

Minutes of Ordinary meeting of Council March 2017

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Louth County Council held in County Hall, Dundalk on Monday 20th March 2017

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. P. Bell

Members: Councillors: M. Butler, J. Byrne, T. Byrne, K. Callan, E. Coffey, E. Corrigan, 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, T. Sharkey, J. Tenanty, O. Tully, A. Watters, M. Yore

Officials: J. Martin, Chief Executive
J. McGuinness Director of Services
E. O’Gorman, Director of Services
P. Donnelly, Director of Services
F. Pentony, Director of Services
B. Woods, Head of Finance
M.T. Daly, Senior Executive Officer
A. Lawler, Senior Executive Officer
T. McEvoy, Head of LEO
A. Sherry, Meetings Administrator
J. Lawrence A/ Senior Executive Officer
A. Abbott-King, Senior Planner
A. Dullaghan, Conservation Officer
M. Quinn, Senior Executive Planner
Sinead Mallon, Senior Staff officer.

Minute No. 41/17

Confirmation of Minutes

Proposed by: Cllr. K. Callan
Seconded by: Cllr. F. Godfrey
And resolved:

That the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 20th February 2017 be confirmed

Minute No. 42/17

Matters arising

- There were no matters arising

Minute No. 43/17

Minutes for noting

The following minutes were noted by the members.

Corporate Policy Group 9th February 2017

Borough District of Drogheda 6th February 2017

Municipal District of Dundalk 7th February 2017

Municipal District of Ardee 2nd February 2017

Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee 11th January 2017

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Local Action Committee (LAG)
16th January 2017

Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC 12th December 2016

Minute No. 44/17

Monthly Management Report

Members considered the Management Report dated 28th February, 2017.

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

- It was agreed to update members in relation to the Town Health Check carried out in Dundalk.
- While the report in relation to the cost of the Narrow Water Bridge Project was welcomed there was concern expressed that the money could have been spent elsewhere. A number of members expressed support for the project and it was pointed out that the designated funding was spent on the Drogheda viaduct and new trains.
- Members were informed that it was hoped to have a revised reporting mechanism in place for the next meeting in relation to homeless figures that would tally with the national figures produced.

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- Members welcomed the announcement that the Fleadh Cheoil would be staged in Drogheda in 2018 and commended the executive for the work done to secure the event for Drogheda.

Minute No. 45/17

Section 55 Notice – Chief Executive’s Report on submissions received on proposed deletion from Record of Protected Structures under Section 55 of the Planning and Development act 2000 (as amended)

Proposed by: Cllr. T. Sharkey

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Byrne

And resolved:

That having considered the Chief Executive’s Report on the matter dated 10th March 2017 to confirm the deletion from the Record of Protected Structures of the former carriage lifting repair shed and the amendment of the description for reference D011 as outlined in the report.

In the course of the discussion members expressed the view that it was important that owners of protected structures complied fully with the law in relation to these buildings

A Roll Call vote was taken

For: Cllrs. P. Bell, J. Byrne, T. Byrne, E. Coffey, E. Corrigan, T. Cunningham, K. Flood, C. Keelan, C. Markey, J. McGahon, P. McGeough, K. Meenan, D. Minogue, T. Sharkey, J. Tenanty, O. Tully, A. Watters **Total seventeen (17)**

Against: Cllrs. M. Butler, M. Dearey, F. Godfrey, L. Reilly, M. Yore **Total five (5)**

Abstain: Cllrs. M. Doyle, P. Savage **Total two (2)**

Absent: Cllrs. K. Callan, A. Cassidy, R. Culhane, J. Green, P. Smith **Total five (5)**

The motion was carried

Minute No. 46/17

Draft Dunleer Local Area Plan 2017- 2023 - For Information prior to public display

Members noted the report as presented

Minute No. 47/17

Section 85 Report – Dublin City Council – Proposed Section 85 Agreement for the provision of Social Housing via a Public Private Partnership under the Social Housing Strategy 2020

Proposed by: Cllr. T. Sharkey
Seconded by: Cllr. P. McGeough

To defer Section 85 report to the next meeting of Council

For : Cllrs. J. Byrne, E. Corrigan, T. Cunningham, K. Flood, P. McGeough, K. Meenan, T. Sharkey, A. Watters **Total eight (8)**

Against: Cllrs. P. Bell, M. Butler, T. Byrne, K. Callan, E. Coffey, M. Dearey, M. Doyle, F. Godfrey, C. Keelan, C. Markey, J. McGahon, D. Minogue, L. Reilly, P. Savage, J. Tenanty, O. Tully, M. Yore **Total seventeen (17)**

Absent: Cllrs. A. Cassidy, R. Culhane, J. Green, P. Smith **Total four (4)**

The proposal was defeated

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Bell
Seconded by: Cllr. O. Tully
And resolved:

That having considered the Report on the matter dated 10th March 2017 under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended to enter into an Agreement with Dublin City Council for the provision of the services as outlined in the report as circulated with the agenda.

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For: Cllrs: P. Bell, M. Butler, J. Byrne, T. Byrne, K. Callan, E. Coffey, E. Corrigan, T. Cunningham, M. Dearey, M. Doyle, K. Flood, F. Godfrey, C. Keelan, C. Markey, J. McGahon, P. McGeough, K. Meenan, D. Minogue, L. Reilly, P. Savage, T. Sharkey, J. Tenanty, O. Tully, A. Watters, M. Yore **Total twenty-five (25)**

Absent: Cllrs: A. Cassidy, R. Culhane, J. Green, P. Smith **Total four (4)**

In the course of the discussion members were informed that the matter would come before the Ardee Municipal District in the course of the planning process and it was agreed to try and provide the members with more information in relation to the public private partnership.

The motion was confirmed.

Minute No. 48/17

Local Community Development Committee Annual Report 2016 – for Adoption

Proposed by: Cllr. F. Godfrey
Seconded by: Cllr. M. Yore
And resolved:

To adopt the LCDC annual report for 2016

Minute No. 49/17

Louth Tidy Towns Together – Presentation

Larry Magnier and Hugh Callaghan from Louth Tidy Towns Together gave a detailed presentation in relation to their activities. They were commended for their efforts by the members and the Chief Executive

Minute No. 50/17

Votes of Sympathy

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

- To Eileen Mullen, Housing & Community; Libraries & Emergency Services on the death of her mother Mona Winters (née Balfe)
- To Sean Morgan, Operations & Local Services (Ardee) on the death of his father Noel Morgan former employee of Louth County Council.
- To Patsy, Tommy McArdle, Operations & Local Services and former employee Eamonn McArdle on the death of their mother Mary (Mollie) McArdle.
- To the family of Maurice Brown, member of Operations staff on his recent sudden death
- To Pauline Watters, former staff member and member of the Malawi Fundraising committee on the recent death of her sister Mrs. Breige Heeney
- To the family and friends of Celine Kelly
- Tributes were also paid to the four crew members of the Irish Coastguard Helicopter R116, Capt. Dara Fitzpatrick, Capt. Mark Duffy, Wince Operator Paul Ormsby and Wince man Ciaran Smith, which crashed off the coast of Mayo. There was a round of applause at the 116th minute of the Council Meeting in their honour

Minute No. 51/17

Conferences and Events

Proposed by: Cllr. F. Godfrey

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.4) listed within the agenda & endorsed by the Corporate Policy Group on 9th March 2017.

Minute No. 52/17

Allocation of Community Grants

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Dearey

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Butler

And resolved:

To approve Members Community Grant Allocations (No. 30) as listed on the report circulated with the agenda

Minute No. 53/17

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Smith

Calling on Louth County Council to arrange a meeting with the Minister of Finance with a view to outlining the benefits of having The Living City initiative extended to Drogheda and Dundalk. The Living City Initiative is a targeted pilot tax incentive which aims to seek to:

1. Encouraging people back to the centre of Irish cities to live in historic buildings
2. Encouraging the regeneration of the retail heartland of central business districts. The Initiative will provide tax incentives for works performed to refurbish residential and retail buildings either to bring them up to a habitable standard or even to make improvements to buildings which are currently inhabited. The incentives will be targeted at owner/occupiers rather than property developers.

If the Minister agrees to a meeting a representative sample of officials and councillors from the council can attend to state our case"

Reply: *This is a matter for the members*

This motion was deferred from the February Meeting as Cllr. Smith was not present when the motion was called. He was not in attendance at the March meeting so the motion was deemed to have fallen.

Minute No. 54/17

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. A. Watters
Seconded by: Cllr. J. Byrne

"Calling on Louth County Council to re-establish the Narrow Water Bridge as a priority project for County Louth"

Reply

The Narrow Water Bridge Project continues to be a priority objective of the Louth County Development Plan.

The Chief Executive undertook to pursue any possible opportunity for the funding of the project.

Members noted the reply

Minute No. 55/17

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

That Louth County Council write to the Minister for Justice and Equality Frances Fitzgerald to ask will she consider revising the Data Protection Act 2003 so local authorities can adopt a "Name and Shame" approach to those who are found responsible for illegal dumping and failing to pay their on the spot fine litter fines"

Reply

This is a matter for the members.

Members agreed the motion

Minute No. 56/17

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. F. Godfrey

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Yore

I call on Louth County Council to get tough with owners of derelict sites in Drogheda and County Louth.

Owners of derelict sites should be responsible for keeping their property presentable and made accountable if not. The Council should make these sites fully rateable and with penalties payable. Maybe Louth County Council should follow the lead of Brighton council in the UK, where rates double if a premises is derelict for 6 months or more.

The Council must put pressure on these owners to clean up their sites, especially with Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann hopefully coming to Drogheda in 2018.

Reply:

The Derelict Sites Act 1990 sets out measures to prevent and control derelict sites. In accordance with this Act the Council maintains a derelict sites register. This register is maintained on an ongoing basis and updated as necessary.

Members noted the reply

Minute No. 57/17

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. F. Godfrey

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Yore

That the Council produce a report in relation to The Buttergate detailing the following information; To my knowledge, the structure is not in council ownership, and a purchase must be negotiated with the private owner. When was The Buttergate sold?

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How did the Local Authority gain permission to carry out restoration works on it back in 2006/07?

Were these works every carried out or concluded?

Where was the €100,000 allocated for this work spent?

It is imperative that The Buttergate be restored to its former glory as one of the gates built by the Normans back in the 13th century

Reply:

A report will be compiled in relation to this motion and will issue in due course.

Members noted the reply

Minute No. 58/17

Notice of Question

From Cllr. M. Yore

How many on the spot fines have been issued to dog owners who allow their dogs to litter in Dundalk? Drogheda? Ardee? and what date did LCC enact the dog bye laws on same?"

REPLY:

Since the enactment of the Dog Litter and Dog Control Bye-laws, 2015 nine fines have been issued in relation to dog fouling under Section 22 of the Litter Pollution Act, 1997, all in the county area. It should be noted that the bye-laws address the specific issues of carrying an appropriate receptacle for dog foul, ensuring dog foul is disposed off in litter bins is suitably wrapped and addresses the keeping of dogs being exercised in a public place on a leash only. The Dog wardens have been focussing on making dog owners aware of the Bye-Laws since their enactment in March, 2016. The Council is now in the process of preparing the necessary documents to issue fines under the Bye-Laws.

Noted by the members

Minute No. 59/17

Notice of Question

From Cllr. P. McGeough

Can the Chief Executive tell the members where the 304,000 euro disputed costs paid to consultants for Narrow Water Bridge show up in Louth County Council accounts

2. Has the same costs come out of Louth County Council Finances

REPLY:

All costs relating to Narrow Water Bridge project to date have been coded to the capital account and have been paid for from government grants and development levies.

Noted by the members

Minute No. 60/17

Notice of Question

From Cllr. J. Green

'Now that this council has endorsed the need for A Disability Action Plan, when can we (the people of Louth) expect the process of consultation to begin in order to inform the Plan?'

REPLY:

As stated in the reply to the motion agreed by the council in December, a meeting is being arranged with the proposer of the motion to progress the matter.

Noted by the members

Minute No. 61/17

Notice of Question

From Cllr. E. Corrigan

What the total cost of Narrow Water Bridge to date?
ii) As per recent reports stating that this council has paid to the 'other side'. What is the reason(s) this council paid in excess of €300.000 and to whom?

REPLY:

i) The full cost for Narrow Water Bridge is contained in the Finance report in the Chief Executives Management Report to Council.

ii) A sum of €300,000 was paid to consultants Roughan & O Donovan following arbitration

Minute No. 62/17

Notices of Motions from other Councils

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

That concluded the business of the meeting.

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

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

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Meetings Administrator: _____