

Borough District of Drogheda – September 2022

Minutes of the Meeting of the Borough District of Drogheda held in Governors House, Millmount Drogheda, on Monday 5th September 2022 at 4.15 p.m.

In attendance: (All attendance was in person)

Mayor: Cllr. Michelle Hall

Members: Councillors, James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, Kevin Callan, Tom Cunningham, Fiachra MacRaghnaill, Paddy McQuillan, Declan Power, Pío Smith

Apologies: Councillor, Eileen Tully

Officials: Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator
Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services
Mark Johnson, Senior Engineer
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer
Willie Walsh, Senior Executive Officer

Minute No. 75/22

Confirmation of Minutes Ordinary Meeting

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Monday 4th July 2022 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. Callan and seconded by Cllr. Cunningham.

Minute No. 76/22

Matters Arising

Minute 67/22 68/22 - Responding to a query raised, Mark Johnson advised that grass cutting was due in the Glen in September and he would revert back on whether any planned in Boice Court.

- Paddy Donnelly Director of Services advised Members that the scheduled District Budget allocation for Drogheda would be held directly after the October meeting.
- Director of Services Paddy Donnelly advised Members of a change in Directorates and that future reports would encompass the new headings and changes recently made

Minute No. 77/22

Housing Progress Report

Members noted the report as circulated at the meeting. Director of Services, Paddy Donnelly addressed all matters raised by the Members.

The following items were highlighted to and by Members:

- Significant increase in the number of homeless presenters was noted, along with the challenge of locating rental properties for those given notice under HAP (Housing Assistance Payment)
- 62 Void properties which are being restored to use will be available by end of year, with some assigned as Traveller and Disabled units the rest will mainly be available under CBL (Choice Based Letting)
- A small number of applications have been received for the new Croí Cónaithe Scheme which provides Grants of up to €30,000 to restore properties which are vacant for 2 years and up to €50,000 for derelict properties. Applicants must intend to use these as their private principal property on completion of restoration
- Resident concerns about a new build in Moneymore creating more alleyways for antisocial behaviour should raise this under the Part 8 process when it goes on public display. The Executive are anxious to encourage public participation and rule out any future difficulties

Minute No. 78/22

Operations and Marine Progress Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting. Mark Johnson, Senior Engineer addressed all Operations Matters raised.

Enhancement works carried out throughout the town were noted by many councillors with praise given for works done.

Along with requests for overgrowth cut backs, signage repairs and replacements, linemarking, yellow box installation and removals, traffic counts at various locations the following items were highlighted to and by Members:

- The annual gully clearing process is about to commence which may assist with many flooding issues raised
- Roadworks carried out which reportedly tarmacked over gullies will be checked and remedied where necessary
- Works agreed under the Low-Cost Safety Measure Programme will be ongoing to end of year but any items not on the list may not be done in 2022
- Members were reminded that signage takes legal precedent over line markings under road traffic legislation
- Operations will talk to the manufacturers of solar bins following reports of sand blowing and blocking the sensors
- Requests to move bins and benches to alternative location will be considered
- It was felt that the most recent IBAL report which categorised Clogherhead as moderately littered did not reflect the good work of local community groups or of council staff who are out picking and collecting litter daily
- Dissatisfaction that potholes on tertiary roads are not being fixed was again raised, and particularly where these are through roads, with a claim that run off from the LT62083 adversely affects works done on the LS6279. Members were again referred to the CIS application process
- The schedule of the new pothole machine was queried and Members were advised it was currently in Drogheda with the focus on tackling the worst areas first
- Carpark and Disabled Bay markings have been surveyed but no budget exists
- A request was made for a review of historic disabled bays outside private residents which may no longer be needed and could be reallocated elsewhere

- It was noted that sites under contract were secured with no obvious works taking place which removed car park spaces. Members were advised that while contract clauses penalize over-running of works, where contracts are signed for works the council cannot interfere with or influence private contractors around fencing/security of site
- Paving of scrub areas on steps will be considered as cited as areas to hide drugs
- Signs on poles at cycle lanes rather than just on ground were requested
- Removal of tree stump following tree falling was requested

Minute No. 79/22

Infrastructure Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting. John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer addressed all matters raised.

The issue of the 'Hebble Sand' dredger in Drogheda Port was raised again with Members expressing disappointment that their ongoing request to the Port Chief Executive to remove the dredger was met with 'unwillingness to cooperate'. It was described as 'disrespectful' and 'nonsensical' that the dredger was still in situ. Members advised they had been told it was a working dredger when it clearly was not a working dredger and described the non actions of the Port Authority as a 'total lack of respect'.

It was **Proposed** by Cllr Kevin Callan
And **Seconded** by Cllr Joanna Byrne

That a letter should issue on behalf of all District Members to both the Port Authority and the Minister setting out that 'no action was forthcoming' on their ongoing request. All Members present were in agreement, with wording of the letter to be agreed by the Members and Mayor and forwarded to the Meeting Administrator to release.

The following were highlighted

- Phase 2 of Active Travel plans for the Bridge of Peace section was about to be submitted to the NTA.
- A request was made to open the old Abbey Shopping Centre as a civic space. Members were advised there was no available funding option for this.
- Members were advised that the NTA choose locations for bus stops/shelters based on various reps made to them as well as coordinating with other agencies
- A request was made for an update on the Westgate Vision from the new SEO at future meeting
- Members were advised An Bord Pleanala set out SHD conditions
- An ABTA survey presentation would be made before end of year
- Paddy Donnelly advised that littering is a county wide challenge and that the problem is the offenders, that the IBAL report is brought to the Chief Executive as soon as it issues and solution finding is a practical matter for the operations team. Mark Johnson advised that where a similar report issues twice in a row that can indicate a trend that has to be addressed.

Minute No. 80/22

Briefing on the MD Litter Management Plan

Senior Executive Officer Willie Walsh advised on the report as issued, advising Members that all sites were back to pre-covid usage and capacity.

- Members welcomed fines issued
- Targeting of non-complaint businesses was praised
- Highlanes Apartments were reported as dumping domestic waste

Minute No. 81/22

Drogheda Allocation of Members Community Grants

In accordance with Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended, approval of Allocation of Members Community Grants as notified to the Elected Members was

Proposed by: Cllr Joanna Byrne

Seconded by: Cllr Pio Smith

And Resolved.

Minute No. 82/22

Condolences

Members offered sympathy to the family and friends of Olive Curran mother of Deputy Imelda Munster TD and a minutes silence was held.

Minute No. 83/22

Notice of Motion – Cllr Pio Smith

Seconded by Cllr Kevin Callan

"Asking that the local authority examine the possibility of installing trees along the dual carriageway in Drogheda from Mary Street to the junction at George's Street."

Reply from C. Duff, Director of Services, Operations

As part of Active Travel the Council are looking at ensuring the dual carriageway is integrated within the urban fabric of Drogheda linking the Town Centre, Bus Station and the residential areas to the west of the carriageway, so that a sense of place is created and to remove the existing severance caused by the dual carriageway between adjoining areas. It is intended to create a high place value with good levels of connectivity. Based on current best practice, successful solutions tend to be designed as boulevards with well planted medians and verges with trees and shrubs that provide a buffer between the heavily-trafficked carriageway and the surrounding pedestrian / cycling environment.

Speaking on the motion Cllr Smith welcomed the response received describing the proposed planting as a quick win. Cllrs Callan and James Byrne spoke in support of the motion and response.

Notice of Motion – Cllr Michelle Hall
Seconded by Cllr Kevin Callan

“That this Council in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency and Meath County Council install additional air monitoring stations in Drogheda urban areas, to measure various pollutants which pose risks to human health, including Particulate Matter (PM) and Nitrous Oxide. Frequent exposure to these pollutants has the potential to aggravate asthma and other respiratory diseases and contribute to lung disease and heart issues.

An accurate view of transport related pollution is needed for Drogheda in preparation for the Joint Urban Area Plan for Drogheda.”

Reply from C. Duff, Director of Services, Operations

Responsibility for monitoring of Air Quality lies with the EPA. A new monitor was installed in Drogheda at Newtown Cross Lawn Cemetery in April 2021. It provides readings for particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5). The EPA have been contacted to establish if they have plans to install more monitors or expand the range of items being monitored at Drogheda.

Speaking on the motion Cllr Hall reiterated her request for monitors in town. Other Members spoke in support of the motion and response with Cllr MacRaghnaill suggesting that the cemetery would provide a good baseline, but that he had concerns that smoky coal which was banned for sale in the area was being bought up north and burned in Drogheda.

Notice of Motion – Cllr Michelle Hall
Seconded by Cllr Joanna Byrne

“That this Council provide the following infrastructure at Clogherhead and Termonfeckin beaches: drinking water dispensers, outdoor showers, wheelchair accessible mats, a wheelchair accessible toilet and cycling stands at Clogherhead beach. “

Reply from C. Duff, Director of Services, Operations

The Council has received funding from ORIS for the Blue flag beaches to develop proposals for accessibility to the blue flag beaches including any on-site facilities such as; parking, pathways and boardwalks leading to and around the beach and its surroundings, accessible WCs and, picnic locations.

Speaking on the motion Cllr Hall welcomed the response which was echoed by other members.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date: 3rd October 2022

Mayor: Michelle Hall

Meeting Administrator: Ala Spence