

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council November 2014

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Louth County Council held in County Hall, Dundalk at 10.00am on Monday 17th November, 2014.

In attendance:

Leas Cathaoirleach: Cllr. M. Butler.

Members: Councillors: P. Bell, D. Breathnach, T. Byrne, K. Callan, A. Cassidy, E. Corrigan, R. Culhane, T. Cunningham, M. Dearey, M. Doyle, K. Flood, F. Godfrey, J. Green, C. Keelan, J. Loughran, C. Markey, J. McGahon, P. McGeough, K. Meenan, D. Minogue, I. Munster, L. Reilly, P. Savage, T. Sharkey, P. Smith, J. Tenanty, M. Yore

Officials J. Martin, Chief Executive
F. Pentony, Director of Services
B. Woods, Head of Finance
J. McGuinness, Director of Services
M. T. Daly, A/Director of Services
D. Storey, Senior Executive Officer
G. Kelly, Senior Engineer
P. Finn, Senior Engineer
P. Donnelly, Meetings Administrator

Apologies Cllr. O. Tully

Minute No. 267/14

Confirmation of Minutes

Proposed by Cllr. L. Reilly

Seconded by Cllr. P. Bell

And resolved:-

That the minutes of the ordinary meeting of Council held on 20th October 2014 be confirmed.

Minute No. 268/14

Minutes for Information

The members noted the following minutes

- Municipal District of Dundalk 06/10/2014
- Municipal District of Ardee 09/10/2014
- Municipal District of Ardee Special Meeting 13/10/2014
- Borough District of Drogheda 07/10/2014
- Corporate Policy Group 10/10/2014

Minute No. 269 /14

Committee Reports

The Leas Cathaoirleach Cllr. Marianne Butler presented the Cathaoirleach report on the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on Friday 7th November 2014.

Minute No. 270/14

Chief Executives Report

The Chief Executives report for November was noted by the members. The Chief Executive responded to member's queries in regard to the report.

Minute No. 271/14

Overdraft Requirement

To approve, as outlined by the Head of Finance, the access to an overdraft facility of five million Euro.

Proposed by Cllr. P. Savage
Seconded by Cllr. P. Bell
And resolved:-

To confirm the approval of an overdraft facility as set out in respect of Budget 2015.

Minute No. 272/14

Section 183 Notice – Premises at Decliff Taverns Ltd. Drogheda

Cllr. T. Byrne excused himself from the meeting as he identified a conflict of interest.

**Proposed by Cllr. P. Bell
Seconded by Cllr. K. Callan
And resolved:-**

To confirm the sale of the Fee simple as set out in the Section 183 notice dated 21st October 2014 in respect of the property at Decliff Properties Ltd. Fair Green, Drogheda.

Minute No. 273/14

Section 183 Notice – Premises at 21 Chord Road Drogheda

**Proposed by Cllr. P. Bell
Seconded by Cllr. K. Callan
And resolved:-**

To confirm the sale of the Fee simple as set out in the Section 183 notice dated 21st October 2014 in respect of 21 Chord Road, Drogheda.

Minute No. 274/14

Section 183 Notice – Irish Street, Ardee (Ship Dip)

**Proposed by Cllr. D. Minogue
Seconded by Cllr. C. Markey
And resolved:-**

To confirm the sale of the lands as set out in the Section 183 notice dated 4th November 2014, an area of 0.1549 hectares of land at Irish Street, Ardee known as the Sheep Dip.

Minute No. 275/14

Section 183 Notice – Lands at Gibstown, Dundalk

Proposed by Cllr. D. Breathnach

Seconded by Cllr. C. Markey

And resolved:-

To confirm the sale of the lands as set out in the Section 183 notice dated 7th November 2014 an area of circa 0.043 hectares at Gibstown, Dundalk.

Minute No. 276/14

Housing Monthly Progress Report

The Members noted the Housing Progress Report dated 10th November 2014 and the Members queries were addressed by the Director of Services and Senior Executive Officer.

Minute No. 277/14

Planning & Environmental Progress Reports

The Members noted the Planning & Environmental Progress Reports dated 3rd November 2014 and the Members queries were addressed by the Acting Director of Services, Mary T. Daly. On the proposal of Cllr. D. Breathnach seconded by Cllr. J. Loughran it was agreed to extend an invitation to the Environmental Protection Agency to present to Council in respect of the seasonal issue of decaying seaweed in a number of areas of the Counties coastline.

Minute No. 278/14

Votes of Sympathy

Votes of sympathy were recorded to the families of:-

- Fiona Healy, Finance Section, on the death of her husband Michael (Mick) Healy.
- Peter Fitzpatrick T.D. on the death of his mother Madge Fitzpatrick.
- Paddy Lambe who died in a tragic accident in Drogheda
- Fintan Heslin & Paddy Farrelly who died in a RTC near Ardee
- Bernadette Sharkey Daughter in Law of former LCC Paddy Sharkey

Minute No. 279/14

Vote of Congratulation

A vote of congratulations was extended to the staff and the two hundred volunteers who were involved in Louth Field Names project and the recent launch of the book recording and setting out the work of the project.

Minute No. 280/14

Allocation of Members Community Grants

Proposed by Cllr. F. Godfrey

Seconded by Cllr. K. Flood

And Resolved:-

To approve the payment of allocations to the one hundred and fifty two (152) community groups listed on the report circulated with the agenda and presented at the meeting.

Minute No. 281/14

Conference and Events

Proposed by Cllr. F. Godfrey

Seconded by Cllr. J. Tenanty

And Resolved:-

To approve the attendance of members at the Conferences circulated with the agenda.

Minute No. 282 /14

Notice of Motions

Proposed by Cllr. M. Dearey

Seconded by Cllr. F. Godfrey

"As the former provider of public water services in Co Louth, this Council calls on Government to make provision for a referendum to amend the constitution in order to prohibit the privatisation of water provision and waste water services"

There followed a roll call vote

For: Cllrs. P. Bell, D. Breathnach, M. Butler, T. Byrne, K. Callan, A. Cassidy, E. Corrigan, , T. Cunningham, M. Dearey, K. Flood, F. Godfrey, J. Green, C.

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Keelan, J. Loughran, P. McGeough, K. Meenan, I. Munster, L. Reilly, P. Savage, T. Sharkey, P. Smith, J. Tenanty, M. Yore

Total : **Twenty three (23)**

Against: Cllrs. M. Doyle, C. Markey, J. McGahon, D. Minogue

Total : **Four (4)**

Abstain: Nil (0)

Absent: Cllrs. R. Culhane, O. Tully

Total : **Two (2)**

The Leas Cathaoirleach confirmed the motion carried.

Minute No. 283/14

Proposed by Cllr. T. Sharkey

Seconded by Cllr. E. Corrigan

"That Louth County Council calls on the Government to;

- Immediately reverse domestic water charges which are an unfair and unjust double charge being forced on already struggling households.
- Stop the roll out of metering and redirect the €539m loan finance from the National Pension Reserve Fund towards fixing the massive leakage problems and interruption to supply.
- Recognise that Irish Water is not fit for purpose since it is unaccountable to the Minister and therefore to the Oireachtas and the citizens of this State.
- Prevent Irish Water from any further excessive spending of taxpayer's money, including the proposed further €35m on the use of external consultants in 2015.
- Oppose any duplication of services being delivered by Irish Water and Local authorities and retain these services within full public ownership now and in the future.
- Listen to the widespread public anger that exists towards this Government and Irish Water by the Irish people, who are now rightly organising and mobilising in protest and opposition to these water charges through the Right2Water public campaign which includes activists, citizens, community groups, political parties and trade unions.

There followed a roll call vote

For: Cllrs. P. Bell, D. Breathnach, M. Butler, T. Byrne, K. Callan, A. Cassidy, E. Corrigan, T. Cunningham, M. Dearey, K. Flood, F. Godfrey, J. Green, C. Keelan, J. Loughran, P. McGeough, K. Meenan, I. Munster, L. Reilly, P. Savage, T. Sharkey, J. Tenanty, M. Yore

Total : **Twenty two (22)**

Against: Cllrs. R. Culhane, M. Doyle, C. Markey, J. McGahon, D. Minogue, P. Smith

Total : **Six (6)**

Abstain: Nil (0)

Absent: Cllr. Tully - One (1)

The Leas Cathaoirleach confirmed the motion carried.

Minute No. 284/14

Proposed by Cllr. P. Smith
Seconded by Cllr. P. Bell

That this municipal district believes that Irish Water, the new national water utility, should never be privatized and that a referendum to this effect be held on the same day as the same sex marriage referendum in 2015.

Vote by show of hands

For 8 – Against 12 – Abstain 1

The Leas Cathaoirleach declared the motion had fallen.

Minute No. 285/14

Proposed by Cllr. D. Breathnach
Seconded by Cllr. C. Keelan

This Council calls on the National Road Safety Authority to provide a more localised office in the North Louth area for the provision of vehicle driver

certificates in order to facilitate the large number of people experiencing difficulty in accessing the service based in County Meath

Minute No.286/14

Proposed by Cllr. D. Breathnach

Seconded by Cllr. L. Reilly

That LCC calls on the Road Safety Authority to support an active campaign to highlight the dangers of people driving vehicles with defective lights.

Minute No. 287/14

Proposed by Cllr. P. Bell

Seconded by Cllr. F. Godfrey

That this Council explore the possibility of purchasing for the people of Drogheda the 'Merryweather'(Green) which is part of the history of our town during WW2 and in particular it's deployment to Belfast following the blitzing of the city by the German Luftwaffe on two separate occasions. This would complete the return of both Merryweather Fire tenders with the Dundalk vehicle having been repurchased and restored'

Reply:

Given the historic significance of the Fire Engine to Drogheda, every effort will be made to identify a source of funding for this project.

Minute No. 288/14

Notice of Questions

Cllr. M. Bulter

Will local authority mortgages be subject to the new Central Bank guidelines on mortgage lending, that are due to come into effect in January 2015?

REPLY:

Local Authorities are not regulated by the Central Bank and as a result will not be subject to the guidelines issued. However it should be noted that Local Authorities would normally take cognisance of any guidelines issued when developing their own Credit Policy.

Minute No. 289/14

Cllr. M. Butler

In relation to the recent payment deadline for NPPR arrears, can the Council confirm:-

1. How much they have received to date in arrears
2. How many payment plans have been agreed or are in the process of being agreed.
3. Is this extra funding for Louth County Council?

REPLY:

1. We do not have the figure for the arrears relation to August deadline but the figure received to date for 2014 amounts to €1.2m.

2. Approximately 40 cases covering various years have been agreed with customers and payment plans started. There are a number of cases on hand that we are working through.

3. While a portion of these monies was included in the three Authorities income budgets for 2014 there will be approximately €500k that was not budgeted for but is being used to offset shortfalls in other income and increased expenditure in certain areas.

Minute No. 290/14

Suspension of Standing Orders

Proposed by Cllr. C. Markey

Seconded by Cllr. F. Godfrey

And resolved:-

That the business of the meeting be suspended as provided by Standing Order No. 18 to consider Urgent Business relating to a function of the Council, specifically that the recent incidents of flooding in the County be discussed.

A number of members made a contribution to the debate expressing their empathy to those who had suffered loss in their homes and businesses as a

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result of the flooding. Tributes and thanks were extended to the many staff and volunteers of the Local Authority services and the Defence Forces personnel who worked during the floods. The Leas Cathaoirleach advised that time did not permit for the debate to continue due to the Budget meeting that was to follow immediately following the ordinary meeting.

Mr. Frank Pentony, Director of Service outlined to the members some of the actions taken by the Council. Members were advised that a staff debrief would take place shortly and a report on the matter following the review would be circulated to the members.

Minute No. 291/14

Correspondence

The Members noted the following Correspondence

- Letter from Dept of Health dated 17th October 2014
- Letter from Dept Environment, Community & Local Government 14th October 2014
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Social Protection 22nd September 2014
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Housing & Planning 16th September 2014

Minute No. 292/14

Chief Executives Register

The register was available for the members' inspection.

Minute No. 293/14

The time being 1.45pm and the business of the meeting been complete the Leas Cathaoirleach concluded the meeting.

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

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meetings Administrator: _____