

Minutes of Ordinary meeting of Council June 2016

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Louth County Council held in County Hall, Dundalk on Monday 20th June 2016

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. P. Bell

Members: Councillors: M. Butler, J. Byrne, T. Byrne, K. Callan, E. Coffey, 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, L. Reilly, P. Savage, T. Sharkey, P. Smith, J. Tenanty, O. Tully, M. Yore

Officials: J. Martin, Chief Executive
B. Woods, Head of Finance
J. McGuinness Director of Services
E. O’Gorman, Director of Services
P. Donnelly, Director of Services
P. Finn, Senior Engineer
M. T. Daly, Senior Executive Officer
F. Downes, Meetings Administrator

Apologies: Councillors: A. Cassidy, E. Corrigan
F. Pentony, Director of Services

Minute No. 93/16

Confirmation of Minutes

Proposed by: Cllr. K. Callan

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Smith

And resolved:

That the minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 16th May 2016 be confirmed.

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting June 2016

Minute No. 94/16

Matters arising

Minute No. 82/16 – P. Donnelly, Director of Services advised that a he would check that details regarding the breakdown of prosecutions for illegal dumping in the last year have been circulated to members.

Minute No. 95/16

Chairman's Report – Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 10th June 2016

E. O’Gorman, Director of Services presented the report. Members considered and agreed the draft agenda for the June monthly meeting. Councillors Community Grants (No. 32) were noted and recommended for approval as were Conferences & Events (No. 3) as presented. The Protocol for the Awarding of Civic Honours was considered and recommended for approval as well as discussion re inclusion of updates on the efficiency of the Sugar CRM system, where appropriate, in the Chief Executive’s report to Council.

Minute No. 96/16

Minutes for noting

The following minutes were noted by the members.

Borough District of Drogheda 9th May 2016

Corporate Policy Group 10th June 2016

Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC 1st February 2016

Municipal District of Ardee 5th May 2016

Municipal District of Dundalk 3th May 2016

Planning & Environment SPC 9th March 2016

Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee 17th February 2016

Minute No. 97/16

Monthly Management Report

Members considered the Management Report dated 7th June 2016.

Queries in regard to the report were addressed by the Chief Executive, Members of the Management Team, and Senior Staff. Issues addressed included:-

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting June 2016

- Anti social behavior in Dulargy Avenue – J. McGuinness confirmed that there are investigations ongoing at present, one exclusion order granted, three CPOs completed on private houses and a fourth in process and wanted to reassure tenants that Louth County Council are on their side.
- Ard Dealgan – J. McGuinness advised that Tuath Housing Association have stepped forward and are carrying out testing on site this week. He outlined that the process for securing the ownership of site is a priority.
- Woodlands Park – J. McGuinness outlined that tenants in permanent bays would have to adhere to a tenancy agreement and transient tenants would have a licence agreement.
- Pay by Weight – Ms. E. O’Gorman confirmed that the Minister met with Waste Operators and that there is a proposal to cap charges, i.e. customers will not pay more than they have paid in the past twelve months.
- Preparation of 2017 budget – the Chief Executive advised that she hopes to meet at Municipal District level to discuss issues and outlined the following:
 - Unavailability of funding for road maintenance - roads grants reduced throughout recession and in the past own resources were utilised but the situation has changed dramatically as contributions from development levies is no longer available. J. Martin advised that she is the Chair on CCMA re roads at a national level where information re the current state of the roads and cost of works is being gathered to bring back to TII and the Department but the funding necessary for these works is limited and the council’s ability to raise money is also limited. Local property tax is an important source of revenue and means that a reduction in same will result in less work being carried out and vice versa.
 - The first formal part of the budget will be inviting the public to participate and there will have to be a final decision on LPT before the end of September. If construction sector picks up then there will be an increase in the level of development contributions
- Regional Skills Forum – J. Martin advised that Thomas McEvoy is Louth’s representative on this forum and it aims to identify the skills needed to attract industry to the area.

Minute No. 98/16

Section 183 Notice – Proposed Disposal of land at Tierney Street, Ardee, Co. Louth to Oaklee Housing Trust Ltd.

Proposed by: Cllr. L. Reilly
Seconded by: Cllr. D. Minogue
And resolved:

That having considered the notice on the matter dated 30th May 2016 to confirm the disposal of plot of ground comprising 0.117 hectares at Tierney Street, Ardee for a consideration of €145,000.

Minute No. 99/16

Section 183 Notice – Proposed Disposal of land at Clós na Manach, Greenore Road, Carlingford, Co. Louth to Tuath Housing Association Ltd.

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Savage
Seconded by: Cllr. K. Callan
And resolved:

That having considered the notice on the matter dated 30th May 2016 to confirm the disposal of plot of ground comprising 0.258 hectares at Clós na Manach, Greenore Road, Carlingford, Co. Louth for a consideration of €300,000.

Minute No. 100/16

Votes of Sympathy

Unanimous votes of sympathy were extended to the family, friends and the Labour Party on the death of Labour MP Jo Cox, who was tragically killed carrying out her constituency duties in the United Kingdom.

Votes of sympathy were also extended to:

- To Paul Delaney, Operations & Local Services on the death of his brother Mr. Laurence(Larry) Delaney.
- To the Family of Áine Gaynor, Staff Member Louth County Council.

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting June 2016

- To Brenda Caffrey, Customer Services Drogheda on the death of her mother Ms. Evelyn Reilly (née Kirwan)
- To the Family of John Byrne, Staff Member, Louth County Council
- To the Family and friends of Mick Slevin.
- To the Family and Friends of Peter O'Reilly.

Members, lead by the Cathaoirleach, observed a minute's silence in respect of those listed.

Minute No. 101/16

Presentation of Report on Housing for Older People Future Perspectives

J. Martin, Chief Executive welcomed the speakers and advised that Louth were the first age friendly county in Ireland and that we have the Older People's Forum and the Age Friendly Alliance.

Mr. Rod Bond from the Netwell Centre in DKIT outlined that it was a ten year journey from the initial concept of the Great Northern Haven project to completion and he wanted to acknowledge some of the 'heros' involved such as Martina Maloney, Conn Murray, Philomena Poole, Joan Martin, Frank Pentony, Joe McGuinness, Dave Storey, Mary Deery, Anne Cole, Ann Marie Hoey, Fiona Murphy, Dr. Edel Healy and her team from DKIT and the people living in the Great Northern Haven. Mr. Bond stated that the Great Northern Haven project is a jewel in Louth's crown, a living laboratory where technology offers people an enhanced quality of life and where one can respond to the needs of older people as best as one can whilst dealing with future challenges that may arise.

Aisling Costello from Age Friendly Ireland thanked J. Martin, Chief Executive for being a great ambassador for them as well as Mr. Rod Bond from the Netwell Centre and Ann Marron and Pat Kerins from Cúltaca for their exceptional work in Louth.

Minute No. 102/16

Protocol for the Awarding of Civic Honours – Draft for Approval

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Savage
Seconded by : Cllr. R. Culhane
And Resolved:

To approve the Protocol for the Awarding of Civic Honours.

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting June 2016

Cllr. Callan advised that he was part of the Protocol Committee and the drafting of the Protocol for the Awarding of Civic Honours aims to protect what was in place in the towns and does not clash with the county council.

E.O’Gorman advised that the protocol is vague to allow the Municipal Districts and the Borough District to do what they think is appropriate. She advised that Drogheda has a long established tradition of Mayoral Awards and the Town Districts haven’t made any awards over the last number of years. There is no role for the CPG in the Municipal District or Borough District Awards.

The County Council is the only authority that can bestow a civic award under the legislation.

It was agreed that it is a working document that can be reviewed at end of term of council.

Minute No. 103/16

To bestow a Civic Honour and Honourary Freedom of County Louth to Mr. Joe Biden, Vice President of United States of America on Saturday 25th June 2016

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Bell
Unanimously agreed to do so by the members.

Minute No. 104/16

Conferences and Events

Proposed by: Cllr. O. Tully
Seconded by: Cllr. C. Keelan
And resolved:

To approve the attendance of members recorded in the Conference & Events Register at such Conferences and Events listed within the agenda.

Minute No. 105/16

Allocation of Members Community Grants

Proposed by: Cllr. O. Tully
Seconded by: Cllr. M. Butler
And resolved:

To approve Members Community Grant Allocations (No. 32) as listed on the report circulated with the agenda

Minute No. 106/16

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. T. Sharkey
Seconded by: Cllr. J. Green

'That Louth County Council calls on the Minister with responsibilities for Disability Issues and Government to ensure that funding is provided to continue and expand the WALK PEER Programme, which is making such a big difference to the lives of young people in County Louth, and to further request funding to be attached to the 'Comprehensive Employment Strategy for People with Disabilities' so that the WALK PEER Programme is secured and sustainable in the long term'

This motion was fully supported by the members and agreement to forward to the Minister for Social Protection

Minute No. 107/16

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. J. McGahon
Seconded by: Cllr. M. Doyle

"That Louth County Council calls on the Minister for Justice and Equality to reassess the criteria for obtaining free legal aid in order to eliminate blatant abuse of the system".

Members fully supported the motion but concerns were raised that those in need of free legal aid should not be adversely affected by this motion. They accept that there is abuse in the system but that decisions are made at higher levels.

Minute No. 108/16

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. J. McGahon

Seconded by: Cllr. K. Callan

"That Louth County Council adapt a telecommunications policy to ensure that any civil works of note (over 20metres in length), to be carried out by Louth County Council, relating to roads, footpaths or related activities carried out in towns around the county include the provision and installation of telecommunications ducting for future sale or lease to the telecommunications sector."

Reply:

This matter will be referred to Infrastructure European and Cross Border SPC

E. O’Gorman confirmed that the next Infrastructure European and Cross Border SPC meeting is 15th September

Minute No. 109/16

Notice of Question

Proposed by: Cllr. P. McGeough

"Why are motorists who are residents of this county being refused by Louth County Council of having their vehicle taxed by this local authority because their postal address is in an adjoining county"

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting June 2016

Reply:

Section 2 (1) (a) of the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations 1992 provides that '...the owner of a vehicle who desires to obtain a licence for it shall make application by means of a prescribed declaration in the scheduled form to the licensing authority in whose area the vehicle will ordinarily be kept...'. Therefore Louth County Council can only process motor tax applications where the address is in Co. Louth. Early last year the department issued a reminder with regard to the above rule to the local authorities.

It should be noted that there is a facility for taxing a passenger vehicle using the online facility at www.motortax.ie , as well as a provision for taxing any vehicle via the postal system using an RF100A form, which is available on the website www.motortax.ie, a link to the form can also be got on the Louth County Council (www.louthcoco.ie) and the Environment's (www.environ.ie) websites.

Minute No. 110/16

Correspondence

Correspondence as circulated with the Agenda was noted by the members.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

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

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meetings Administrator: _____