

Municipal District of Dundalk – September 2020

Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Dundalk held in An Táin Theatre, Crowe Street, Dundalk on Tuesday 1st September, 2020 at 5.15 p.m.

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Emma Coffey

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

Officials: Alan Sherry, Meetings Administrator
Aoife Lawler, Acting Director of Services
Colette Moss, Acting Director of Services
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer
William Walsh, Senior Executive Officer
Bernadette McArdle, Acting Senior Executive Engineer
Brian Brooks, Acting Executive Planner
Adrian Kerley, Acting Executive Engineer

Minute No. 53/20

Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 7th July 2020 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. M. Butler and seconded by Cllr. S. Kelly.

Minute No. 54/20

Matters Arising

- Dissatisfaction was expressed with the Council's position in relation to the provision of litter bins at the entrances to Muirhevnamor Park.
- Members expressed their strong wish to review the final draft of the safety audit in relation to the St. Nicholas quarter of Clanbrassil Street when it's ready.
- They also expressed their desire for the Municipal District to review the final plan in relation to Dowdallshill burial ground.
- The members again requested that they be provided with a schedule for the road resurfacing programme.
- Members expressed frustration in the delay in receiving a copy of the Lynch's Lane report requested previously.
- An update in relation to the HGV study of the LS7108-28 was requested as well as in relation to the cleaning of bollards, traffic islands and road signage.
- A query was raised in relation to whether or not the roads in the housing estates voted to be declared public roads at the July meeting were now taken in charge by the Council.
- The members requested that the monthly query tracker issued to the members should be received at least 24 hours before the meeting.

- Several members expressed frustration with the level of communication they receive in relation to queries raised.

Minute No. 55/20

Housing Progress Report

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

- It was agreed to correct page 6 of the report circulated for the next meeting.

Minute No. 56/20

Operations and Marine Progress Report

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

- An update in relation to the roll out of more parklets in the town was requested.
- A query was raised in relation to the process for deciding on the location of loading bays.
- A query was raised in relation to whether or not sight lines have been reviewed at the Park Street junction.
- A safety audit was requested in relation to Scoil Naomh Brid in Omeath.
- Several members expressed their concern at the level of weeds in the town for the second year running.
- It was requested that the Council write to the relevant department seeking details of the CES schemes and their supervisors in the Municipal District.
- Guidance in relation to the procedure for the closing of a right of way was requested.
- Dog fouling signage was requested for the Mill Road.
- Details of the number of outdoor staff compared to 2015 were requested.
- The need to have the lights switched on at the walkway behind Regan's Terrace was raised.
- The need to clear gullies after the recent heavy rain during the summer was raised.
- It was agreed to investigate who was responsible for the maintenance of the Mooretown sluice gate.
- A query was raised as to why the disabled parking bay at the post office on Clanbrassil Street was moved.
- It was pointed out that there is currently no access to the Kane Old graveyard as the gates are locked.
- It was suggested that a safety campaign was needed as parents were no longer able to drive into school gates creating more traffic setting down on the road.

Minute No. 57/20

Part 8 Carlingford Lough Greenway – Omeath Pier to National Border

Several members expressed the view that a decision on the proposal should be deferred due to their concerns around the level of consultation with landowners and the possibility of a legal challenge. It was agreed to hold a workshop with the members before meeting to vote on the proposal.

Minute No. 58/20

Dundalk Allocation of Members Community Grants

It was pointed out that item 49 was a duplication of item 48 and it was proposed by Cllr. S. Kelly, seconded by Cllr. A. Watters and agreed by the members to approve items 1 to 48 on the list as circulated with the agenda.

Minute No. 59/20

Vacancy on the An Táin Arts Centre Board

Filling of two vacancies on the An Táin Arts Centre Board arising from the election & nomination of Cllr. J. McGahon and Cllr. E. McGreehan respectively to Seanad Éireann.

Proposed by: Cllr. A. McKevitt
Seconded by: Cllr. M. Doyle
And resolved

Proposed by: Cllr. S. Kelly
Seconded by: Cllr. E. Coffey
And resolved

That Cllr. Seán Kelly and Cllr. John Reilly shall fill the vacancies on An Táin Arts Centre Board arising from the election of Cllr. J. McGahon and Cllr. E. McGreehan to Seanad Éireann.

Minute No. 60/20

Vacancy on the Peace IV Partnership

Filling of the vacancy on the Peace IV Partnership arising from the nomination of Cllr. E. McGreehan to Seanad Éireann.

Proposed by: Cllr. S. Kelly
Seconded by: Cllr. J. Reilly
And resolved

That Cllr. Andrea McKevitt shall fill the vacancy on Peace IV Partnership arising from the election of Cllr. E. McGreehan to Seanad Éireann.

Minute No. 61/20

Vacancy on the Memorandum of Understanding Committee with Newry & Mourne District Council

Filling of the vacancy on the MOU committee arising from the nomination of Cllr. E. McGreehan to Seanad Éireann.

Proposed by: Cllr. S. Kelly
Seconded by: Cllr. M. Butler
And resolved

That Cllr. Andrea McKeivitt shall fill the vacancy on Memorandum of Understanding Committee with Newry & Mourne District Council arising from the election of Cllr. E. McGreehan being elected to Seanad Éireann.

Minute No. 62/20

Suspension of Standing Orders

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Butler, seconded by Cllr. E. Corrigan and agreed by the members to suspend standing orders in order to allow the meeting to continue for a further 15 minutes.

Minute No. 63/20

Notice of Motion

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

“That Louth County Council install traffic calming measures in Medebawn, Avenue Road, Dundalk in the interest of public safety.”

Reply from C. Duff, Director of Services, Operations:

This location will be added to the Traffic Count/Speed Test Analysis List to determine if traffic calming measures are required – Currently 18 no. on list to be completed.

Members noted the reply.

Minute No. 64/20

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. A. McKeivitt
Seconded by: Cllr. S. Kelly

“That Dundalk MD immediately writes to the Minister for Education, Norma Foley TD, and asks her to reverse the decision of the Department of Education to reduce the number of teaching posts at Rampart NS by two fulltime staff.”

Reply:

This is a matter for the members.

Members agreed the motion.

Minute No. 65/20

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Reilly
Seconded by: Cllr. M. Doyle

“Calling on Louth County Council to enhance the tourist information at Faughart graveyard.”

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

Faughart graveyard is not in the ownership of L.C.C and there is no budget available within the Council funds in 2020 for any tourism enhancement works at the graveyard. However, in conjunction with Monaghan and Cavan, a report was commissioned by the Local Action Groups (funded by Leader companies) to identify some heritage sites with tourism potential and to recommend works that could be undertaken in terms of interpretation and access. This report included Faughart graveyard and was completed in May 2020.

It is hoped that the LAG can utilise this report to apply to Louth Leader for funding to carry out some tourism enhancement works-signage, interpretation panel etc.

Members agreed the motion.

Minute No. 66/20

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Reilly

“Calling on Louth Country Council to upgrade the cattle and sheep grids at Bavan and Edentubber to prevent livestock’s wondering off the commonage of the Cooley mountains.”

Reply from C. Duff, Director of Services, Operations:

LCC will review the existing grids and repair if so required. In principal and going forward LCC will avoid installing any new cattle grids on public roads due to the dangers of crossing them on bicycles and also the low slip surface of the steel bars causing skidding especially if located in hilly areas.

The motion was deferred.

Minute No. 67/20

Votes of Sympathy

Paul Owens on the death of his wife Valerie.

Thiago Cortes.

Minute No. 68/20

Municipal District Annual Budget Meeting

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Yore, seconded by Cllr. S. Kelly and agreed by the members to have the MD annual budget meeting before or after the full council meeting in October

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meeting Administrator: _____