Officer.
- ESB broken cable is for ESB to fix unless LCC damaged.
- Group Water Scheme query should be referred to Water Services.
- Bus Shelters - infrastructure - Frank Pentony advised of 14 new shelters going in county wide.
- Query on maintenance of grass area between kerb and road at new unopened Park & Share facility and litter management to be referred to infrastructure.

Minute No. 98/21

Taking in Charge

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting and Gerry McCormack, Assistant Engineer responded on all Matters.

The following matters were noted:

- Tudor Grove taking in charge process is complete.
- Appendix 15 Procedures for Taking in Charge of Recently Completed Housing Estates on the Louth County Council website is the current valid process document.
- Harbour Grove works have progressed and the taking in charge process is about to start.
- Any taking in charge process is bond dependant.

Minute No. 99/21

Dundalk Allocation of Members Community Grants

Approval of the Dundalk Allocation of Members Community Grants as circulated with the agenda was:

Proposed by: Cllr. Sean Kelly

Seconded by: Cllr. Maeve Yore

And resolved.

Minute No. 100/21

Roads to be Declared as Public Roads

In accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993, the roads in the development known as Station Heights, Carlingford and in Clos Na Rian, Ramparts, Co. Louth were declared as Public Roads, and all public open spaces, public lighting, unallocated car parks, sewers (excluding service connections), watermains were taken in charge in accordance with S180(4) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended. This was:

Proposed by: Cllr. Antóin Watters

Seconded by: Cllr. Marianne Butler

And resolved.

Minute No. 101/21

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. Maeve Yore

Seconded by: Cllr. Maria Doyle

“That Louth County Council organise an Independent Engineers road safety audit and an Independent Engineers written opinion of the auto track sweep path analysis carried out at Rock Road/Sandy Lane, junction due to town and village funding for footpath upgrade in May 2021.”

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

LCC do not intend to carry out a road safety audit, the Independent Sweep path analysis demonstrates that buses can negotiate the turn in accordance with DMURS.

Cllr. M. Yore stated she disagreed with the response from Director of Services, Frank Pentony, and expressed grave concerns on this item. The question of whether there was a larger national issue with regards to Insurance was raised. Frank Pentony advised of obligation to adhere to DMURS standards. Following lengthy discussion by several Members the Cathaoirleach instructed that this motion be adjourned for further attention at next month’s meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date: _____
Cathaoirleach: _____
Meeting Administrator: _____