

*Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council April 2015*

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Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Louth County Council held in the County Hall, Dundalk, Co. Louth at 10.00am on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2015

**In attendance:**

**Cathaoirleach:** Cllr. Oliver Tully

**Members:** Councillors: D. Breathnach, M. Butler, 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  
P. Finn, Senior Engineer  
P. Donnelly, A/DoS, Meetings Administrator

**Apologies** Cllr. Paul Bell

**Minute No. 74/15**

**Confirmation of Minutes**

**Proposed by Cllr. K. Callan**

**Seconded by Cllr. L. Reilly**

**And resolved:-**

That the minutes of the ordinary meeting of Council held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2015 be confirmed.

**Minute No. 75/15**

**Minutes for Information**

The members noted the following minutes

- Borough District of Drogheda 02/3/2015
- CPG 13/3/2015
- Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC 15/12/14
- Housing, Community Planning and Emergency Services 19/1/2015
- Infrastructure, European and Cross Border Affairs SPC 19/2/2015
- Municipal District of Ardee 05/3/2015
- Municipal District of Dundalk 03/03/2015
- Planning and Environment SPC 09/12/2014

**Minute No. 76/15**

**Committee Reports**

**Corporate Policy Group**

The Cathaoirleach Cllr. Oliver Tully presented a report on the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

**Housing Community & Emergency Services SPC**

Cllr. Imelda Munster Chair of the Housing Community & Emergency Services SPC presented a report of the meeting of the SPC held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2015.

**Minute No. 77/15**

**Chief Executives Report**

The Chief Executives report dated 7<sup>th</sup> April 2015 was noted by the members.

**Minute No. 78/15**

**Ardee & Dunleer Local Area Plan**

*As provided for in Section 19 (1) (d) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended: To extend the life of the Ardee & Dunleer Local Area Plan for a further five years to 2020.*

**Amendment**

**Proposed by Cllr. L. Reilly**

**Seconded by Cllr. F. Godfrey**

**And resolved:-**

Not to extend the life of the Ardee and Dunleer Local Area Plans and to proceed with the review the plans in accordance with the legislation.

**Minute No. 79/15**

**LCDC Annual Report**

**Proposed by Cllr. C. Markey**

**Seconded by Cllr. M. Doyle**

**And resolved:-**

That having considered the annual report in respect of the Local Community Development Committee to confirm same.

**Minute No. 80/15**

**Presidential Distinguished Service Award for the Irish Abroad**

Having considered correspondence in the matter dated 25<sup>th</sup> March the following nominations were proposed:

1. Sr. Mary McNamara, MMM. Malawi, Proposed by Cllr. Savage seconded by Cllr. Byrne.
2. Mr. Tommy Smyth, formally of Knockbridge and now of New York Proposed by Cllr. Breathnach and Seconded by Cllr. Tully.

**Minute No. 81/15**

**Votes of Sympathy**

The following votes of sympathy were recorded:-

- To the family of the late Mr. John Clinton, former Water Inspector with Dundalk Town Council.
- To the Family of Mr. Michael Matthews, Mell, Drogheda
- To the Family of Mr. Richard Patterson, Castlerock, County Derry, who was tragically killed in a crash on the M1 Motorway near Drogheda.

**Minute No. 82/15**

**Vote of Congratulations**

The Cathaoirleach Cllr. Oliver Tully proposed a vote of Congratulations to the newly formed Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and wished the Mayor, Cllr. Naomi Bailie together with the elected members, the Chief Executive Mr. Liam Hannaway and his staff every success in the future and he looked forward to the relationship with Louth County Council continue to grow through the Memorandum of Understanding.

**Minute No. 83/15**

**Presentation**

**Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Support Group (LGBT)**

Ms. Bernadine Quinn of the Dundalk Outcomers LGBT delivered a presentation on her role and the role of the Dundalk LGBT support group. The Cathaoirleach thanked Ms. Quinn and her Colleagues Lorraine Kelly and Samantha King for their attendance and for the very personal presentation about their work.

**Minute No. 84/15**

**Motion**

**Proposed by Cllr. J. McGahon**  
**Seconded by Cllr. D. Breathnach**  
**And resolved:-**

"That Louth County Council support the upcoming referendum on marriage equality"

***The Motion was agreed by all in attendance.***

**Minute No. 85/15**

**Order of Business**

The Cathaoirleach as per standing order number 11 outlined his intention to proceed with Notice of Question and Motion at this time.

**Minute No. 86/15**

**Notice of Question: Cllr. F. Godfrey**

How many people in County Louth are using the Library Services, how many books have been borrowed, how many books have been ordered and purchased by the library and how many people use the internet services provided?

**REPLY:**

<b>Library Service Indicators</b>	<b>January – December 2014</b>
Total Number of visits to libraries	290,500
Total membership	15,588
Total number of items borrowed	400,117 (including 1,474 E – resources)
Total number of items purchased	11,496 (including 1,722 E-resources)
Total number of Internet sessions provided	21,543 (including 4,586 Wi-Fi sessions)

***The matter was noted by the members***

**Minute No. 87/15**

**Notice of Question: Cllr. T. Sharkey**

What premises in County Louth, be it land, buildings or facilities are being leased to organisations or individuals? I am seeking a list of all the properties, the leasee of each, start date and duration of each lease and the annual amount of rent payable? Have any of these leases lapsed?"

**REPLY:**

**Corporate Services are currently engaged in the compiling of this information. When the report is complete the information will be made available to the members.**

*The matter was noted by the members*

**Minute No. 88/15**

**Notice of Question: Cllr. K. Flood**

Did the chairperson of Louth County Council travel to New York in March and has he submitted a report on activities undertaken and cost involved and did the trip include any members of council staff and if so can we be furnished with report and total cost of same?

**REPLY:**

The Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council is tasked with many and varied representational duties during the year. Those duties this year included travel to New York to promote the social cultural and economic benefits of County Louth, to meet with members of the County Louth Society of New York and participate in the world famous St. Patricks Day Parade. Travel and accommodation costs associated with the trip for the Cathaoirleach and a staff member who travelled amounted to €4626.00 There is no requirement nor is it the practice that the Cathaoirleach furnish reports in respect of representational duties.

*The matter was noted by the members*

**Minute No. 89/15**

**Motion**

**Proposed by Cllr. K. Callan  
Seconded by Cllr. R. Culhane**

That Louth County Council proactively uses the crests of the towns of Drogheda, Ardee and Dundalk in all borough and municipal district documentation and publications, town entry signage and in all public buildings as fits the area involved. That such an approach to displaying the crest of each town is taken in conjunction with the county crest but the continued use of town crests preserves the identities of our municipal and borough areas as was the case prior to the coming into effect of the Local government Reform Act 2014.

**Reply:**

**This matter will be dealt with at a future CPG meeting.**

The Chief Executive agreed to revert to the members outline the issues and options in this matter.

**Minute No. 90/15**

**Motion**

**Proposed by Cllr. K. Callan  
Seconded by Cllr. Culhane**

That this Council undertake a study to examine the possibility of using buildings such as the Tholsel in Drogheda and the Castle in Ardee as venues for civil marriage ceremonies. That such a policy would permit the use of buildings for civil and civic events on an ongoing basis for those residing in the County who would desire to hold such an event in landmark buildings of historic importance.

**Reply:**

**It would not be practical or logistically possible to have such buildings available on a regular basis for this purpose.**

The Chief Executive undertook to provide a list of properties in the ownership of Louth County Council and the feasibility to having access to same.

**Minute No. 91 /15**

**Motion**

**Proposed by Cllr. D. Breathnach  
Seconded by Cllr. K. Callan**

"That Louth County Council seek the commitment of the Minister for Environment to reintroduce the Local Improvement Scheme or to allow existing LIS roads participate in the Community Initiative Scheme of which they are currently excluded"

**The members agreed that correspondence on the matter should issue to the Minister.**

**Minute No. 92/15**

**Motion**

**Proposed by Cllr. A. Cassidy  
Seconded by Cllr. T. Cunningham**

That Louth County Council take a proactive approach to secure funding for a Pontoon in Drogheda, considering planning permission has been approved and the clock is now ticking. Therefore I am asking this council to write to The East Border Region forum to explore any available/ or upcoming funding.

**Reply:**

**As funding opportunities present, the Council will endeavor to identify a suitable objective under which the provision of the pontoon will be eligible for funding. Staff has worked closely with East Border Region and SEUPB in regard to this project and will continue to do so.**

**Minute No. 93/15**

**Motion**

**Proposed by Cllr. D. Breathnach  
Seconded by Cllr. K. Callan**

That a full presentation be given by Management and Broadband providers to this Council for the future for broadband both by speed and location and inform realistically what all our communities both Urban and Rural can expect in the areas in which they reside



**Reply:**

The government in late 2014 published online national and county maps that identify the homes, businesses and schools where commercial providers will deliver high-speed broadband access by the end of 2016. The government will invest in all the remaining areas to ensure that every home, school and business in Ireland has access to high-speed broadband, regardless of where it is located.

The maps, which allow the public to identify their own premises to see whether their high-speed broadband will be provided by a commercial operator or through State intervention, can be accessed at [www.broadband.gov.ie](http://www.broadband.gov.ie) The website also carries statistics on planned broadband coverage in County Louth. The Louth economic Forum has devised an overall 10 point plan identifying 10 specific areas to be addressed within its work programme and Broadband has been identified as one of the key factors in the plan. Following on from the publication of the county maps the broadband task group will now prepare the Louth Broadband Action Plan over the coming weeks and bring same to the Councils Economic & Enterprise SPC for noting

**Minute No. 94/15**

**Motion**

**Proposed by Cllr. M. Butler**

**Seconded by Cllr. M. Dearey**

That this council supports the road traffic (amendment) bill 2015, lowering speed limits in residential areas to 20km per hour, in order to encourage compliance with these lower speed limits that the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport provide the necessary funding to provide residential areas with table ramps and other measures to ensure drivers reduce their speeds in these areas.

**REPLY**

**New Speed Limit Guidelines are due to be published in the next few weeks. It is recommended that this motion be referred to Strategic Policy Committee for consideration in the context of the new guidelines.**

The Chief Executive confirmed that new guidelines have now been published and these did not provide for a 20KPH speed limit but they did include a proposal for new rural road speed limit signage, and necessitate the review of all speed limits within two years of the publishing of the regulations.

**Minute No. 95/15**

**Motion**

**Proposed by Cllr. C. Keelan  
Seconded by Cllr. J. Tenanty**

In recognition of the 100th anniversary of Cumann na mBan last year and a cross-party Seanad motion calling for appropriate recognition that this Council commit to designate an un-named piece of infrastructure in the county after Cumann na mBan and that once adopted the Cross-Party 1916 Steering Committee in Louth will make the recommendation.

**It was agreed that the matter would be further discussed when a suitable piece of infrastructure was identified.**

**Minute No. 96/15**

**Suspension of Standing Orders**

**Proposed by Cllr. F. Godfrey  
Seconded by Cllr. P. Smith  
And resolved:-**

That standing orders be suspended as per Standing Order number 24 to permit the business of the meeting continue until 2.00 pm.

**Minute No. 97/15**

**Motion**

**Proposed by Cllr. C. Keelan  
Seconded by Cllr. J. McGahon**

**Due to the success and commitment of Cork City Council and Waterford City and County Councils in developing the Tramore Valley and Kilbarry Bog landfills into public amenity that this Council commit to developing the former landfill site on the Newry Road, Dundalk in a similar fashion encompassing the following points;**

*As advised previously, the Waterford City Council site was redeveloped as a public park incorporating a 2.5km pedestrian path, trim trails, seating, signage and wildflower meadow areas at a cost of €1.2 million. The Cork City Council site was subject to a part 8 planning process in 2013 and its development is dependent on the availability of funding of €20million. Unfortunately, no such*

*funding is currently availability to develop the former landfill site on the Newry Road as a public amenity area..*

**That this Council develops a strategic policy and vision for the transformation of the former landfill site into public amenity and that this features in the forthcoming Local Area Plan for Dundalk.**

*The future use of the former landfill site will be determined in due course taking into account such factors as gas management, settlement and suitability of the site for future uses. It should be noted that the site is subject to an EPA licence and any development will be contingent on their approval.*

**That this Council reaffirm a commitment previously given at the now abolished Dundalk Town Council that once developed priority on the site should be given to playing pitches (1 for each code) and a public park in recognition of the historic absence of such social infrastructure on the Northern end of Dundalk.**

*While the question of considering the provision of playing pitches was discussed at previous Town Council meetings, no record can be found of a commitment to provide pitches as outlined, as the ongoing issue of settlement and gas management will determine the future use of the site. In addition, the current species of grasses growing on site were planted to encourage wildlife population and would not be suitable for playing pitches. The site would require leveling, application of a herbicide to eliminate perennial weeds, re-seeding with the proper species of grasses and maintenance.*

**That the Council liaises with relevant officials from Cork and Waterford local authorities and that appropriate presentations are invited in due course.**

*Council officials have already discussed the re-development of the respective landfill sites with their colleagues in both Cork and Waterford City Councils. A copy of the Cork City Council presentation is available on the City Council's website.*

**Recognising the Council's present financial position that EU and national grant aid is to be sought for the project.**

*As mentioned previously, the provision of funding is one of the challenges to the redevelopment of the former landfill site and this is not a priority under the 3 year Capital Programme. However, any suitable funding streams can be explored if the need arises.*

**Minute No. 98/15**

**Motion**

**Proposed by Cllr. P. Smith**

**Seconded by Cllr. F. Godfrey**

That Louth County Council supports the following:

1. Supports the introduction of a Living Wage to all directly engaged, contracted and sub-contracted staff.

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2. Will adopt a policy of supporting the Living Wage in procurement on a case by case basis.
3. Will seek accreditation as a Living Wage employer through the Living Wage Foundation.
4. Will ensure the terms of implementation of a Living Wage are negotiated through the recognised trade unions.
5. Notes the Governments commitment to establishing a living wage forum which will include the Trade Unions, Civil Society and Employer Organisations."

**Amendment**

Proposed by Cllr K. Flood to remove point number 2 and agreed by Cllr. P. Smith.

The Amended Motion was agreed by all.

**Minute No. 99/15**

**Motion**

**Proposed by Cllr. T. Byrne**  
**Seconded by Cllr. D. Breathnach**  
**And Resolved:**

That Louth County Council, calls on the Minister for Finance Mr. Michael Noonan TD, to give a commitment prior to the Government Summer Recess, to expand the Valuation Bands from € 0 -100,000 to € 150,000 and so on, to prevent a Local Property Tax bombshell in 2016."

**Minute No. 100/15**

**Motion**

**Proposed by Cllr. P. Smith**  
**Seconded by Cllr. F. Godfrey**  
**And Resolved:**

This Council supports the workers in Dunnes Stores who are seeking The implementation of banded hour contracts which would give workers security of hours and earnings. A review of excessive use of temporary contracts of employment. Individual and collective representational rights for Dunnes workers.

This Council welcomes the commitment to legislate for an improved framework for workers who seek to better their terms and conditions where collective bargaining is not recognised by their employer.

Further this council welcomes Government commitment to legislate so that workers can have confidence that they have an effective system that protects and promotes their rights. This legislation ensures they can advance claims about remuneration, terms and conditions and have these determined based on comparisons with similar companies – and not be victimised for doing so."

**Minute No. 101/15**

**Allocation of Members Community Grants - March 2015**

Having considered the thirty eight (38) the grant were approved on the proposal of Cllr. Butler and seconded by Cllr. Callan.

**Minute No. 102 /15**

**Conference and Events**

There were no proposals by members to attend Conference and events.

**Minute No. 103/15**

**Housing Monthly Progress Report**

The Members noted the Housing Progress Report dated 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2015 and the Members queries were addressed by the Director of Services and Senior Executive Officer.

**Minute No. 104/15**

**Planning & Environmental Progress Reports**

The Members noted the suite of reports circulated with the agenda in respect of Environmental Compliance, Forward Planning, and Planning Enforcement and Planning progress report.

It was agreed that correspondence issue to Senator Paul Coughlan in the matter of the multi agency initiative in respect of the diesel laundering issue.

**Minute No. 105/15**

**Correspondence**

Correspondence circulated with the agenda was noted.

**Minute No. 106/15**

**Chief Executives Register**

The register was available for the members' inspection.

**Minute No. 107/15**

That concluded the business of the meeting.

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cathaoirleach: \_\_\_\_\_

Meetings Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_