

*Minutes of Ordinary meeting of Council January 2017*

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Louth County Council held in County Hall, Dundalk on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2017

**In attendance:**

**Cathaoirleach:** Cllr. P. Bell

**Members:** Councillors: M. Butler, J. Byrne, E. Coffey, E. Corrigan, R. Culhane, T. Cunningham, M. Dearey, M. Doyle, K. Flood, F. Godfrey, J. Cassidy-Green, C. Keelan, C. Markey, J. McGahon, P. McGeough, K. Meenan, D. Minogue, L. Reilly, P. Savage, P. Smith, J. Tenanty, O. Tully, M. Yore

**Officials:** J. Martin, Chief Executive  
J. McGuinness Director of Services  
E. O’Gorman, Director of Services  
F. Pentony, Director of Services  
P. Donnelly, Director of Services  
B. Woods, Head of Finance  
M. Daly, Senior Executive Officer  
A. Lawler, Senior Executive Officer  
P. Finn, Senior Engineer  
M. Sheeran, Acting Senior Engineer  
T. McEvoy, Head of LEO  
A. Sherry, Meetings Administrator  
J. Lawrence A/ Senior Executive Officer  
M. Deery, Administrative Officer  
A. Abbott-King, Senior Planner

**Apologies:** Cllrs. K. Callan, A. Watters, T. Sharkey

**Minute No. 01/17**

**Confirmation of Minutes**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. J. Tenanty

**Seconded by:** Cllr. M. Yore

**And resolved:**

That the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016 be confirmed.

**Minute No. 02/17**

**Matters arising**

- Cllr. Dearey pointed out that minute 214/06 of the meeting of the 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2016 to record his view that the renewable Energy Strategy should be completed within the timescale of the current County Development Plan.

**Minute No. 03/17**

**Minutes for noting**

The following minutes were noted by the members.

Corporate Policy Group 8<sup>th</sup> December 2016

Borough District of Drogheda 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016

Municipal District of Dundalk 6<sup>th</sup> December 2016

Municipal District of Ardee 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016

Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC 12<sup>th</sup> September & 5<sup>th</sup> October 2016

**Minute No. 04/17**

**Monthly Management Report**

Members considered the Management Report dated 4<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

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

- Concern was raised at the charges for the disposal of material at the recycling centres.
- It was agreed to keep members updated in relation to progress on the Cumann na mBán memorial garden.

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- It was pointed out that members had not received the Purple Flag resource pack
- Concern was expressed at the possibility of Diageo sponsoring the Purple Flag Scheme being contrary to Public Health legislation. Members were advised that this was a matter for operators of the scheme, the Association of Town and City Management. Members were informed that this concern had been raised at the Drugs and Alcohol Forum.
- It was agreed to report back to the members in relation to the taking in charge of the Aston Village and Lis Corrie estates.
- In response to a question in relation to the training and support provided by approved housing bodies (AHBs) to their tenants members were informed that AHBs were now under the remit of the Tenancies Board.
- Members were informed that the Port Access Road could not be progressed until funding was secured but each planning application in the area would be assessed individually with traffic issues addressed appropriately.
- It was agreed to progress the Dromiskin footpath as a matter of urgency.
- It was agreed to investigate the access issues in relation to Chord Road and St. Mary's burial grounds.
- It was agreed to revert and investigate the reasons for the recent increase in maintenance requests from Council housing stock.
- It was undertaken to investigate the difference between the Department of Housing, Community and Local Government and the Council in relation to the reported figures for homelessness.
- Members were informed that a protocol in relation to dealing with tenants affected by a domestic fire was being looked into, and were assured that the Council provides support to tenants in these circumstances.

**Minute No. 05/17**

**Section 183 Notice – Disposal of Land at 29 Old Cornmarket Hill, Drogheda**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. O. Tully  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. F. Godfrey  
**And resolved:**

That having considered the notice on the matter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017 to confirm the Disposal of Land at 29 Old Cornmarket Hill, Drogheda Co. Louth for a consideration of €125.00 to James Beirth

**Minute No. 06/17**

**Section 85 Agreement with Westmeath County Council**

In light of concerns raised by the members in relation to the possible impact of this activity on flora and fauna the matter was deferred to the next meeting of the Council

**Minute No. 07/17**

**Presentation from Comhairle na nOg**

Members of Comhairle na nOg – Steven Jiminez, Caoimhe Kerley, Cheyenne Volders, and Eillish McSherry gave a presentation detailing their activities over the previous year. Members commended Comhairle for its initiatives particularly in relation to the issues of Brexit, mental health and healthy eating.

**Minute No. 08/17**

**Votes of Sympathy**

Members and the Chief executive paid tribute to the late T.K. Whitaker for his outstanding contribution to Irish public life and sympathies were extended to his family.

Votes of sympathy were extended by the members to the families of:-

Rev. Fr. Shevlin  
Rev. Fr. Daly

& All families who suffered bereavement in 2016

**Minute No. 09/17**

**Votes of Congratulations**

Congratulations and tributes were paid to the journalist Gene Yore on his retirement from the Dundalk Democrat

Congratulations were extended to Cllr. Colm Markey on the birth of his son

**Minute No. 10/17**

**Conferences and Events**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. M. Butler

**Seconded by:** Cllr. E. Coffey

**And resolved:**

To approve the attendance of members recorded in the Conference & Events Register at such Conferences and Events (No.2) listed within the agenda & endorsed by the Corporate Policy Group on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

**Minute No. 11/17**

**Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. P. Smith

" This Council rejects proposals contained in Part 2 of the Housing Miscellaneous Provisions Bill 2016 in relation to the setting up of a Strategic Housing Division within An Bord Pleanála. We note that the objective of this particular proposal is to fast-track planning applications for residential developments of 100+ units. Planning and the planned provision of housing has always been a key function of the local authority planning system and any move, no matter how temporary, would be viewed by the Council as further dilution of the role of the local authority. The Association firmly believes that the local planning system should be plan-led. Such an approach enables local people shape the communities where they live, provide for quality design with appropriate amenities, adhere to all local and county development plans and be delivered at the level closest to the public. This level has and should continue to be at local authority level"

***Cllr. P. Smith withdrew this motion***

**Minute No. 12/17**

**Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by: Cllr. F. Godfrey**

**Seconded by: Cllr. M. Yore**

That Louth County Council upgrades the road network in the county with improved signposting, additional road markings and public lighting.

That Louth County Council acquires land for removing dangerous bends in the interest of promoting road safety.

**Reply:**

**The Operations Team will continue to deliver road maintenance and improvement works that will be identified in the Annual Road Works Programme and subject to the necessary funding been available. The Road works programme will as is the normal practice be brought to the Municipal District meeting for the members attention. Other road realignment and improvements will be dealt with in conjunction with Infrastructure and will be prioritised and subject to funding been available under such schemes as Low cost safety measures etc.**

*The response was noted by the members*

**Minute No. 13/17**

**Notice of Question**

**Proposed by Cllr. F. Godfrey**

1. How many dogs have been put down at the County pound since the facility was opened in the 1980s?
2. What is the total revenue taken in by Louth County Council over the past five years for same?
3. What is the annual cost of running this facility?
4. How much has Louth County Council taken in in revenue for Dog Licences over the past five years?

**REPLY:**

The table below details the information required for the last 5 years. The Council does not have accurate records available in relation to the number of dogs put down beyond the last 5 years.

	<b>No. Of Dogs Put Down out of total impounded</b>	<b>Overall Revenue of dog warden service</b>	<b>Overall Expenditure of dog warden service</b>	<b>Dog Licence revenue</b>
<b>2011</b>	74 out of 672	€92,000	€214,000	€71,400
<b>2012</b>	54 out of 610	€117,000	€140,000	€59,600
<b>2013</b>	56 out of 560	€128,000	€160,000	€94,000
<b>2014</b>	64 out of 498	€139,000	€181,000	€98,500
<b>2015</b>	51 out of 552	€133,000	€225,000	€100,600

*The response was noted by the members*

**Minute No. 13/17**

**Motions from Other Councils**

**- Cavan County Council**

In relation to the motion passed by Cavan County Council seeking a joint delegation from Cavan, Monaghan and Louth County Councils to attend a meeting with the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport to discuss the proposed East/West Link Road, it was agreed that the Cathaoirleach of the Council should attend along with two members from Dundalk Municipal District.

**Minute No. 14/17**

**Notices of Motions from other Councils**

Notices of Motions from other Councils as circulated with the Agenda were noted by the members

**Minute No. 15/17**

**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: \_\_\_\_\_