Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

Cruinniú Ceantar Buirge Dhroichead Átha - Borough District of Drogheda Meeting

Minutes of the Borough District of Drogheda Meeting held at Fair Street, Drogheda – Monday, 5th October 2026 at 4:15pm

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Councillor Declan Power

Members: Councillor(s) James Byrne, Kevin Callan, Eric Donovan, Anne-Marie Ford, Michelle Hall, Debbie McCole, Paddy McQuillan, Pio Smith, Ejiro O'Hare Stratton (online)

Apologies:

Officials:
David Conway, Chief Executive
David Jones, Director of Services
Bernadette Woods, Director of Services
Sinéad Dooley, Meetings Administrator
Anthony O'Donoghue, Senior Executive Officer
Christopher Kelly, Senior Executive Engineer
Irene McGahon, Acting Senior Executive Engineer
Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer
Elias Mlimbila, Assistant Parks Superintendent
Ben Holland, Assistant Engineer
Anne D Callan, Administrative Officer
Gavin McLaughlin, Communications Officer
Niamh Griffin, Assistant Staff Officer

Minute No. 100/26

Notice of Motion for Purpose of Dealing with Urgent Business

In compliance with Standing Order No. 20, Cllr. Donovan sought the consent of the Members to consider the following Emergency Notice of Motion as urgent business:

"I'm calling the members of the Drogheda Borough Council to express their serious alarm and concern at the determination of the Parades Commission in relation to granting of permission of the Drumcree Parade along the Garvaghy Road in Portadown. The members request that these concerns be conveyed to the Taoiseach and Tánaiste and call on the government in the context of its role as co-guarantor of the Good Friday Agreement, to raise the matter with the British

Government and seek to ensure that the concerns of the Garvaghy Road community are fully respected".

The proposal to consider the matter as urgent business was:

Proposed by: Cllr. Eric Donovan
Seconded by: Cllr. Debbie McCole

A roll call vote took place on the proposal to admit the motion as urgent business.

Name	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
James Byrne	1			
Kevin Callan	1			
Eric Donovan	1			
Anne-Marie Ford				1
Michelle Hall	1			
Debbie McCole	1			
Paddy McQuillan	1			
Ejiro O'Hare Stratton				1
Declan Power	1			
Pio Smith	1			
Total Votes	8	0	0	2

The proposal was carried and the motion was admitted for consideration as urgent business.

The Emergency Motion was subsequently considered and supported.

Minute No. 101/26

Minutes of Meeting held on 7th September 2026

The minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 7th September 2026 were confirmed on the:

Proposal of: Cllr. Debbie McCole
Seconded by: Cllr. Pio Smith
And Approved.

Minute No. 102/26

Matters Arising
None.

Minute No. 103/26

Draft Budgetary Plan for 2027

Director of Services, Ms. Bernadette Woods, presented the Draft Budgetary Plan for 2027 and advised that a General Municipal Allocation of €100,000 was proposed for the Borough District of Drogheda. Members were advised that consideration could also be given to local charges,

including pay parking charges, with any additional income generated being retained for Borough District purposes.

Following discussion the allocation of €100,000 for the Borough District of Drogheda for 2027 was approved.

Proposal of: Cllr. Pio Smith
Seconded by: Cllr. Michelle Hall
And Resolved.

Minute No. 104/26

Part 8 – The Glen, Drogheda

Senior Executive Engineer, Christopher Kelly, presented the Chief Executive's Report in respect of the Part 8 proposal for a Playground and Ancillary Works at The Glen, Drogheda. The report, prepared in accordance with Section 179(3) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), recommended that the development proceed as proposed.

Members acknowledged the significant work undertaken by Council staff and the need for additional playground provision on the north side of Drogheda. However, concerns were raised regarding the suitability of the proposed location. Matters highlighted included traffic volumes, road safety, parking provision, passive surveillance, accessibility and the potential for the facility to operate as a destination playground rather than a neighbourhood playground. Alternative locations and alternative approaches to playground provision were also discussed. Officials advised that a detailed site selection and consultation process had been undertaken and that the proposal had been developed in accordance with the County Development Plan and Play Policy objectives.

On the **proposal of Cllr. Pio Smith, seconded by Cllr. Kevin Callan,** and following a roll-call vote, the Members **rejected** the recommendation of the Chief Executive and did not approve the proposed Part 8 development for a Playground and Ancillary Works at The Glen, Drogheda.

The results of the roll call vote were as follows:

Name	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
James Byrne	1			
Kevin Callan	1			
Eric Donovan	1			
Anne-Marie Ford			1	
Michelle Hall		1		
Debbie McCole	1			
Paddy McQuillan	1			
Ejiro O'Hare Stratton			1	
Declan Power		1		
Pio Smith	1			
Total Votes	**6**	**2**	**2**	**0**

And Resolved.

Minute No. 105/26

Taking in Charge

Members noted the report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Assistant Engineer, Mr Ben Holland, responded to matters raised by the Elected Members. The following matters were noted:

- Progress at Riverbank remains constrained due to the absence of funding for the required surveys.
- The bond for Seven Winds will not be released until all outstanding works have been completed to the satisfaction of the Council.
- Updates were sought in respect of Bayview Gardens, while progress at Linenfield was welcomed.
- Members were advised that bonds are not recommended for release until all relevant works have been satisfactorily completed.
- Uisce Éireann has provided sign-off for Bishop's Court; however, further progress is currently restricted by funding limitations.
- The proposed bus stop at Newtown Views does not fall within the scope of the Council's Taking In Charge Policy.

Minute No. 106/26

Housing Progress Report

Members noted the report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Senior Engineer, Mr Declan Grimes, responded to matters raised by the Elected Members. The following matters were noted:

- Concerns were raised regarding anti-social behaviour, bonfires and the stockpiling of materials in Rathmullen. Members were advised that a coordinated multi-agency approach involving the Council, An Garda Síochána and the Community Safety Partnership continues.
- Opportunities to enhance open spaces through placemaking and community-led initiatives were discussed.
- A concern regarding rough sleeping in Drogheda town centre will be referred to the Homeless Services Team.
- Members were advised that the proposed Ballymakenny Road development remains subject to wastewater capacity constraints and ongoing planning processes.
- The assisted living accommodation at Newtown View remains unoccupied due to planning restrictions, with options currently being explored to resolve the matter.

Minute No. 107/26

Roads & Local Services Report including a Parks Update

Members noted the report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. A/Senior Executive Engineer, Ms Irene McGahon, presented the Roads & Local Services Report and responded to matters raised by the Elected Members. The following matters were noted:

- Concerns regarding illegal parking, road safety, road signage and road markings at a number of locations will be examined by the relevant sections.

- The provision of convex mirrors at Calvary Bridge was discussed. Members were advised that convex mirrors are not generally considered an appropriate road safety measure and alternative options will be assessed.
- A replacement village sign for Termonfeckin will be installed and sections of the R166 and R167 will be considered as part of future road maintenance programmes.
- Members sought increased investment in the road network and highlighted issues relating to HGV traffic, road conditions and junction layouts at a number of locations across the Borough District.
- Matters raised in respect of Planning Enforcement, wastewater overflow issues at Drybridge, and maintenance requirements at Clogherhead Playground, Clogherhead Graveyard and Holy Cross Graveyard will be followed up by the relevant sections.

Parks Update

Assistant Parks Superintendent, Mr Elias Mlimbila, delivered a presentation on the Parks Section and responded to matters raised by the Elected Members. The following was noted:

- The Parks Section is responsible for the maintenance of parks, playgrounds, trees, landscaped areas and public amenities throughout the Borough District.
- Members acknowledged the resource constraints facing the Section and thanked staff for their continued work.
- Opportunities to enhance roundabouts, approach roads and other public spaces were discussed, including the Roundabout Sponsorship Scheme.
- Updates were provided on weed control, vegetation management, tree maintenance and repairs to public water fountains.
- Grass management and biodiversity measures in The Glen were discussed and will continue to be kept under review.

Minute No. 108/26

Provision of Assistance for the promotion of interests of local community groups or projects, provided under Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001

Members considered the Community Grants as presented to them and approval was:

Proposed by: Cllr. James Byrne
Seconded by: Cllr. Michelle Hall
And Resolved.

Minute No. 109/26

Notice of Motion – Cllr. Eric Donovan
Seconded by: Cllr. James Byrne

I am requesting that the council remove the bolder block that is on the banks of the road approaching Port Beach and to replace it with a barrier and lock that the coast guard will have access to in an emergency.

At present, the bolder block is not allowing the coast guard to access the beach in an emergency such as getting to the shoreline in a timely manner. At present, the coast guard must drive by the

old access point and navigate their way past cars and camper vans etc that are parked alongside the road at port beach and make their way a couple of kms down to the bottom of that road to gain access the beach. This process can take up to 20 minutes and that is time the emergency crew at Clogherhead Coast Guard cannot afford.

Reply from David Hanratty, Operations & Environment Delivery

Louth County Council Operations team will liaise with the Coast Guard on this request.

Minute No. 110/26

Notice of Motion – Cllr Pio Smith

Deferred

Minute No. 111/26

Notice of Motion – Cllr Pio Smith

Deferred

Minute No. 112/26

Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to:

- Glen Emmets GFC Ladies on winning the Intermediate Championship Final

As there was no other business the meeting concluded.

The Minutes were confirmed on:

Date: 2nd Nov 26

Mayor:

Meeting Administrator: Sinéad Dooley