

Borough District of Drogheda – November 2020

Minutes of the Meeting of the Borough District of Drogheda held in The Barbican Centre, William Street, Drogheda on Monday 2nd November 2020 at 4.15 p.m.

In attendance:

Mayor: Cllr. Kevin Callan

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

Officials: Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator
Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services
Frank Pentony, Director of Services
Willie Walsh, Senior Executive Officer
Mark Johnson, Senior Engineer

Minute No. 81/20

Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on 5th October 2020 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. Joanna Byrne and seconded by Cllr. Tom Cunningham

Minute No. 82/20

Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the Budgetary Plan meeting held on 19th October 2020 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. Pio Smith and seconded by Cllr. James Byrne

Minute No. 83/20

Matters Arising

- None

Minute No. 84/20

Housing Progress Report

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

- Members sought information on Homeless Services and why the “out of hours” Homeless phone number was no longer in use.

- A number of Members advised that they had received representations on Liscorrie Housing Estate and raised concerns re properties being allocated by AHBs bringing the social/private mix to circa 40/60.

Members queried:

- The relationship between the AHB and Louth County Council
- Local policy on social housing mix ratio in private estates
- The impact on private residents in Liscorrie
- Whether this would give the AHB a disproportionate voice at Management company meetings
- Whether Social Tenants rent would include Management Company fees

Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services for Housing advised that the 'out of hours' telephone service is not a standard or practice in other counties. An AHB is an Approved Housing Body and their tenants come from our housing list, and addressed all matters raised by Members.

Minute No. 85/20

Operations and Marine Progress Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting.

A fire on the beach at Clogherhead was given particular mention by members due to the vast environmental vandalism caused to both the beach and the sand dunes. Members were informed that the council may have to hire in equipment to assist with the removal of burnt waste. A costing of clean-up of damage due to this and similar incidents was requested by members.

A number of other items were discussed and it was agreed that the following issues required further investigation:

- Sequence of traffic lights at Mary/James Street Junction disrupting traffic flow
- Flooding on Special Olympic road to Drogheda United
- Road repairs & surface repairs required at:
 - Cookstown
 - Milltown Lane at Power Road
 - Greenhills Road outside Bull Ring
 - Carrstown Road from Stone Cottage to Bridge
 - Sheetland Road
 - North Strand
 - Baltray Village to Haven
 - Road from Termonfeckin to Grattan Bridge sunken
- Location of new speed traffic lighting at Termonfeckin incorrect
- Fallen Leaves covering road markings around schools
- HGVs on Marsh Rd turning left towards Bull Ring causing disruption
- Lights not on at Sandpit School
- Phone boxes vandalized, removal requested
- Road Works from 7pm to 11pm causing annoyance
- Pedestrian Crossing request at Shop St/St. Mary's Bridge
- School traffic blocking in residents at Castle Manor Estate
- Request for two stop systems at Obelisk to allow for pedestrians as part of Camino
- Tree cutting was requested on L2321 as obstructing traffic

- Pedestrian laneway between the Hill of Rath and the R168 is overgrown and can't be used
- Signage requested on Clogherhead Headland walk re littering/fouling/private property
- Baltray flood valve blockages causing flooding
- Glen in Yellowbatter has significant litter pollution both in and around water
- Castlemanor and Moneymore gap

Matters raised were addressed by Operations Staff, Mark Johnson, Senior Engineer

Minute No. 86/20

Drogheda Allocation of Members Community Grants

The Allocation of Members Community Grants was proposed by Cllr. Joanna Byrne, seconded by Cllr. Pio Smith and agreed by all Members.

Minute No. 87/20

Windmill Road Parking Review Report

Willie Walsh, SEO gave an overview of the Report, and surveys carried out. The recommendation of the report is to reduce the number of residential parking bays from 60 to 25. Members were advised that in order to do this, Bye Laws need to be amended following a public consultation period, wherein Members would then decide to enact or not.

Members expressed concern that the number of vacant properties for sale on the Road and the survey being carried out during covid might affect survey data; they requested that the recommendation be increased to 30 from 25.

Members accepted that they could make a submission to increase this in the consultation period and the acceptance of the review was proposed by Cllr. Joanna Byrne and seconded by Cllr. Kevin Callan.

Minute No. 88/20

Sympathies

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

- Cllr. Michelle Hall to the family and friends of
 - Eamon Murphy
 - Eamon Woods
- Cllr. Eileen Tully to the family and friends of her step mother
 - Margaret McCabe, Seapoint

Minute No. 89/20

Congratulations

Congratulations were extended by the members as follows:

- Drogheda United FC on reaching the Premier Division of the League of Ireland.

Minute No. 90/20

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. Michelle Hall

Seconded by: Cllr. Pio Smith

"That the Council explores the possibility of reopening the historic Old Coach Road as a greenway from Drogheda to Termonfeckin environs. This will ensure a safe route for walkers and cyclists both for local use to access services and for recreation purposes."

Reply from Mr. F. Pentony, Director of Services, Economic Development, Infrastructure and Planning:

The provision of a coastal greenway is a long term objective of the Council and this is reflected in the draft County Development Plan 2021-2027. Such infrastructure will be provided as funding sources are secured.

Members expressed support for this motion.

Frank Pentony, Director of Services expressed that he too was in favour of this motion but however it came down to funding mainly, and then the issue of land ownership. He advised that the Part 8 approval granted for the Omeath and Border Greenway is being legally challenged by land owners.

Minute No. 91/20

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. Joanna Byrne

Seconded by: Cllr. Tom Cunningham

"That Louth County Council will commit to using the potential housing space in The Parochial House of The Dominican Church for the provision of additional homeless facilities, focusing on services for those with entrenched Alcohol & Drug issues."

Reply from Mr. P. Donnelly, Director of Services, Housing and Quality of Life:

The acquisition of the Dominican Church and the adjoining Parochial house is progressing but not yet completed. It is premature at this time to commit to a specific use of the property. When the acquisition is complete the most appropriate housing service needs will be considered in line with Rebuilding Ireland objectives and funding opportunities.

Members discussed the motion and were largely in favour however caution was advised due to location and how this might impact commerce and members of public coming into centre of town.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date: _____

Mayor: _____

Meeting Administrator: _____