

Borough District of Drogheda - September 2021

Minutes of the Meeting of the Borough District of Drogheda held in The Barbican Centre, Drogheda on Monday 6th September 2021 at 4.15 p.m.

In attendance:

Mayor: Cllr. James Byrne

Members: Councillors Joanna Byrne, Kevin Callan, Tom Cunningham, Michelle Hall, Fiachra Mac Raghnaill, Paddy McQuillan, Declan Power, Pio Smith

Apologies: Councillor Eileen Tully

Officials: Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator
Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services
Darius Messayeh, Executive Engineer
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer
David Hanratty, Senior Engineer
Bernadette McKeivitt, Senior Executive Engineer
Patricia Hughes, A/Senior Executive Planner

Minute No. 81/21

Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Monday 5th July 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. Pio Smith and seconded by Cllr. Kevin Callan.

Minute No. 82/21

Matters Arising

Minute No. 75/21:

- Mount Sandford – Cllr. K. Callan asked if a dangerous wall collapsing on road could be addressed as risk of falling on road further, Cllr. P. Smith advised he had previously been told nothing could be done
- Road works at Beechgrove and Harmony Heights had been requested for priority before school return but were not done
- Pearse Park car parking spaces at junction of Bothar Brugha. Cllr. K. Callan asked if they could be removed and was told it would be looked at, Cllr. P. Smith had requested this previously and was told it could not be done, Members asked that if there was a change in approach to be let know why this was the case.

Minute No. 83/21

Housing Progress Report

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

From the items discussed the following items were highlighted:

- Official confirmation of details of the recently announced 'Housing for All' scheme had not issued to Louth.
- Where several individual HAP applicants wish to share a property, they should make a joint application to show housing need.
- There is no boiler service programme in place, repairs are carried out as required.

Minute No. 84/21

Operations and Marine Progress Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting.

Darius Messayeh, Executive Engineer addressed all routine Operations Matters raised.

The following items were highlighted by Members:

- Roads, footpaths and overgrown foliage hindering accessibility - maintenance and repairs required for disabled persons in various locations
- Promotion of National Bike Week which starts on the 12th September requested
- Where Big Beach Clean Days are organised more promotion is requested
- Prompt collection of bags on the same day where groups tidy areas needed to prevent further pollution
- Road and other associated works highlighted as being necessary prior to opening of schools, now being carried out when schools are open
- Items on Tracker listed as to be carried out by a certain date not done
- Commitments given to Councillors to carry out works not upheld and Councillors not informed where items were postponed or delayed
- The CIS application process was questioned and including why through-roads should have to apply for CIS
- A request was made to see the criteria for fixing potholes and applying for claims
- Cllr. K. Callan requested that the Roads Section carry out regular meetings with Drogheda Borough Members on either a weekly or fortnightly basis to go through the list of works and work through them
- Cllr. P. Smith advised on inconsistent responses issuing to different Councillors, and cited a case where he had raised an issue the previous year and received a response which he brought back to residents but subsequent different actions than the response given brought his reputation into disrepute. He stated that this was a very serious matter and regarded it as disrespectful to Members
- A request was made for the Management Team to review the Tracker before meetings

Director of Services, Paddy Donnelly responding to Members advised that no member of staff he worked with would make false promises, the staff were diligent workers who work with the resources to hand, and on occasion a misunderstanding might occur. Grass cutting in estates was a matter for residents. Works were dependant on tendering process and on Contractors working to deadlines. The tracker was advised as a working document for an individual section and Sugar as the preferred record. Specific road meetings could not be committed to as this would put extra pressures on staff but he would refer to the Director for response.

Minute No. 85/21

Infrastructure Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting and John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer responded on all Infrastructure Matters with Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services responding also on some matters.

Members were advised there was no capacity to include Changing Facilities in Fair Street works.

The following non infrastructure items were requested:

- Walls at Mount Sandford to be referred to Dangerous Structures
- Dredger opposite D Hotel to be moved as eyesore, requested to contact Drogheda Port

Minute No. 86/21

Part 8 - Boyne Road Extension

In accordance with Section 179(4)(b) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), it was agreed to accept the recommendations of the Chief Executive in her report on the Part 8 – Boyne Road Extension and proceed with the development as proposed.

This was proposed by Cllr. P. Smith, seconded by Cllr. K. Callan and resolved.

Minute No. 87/21

Drogheda Allocation of Members Community Grants

Distribution of the allocation of Members Community Grants as detailed to Members, was proposed by Cllr. P. Smith, seconded by Cllr. K. Callan, and resolved.

Minute No. 88/21

Briefing on the MD Litter Management Plan

Members received a briefing on the process for the Drogheda Municipal District Litter Management Plan from David Hanratty, Senior Engineer.

Members were also advised that a request during the meeting to move the Mattress Amnesty nearer to end of October to prevent Halloween burning, could not be accommodated due to limitations on grant funding deadlines, but that the dates proposed for the amnesty were as close as possible.

Minute No. 89/21

To agree that the MD meet on 18 October to consider the Municipal Budget

Members discussed the proposal to meet on the 18th October to consider the Municipal Budget and it was agreed to meet before the Council Meeting at 9.00a.m. and then go to St. Gerard's Hall for main council meeting.

Minute No. 90/21

Notice of Question

Submitted by: Cllr Michelle Hall

"I request that the Council give a report on the data collected from the driver feedback signs in Drogheda and Drogheda Rural to indicate the speed of traffic at each sign?"

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

A report will be produced by LCC engineers on whatever useful data can be individually down loaded from the many new Drogheda driver-feedback-signs, and should be presented in the December Meeting.

Members noted the response.

Minute No. 91/21

Notice of Question

Submitted by: Cllr. James Byrne

"Will Louth County Council show greater flexibility in relation to the Shop Front Improvement Scheme by extending the list of eligible locations?"

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

The Shop Front Improvement scheme was established to enhance the appearance of the Town Centre areas of Drogheda, Dundalk and Ardee thereby assisting in the creation of vibrant attractive urban centre's in line with Project Ireland 2040's compact growth aim. This is why the designations are within the core Town Centre areas and the budget allocated reflects this compact area.

Consideration of an extended area should only be in the context that priority would still be given to shop fronts in the current designated areas with any remaining budget being utilised in adjoining streets.

Members noted the response.

Minute No. 92/21

Condolences

Members extended sympathy to the family and friends of:

- David Conroy, Inse Bay, Laytown, who died tragically in a car accident. David was a much loved coach with Drogheda United's Under 14 youth team, a Director of Football and Coach with Laytown United.

Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to St Fechin's GAA, Termonfeckin, for winning the Louth Senior Hurling Champions 2021.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date: _____

Mayor: _____

Meeting Administrator: _____