

Minutes of October Ordinary Council Meeting 2013

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Louth County Council held in County Hall, Dundalk on Monday 21st October 2013

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach:	Cllr. D. Breathnach
Members:	Councillors: P. Bell, M. Bellew, M. Butler, T. Byrne, E. Corrigan, A. Donohoe, L. English, F. Godfrey, A. Grehan, J. Lennon, J. Loughran, F. Maher, C. Markey, F. McCoy, P. McGeough, P. McQuillan I. Munster, M. Murnaghan, , M. O' Dowd, L. Reilly, J. Ryan, P. Savage, T. Sharkey, P. Smith, O. Tully
Officials:	P. Poole, County Manager J. Martin, Director of Service F. Pentony, Director of Services B. Woods, Head of Finance J. McGuinness, Director of Services G. Kelly, Senior Engineer M. Murtagh, Senior Executive Officer E. Woulfe, Chief Fire Officer P. Donnelly, Meetings Administrator
Apologies:	M. Curran, Director of Services

Minute No. 210/13

County Manager

The Cathaoirleach invited the County Manager Ms. Philomena Poole, to address the meeting. The County Manager made the following statement:

“Members will be aware there has been some media coverage in relation to the Council’s Social Housing Investment Programme for 2010. You will also be aware that I directed a review to be conducted by the Council’s Internal Auditors Deloitte. That report was received by me last week and I have now instigated a full investigation into matters surrounding the purchase of the two particular properties involved. All of the appropriate steps and procedures have been put in place to facilitate this investigation.

This will be a de novo investigation – therefore the investigation team will start from scratch. The Deloitte report will not be made available to the Investigation

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Team, to the individuals involved or indeed to any third party and I have emphatic legal advice to that effect.

This investigation will be carried out in a timely manner however until it is fully concluded the Council will not engage or comment on any matter which in any way surrounds it in order to ensure that the outcome is not prejudiced for the individuals involved or for the organisation.” Ends.

Minute No. 211/13

Confirmation of Minutes

Proposed by Cllr. F. Godfrey

Seconded by Cllr. F. McCoy

And resolved:-

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 16th September 2013 be confirmed.

Minute No. 212/13

Minutes – For Information

The minutes of the following meetings were noted.

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| • CPG | 09/09/2013 |
| • Dundalk Carlingford/Dundalk South Area Committee | 03/09/2013 |
| • Ardee Area Committee Meeting | 05/09/2013 |
| • Drogheda East & West Area Committee | 02/09/2013 |
| • Housing SPC | 20/05/2013 |

Minute No. 213/13

Committee Reports

- Corporate Policy Group – An Cathaoirleach Cllr. D. Breathnach reported on the meeting of 11th October 2013
- Housing SPC – Cllr. Jim Ryan reported on the meeting of 16th September 2013
- Transportation & Cross Border SPC – Cllr. Frank Maher reported on the meeting of 8th October 2013
- Economic Development & Future Planning – Cllr. Colm Markey reported on the meeting of 10th October 2013.

Minute No. 214/13

Development Funding for Cities

Proposed by Cllr. P. Savage

Seconded by Cllr. T. Byrne

And Resolved:-

That this authority makes representation to the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government in regard to the scheme under which cities may make application for development funding and that the scheme be amended to take account for large urban areas such as Dundalk and Drogheda which by population are greater than some cities.

Minute No. 215/13

Section 183 Notice

Proposed by Cllr. F. McCoy

Seconded by Cllr. J. Lennon

And Resolved:-

That having considered the notice dated 2nd October 2013 recommending the disposal of lands at main street Dunleer by way of Lease to the trustees of Dunleer Community Development Board Ltd. be confirmed.

Minute No. 216/13

Adoption of North East Homeless Action Plan 2013 - 2018

Proposed by Cllr. P. McQuillen

Seconded by Cllr. P. Savage

And Resolved:-

That having considered the North East Homeless Action Plan 2013 -2018 as circulated under cover dated 7th October 2013 recommending its adoption that the plan be adopted.

Minute No. 217/13

Transportation & Marine Progress Report

The Transportation & Marine Progress Report dated 11th October 2013 was discussed and noted by the members and upon which queries were addressed by the Director of Services. The County Manager advised the members that in respect of the Narrow Water Bridge Project, Down District Council had now confirmed an intention to financially support the project in the order of €500,000. At this time there is no confirmation from the Irish Government or the Northern Ireland Executive that further funding is available. The Project team continue to pursue the matter and members will be kept advised.

Minute No. 218/13

Planning Progress Report

The Planning Progress Report dated 9th October 2013 was noted by the members, as was notice regarding the commencement of Review of the Louth County Development Plan 2009 -2015.

Minute No. 219/13

Housing Progress Report

The Housing Progress Report dated 10th October 2013 was discussed and noted by the members.

Minute No. 220/13

Home Improvement Grants Schemes

Proposed by Cllr. I. Munster
Seconded by Cllr. E. Corrigan
And Resolved:-

That this Authority write to the Department of Environment Community and Local Government and seek additional funding to support the Home Improvement Grants scheme.

Minute No. 221 /13

Votes of Sympathy

The following vote of Sympathy was recorded.

- To the family of the late Mr. Thomas Deery, Father of Patrick and Michael Deery, Roads and Marine Staff and Father-in-law of Mrs Mary Deery, CDB Secretariat.

Minute No. 222/13

Votes of Congratulations

Votes of congratulations were extended to the following.

- Dundalk Town Council and the Cuchulainn Cycling club on their combined efforts to bring the Giro d'Italia to Dundalk in 2014.
- Cooley Ladies football team on winning the football league
- Dundalk Football Club on their success this year.
- Newtown Blues GFC on winning the County Title

Minute No. 223/13

Environmental Progress Report

The Environmental Progress Report dated 10th October 2013 was discussed and noted by the members.

Minute No. 224/13

Oxigen Ltd. facility at Coes Road Dundalk

Proposed by Cllr. M. Bellew

Seconded by Cllr. M. Butler

And Resolved:-

That this Authority writes to the Environmental Protection Agency and seek an update in regard to the operation of the facility at Coes Roads Dundalk managed by Oxigen Ltd. which is the cause of much annoyance and concern to local residents living in the vicinity due to the foul odours that emanate regularly.

Minute No. 225/13

Financial Quarterly Report

The Head of Finance presented the financial Quarterly Report dated 10th October 2013 which was discussed and noted by the members.

Minute No. 226/13

Fire Service Quarterly Report

The Fire Service Quarterly Report dated 21st October was presented by the Director of Services and the Chief Fire Officer, who addressed the member's questions in regard to same.

Minute No. 227/13

Allocation of Members Community Grants

Proposed by Cllr. P. Savage
Seconded by Cllr. L. English
And Resolved:-

To confirm the allocation of Members Community Grants numbering sixty one as listed with the agenda. It was agreed to allow the last of the grants for the current year to be brought to the November meeting.

Minute No. 228/13

Conference & Events

Proposed by Cllr. L. English
Seconded by Cllr. F. McCoy

To approve the attendance of Members at conferences considered by the Corporate Policy Group at their meeting of on 11th October 2013 and recorded in the Conference and Events register.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Minute No. 229/13

Proposed by Cllr. M. O'Dowd
Seconded by Cllr. P. Bell
And Resolve:-

"That Louth County Council writes to the Office of the DPP to ask what further resources are required by that office to ensure the timely prosecution of those who may be guilty of offences following the planning and payments tribunals and the banking collapse".

Minute No. 230/13

Proposed by Cllr. P. Bell

"That Louth County Council supports SIPTU's call for Minister Hogan to engage with Local Development Company (LDC) workers and their union to address their issues arising from the planned alignment of LDC's with local authorities"

The member withdrew the motion.

Minute No. 231/13

Proposed by Cllr. P. McGeough

Seconded by Cllr. P. Bell

"That this council supports the principle that landowners who are victims of illegal dumping should not be penalised, the prime focus should always be on the polluter".

Resolve:-

That this Authority writes to the Minister for the Environment Community and Local Government and request that he considers reviewing the legislation whereby the landowner is responsible for unauthorised dumping on their lands.

Minute No. 232/13

Proposed by Cllr. O. Tully

"That Louth County Council supports the campaign of the Restaurants Association of Ireland to keep the VAT rate for tourism and hospitality at 9% for 2014".

As the member was absent, and the content of the motion has now been dealt with at National level, the matter was considered as closed.

Minute No. 233/13

Proposal by Cllr. T. Sharkey

Seconded by Cllr. E. Corrigan

And Resolve:-

"That Louth County Council ends the current practice of assessing domiciliary allowance as a means when calculating rent in local authority homes in Louth."

As the matter is an executive function the Director of Service confirmed he will review the matter and research same and report on the matter to the Housing SPC as soon as is practical.

Minute No. 234/13

Smoke free playgrounds

**Proposed by Cllr. J. Ryan
Seconded by Cllr. F. McCoy
And Resolve:-**

That all Louth Local Authorities Playgrounds be designated as smoke free areas.

Minute No. 235/13

**Proposed by Cllr. P. McQuillen
Seconded by Cllr. E. Corrigan
And Resolve:-**

That this local authority contacts Dr. James Reilly, Minister for Health, and working in conjunction with HSE, Regional Drugs Task Force, Louth Community Drug & Alcohol Team, Drogheda Homeless Aid and other relevant organisations, to support and implement recommendations made in the North East Homeless Action Plan 2014-2018, for the provision of a Residential Detox Programme for the region to mitigate homelessness.

Minute No. 236/13

**Proposed by Cllr. J. Loughran
Seconded by Cllr. E. Corrigan
And Resolved:-**

"That this council in the interest of safety introduce speed reducing measures at Mountbagnel, Riverstown, Dundalk"

Reply

The District Engineer will arrange for a speed and traffic count survey to be carried out at this location.

Minute No. 237/13

Proposed by Cllr. P. Smith

Seconded by Cllr. P. Bell

And Resolved:-

"Calling on Louth County Council to inform the Receiver for Manor Park Homes Ltd. that the Council is now sequestering the relevant Bonds pertaining to the developments of Termon Abbey and Aston Village Housing Estates"

Reply

As agreed at the October South Louth Area Meeting, the Receiver will be given a very short deadline of a few weeks within which to commence the works identified on the snag list, failing which the Council will move to undertake the works directly using monies from the bonds held.

Minute No. 238/13

Proposed by Cllr. I. Munster

Seconded by Cllr. F. Maher

And Resolved:-

"Calling on this council in light of the fact revealed by the council engineers that, Kavanagh Fennell, receivers for Manorpark Homebuilders, after 2 years of chasing, have not given a commitment or commencement date for the taking in charge of Aston Village and Termon Abbey and are currently seeking to sell these works to an as yet unknown third party developer which would further delay the taking in charge works from happening beyond the current 2 year delay, that this council sequester the cash bond currently held to immediately begin the taking in charge works".

Reply

As agreed at the October South Louth Area Meeting, the Receiver will be given a very short deadline of a few weeks within which to commence the works identified on the snag list, failing which the Council will move to undertake the works directly using monies from the bonds held.

Minute No. 239/13

Suspension of Standing Orders

Proposed by Cllr. P. Bell

Seconded by Cllr. E. Corrigan

And Resolved:-

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To suspend Standing Orders in accordance with Standing Order 24 to permit the matter to hand be completed by 1.35 pm.

The time being 1.40 p.m. the business of the meeting concluded.

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

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meetings Administrator: _____