

Borough District of Drogheda – May 2017

Minutes of the Meeting of the Borough District of Drogheda held in Barlow House, West Street, Drogheda, on Monday, 8th May, 2017 at 6.00 p.m.

In attendance:

Mayor: Cllr. O. Tully

Members: Cllrs: P. Bell, J. Byrne, T. Byrne, K. Callan, R. Culhane, K. Flood, F. Godfrey & P. Smith, D. Saurin

Officials: Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services
Aoife Lawler, Senior Executive Officer
Pat Finn, Senior Engineer
Mary T. Daly, Senior Executive Engineer
Alan Sherry, Meetings Administrator
Martina Sheeran, Acting Senior Engineer

Minute No. 45/17

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd April 2017, were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. T. Byrne and seconded by Cllr. R. Culhane

Minute No. 46/17

Matters Arising

- It was proposed by Cllr. K. Callan, seconded by P. Bell and agreed by the members to have a special meeting to consider the proposed traffic calming scheme which will allow the closure of St. Laurence's Gate to vehicular traffic on Wednesday, 17th May at 4.00 pm.

Minute No. 47/17

Annual General Meeting

12th June 2017

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Bell

Seconded by: Cllr. K. Callan

And resolved:-

That the Annual Meeting of the Borough District of Drogheda would precede the normal June monthly meeting on the 12th June, 2017 in accordance with Section 44, Schedule 10.3(3) of the Local Government Act, 2001.

Minute No. 48/17

Housing and Communities Progress Report

- It was confirmed to the members that no notification had been received in relation to the allocation for disability grants for 2017.
- It was pointed out that Housing transfer applicants are not eligible for choice based letting while HAP tenants are.

Minute No. 49/17

Operations, Marine and Infrastructure Report

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

- Members welcomed the beginning of the development work on the Boyne pontoon.
- It was agreed to contact the Gardai in relation to anti-social behaviour in Balls Grove & Rathmullen Park.
- Members were asked to inform the Operations Department of any areas where they felt the grass cutting carried out wasn't to an acceptable standard.
- It was pointed out that a plan was needed to resolve outstanding issues in relation to the Tullybrook estate.
- The need to put CCTV surveillance in place to address illegal dumping at Bayview House was raised along with the need to advise the owners of the property to address the issue.
- It was undertaken to inform the members of any delays to the upgrade works currently being carried out by Irish Water.
- It was requested that Townley Hall be included in the taking in Charge update report.
- The poor conduct of contractors acting on behalf of ESB in Cedarfield was raised and it was agreed to investigate the matter.
- It was agreed to revert back to the members in relation to the damage at Watery Hill steps.
- The need to repaint a number of yellow boxes in the town was highlighted, particularly at the Dominican Church.

Minute No. 50/17

Presentation in relation to encouraging Foreign Direct Investment into Drogheda.

A presentation was given by Mary T Daly, Senior Executive Officer in relation to encouraging foreign direct investment into the area. Concern was raised at low level of investment in the region in comparison to other regions.

Minute No. 51/17

To agree by resolution to hold an outdoor event in accordance with Part XVI Planning and Development Act, 2000 and Section 238 of Planning and Development Act, 2010.

The Irish Maritime Festival 2017, 10th and 11th June

Proposed by: Cllr. K. Callan

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Bell

Members Agreed to hold an outdoor event in accordance with Part XVI Planning and Development Act, 2000 and Section 238 of Planning and Development Act, 2010.

Minute No. 52/17

Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads

Forest Park, Drogheda.

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Bell

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Smith

Silk Park, Drogheda.

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Bell

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Smith

Termon Abbey & Aston Village, Drogheda.

Proposed by: Cllr. K. Flood

Seconded by: Cllr. T. Byrne

Members agreed that the roads in Forest Park, Drogheda, Silk Park, Drogheda and Termon Abbey & Aston Village, Drogheda, Co. Louth to be declared public roads.

Minute No. 53/17

Amenity Grant to be approved

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Bell
Seconded by: Cllr. P. Smith

Members welcomed the allocation but pointed out the need for a protocol to be put in place in relation to Tidy Towns groups so that all potential beneficiaries understood the scheme. Members agreed the allocations as detailed in the report circulated to them.

Minute No. 54/17

To consider Report on proposed Traffic Calming Scheme which will allow the closure of St. Laurence's Gate vehicular Traffic.

Deferred to a Special Meeting on the 17th May 2017 @ 16.00

Minute No. 55/17

Presentation on Draft River Badin Management Plan.

Pat Finn, Senior Engineer gave a presentation in relation to the Draft River Basin Management Plan and answered questions from the members.

Minute No. 56/17

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. F. Godfrey
Seconded by: Cllr. P. Bell

That Louth County Council produce a report in relation to St. Laurence's Gate addressing the following matters :

Regarding the fact that at least 10 lorries hit St Laurence's Gate in 2016, has a survey of the damage been carried out?

What is the up-to-date condition of the gate regarding cracks and damage? Is the Gate structurally safe?

What is the estimated cost to repair and restore the gate?

What was the role of the OPW as custodians?

Has there been any follow up or prosecutions of those who hit the Gate?
Will there be?

Has anybody take any responsibility for getting the height restrictions wrong?

What is the cost of removing the black grime inside the arch of the gate?

REPLY:

The Custodian of Lawrence's Gate is the Office of Public Works (OPW).

Louth County Council do not hold a record of details of ten incidents of vehicle striking the gate but would welcome such details which could be forwarded to the OPW. The gate has been inspected by local technical staff who are satisfied that in its current condition it poses no risk to passersby.

Prosecution for Road traffic offences are a matter for An Garda Siochana and LCC has no awareness of any such prosecutions.

The responsibility for the erection of Road Traffic signage lies with The Operations Directorate. Signage erected is in accordance with the Road Traffic signage manual. Louth County Council have not sought quotations for the cleaning and maintenance of the gate as this is the responsibility of the OPW.

Members noted the reply.

Minute No. 57/17

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. F. Godfrey
Seconded by: Cllr. P. Bell

That a report be produced detailing the following information in relation to parking fines in Drogheda:

1. What is the total number of parking tickets issued in Drogheda over the past 5 years, 2011 – 2016?
2. What was the total amount of revenue taken in for the same period in Drogheda?
3. What was the percentage of non-payment of parking tickets?
4. Can we reduce car parking charges from €1.20 down to €1 per hour?
5. Can we make King Street car park free as we have lost a number of free car parking spaces in the town?

REPLY:

1. Due to the upgrading of the fines system this information is not readily available and may take some time to access. This information will be supplied as soon as possible.

2. 2011 €307,438

2012 €314,593

2013 €270,227

2014 – 2016 Not separately available for Drogheda after the unification with Louth County Council.

3. Unpaid parking fines are pursued through the District Court and unpaid fines then becomes the responsibility of the District Court. The District Court pay us the legal costs awarded once the fine is paid. We would not have access to the Percentage non-payment of these parking tickets with the District Court.

4. – Requires review of Pay Parking scheme and any loose or addition in revenue is deducted /added to Municipal allowance.

5. – As above and no plans to offer further free parking

Members noted the reply.

Minute No. 58/17

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Smith

Seconded by: Cllr. K. Callan

"Calling on this Borough District to arrange a meeting with the Minister of Finance with a view to outlining the benefits of having The Living City initiative extended to Drogheda. The Living City Initiative is a targeted pilot tax incentive which aims to seek to: 1. encouraging people back to the centre of Irish cities to live in historic buildings 2. encouraging the regeneration of the retail heartland of central business districts. The Initiative will provide tax incentives for works performed to refurbish residential and retail buildings either to bring them up to a habitable standard or even to make improvements to buildings which are currently inhabited. The incentives will be targeted at owner/occupiers rather than property developers. If the Minister agrees to a meeting the Mayor, the Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council and official's from Louth County Council could attend and represent the views of the members and the people of the town"

REPLY:

This will be a matter for the members.

The motion was agreed.

Minute No. 59/17

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. K. Flood
Seconded by: Cllr. P. Bell

"This council will install a yellow box on the Platin Road at the entrance/exit to Silk Park, so residents there can freely enter and exit their estate."

REPLY:

This matter is in hand and the Contractor has been tasked with the work which will be completed on the next occasion that the Contractor is working in the area.

Members noted the reply.

Minute No. 60/17

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. K. Flood
Seconded by: Cllr. J. Byrne

" With illegal dumping on the increase in The Drogheda Municipal District, this council will initiate an information campaign, to run in tandem with The Councils increased enforcement efforts, listing recycling and bring bank centres in The Drogheda Municipal District and what is allowed to be disposed of there, the reintroduction of Louth County Council's Eco News, and a local media campaign listing the fines and penalties that offenders will incur and detailing Louth County Councils recycling points. "

REPLY:

The Council are proactive with the local press and will increase the use of social media to highlight the growing difficulties that unauthorised dumping is causing for residents traders and visitors. Opportunities to promote and encourage the safe and appropriate disposal of household and other waste materials will be explored by our Environmental awareness unit.

Members noted the reply.

Minute No. 61/17

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. O. Tully
Seconded by: Cllr. R. Culhane

" That Louth County Council, in conjunction with the Office of Public Works (OPW), floodlight the historical Barbican St Laurences Gate in Drogheda."

REPLY:

Louth County Council will engage with the Office of Public Works to explore the options to floodlight Lawrences Gate. An update on the matter will be brought to the members as soon as is practical.

The motion was agreed.

Minute No. 62/17

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. O. Tully
Seconded by: Cllr. K. Callan

That Louth County Council apply for funding to increase safety at the Waterunder Roundabout;

1) Install low cost traffic calming measures at the Waterunder Roundabout on the N51, eg anti skid pads and rumble strips on the N51 approaches to the roundabout and larger warning signs prior to the roundabout on the N51 ,.

2) Complete the pedestrian footpaths on the outer circumference of the road on the Waterunder Roundabout on the N51

REPLY:

On the matter of Waterunder Roundabout some works have been carried out in the general area. The proposals as outlined in the motion will be included in the low cost safety measures application. Progress in regard to the application will be brought to the members attention when a decision on the funding allocation is made.

The motion was agreed.

Minute No. 63/17

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. T. Byrne
Seconded by: Cllr. P. Bell

"That Louth County Council write to the Minister for Justice and Law Reform to consider the introduction of legislation, similar to the motorists penalty points system, for blatant

illegal dumping offences in addition to existing fines, to send out a strong message and deterrent to would be offenders, in the interest of the Environment and Public Health".

REPLY:

This is a matter for the members.

Members agreed the motion.

Minute No. 64/17

Proposed by: Cllr. T. Byrne

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Bell

" That Louth County Council carry out an environmental scheme in the Scarlet Crescent Housing Estate, Drogheda, to include landscaping, floral arrangement, grass cutting, three or four decorative small bins, Road markings to facilitate safe car parking including motorist with disabilities, to help Scarlet Crescent reach its full potential and enhance the lives of local residents."

REPLY:

The residents of the development at Scarlet Crescent should in the first instant make application for funding from the community grants scheme to fund environmental improvements in their area. There is currently no provision in the budget to carry out the works proposed. The Area team will however inspect the area and if any works are possible within existing resources these will be actioned.

Members noted the reply.

The meeting then concluded.

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

Date:

12th June 2017

Mayor:

Pro Smith

Meeting Administrator:

Paddy Donnelly

