



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 Conference Room,
Drogheda - Monday, 3rd April 2023 at 4:15pm

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Mayor Cllr Michelle Hall

Members: Councillor(s) James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, Kevin Callan, Tom Cunningham, Emma Cutlip, Paddy McQuillan, Declan Power, Pio Smith, Eileen Tully

Officials: Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator
Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services
Mark Johnson, Senior Engineer
Keith McArdle, Assistant Engineer

Minute No. 29/23

Welcome to newly coopted Member

Mayor Michelle Hall welcomed the newest Member, Cllr Emma Cutlip to her inaugural Borough District Meeting and advised that all Members would assist Cllr Cutlip in whatever way possible.

Minute No. 30/23

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 6th March 2023

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Monday 6th March 2023 were confirmed on the
Proposal of Cllr Pio Smith
Seconded by Cllr Kevin Callan
And approved

Minute No. 31/23

Matters Arising

None

Minute No. 32/23

Allocation of Members Community Grants provided for under Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001

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

Proposed by: Cllr Joanna Byrne

Seconded by: Cllr Paddy McQuillan

And agreed by Members

Minute No. 33/23

Vacancy on Governance/Oversight Committee of the Dublin/Belfast Economic Corridor

Members were requested to nominate a Municipal District candidate to fill the vacancy on the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor Oversight Committee arising from resignation of Cllr Fiachra Mac Raghnaill.

Nomination of Cllr Emma Cutlip was

Proposed by: Cllr Pio Smith

Seconded by: Cllr Michelle Hall

And resolved to go to full Council for ratification.

Minute No. 34/23

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:

- 71 Vacant property owners have been identified and written to, with circa 10% response. Some have advised of restoration plans. The option of compulsory purchase order is available on those who have not responded, however consideration must be given to funding and the cost and timeframe required to restore properties to habitable standard versus being able to provide other properties.
- The impact of the lifting of the eviction ban remains to be seen. Where persons present Emergency Accommodation is a short term solution, either through hostels or B&B, thereafter HAP placefinder will be utilised.
- Persons witnessing illegal dumping on council property are asked to report this in order that we can initiate legal action.
- A new scheme for those exceeding the Social Housing Income Limit is currently being developed by the Housing Agency.

Minute No. 35/23

Roads and Local Services Report

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

Along with potholes, footpath repair, traffic calming, road safety and signage requests, sign installation, bollard replacement, road resurfacing, road lines and yellow box repair & painting, painting of parking, lighting requests, the following items were highlighted:

- Continuous leak reported at Patrickswell steps at the Dale will be investigated.
- The JCB Pro will remain in Drogheda area for the week, it is repairing potholes on 6% of the roads network annually, and is utilised 5 days a week every week. Staff are still repairing other potholes in interim – an increase in pot holes has occurred due to increased volumes of rainfall since beginning of year.
- All Lifebelts are checked every week, the list of belts will be examined to see why Port Oriel and Seapoint (where belts are reportedly missing) are not on it, it may be that they were installed by a body other than Louth County Council
- Beaulieu Bridge will be examined to see if any road safety measures can be employed as will the regional road at Baltray
- Following reports of speeding on the Ballymakenny Road, a request was made for the Community Section and Road Safety Officer to present to the MD and include item on volumes of traffic on roads at school times, a further request was made they touch base with An Garda Síochána, the School board and Parents first
- Funding is available for 5 bus shelter replacements with covers for stops with high volume
- A request was made to relocate the wifi bench from the middle of town
- Where areas are planned locations for Active Travel adaptations, generally no short term works will be carried out
- The majority of public lights have been replaced with LED lights, with 48% still to do. Faulty Lights should be reported via the Deadsure App

The following items unrelated to Roads and Local Services Section were raised

- Derelict and Dangerous Buildings are a matter for Planning Enforcement
- Following an in dept discussion on Irish Water/Uisce Eireann, **Members agreed to again send a letter to Uisce Eireann, but to also write to the Tánaiste.** It was further agreed that the Mayor would send wording of the letter to the Meeting Administrator for the letter to issue.

Minute No. 36/23

Taking in Charge Report

Keith McArdle, Assistant Engineer invited questions from Members on the report as presented to them on Taking in Charge measures. The following items were discussed:

Where bonds are not available or are insufficient, funds released by the Chief Executive may be possible to be accessed to complete Taking in Charge. Lists are being compiled of those that represent best value for money.

Minute No. 37/23

Notice of Motion - Cllr Kevin Callan

Seconded by = Cllr James Byrne

"Calling on this Council to take every available step to protect the structural integrity of West Gate House. That this motion is based on the building being of historic importance to Drogheda as it contains a section of the medieval wall of our town".

Reply from J. McGuinness, Director of Organisational Development

Louth County Council are currently in the final stages of the acquisition of this site from the OPW. Once concluded the Council will have the opportunity to review the structural integrity of the building and its use will then be included in the West Gate Vision project.

Speaking on this motion Cllr Callan welcomed the response as issued but urged timely works are required on the roof/chimney of the building and to protect the wall and maintain the structural integrity. Other Members spoke in support of this motion.

Minute No. 38/23

Notice of Motion: Cllr Declan Power

Seconded by = Cllr Kevin Callan

"That Louth County Council will actively assist, support and promote "National Services Day 2023" in Drogheda on the first Saturday of September (2nd). This would be done in collaboration with the 'National Services Day Organisation' who will be running many similar events across the Country. This is a huge opportunity for the people of Drogheda and County Louth to say 'Thank You' to our frontline emergency and security services who form an integral part of the fabric of every community and the lifeblood of civic engagement when danger presents itself."

Reply

This is a matter for the Members.

Speaking on this motion Cllr Power spoke of the invaluable services provided locally by the Coastguard and advised of liaising with BIDs and Drogheda Festival Committee around the idea of a parade or recognition day. Other Members spoke in support of a Civic Event and referenced the hospital staff, and the work of the Garda and Fire Service during the drugs feud, and an ecumenical service was also suggested.

Minute No. 39/23

AOB

Paddy Donnelly Director of Services advised Members that the next meeting would be his last as he was retiring on the 2nd of June.

The Mayor and Members wished Paddy well in his retirement and spoke of his distinguished career from the Fire Service to Director of Services, his association with Drogheda during the change from Town to Borough Council, and his assistance on setting the time of meetings, retaining the chains and flags. Members described him as selfless, and direct, a professional public servant who always gave a straight answer and who offered invaluable support to Members. Remembering his efforts during the Fleadh Ceoil, Members wished him well in his retirement, and thanked him for his service on behalf of the whole of the Borough District.

As there was no other business the meeting concluded.

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

Date: 8/5/23.

Mayor: Michelle Hall,

Meeting Administrator: 