

Borough District of Drogheda – January 2021

Minutes of the Meeting of the Borough District of Drogheda held via MS Teams, hosted from the Council Chamber, County Hall, Dundalk on 11th January 2021 at 4.15 p.m.

In attendance:

Mayor: Cllr. Kevin Callan (Present in Chamber)

Members: Attended remotely: Councillors James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, Tom Cunningham, Michelle Hall, Fiachra MacRaghnaill, Paddy McQuillan, Declan Power, Pio Smith, Eileen Tully

Officials: Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator (Present in Chamber)
Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services (Present in Chamber)
Mark Johnson, Senior Engineer
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer
James Searson, Executive Engineer

Minute No. 1/21

Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Monday 7th December 2020 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. Michelle Hall and seconded by Cllr. Fiachra MacRaghnaill.

Minute No. 2/21

Matters Arising

- Cllr. Pio Smith advised that he could not recall requesting an update of Housing in Castlebellingham as minuted in matters arising in December meeting.

Minute No. 3/21

Housing Progress Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting and the following responses were made by Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services for Housing.

- Under July Void Stimulus Programme, 62 Voids were brought back into use and are now either tenanted or under offer.
- Everyone on transfer list is considered eligible for transfer, however resources dictate ability to accommodate. Transfers create voids. Considerable budgetary implications of transfers highlighted. Most urgent are accommodated.

- Maintenance Budget is a challenge, no preventative programme is in place, all reactive. Application for Windows and Doors funding made and awaiting confirmation.
- Estate Management Team engages with other bodies on ASB regularly, ASBO an issue for An Garda Siochana. Difficulty in identifying culprits. Appeal made to residents to come forward and report.

Minute No. 4/21

Operations and Marine Progress Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting and the following items were raised.

- Yellow box requested at Termon Abbey and Newtown Meadows entrance
- Footpath
 - repairs required at Lagavooreen, Sacred Heart School
 - Clean up at Donors Green
 - Clean up near Greenhills secondary school
- Flooding at Callystown Road, Clogherhead and
- Dip in road at Clogherhead carpark
- Slippy Steps to Highlanes Gallery in all weathers
- Blocked drain at Newfield
- Road repairs and Potholes in various locations including:
 - John Shop to top of Mary St.
 - Pheasant pub pothole
 - Bottle Road, road markings
 - Friarstown Rd., Termonfeckin potholes
- New Solar Bins in town were commended and Request made for solar bins on all beach areas and at St. Dominic's Park Playground
- Query re process around pothole identification on roads
- Query re why €6000 allocation for traffic calming at Crooked St., Clogherhead was used on beach carpark – road blocked daily
- Query on public consultation process on ramps either side of Railway at Priest Lane
- Traffic congestion in town at Christmas and why works were necessary
- Illegal dumping at St. Anthony's Park on cement road was particularly highlighted.
- A discussion around CCTV took place and current National issues on CCTV use and GDPR.

An appeal was made to residents to report on illegal dumping activity.

Operations matters raised were addressed by Mark Johnson, Senior Engineer.

Minute No. 5/21

Infrastructure Report

Members requested an update on the application for funding for the Port Access Road.

John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer advised that no response had been received to date.

Minute No. 6/21

Declarations to have Estates Taken in Charge

Members were advised on increased construction restrictions due to Covid, and that only necessary repairs on critical infrastructure could be made, and so many contractors have been stood down.

Minute No. 7/21

Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor

Cllr. Fiachra MacRaghnaill was nominated by Cllr. Michelle Hall and seconded by Cllr. Pio Smith to the governance/oversight committee of the Dublin/Belfast Economic Corridor, there were no objections to this nomination.

Minute No. 8/21

Notice of Intention to review the School Periodic Bye-Laws

Members received an update from John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer. 12 schools were put forward under the active travel initiative for school signage. Due to Covid, it was not possible to put this up for public display currently. In most cases the proposal involves reducing speed limits to 50kph or to 30kph.

Minute No. 9/21

Sympathies

Condolences and expressions of sympathy were extended by the members as follows:

- The two Capitol Police Officers who lost their lives in Washington DC during the attack on democracy

Minute No. 10/21

Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to Dundalk Sports Centre on hosting Operation Transformation and increasing the profile of the Sports Centre.

Minute No.11/21

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. Tom Cunningham

Seconded by: Cllr. Joanna Byrne

“That Louth County Council install traffic calming measures approaching the Hump back bridge on the Carstown Road.”

Reply from Ms C. Duff, Director of Services, Operations:

An inspection will be carried out by the area engineer to assess the issues. Should works be recommended it will be subject to funding being available and the prioritisation of projects.

The issue of decreased visibility of pedestrians trying to cross the road at this bridge was highlighted along with two separate fatalities at the location.

Minute No. 12/21

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. Pio Smith

Seconded by: Cllr. Joanna Byrne

“Asking that the Council provide funding to address the drainage and entrance problems at the Council Allotment Site in Newton.”

Reply from Ms. C. Duff, Director of Services, Operations:

An inspection of the location will be carried by the area engineers to investigate the cause of the drainage issues and recommend remedial measures. Any works would be dependent on funding being available.

Cllr. P. Smith noted that the Council Landscape Gardener has inspected the allotment site and forwarded his report to the Senior Engineer in Operations.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date: _____

Mayor: _____

Meeting Administrator: _____