

## **Borough District of Drogheda – October 2018**

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Borough District of Drogheda held on Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018, at Barlow House, West Street, Drogheda.

### **In attendance:**

**Mayor:** Cllr. Frank Godfrey

**Members:** Cllrs: P. Bell, J. Byrne, T. Byrne, K. Callan, R. Culhane, D. Saurin, P. Smith, O. Tully

**Officials:** Willie Walsh, Acting Director of Services  
Aoife Lawler, Senior Executive Officer  
Darius Messayeh, Executive Engineer  
Alan Sherry, Meetings Administrator

**Apologies:** Cllr. K. Flood

### **Minute No. 93/18**

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. P. Smith and seconded by Cllr. K. Callan.

### **Minute No. 94/18**

### **Matters arising**

- The issue of the lack of money to carry out maintenance on council housing stock was raised, and members were advised that a small sum of money had been identified to carry out emergency works.
- Members were informed that legal advice was being sought in relation to making changes to the parking bye-laws, and members expressed their frustration at the rate not being reduced and requested that the legal advice be made available to them.
- When queried about the Boyne Road repairs not being carried out, members were informed that the Plattin and Greenhills Road were prioritised and that work should be carried out before year end.
- It was suggested that the CE should attend all borough district meetings.

### **Minute No. 95/18**

### **Housing Progress Report**

- Members expressed their deep concern at the lack of funding for the carrying out of repairs to Council housing stock. It was agreed that this was an emergency situation that needed to be addressed urgently.

## **Minute No. 96/18**

### **Operations, Marine and Infrastructure Report**

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

- Dissatisfaction was expressed by several members at the removal of parking spaces on the North Road without any prior consultation.
- An update was requested in relation to the reinstatement of Mary Street.
- The Council's support for Tidy Towns volunteers was commended.
- The start date for the works to King Williams Glen was requested.
- The need to investigate the need for traffic calming measures in Marion Park was raised.
- An update in relation to the safety measures at Sunday's Gate was requested.
- It was pointed out that the report in relation to road repairs was missing the list of Council works.
- It was pointed out that the CFRAM report did not refer to the full works to be carried out at Baltray.
- The completion date for the repair works to Termonfeckin Bridge was requested.
- The need for works to be carried out at Ballymakenny Bridge, and the stone wall at Queenborough were raised.
- It was requested to investigate the safety of Dominic's Bridge.
- The need to carry out works at the Obelisk Bridge was raised.
- It was requested that the possibility of using lands adjacent to the sacred Heart School to provide a car park be investigated.
- It was requested that the conservation office approach the owners of Townley Hall in relation to safety works that may be needed.
- It was requested that the road depressions from Baltray to Termonfeckin be investigated.

## **Minute No. 97/18**

### **Drogheda Allocation of Members Community Grants**

This was proposed by Cllr. P. Bell, seconded by Cllr. P. Smith and agreed by the members.

It was requested that an update be provided in relation to Councillors allocations that were used for disability improvements to footpaths.

## **Minute No. 98/18**

### **To agree a date for the Draft Budgetary Plan**

It was proposed by Cllr. F. Godfrey, seconded by P. Bell and agreed by the members to include the draft budget plan as an agenda item at the November Drogheda Borough District monthly meeting.

## Minute No. 99/18

### Notice of Motion

**Proposed by:** Cllr. R. Culhane  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. K. Callan

"Calling on Louth Co Co to address the reoccurring potholing problem at the entrance to Beaubec Dublin Rd Drogheda. I would ask that a permanent solution be found rather than a patching exercise which lasts for a short period as the potential for pedestrians to suffer injury, at night especially, is a real possibility."

### **REPLY:**

**This location is not included in the 2018 road works programme, but will be evaluated for inclusion in the 3 year road works programme currently in preparation.**

Members noted the reply.

## Minute No. 100/18

### Notice of Motion

**Proposed by:** Cllr. R. Culhane  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. K. Callan

"Will Louth County Council extend the yellow box at Bryanstown, Dublin Rd, Drogheda. The box only covers those road users exiting the estate but not entering the estate which causes problems for south bound traffic."

### **REPLY:**

**The extension of the yellow box on the entrance side will be included in works to be completed in the short term by Louth County Council.**

Members noted the reply.

## Minute No. 101/18

### Notice of Motion

**Proposed by:** Cllr. F. Godfrey  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. K. Callan

"That Louth County Council undertake a programme of works to urgently restore the deteriorating state of Drogheda's town walls. This work can be carried out in conjunction with other stakeholders, ie OPW, Walled Towns Association, Heritage Council, etc."

### **REPLY:**

**The Irish Walled Towns Network has awarded us €25,000 to carry out once-off works on the town wall at Featherbed Lane.**

Members agreed the motion. It was pointed out that a plan and funding for all of the town walls was needed. The cost of work carried out at the Butter Gate was requested.

### **Minute No. 102/18**

#### **Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. P. Smith  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. D. Saurin

"That this Borough District requests the Local Authority to implement where possible the powers under the Derelict Sites Act to buildings in Narrow West Street that have no owner and to property owners who are not engaging with the council in regards to refurbishing their buildings."

#### **REPLY:**

**Section 11 Notices have been served on 2 properties in Narrow West Street but the requirements have not been complied with by the owners.**

**The Council is considering its options in relation to same.**

**In addition, a dangerous building Notice has also been served on one of these properties. The condition of the building is being monitored constantly.**

Members noted the reply. It was pointed out that town centre buildings should be CPOed to provide residential accommodation above the ground floor. It was also pointed out that answers should be updated when a motion carried on to the agenda from a previous month.

### **Minute No. 103/18**

#### **Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. T. Byrne  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. D. Saurin

"That Louth County Council urgently provide pedestrian access, from the junction at Newtown Link Road and the L2307 to Boyne Business Park, Newtownstalaban, Drogheda due to a serious risk of a serious or fatal accident on this road."

#### **REPLY:**

**The provision of pedestrian access / footpath is being considered by Louth County Council, subject to availability of funding and the resolution of land ownership issues along the proposed footpath.**

**To facilitate pedestrian safety, 2 No. Pedestrian Warning signs with Supplementary Plates showing the length over which pedestrians are likely to be on the road – these were installed by Louth County Council in 2017 to warn drivers to pedestrians presence along the Newtownstalaban Road at junctions with Newtown Link Road & Termonfeckin Road.**

Members noted the reply and suggested a new traffic survey be carried out. It was pointed out that the new road would negate the need for this work to be carried out.

### **Minute No. 104/18**

#### **Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. K. Callan  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. P. Smith

"Calling for the required traffic count process to be carried out in coordination with An Garda Siochana on both Patrick Street and Bothar Brugha to identify the nature of traffic (source and destination) to establish the need for a HGV ban on both routes."

#### **REPLY:**

**It is premature at this time to contemplate placing a HGV ban on Patrick Street and Bothar Brugha in the absence of a suitable alternative route for HGV traffic, i.e. PANCR, the findings and recommendation made in the report 'Proposal to ban HGV Traffic on Patrick Street', dated 31st March 2014 (see attached), still apply.**

Members noted the reply and requested that a new traffic survey be carried out.

### **Minute No. 105/18**

#### **Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. K. Callan  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. P. Smith

"Calling on this Council to undertake upgrading of existing lighting on historic structures across the town including:

Laurence's Gate, Magdalene Tower, Buttergate, St Mary's Abbey (Old Abbey Lane), St Peters Church (West Street), St Peters Church (Peter Street), St Mary's Church (Mary Street).

That this action of upgrading existing lighting will greatly enhance the impression of the town known historically as the City of Steeples."

#### **REPLY:**

**While upgrading the lights would enhance the impression of the town, funding is not available at this time. Current expenditure on Public lighting is 1.5 million annually, which is used to maintain existing lights.**

**LCC will instruct the public lighting contractor carry out a night patrol/inspection to ensure existing lighting historic structures are operational.**

Members noted the reply.

## Minute No. 106/18

### Notice of Motion

**Proposed by:** Cllr. J. Byrne  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. D. Saurin

"That the local authority will construct a footpath between Moneymore housing estate and the Ballymakenny Rd.

There is already a gap walkway established which residents have been using for generations to get their children to school, and with the addition of the new college on the Ballmakenny Rd the level of people using the current muck-trodden route has increased massively. The time has come to legitimise this route with the implementation of a proper footpath/walkway."

### **REPLY:**

**The "approved" route from Moneymore to Ballymakenny Rd is along the public road, i.e. Windmill Road.**

**The Council have no plans to construct another footpath from Moneymore to Ballymakenny Road.**

Members noted the reply. It was agreed to provide the members with more information in relation to the issue.

## Minute No. 107/18

### Notice of Motion

**Proposed by:** Cllr. T. Byrne  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. K. Callan

"That Louth County Council carry out a comprehensive Environmental Scheme in the historic Dale/ 101 Steps area to include a Greenway along the Public Right of Way of the main sewerage line, to the eye of the Bridge at Meadow View, through the overgrown laneway adjoining Bully's Acre and exiting at Calvary Cemetery, removal of Japanese Knotweed, for the benefit of the local community and encouragement of tourists to this most historic area."

### **REPLY:**

**Louth County Council has been treating the Japanese Knotweed in this area since 2016, and has removed or killed up to 90% since the treatment programme commenced. It is expected that it will take a further 2 to 3 years of treatment to bring the issue to a conclusion.**

**At present, the proposed route is much overgrown and is largely not in the council's ownership. While the provision of greenways is a very positive initiative, there are currently no resources or funding available for this project.**

Members noted the reply.

The meeting then concluded.

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_