

Municipal District of Dundalk - September 2021

Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Dundalk hosted in The Council Chamber County Hall, Dundalk on Tuesday 7th September at 5.15 p.m. and attended remotely over MS Teams

In attendance:

[Present attendees = (P), Remote Attendees = (R)]

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Maria Doyle (P)

Members: Councillors M. Butler (P), E. Coffey (P), C. Keelan (P), S. Kelly (P), K. Meenan (P), L. Reilly (R), J. Reilly (R), T. Sharkey (P), A. Watters (P), M. Yore (P).

Apologies: Councillors E. Corrigan, A. McKeivitt.

Officials: Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator (P)
Frank Pentony, Director of Services (P)
Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services (P)
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer (P)
Martin McCreesh, Senior Executive Engineer (P)
Frank Magee, Senior Executive Engineer (P)
Emer O'Callaghan, Senior Executive Planner (P)
David Hanratty, Senior Engineer (P)

Minute No. 82/21

Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 6th July 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. Maeve Yore and seconded by Cllr. Antóin Watters.

Minute No. 83/21

Matters Arising

- None arising

Minute No. 84/21

Housing Progress Report

Members discussed the report as issued and Paddy Donnelly Director of Services, advised on all Housing items raised..

The following items were highlighted:

- No Windows and Doors Scheme currently, however 10 year Retrofit Scheme in place to bring houses up to B2 BER level includes all stock
- No date as yet for occupation of Halliday's Mills
- A request was made to include an item on the aggregated report on geographical location of applicant and length of time on waiting list. Members were advised a

GDPR review of the process had been carried out and a possible tenant identification issue identified around linking individual waiting times to locations, but that some level of general report is going to be added from next month

Minute No. 85/21

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 bottle banks, school wardens, dog fouling, tree maintenance back to members of staff.

Among the items raised, the following were highlighted:

- Seafield Manor resurfacing included the estate only and not adjoining roads
- Ecco Road works were over a 2 -3 year basis
- Councillors request notification where there is any upcoming change or delay to planned works as they inform residents
- Sextons, Old Dublin Road, still a matter for Planning and Infrastructure
- Consideration for HGV bans on road can only be given after axle loads and traffic counts are studied
- Maintenance of Greenway will be looked at
- Installation of restraints on Ability Swing at St. Helena's Park will be examined
- Request for extension of pedestrian walkway at Tudor Grove to N52 would be brought back to Area Engineer for consideration if resources allow
- Broken handrail at Omeath Jetty would be repaired and cleaning of slippery surface done (subject to resources)
- Policy around Planting of Wildflowers; native species, subsequent maintenance and management was discussed, with Dowdallshill wildflower planting causing disagreement
- Any works at Dowdallshill Graveyard requested to be notified in advance to Dowdallshill working group committee
- Muirhevnamor alleyway behind numbers 40 - 44, grey area re responsibility
- Offer from Landowners to move hedges, and to donate ditches to improve roads on N53 and Kilkerry in exchange for works, will be looked at on the ground first
- IPB - pot hole app - pot hole damage to vehicles to be reported directly to IPB
- Request for Traffic Management Count at Dromena Road following accidents
- Review of 2022 Road Sweeping areas requested as newer TIC not on list

Members were reminded there were no essential works until June, and works now had to be prioritised.

The following non operation items were raised:

- Airtricity - App map not updating new estates
- Irish Water - Brown water in taps

Minute No. 86/21

Infrastructure Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting and John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer responded on all Infrastructure Matters with Frank Pentony, Director of Service responding also on some matters.

The following matters were noted:

- Regeneration plans for Omeath will look at Disabled Access and Parking Bays, ducting for EV Chargers will also be installed, but provision of EV chargers is a matter for suppliers
- Housing Estate Speed Limit Bye-Laws, circa 35 responses received but not all relevant, definitive list to be supplied by end of year
- Temporary speed limits are mainly employed for road construction works and for a maximum of 1 year
- Sandy Lane audit tracker has demonstrated that buses can get round, driver behaviour cited as causing issues with mounting pavements. Cllr Yore refuted this and requested a independent Safety Audit done, to include an audit track sweeping path analysis
- The seeding and fence work at Dundalk Athletic track has commenced, the bedding in period will help determine usage suitability; a wait and see approach is being adopted before further works planned
- A query raised on the number of Notices to farmers on hedge cutting during exempt period will be looked at

Minute No. 87/21

Part 8 Report - N53 Hackballscross to Rissan

In accordance with Section 179(4)(b) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), it was agreed to accept the recommendations of the Chief Executive in her report on the Part 8 at N53 Hackballscross to Rissan and proceed with the development as proposed.

This was proposed by Cllr. T. Sharkey, seconded by Cllr. E. Coffey and resolved.

Minute No. 88/21

Dundalk Allocation of Members Community Grants

Distribution of the allocation of Members Community Grants as detailed to Members, was proposed by Cllr. E. Coffey, seconded by Cllr. Kelly, and resolved.

Minute No. 89/21

Briefing on the MD Litter Management Plan

Members received a briefing on the process for the Dundalk Municipal District Litter Management Plan from David Hanratty, Senior Engineer.

Cllr. E. Coffey requested that where this and any item is going to public consultation, that Members be notified in advance.

Minute No. 90/21

To agree that the MD meet on 18 October to consider the Municipal Budget

Members discussed the proposal to meet on the 18th October to consider the Municipal Budget and it was agreed to meet before the Council Meeting at 9.30a.m. and then go to St. Gerards Hall for main council meeting.

Minute No. 91/21

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. Maria Doyle

Seconded by: Cllr. Maeve Yore

“That this Council carry out an assessment of current safety measures at Blackrock beach to ensure people using the beach are aware of the potential danger of being stranded by the incoming tide, and make improvements, if necessary.”

Reply from Mr. Joe McGuinness, Director of Services, Corporate and Emergency Services:

An assessment that was previously carried out by Water Safety Ireland has been implemented fully and reviewed on a regular basis. The hazard has never changed but mitigations have been enhanced. Public safety is contingent on heeding these warnings and complying with water safety advice both locally and from Water Safety Ireland generally.

Noting the response from Director of Services Joe McGuinness, Cllr. M. Doyle queried the time of the assessment, and the regularity of reviews.

Cllr. M. Doyle also suggested that a novel way of raising awareness outside of usual signage was needed, and requested an analysis be carried out to determine if a beach warden could be employed to alert people to danger, and that this be sent back to the Director.

Cllr. M. Yore advised that she had spoken to a John Leech in Irish Water Safety and that the last beach assessment in Blackrock was carried out in 2001, some 20 years ago, that Louth needed to request a new assessment from IWS, and that she wanted the Director of Services to commit to writing to IWS and getting this done.

A request for information on who the new Water Safety Officer would be and their associated qualifications for the job was also made, as Cllr. M. Yore understood the existing role holder was semi-retired.

Minute No. 92/21

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. John Reilly
Seconded by: Cllr. Sean Kelly

“I wish to ask Louth County Council to make a one off community grant payment to the Fatima Residents Association who are celebrating 70 years since the estate was built and also the Pearse Park area which will be celebrating 75 years in 2022.”

Reply from Mr. Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services, Housing and Quality of Life:

The Council do not make one-off grant payments to Resident Associations for the purpose as presented in the motion. However, should the Department funded scheme ‘The Big Hello’ return for 2022 the Community Section will consider any application submitted under this scheme from both locations.

Cllr. J. Reilly noted the generous response from Director, Paddy Donnelly, and looked forward to applying for funding under the scheme.

Cllr. E. Coffey noted that where residents associations existed there was a strong precedent of Dundalk Municipal District Members giving Councillor Allocations and supporting residents associations.

Minute No. 93/21

AOB

Members were reminded of a briefing on CFRAMs from Infrastructure the following evening at 5.30p.m.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meeting Administrator: _____