

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Louth County Council held in County Hall, Dundalk on Monday 21st March 2016

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. P. Savage

Members: Councillors: P. Bell, M. Butler, T. Byrne, K. Callan, A. Cassidy, E. Corrigan, R. Culhane, T. Cunningham, M. Dearey, M. Doyle, K. Flood, J. Green, C. Keelan, J. Loughran, C. Markey P. McGeough, K. Meenan, D. Minogue, 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
F. Pentony, Director of Services
E. O’Gorman, Director of Services
P. Donnelly, Director of Services
P. Finn, Senior Engineer
G. Kelly, Senior Engineer
T. McEvoy, Head of LEO
M. Murtagh, Meetings Administrator

Apologies: Cllr. L. Reilly

Minute No. 32/16

Confirmation of Minutes

Proposed by: Cllr. R. Culhane

Seconded by: Cllr. O. Tully

And resolved:

That the minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 15th February 2016 be confirmed.

Proposed by: Cllr. T. Sharkey

Seconded by: Cllr. K. Flood

And resolved:-

That the notes taken by the Cathaoirleach at the Meeting held on Monday 15th February be included as an amendment to the minutes

Minute No. 33/16

Matters Arising

- Update requested on provision of Beach Wheelchairs – J. McGuinness, Director of Services, to provide an update at the next meeting
- Minute 05/16 Members requested that written legal advice be sought to support the verbal advice given in relation to the rent arrears issue
- No update on Motion in relation to appointment of Director of Services for Drogheda. Ms. E. O' Gorman, Director of Services confirmed that the motion was null and void as the appointment of staff is an executive function. While the executive acknowledges the members views in the matter the passing of the Notice of Motion has no legal effect

Minute No. 34/16

Minutes for noting

The following minutes were noted by the members.

Borough District of Drogheda 1st February 2016

Corporate Policy Group 5th February 2016

JPC Steering Group 16th October 2015

Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee 25th November 2015
and 21st January 2016

Municipal District of Ardee 4th February 2016

Municipal District of Dundalk 2nd February 2016

SPC Housing, Community Planning and Emergency Services 17th November
2015

Minute No. 35/16

Chairman's Report – Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 21st March 2016

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. P. Savage presented the report. The Cathaoirleach advised that the meeting was rescheduled from 11th March as it was not possible to achieve a quorum on that date. During the rescheduled meeting members considered and agreed the agenda for the March monthly meeting. Councillors Community Allocations (No. 33) were noted and recommended for approval as were Conference and Events with the exception of No. 2 which was not recommended. The legal advice sought in relation to the withdrawal of staff from the February meeting was discussed. It was agreed that issues relating to twinning arrangements should, in the first instance, be dealt with by the Protocol Committee prior to coming before the Corporate Policy Group and full Council

Minute No. 36/16

Monthly Management Report

Members considered the Management Report dated 7th March 2016. Queries in regard to the report were addressed by the Chief Executive, Members of the Management Team, and Senior Staff. Issues addressed included:-

- The need to clarify and prioritise the review of the Customer Services System
- Clean-up of illegal site in Knockbridge cost €640,000
- Contribution by Louth County Council to appointment of Tourism Officer is €24,000
- Relevant staff not aware of any problems with public lights not working – no policy in place in relation to switching off. Members to bring specific problems to the attention of executive
- Colaiste Cuchulainn – Department of Education concluding pre-qualification tender process
- Ten housing units Barrack Street – very early stage of process by Simon Community for development on former Social Welfare Office site
- Kearney's Lane, Blackrock – declaration as a Public Road a separate process to Taking in Charge of a housing estate

- Notice of Motion does not commence a Taking in Charge process – Sandymount Drive, Blackrock – needs request from Residents Association or Developer
- Noted that information on Land Banks in Housing Section of report relates to Housing Lands only. Members to advise Director of Services of any omissions they are aware of
- Housing Assistance Programme now governed by law – Local Authority does not have power to amend
- Taking in Charge Report – ambiguity in relation to Oriel Heights \ Oriel View and clarification on the position in relation to Beaulieu View required. Plebiscite was signed by residents of The Spires and Rockwell Close in Termonfeckin, but not recorded in report
- Minister has called in section of the Louth County Development Plan and extended period to consider report
- Future viability of Drogheda Port – due diligence gave no cause for concern. Funding for walls a separate issue

Minute No. 37/16

Section 183 Notice – Proposed Disposal of Land at 1 Albany Terrace, Drogheda

**Proposed by Cllr. T. Byrne
Seconded by Cllr. O. Tully
And resolved:**

That having considered the notice on the matter dated 3rd March 2016 to confirm the disposal of land at No. 1 Albany Terrace. Drogheda to Clement Corrigan for a consideration of €1,800

Minute No. 38/16

Casual Vacancies

**Proposed by Cllr. C. Keelan
Seconded by Cllr. T. Byrne
And resolved:**

That Emma Coffey shall fill the Casual Vacancy on Louth County Council arising from the election of Cllr. D. Breathnach to Dáil Éireann for the constituency of Louth

Proposed by Cllr. K. Flood
Seconded by Cllr. A. Cassidy
And resolved:

That Joanna Byrne shall fill the Casual Vacancy on Louth County Council arising from the election of Cllr. I. Munster to Dáil Éireann for the constituency of Louth

Councillors Coffey and Byrne were congratulated on their co-option to Council while Deputy Breathnach and Deputy Munster were congratulated on their election to Dáil Éireann.

Minute No. 39/16

Filling of SPC Positions

Following clarification from Ms. E. O’Gorman, Director of Services on the SPC Scheme, members unanimously agreed that Cllr. J. Byrne would replace Deputy I. Munster as a member of the Housing and Community SPC and Cllr. E. Coffey would replace Deputy D. Breathnach as a member of the Infrastructure, European and Cross Border Affairs SPC

Minute No. 40/16

Election of SPC Chairpersons

Grouping Systems as per Schedule ten Paragraph 18 of The Local Government Act, 2001 applies. Group requirement is six (6)

Cllr. J. Byrne was elected as Chair of the Housing and Community SPC by the following grouping which consisted of Cllrs. E. Corrigan, K. Meenan, J. Green, T. Cunningham, P. McGeough, A. Cassidy, K. Flood and T. Sharkey

Proposed by Cllr. C. Keelan
Seconded by Cllr. R. Culhane
And resolved:

That Cllr. O. Tully is elected as Chair of the Infrastructure, European and Cross Border Affairs SPC

Minute No. 41/16

Votes of Sympathy

- Family of former Cllr. T. Reilly – agreed to defer tributes to Cllr. Reilly to the April Meeting
- Family of former Ardee Town Commissioner Jimmy Bradley
- Family of former Drogheda Borough Councillor Frank Gallagher
- Family of Denis McDonald who died in Melbourne, Australia

Minute No. 42/16

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

Ms. Mary T. Daly, Senior Executive Officer delivered a presentation highlighting the key objectives and targets of the plan, noting that it had been before the members at Municipal District level. A number of members felt that more time was required to consider the plan in detail but the counter view was expressed that consultation had taken place with members and other stakeholders throughout the process and that Louth is now the last of the counties to adopt the plan.

Cllr. P. Bell proposed adoption of the plan which was seconded by Cllr. M. Butler.

An amendment was proposed by Cllr. E. Corrigan seconded by Cllr. P. McGeough to defer approval of the plan to the April meeting.

The amendment was defeated on a show of hands by 15 votes to 10 votes with 4 members absent.

The Local Economic and Community Plan was approved on a show of hands by 15 votes to 10 votes with 4 members absent

Minute No. 43/16

Tenant incremental Purchase Scheme

Mr. J. McGuinness, Director of Services briefed members on the scheme which was launched in December and is now prescribed by law in terms of its local application. During the discussion that ensued the following issues were addressed:-

- All tenants will receive a communication within the next two weeks
- Income arising from the scheme goes into internal capital receipts and generally re-invested in the housing programme
- All tenants in arrears must agree to implement a Payment Plan to be eligible for the scheme. Arrears will ultimately have to be cleared as part of the purchase
- Discount for length of tenancy not provided for in the scheme
- Minor anti-social behaviour won't affect participation in the scheme but tenants with a record of serious anti-social behaviour will be ineligible
- Units provided under Part V are not available for purchase
- Houses provided for older people are not included in the scheme
- Ombudsman case Dundalk Town Council may need to be considered in terms of possible impact
- Potential for Housing SPC to examine if all social housing should be available for purchase given that it involves the writing down of a public asset

Minute No. 44/16

Conferences and Events

Proposed by Cllr. O. Tully

Seconded by Cllr. P. Bell

And resolved:

To approve the attendance of members recorded in the Conference & Events Register at such Conferences and Events listed within the agenda with the exception of Number 2 which was not recommended by the Corporate Policy Group

Minute No. 45/16

Allocation of Members Community Grants

Proposed by Cllr. K. Callan

Seconded by Cllr. K. Flood

And resolved:

To approve Members Community Grant Allocations (No. 33) as listed on the report circulated with the agenda

Minute No. 46/16

Notice of Question

Cllr. T. Sharkey

When was Louth County Council's most recent scheme under the Official Languages Act adopted, when does it expire and what review has been made of its implementation and will the Chief Executive give an account of its progress?"

REPLY:

The council did as required under the legislation publish notification of notice to prepare a new scheme. No submissions and or observations were received and so the existing scheme remains in place. A review of the implementation of the objectives of the scheme is currently being drafted and will come before the members as soon as it practicable.

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Ms. Emer O' Gorman, Director of Services confirmed that no submissions were received as a result of the public consultation advertisement in 2014 therefore the existing scheme remains in place. It was agreed that members would contact Ms. O Gorman with any submissions they wish to make on the scheme.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

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

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meetings Administrator: _____