

Minutes of Council Meeting November 2017

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

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. C. Markey

Members: Councillors: M. Butler, J. Byrne, T. Byrne, K. Callan A. Campbell, E. Corrigan, R. Culhane, T. Cunningham, M. Dearey, M. Doyle, K. Flood, F. Godfrey, C. Keelan, J. McGahon, P. McGeough, R. O' Murchu, D. Minogue, L. Reilly, D. Saurin, P. Savage, T. Sharkey, P Smith, J. Tenanty, O. Tully, A. Watters, M. Yore

Officials: J. Martin, Chief Executive
F. Pentony, Director of Services
J. McGuinness, Director of Services
E. O' Gorman, Director of Services
P. Donnelly, Director of Services
B. Woods, Head of Finance
A. Lawler, Senior Executive Officer
A. Sherry, Meetings Administrator
J. Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer
B. Lynch, Financial Accountant
R. McAuley, Financial Accountant
P. Finn, Senior Engineer
M. Sheeran, A/Senior Engineer
Y. O'Brien, County Librarian
B. Harten, Arts Officer

Apologies: Cllrs. P. Bell, E. Coffey

Minute No.184/17

Confirmation of Minutes

Proposed by: Cllr. O. Tully
Seconded by: Cllr. D. Minogue
And resolved:

That the minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on Monday 18th September 2017 be confirmed.

Minute No.185/17

Matters arising

It was agreed to meet with the protocol committee to discuss the protocols being put in place in relation to books of condolence, flying the national flag and conducting civic award ceremonies.

Minute No. 186/17

It was proposed by Cllr. L. Reilly, seconded by M. Doyle and agreed by the members to conclude the meeting at 1.00 pm in order to begin the budget meeting.

Minute No. 187/17

Minutes for noting

The following minutes were noted by the members.

Corporate Policy Group 7th September & 5th October 2017

Borough District of Drogheda 4th September & 2nd October 2017

Municipal District of Dundalk 5th September & 3rd October 2017

Municipal District of Ardee 7th September & 5th October 2017

Local Community Development Committee 17th July 2017

Housing, Community Planning & Emergency Services SPC 19th May 2017

Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC 12th June 2017

North East Regional Homeless Forum 30th May 2017

Joint Committee of Elected Members Newry Mourne & Down & Louth County Council 17th May 2017

Minute No. 188/17

Monthly Management Report

Members considered the Management Report dated 7th November 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 in relation to air quality, particularly in Dundalk and it was agreed to circulate a note to the members in relation to what monitoring is taking place.

Members were informed that management would be meeting with the board of the port company and would report back.

A query was raised in relation to whether or not Louth County Council had made a submission to the EPA in relation to the Irish Cement waste licence application.

It was agreed to look into the removal of asbestos from a site at Riverside Crescent.

It was agreed to provide a more detailed report in relation to housing adaptation grants.

Members were informed that it was hoped to clear the backlog of housing rent assessments early in the New Year. It was undertaken to circulate the members with a copy of the rent scheme.

Minute No.189/17

Votes of Sympathy to the families of the following:-

Fintan Goss
Robert McLoughlin
Catherine Holland
The grandfather of Cllr. Coffey
Pat Beakey
Cyril Jolly
Jim Clarke
Fr. McNally
Brian Muldoon
Ollie Farrell
Eamonn Campbell
Relatives of Staff Members

Minute No.190/17

Votes of Congratulations

Conor Halpenny, Chef of the Year
Dundalk Sports Centre for Inclusion Award
Newtown Blues GFC
Tadhg Mulligan, Fleadh winner
Gerry Hanlon and Henry Vins for Dublin City Marathon success

Minute No. 191/17

Section 183 Notice - Disposal of Lands at Fair Green, Drogheda - for approval

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

That having considered the notice on the matter dated 10th October 2017 to confirm the Disposal of fee simple for premises at Fair Green, Drogheda for a consideration of €20,000 to Associated Bridge Club, Drogheda.

Minute No. 192/17

Section 85 Agreement – N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Minogue
Seconded by: Cllr. K. Callan
And resolved

To enter into a Section 85 agreement between Louth County Council and Monaghan County Council - Monaghan to be the lead authority in the proposed N2 National Primary Road project which will extend from Ardee in County Louth to Castleblayney in County Monaghan

Minute No. 193/17

Nomination to Louth Meath Education & Training Board (LMETB)

Proposed by: Cllr. L. Reilly
Seconded by: Cllr. F. Godfrey
And resolved:

To nominate Cllr. Peter Savage to the Board of the Louth Meath Education and Training Board.

Minute No. 194/17

Louth Local Economic & Community Plan 1st Progress Report 31 December 2016

The report (for information) as circulated with the Agenda was noted by the membe

Minute No. 195/17

Approval for Overdraft Facility of €5,000,000 for 2018

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Smith
Seconded by: Cllr. M. Butler
And resolved:

To approve the Overdraft Facility in the sum of €5,000,000

Minute No. 196/17

Allocation of Community Grants - September & October 2017

Proposed by: Cllr. F. Godfrey
Seconded by: Cllr. C. Keelan
And resolved:

To approve Members Community Grant Allocations (No. 25 September) (No. 62 October) as listed on the report circulated with the agenda

Minute No. 197/17

Louth Arts Act Awards – Round 2

The Louth Arts Act Awards were noted by the members

Minute No. 198/17

Conferences and Events

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Smith
Seconded by: Cllr. M. Dearey
And resolved:

To approve attendance of members recorded in the Conference & Events Register at such Conferences and Events listed within the agenda & endorsed by the Corporate Policy Group on 9th November 2017

Minute No.199/17

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. K. Callan
Seconded by: Cllr. M. Yore

Calling on this Council to condemn the actions of the Government of the United Kingdom in seeking to exit from The London Convention of 1964 in preventing countries from fishing in territorial waters whereby agreement has been in effect

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prior to the entry of the United Kingdom into the European Union which has permitted Irish Vessels to fish in British Territorial Waters to date.

That this Council in so condemning this withdrawal which will impact on the Irish Fishing Industry and our county as a border fishing county, convey this condemnation to the Northern Ireland Secretary, The British Prime Minister, The Foreign Secretary, The Minister for Foreign Affairs and An Taoiseach.

Motion was agreed by the Members

Minute No. 200/17

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Saurin
Seconded by: Cllr. A. Watters

"That Louth County Council will call on the Government to implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)"

Motion was agreed by the Members

Minute No. 201/17

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Saurin
Seconded by: Cllr. K. Flood

"That the Chief Executive Officer will within two months report to the Council, for their consideration, setting out:

1. the current situation in relation to matters which the Council has direct responsibility for, 2. an estimation of the areas and the extent of unmet need relating to same, 3. the areas where engagement of this Council with other public bodies would improve participation for people with disabilities and the names of those public bodies, and 4. the measures taken and planned by this Council to ensure participation and engagement by people with disabilities and their representatives in local decision making structures and mechanisms, with a view to budgeting and planning for 2018 and beyond to advance implementation of the UN CRPD"

Reply:

As the convention outlined in the motion has not been ratified by the Government the Council has no authority to take any action on the matter

Motion was agreed by the Members

Minute No. 202/17

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Dearey

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Butler

That in light of the recent decision by An Bord Pleanála that the consistent intensive letting of a property in Dublin does constitute development, that Louth County Council should now require a change of use for properties being used in a way that is not ancillary to normal domestic use.

In other words, where high frequency turnover of guests in houses in residential areas without a fulltime occupancy is

- a) materially affecting amenity value for neighbours,
- b) adding unplanned for, loading to sewage treatment and water supply,
- c) adding pressure road and parking capacity,
- d) increasing public health risk,
- e) creating unaffordable house prices and rents for local residents,

that planning permission be required.

Reply:

This matter will be examined in detail over the coming weeks

During the discussion it was agreed to issue the members with a copy of the circular recently issued on the subject

Response was noted by the Members

Minute No. 203/17

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. J. McGahon

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Doyle

That Louth County Council consider following the example set by Dublin City Council in establishing Dublin Canvass Paint a Box Art Project which sees local artists decorating traffic light control boxes with community art.

Reply:

The Council will investigate the matter further with a view to possibly piloting it with a few 'traffic light control boxes'. However issues relating to selection of boxes, Health & Safety, artists' insurance, pedestrian and possibly traffic management, etc. will have to be addressed in advance. Unfortunately, the Arts Office is not resourced to carry out this project at the moment.

Response was noted by the Members

Minute No. 204/17

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. A. Watters

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Byrne

To call on Louth County Council to examine and prepare a report on all dangerous trees in County Louth. The trees which are regarded as dangerous or a public safety issue should then be safely removed.

Reply

The Operations Directorate did recently publish notice in respect of Section 70 of the Roads Act 1993 advising landowners of their responsibility to maintain hedge rows and trees that are abutting a public road. Where landowners do not comply with the requirement, notice under the act will be served on the respective land owners.

To action a survey of all trees would not be practical and would be an extremely expensive undertaking. Trees on lands in the ownership of the local authority will be maintained and managed in a sustainable fashion including removal where it is considered the preferred option

During the discussion members of the public were encouraged to notify the local authority of any trees of concern through www.fixyourstreet.ie

Minute No. 205/17

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. R. Culhane

Seconded by: Cllr. K. Callan

That Louth County Council recognises the enormous contribution the late Jimmy Magee has made to sport in Ireland and the ambassadorial role he has played in promoting his native county of Louth. A commemorative statue or plaque positioned in a prominent position would be a fitting tribute to this great Gael who was loved throughout his lifetime by sports fans nationally and internationally.

Members agreed the motion

Minute No. 206/17

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. A. Watters

Seconded by: Cllr. D. Saurin

'That Louth County County calls on the Minister for Community and Rural Development to take immediate action to reduce the delays in accessing LEADER funding for community groups; to make a commitment that no LEADER programme funding will be diverted to other projects and to make a commitment that the funding for LEADER will be restored as soon as possible'

Reply

The RDP 2014-2020 in County Louth has a total budget of €6,101,862.01 with a project budget of €4,576,396.51. The project budget is spread across three themes:

- Economic Development, Enterprise Development and Job Creation**
- Social Inclusion**
- Rural Environment.**

This budget amount is guaranteed for qualifying projects in Co Louth.

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On 13th June 2017 the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs(now Department of Rural and Community Development, for LEADER programme) issued a position Paper of action points to further improve the administrative procedures relating to the programme arising from a LEADER forum in May 2017. This Programme is ongoing.

Response was noted by the members

Minute No. 207/17

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. C. Keelan

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Yore

"That this Council calls on the Oireachtas to enact the Life Saving Equipment Bill, 2017 into law"

The Motion was agreed by the members

Minute No. 208/17

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. F. Godfrey

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Tenanty

That Louth County Council writes to the Communications Minister Denis Naughton to put in place a system where motorists can renew their driving licences in any post office in County Louth and nationwide.

The Motion was agreed by the members

Minute No. 209/17

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. R. O'Murchu

Seconded by: Cllr. D. Saurin

'That Louth County Council calls on Taoiseach Leo Varadkar to appeal to the Spanish government to desist from its present course of action against the Catalan government and its people. Heavy-handed policing, imprisonment and political repression are not a solution to the question of Catalonian self-determination.

The Spanish government should agree to internationally mediated dialogue as a means to find a peaceful resolution.

We express solidarity with the people of Catalonia.'

Following a debate in which a variety of opinions were expressed a roll call vote was called the result of which was as follows:-

For: Cllrs. M. Butler, J. Byrne, A Campbell, E. Corrigan, T. Cunningham, K. Flood, P. McGeough, R. O'Murchu, D. Saurin, T. Sharkey, A. Watters **(Total 11)**

Against: Cllrs. T. Byrne, K. Callan, R. Culhane, M. Dearey, M. Doyle, C. Keelan, C. Markey, J. McGahon, D. Minogue, L. Reilly, P. Smith, J. Tenanty, O. Tully, M. Yore **(Total 14)**

Abstain: Cllr. F. Godfrey **(Total 1)**

Absent: Cllrs. P. Bell, E. Coffey, P. Savage **(Total 3)**

The Motion therefore fell

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Minute No. 210/17

Motions from other Councils

Motions from other Councils as circulated with the Agenda were noted

Minute No. 211/17

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: _____