

Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Dundalk held in the Town Hall, Dundalk, on Tuesday, 1st September, 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, K. Meenan, P. Savage, T. Sharkey, M. Yore

Officials: Frank Pentony, Director of Services
Gerry Kelly, Senior Engineer
David Storey, Senior Executive Officer
Mary Murtagh, Senior Executive Officer
Paddy Donnelly, Meetings Administrator

Apologies: n/a

Minute No. 82/15

Best Wishes

Cllr Declan Breathnach proposed that good wishes be extended to Mr. Eddie Filgate, former member of Louth County Council, who will on 16th September celebrate his 100th birthday. The Councillor proposed that best wishes be extended to the former elected member on reaching a significant age, and that there are not many elected members who have, or will, achieve such an age. This was agreed by all.

Minute No. 83/15

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th July, 2015, were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. P. Savage and seconded by Cllr. M. Yore.

Minute No. 84/15

Matters Arising

Re Minute No. 75/15 Cllr. Sharkey enquired as to what works were being carried out to facilitate the road closure on the N53 where significant road improvement works were ongoing. Mr. Gerry Kelly, Senior Engineer addressed the matter indicating that some strengthening works had been undertaken and that they are hedge cutting on the minor roads.

Re Minute No. 74/15 Cllr. D. Breathnach welcomed the prompt action of the Housing staff in relation to the removal of an unauthorised encampment in recent times and asked the staff to keep the matter under review.

Re Minute No. 75/15 Cllr. C. Keelan raised the matter of low cost safety measures and speed cushions in the vicinity of Dowdallshill.

Re Minute 73/15 Cllr. C. Keelan raised the matter of the role of An Garda Síochána at the pattern in Dowdallshill and commented that the work by An Garda Síochána was what was necessary on the day and thanked them for their role.

The matter of the attendance of staff from the Infrastructure section at every second meeting was raised, and this will be addressed in due course by the Director of Services.

Minute No. 85/15

Municipal Budget Allocations 2015

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Maria Doyle outlined that this matter had been dealt with as per Minute 80/15 at the July meeting, and enquired whether a full list of footpaths had been generated by the Engineering staff. Mr. G. Kelly advised that the list was currently being drafted and will be circulated to the members in due course.

Minute no. 86/15

Housing and Communities Progress Report

Mr. David Storey, Senior Executive Officer, presented the Housing and Communities Progress report dated 24th August 2015 and addressed the members queries in relation to same, which included the role of the Louth Volunteer Network in the Cox's Demesne Regeneration Project, the homelessness situation across the county, the Clos Na Mara proposed development of 10 units, and the ongoing rent assessment programme.

Minute No. 87/15

Infrastructure, Operations and Marine Progress Reports

Mr. Gerry Kelly presented the September report in respect of Operations, Marine and Infrastructure. The Senior Engineer addressed queries in relation to the Bellurgan embankment, the proposed works in regard to improvement of footpaths in the Clanbrassil Street area, low cost safety measures and river bed de-silting.

In responding to members queries, Mr. Kelly advised that Infrastructure were interested in stock piling appropriate material for use on the Bellurgan embankment project and he would ask members to contact Mr. Frank Magee, Senior Executive Engineer in the Infrastructure Department if they could identify a source of material

that may be used for the project and Mr. Magee will arrange to have same stock piled in an appropriate location.

Minute No. 88/15

Special Speed Limits

Mr. Gerry Kelly raised the matter of the proposed 30kph speed limit in housing estates and advised the members that 26 estates had responded to the call and that these were currently being considered. In discussion with the members, Mr. Kelly confirmed that late submissions would be accepted from estates that were unaware of the initial call for requests in respect of this new speed limit.

Mr. Kelly explained to the members that the intention would be, subject to funding, to roll out the 30kph scheme across the estates in the coming years. The initial roll out would see the introduction of a speed limit scheme, followed by the erection of speed limit signs in the estates with ongoing assessment of speed limits. Where speed limits were seen not to have reduced, additional signage would be erected. If this did not address the matter they would, in accordance with the policy adopted by Council, examine the possibility of the instillation of measures to reduce seeding. Mr. Kelly pointed out that it would be important that the majority of residents were in agreement with such measures being put into the estates, in order to have complete cooperation in regard to their instillation.

Cllr. Breathnach encouraged the introduction of variable speed signs which could be moved from place to place in the county, as they are more effective and give immediate information to drivers of what speeds they are travelling at.

Minute No. 89/15

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. Declan Breathnach
Seconded by: Cllr. Peter Savage

"That the additional funding for roads allocated to Louth in 2015 be used to improve the various roads listed as tertiary and priority be given to roads already on file who requested consideration for both CIS and LIS schemes as funding became available. Further, that the percentage suggested by the circular of 10% for LIS and 20% for CIS be the minimum spent on these roads."

Reply

The roads budget has been reduced by close to 50% since 2008, and since then the funding has been allocated to roads carrying the most traffic and which were capable of being maintained without major expenditure. This maximised the benefits gained by the travelling public and made complete sense from an asset management perspective. As a result, very little has been

spent on local tertiary roads and no Local Improvement Schemes(LIS) have been carried out. LIS's are works on private lanes and as we cannot maintain all the roads in public ownership then it is unreasonable to spend scarce resources on private lanes.

In 2013 and 2014 additional grant aid was provided to carry out CIS schemes. However, no additional funding was provided in 2015, but the option of allocating a percentage of our grants to CIS was allowed. However, when the additional grants were announce in July, it did not allow sufficient time to put together an equitable, transparent scheme for 2015, that would have the expenditure incurred within the time limits laid down by the Department. In addition, the principle of spending our grants on schemes which maximised the benefit to the travelling public would not have been met. Therefore, it is not proposed to carry out any CIS or LIS with the additional grant aid as requested. The additional grant aid is to be spent as indicated in the Operations Report.

Minute No. 90/15

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. John McGahon
Seconded by: Cllr. Peter Savage

"In order to preserve the aesthetic beauty of Carlingford Village, Louth County Council should (a) remove the fencing panels alongside the Holy Trinity Wall on Church Yard, and (b) repair the Ghan House Tower wall which has become derelict in recent years."

Reply

The wall at the Holy Trinity Church is unstable and the fencing is there to protect the public from falling masonry. The responsibility for the wall rests with the Representative Church Body, and until such time as the wall is secured the fencing will have to remain.

The damage to the wall at Ghan House is a result of works carried out when the new sewer was being laid in Carlingford. As the contractor involved is no longer in business, the responsibility for the repairs has fallen to Louth County Council. Some discussions with the owner of Ghan House have taken place over the years, without a resolution being found. The matter does need to be brought to a conclusion and funding needs to be found to carry out the work.

Minute No. 91/15

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. Maria Doyle
Seconded by: Cllr. Marianne Butler

"That the resurfacing of Sandfield Gardens, Blackrock be included on the work programme for 2016"

Reply

Sandfield Gardens will be considered for inclusion in the 2016 road works programme. However, the budgetary process and grant allocations will determine what funds are available for road improvements and Sandfield Gardens will have to compete with other roads for funding.

Minute No. 92/15

Notice of Motion

**Proposed by: Cllr. Maria Doyle
Seconded by: Cllr. Peter Savage**

"That a comprehensive engineer's report be carried out in relation to flooding at Clermont Park as a matter of urgency."

Reply

This matter has been referred to the Area Engineer for investigation and examination of the existing drainage system.

Minute No. 93/15

Correspondence

The members noted 2 items of correspondence from the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine dated 21st July 2015, and 25th August 2015 in regard to harness racing. Members welcomed the receipt of the correspondence.

Minute No. 94/15

Votes of Sympathy

Votes of sympathy were extended to:
Mr. Frank Pentony, Director of Services on the recent death of his mother.
Ms. Colette Moss, Senior Executive Officer on the recent death of her mother.

There being no other business the meeting concluded.

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

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meetings Administrator: _____