

Minutes of Council Meeting September 2017

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Louth County Council held in County Hall, Dundalk on Monday 18th September 2017

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. C. Markey

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

Officials: J. Martin, Chief Executive
P. Finn A/ Director of Services
J. McGuinness, Director of Services
E. O' Gorman, Director of Services
B. Woods, Head of Finance
A. Lawler, Senior Executive Officer
M. Quinn, Senior Executive Planner
T. McEvoy, Head of LEO
A. Sherry, Meetings Administrator
J. Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer
A. Abbott King, Senior Planner
C. Moss, Senior Executive Officer
Sinead McVerry, Senior Staff Officer
Terence Loane, Assistant Planner

Apologies: Cllrs. K. Callan, M. Dearey, P. Savage

Minute No.152/17

Confirmation of Minutes

Proposed by: Cllr. F. Godfrey

Seconded by: Cllr. L. Reilly

And resolved:

That the minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on Monday 17th July 2017 be confirmed.

Minute No.153/17

Matters arising

There were no matters arising

Minute No. 154/17

Minutes for noting

The following minutes were noted by the members.

Corporate Policy Group 6th July 2017

Borough District of Drogheda 3rd July 2017

Municipal District of Dundalk 4th July 2017

Municipal District of Ardee 6th July 2017

JPC Steering Committee 27th February 2017

Dundalk Local Policing Forum 25th April 2017

Drogheda Local Policing Forum 24th April 2017

Ardee Local Policing Forum 27th April 2017

Planning & Environment SPC 7th June 2017

Infrastructure, European & Cross Border SPC 27th April 2017

Minute No. 155/17

Chairman's Report – Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 7th September 2017

The Cathaoirleach reported to the members that the minutes of the meeting of 6th July were approved and the draft agenda for the September meeting was considered and agreed. The list of Conferences & Events was considered and recommended and the Councillors Community Grants (35) were noted and approved. It was also agreed that the consideration of the Annual Report 2016 would be added to the agenda subject to it being ready for circulation in time for the meeting.

The members agreed the nomination of Mathew McGreehan as the farming/agriculture representative on the Local Community Development Committee. The issue of broadcasting the Council meetings was raised and the executive undertook to report back to the members as soon as possible. It was agreed to schedule a briefing by the Local Water and Communities Office directly after the Council meeting in relation to the draft River Basin management Plan.

Minute No.156/17

Casual Vacancy

To consider the filling of the Casual Vacancy in accordance with Section 19 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended arising from the resignation of Councillor Jennifer Green as per letter submitted on 30th August 2017

Proposed by: Cllr. E. Corrigan

Seconded by: Cllr. A. Watters

And resolved:

That Anne Campbell shall fill the Casual Vacancy on Louth County Council arising from the resignation of Cllr. Jennifer Green. The Members wished outgoing Cllr. Green well and along with the Chief Executive welcomed Cllr. Anne Campbell onto the Council.

Minute No.157/17

Casual Vacancy

To consider the filling of the Casual Vacancy in accordance with Section 19 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended arising from the resignation of Councillor Kevin Meenan as per letter submitted on 12th July 2017

Proposed by: Cllr. P. McGeough

Seconded by: Cllr. E. Corrigan

And resolved:

That Ruairi O Murchu shall fill the Casual Vacancy on Louth County Council arising from the resignation of Cllr. Kevin Meenan. The Members and Chief Executive paid tribute to Cllr. Meenan for his long and dedicated service and wished him well and welcomed Cllr. Ruairi O Murchu onto the Council.

Minute No. 158/17

Membership of Housing SPC

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Byrne
Seconded by: Cllr. P. McGeough
And resolved:

That Cllr. Ruairi O Murchu shall fill the vacancy on the Housing SPC arising from the resignation of Cllr. Kevin Meenan.

Minute No. 159/17

Membership of Planning & Environment SPC

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

That Cllr. Anne Campbell shall fill the vacancy on the Planning & Environment SPC arising from the resignation of Cllr. Jennifer Green.

Minute No. 160/17

Membership of Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Saurin
Seconded by: Cllr. J. Byrne
And resolved:

That Cllr. Anne Campbell shall fill the vacancy on the Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee arising from the resignation of Cllr. Kevin Meenan

Minute No. 161/17

Local Property Tax 2018

The Chief Executive informed the members that a 15% increase in the rate of Local Property Tax would result in additional revenue of €1.4m for the Council, which the members could ring-fence for a specific purpose

Following a debate on the Local Property Tax for 2018 the following proposals were put to the meeting

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Butler

Seconded by: Cllr. E. Coffey

To increase the Local Property Tax by 15% - Ring-fenced for Social Housing

There followed a roll call vote, the result of which is as follows:

For: Cllr: M. Butler

Total One (1)

Against: Cllrs: P. Bell, J. Byrne, T. Byrne, A. Campbell, E. Coffey, E. Corrigan, R. Culhane, T. Cunningham, M. Doyle, K. Flood, F. Godfrey, C. Keelan, C. Markey J. McGahon, P. McGeough, R. O' Murchu, D. Minogue, L. Reilly, D. Saurin, T. Sharkey, P Smith, J. Tenanty, O. Tully, A. Watters, M. Yore

Total Twenty Five (25)

Absent: Cllrs: K. Callan, M. Dearey, P. Savage

Total Three (3)

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Doyle

Seconded by: Cllr. J. McGahon

To increase the Local Property Tax by 5%– Ring-fenced for road improvements

There followed a roll call vote, the result of which is as follows:

For: Cllrs: R. Culhane, M. Doyle, C. Markey, J. McGahon, D. Minogue, O. Tully

Total Six (6)

Against: Cllrs: P. Bell, M. Butler, J. Byrne, T. Byrne, A. Campbell, E. Coffey, E. Corrigan, , T. Cunningham, K. Flood, F. Godfrey, C. Keelan, P. McGeough, R. O' Murchu,, L. Reilly, D. Saurin, T. Sharkey, P Smith, J. Tenanty, A. Watters, M. Yore

Total Twenty (20)

Absent: Cllrs: K. Callan, M. Dearey, P. Savage

Total Three (3)

Proposed by: Cllr. R O'Murchu

Seconded by: Cllr. A. Watters

To reduce the Local Property Tax by 15%

There followed a roll call vote, the result of which is as follows:

For: Cllrs: J. Byrne, E. Corrigan, T. Cunningham, K. Flood, A. Campbell, P. McGeough, R. O'Murchu, D. Saurin, T. Sharkey, A. Watters

Total Ten (10)

Against: Cllrs: P. Bell, M. Butler, T. Byrne, E. Coffey, R. Culhane, M. Doyle, C. Keelan, C. Markey, J. McGahon, D. Minogue, L. Reilly, P Smith, J. Tenanty, O. Tully, M. Yore

Total Fifteen (15)

Abstain: Cllr. F. Godfrey

Total One (1)

Absent: Cllrs: K. Callan, M. Dearey, D. Saurin

Total three (3)

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Smith

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Bell

The Local Property Tax to remain at National Level

There followed a roll call vote, the result of which is as follows:

For: Cllrs: P. Bell, M. Butler, J. Byrne, T. Byrne, A. Campbell, E. Coffey, E. Corrigan, R. Culhane, T. Cunningham, M. Doyle, K. Flood, F. Godfrey, C. Keelan, C. Markey, P. McGeough, R. O' Murchu, L. Reilly, D. Saurin, T. Sharkey, P. Smith, J. Tenanty, A. Watters, M. Yore

Total Twenty Three (23)

Against: Cllrs: J. McGahon, D. Minogue, O. Tully

Total Three (3)

Absent: Cllrs: K. Callan, M. Dearey, P. Savage

Total Three (3)

The motion was carried that having considered the Chief Executive's Report that the Local Property Tax be maintained at the national rate with no increase or decrease

Minute No.162/17

Votes of Sympathy

Votes of sympathy were extended to:

- Members of staff who have been recently bereaved
- Eve McCrystal & Family on the death of her father
- Family and friends of Brendan Reilly
- Families and friends of those recently killed in a collision on the N2

- Family and friends of Joe Kirk

Minute No.163/17

Votes of Congratulations

- Ciaran Rafferty, Golfer
- Jack Synnott, Leaving Certificate Student.

Minute No. 164/17

Monthly Management Report

Members considered the Management Report dated 7th September 2017. Queries in regard to the report were addressed by the Chief Executive, Members of the Management Team, and Senior Staff. Issues addressed included:-

- Members were informed that no correspondence has been received to date in relation to the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.
- Members were informed that minutes of the meetings between Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and Louth County Council are circulated to members after they have been adopted at meetings. Members were encouraged to make every effort to attend these meetings.
- It was agreed to circulate details of members representing the Council on other bodies.
- An up-to-date staff list was requested.
- It was suggested that the Housing SPC should carry out a review of Choice Based Letting.
- It was pointed out that an update in relation to progress on the broadband strategy was outstanding.
- The need to make progress in relation to the use of new technology to enforce illegal parking on disability parking spaces was highlighted.

Minute No. 165/17

Section 183 Notice - Disposal of Lands at Marsh Road, Drogheda - for approval

Proposed by: Cllr. F. Godfrey

Seconded by: Cllr. E. Coffey

And resolved:

That having considered the notice on the matter dated 25th August 2017 to confirm the Disposal of fee simple for land at Marsh Road, Drogheda for a consideration of €125,000 to Mr. Donal Kinsella.

Dissatisfaction was expressed at the poor condition of the site and the lack of action in relation to same. Following a discussion it was agreed to provide members with information in relation to the Section.183 procedure

Minute No. 166/17

Section 183 Notice - Disposal of Lands at Haynestown, Dundalk - for approval

Proposed by: Cllr. C. Markey

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Yore

And resolved:

That having considered the notice on the matter dated 31st August 2017 to confirm the Disposal of Land at Haynestown, Dundalk for a consideration of €37,100 to Reps of Thomas Lavelle, Florence McDowell, Michael Lavelle, and Gerard Lavelle

Minute No. 167/17

Section 183 Notice - Disposal of Lands at Ladywell Terrace, Dundalk - for approval

Proposed by: Cllr. E. Coffey

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Yore

And resolved:

That having considered the notice on the matter dated 22nd August 2017 to confirm the Disposal of Land at Ladywell Terrace, Dundalk for a consideration of €500 plus the Council's legal costs to Gas Networks, Ireland.

Minute No. 168/17

Dunleer Local Area Plan 2017-2023

Marguerite Quinn, Senior Executive Planner responded to various questions and queries from the members on the report

Proposed by: Cllr. F. Godfrey
Seconded by: Cllr. D. Minogue
And resolved

That the Chief Executive's Report on Proposed Amendments that constitute Material alterations to the Draft Dunleer LAP 2017-2023 and making by resolution of the Dunleer Local Area Plan 2017-2023.

Minute No. 169/17

Nomination to Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Yore
Seconded by: Cllr. L. Reilly
And resolved:

To appoint Mr. Matthew McGreehan (Farming Agricultural Sector) to the above committee as per recommendation from Mr. Joe McGuinness, Director of Services & endorsed by the Corporate Policy Group, in correspondence dated September 2017 as circulated with the Agenda. Mr. McGreehan replaces Ms. Breeda Tuite in this sector. Tributes were paid to Ms. Tuite for her contribution to the committee during her tenure.

Minute No. 170/17

Brexit – Border Corridor Study Report

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

Minute No. 171/17

Annual Report 2016

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

That the Annual Report for 2016 as circulated was adopted by the members

Minute No. 172/17

Statutory 2018 Budget Meeting

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Butler
Seconded by: Cllr. E. Coffey
And resolved

It was agreed that the statutory budget meeting would take place on the afternoon of Monday, 20th November 2017.

Minute No.173/17

Conferences and Events

Proposed by: Cllr. F. Godfrey
Seconded by: Cllr. E. Coffey
And resolved:

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

Minute No. 174/17

Allocation of Community Grants

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Butler
Seconded by: Cllr. C. Keelan
And resolved:

To approve Members Community Grant Allocations (No. 35) as listed on the report circulated with the agenda

Minute No.175/17

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. F. Godfrey
Seconded by: Cllr. D. Minogue

That Louth County Council calls on the Office of Public Works to take immediate action to protect the High Crosses at Monasterboice from acid rain and pollution, and to enact preservative measures to ensure their safety for future generations.

Motion was supported by the Members and agreed to write to the OPW in this regard.

Minute No. 176/17

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. F. Godfrey
Seconded by: Cllr. E. Coffey

That Louth County Council requests that the Fire Chief reviews fire safety at blocks of apartments and hotels in County Louth, as well as terraced houses with shared attic space, and to ensure that properties are compliant with fire safety standards and regulations, and a report be generated.

Reply

This is an executive matter, however the Chief Fire Officer in tandem with directions from the Dept of Housing is undertaking a review of all multi unit developments and has issued directions to persons who are deemed to be in control of these developments. No national directions have been issued with regard to terraced houses.

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Response was noted by the members

Minute No. 177/17

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. T. Sharkey

Seconded by: Cllr. E. Corrigan

That Louth County Council reviews the Casual Trading Bye-Laws - in particular to review the numbers and locations of bays.

Reply:

A general review of the Casual Trading bye-laws will be considered in 2018 with a view to aligning bye-laws across the county

Response was noted by the members

Minute No.178/17

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. J. McGahon

Seconded by: Cllr. O. Tully

'That Louth County Council supports the drinks industry and hospitality sector which supports 2,682 jobs in Louth and is a critical component of our offering to tourists, with tourism spend in Louth worth €53 million in 2016. Louth County Council backs the 'Support Your Local' campaign in calling for a reduction in excise tax on alcohol in budget 2018, in order to support jobs, the hospitality sector and the economy in County Louth

Reply:

This is a matter for the members

Following debate by the members the Motion was withdrawn

Minute No.179/17

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. K. Callan

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

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countries from fishing in territorial waters whereby agreement has been in effect 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

Motion was deferred to the October Meeting

Minute No.180/17

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. T. Sharkey

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Byrne

That Louth County Council writes to the Director General of RTÉ to clarify that, contrary to graphics used on the Late Late Show, Friday 1st September 2017 there is no coastline on the northern edges of Sheelagh, Kilcurry or Faughart and asks RTÉ to make a public clarification of the matter in order to discourage seafarers from trying to sail to Carrickedmond, Rassan and Plaster and therefore avoid accidents).

Reply:

This is a matter for the members

The Members noted the reply.

Minute No.181/17

Notice of Question

From Cllr. M. Dearey

Could the CE provide an update to Council on progress to populate the Register of Vacant Sites in County Louth?

REPLY:

A presentation was made to the SPC (Planning & Environment) on Wednesday, 6th September, 2017 in respect of the Implementation of the Urban Regeneration Bill 2015 Vacant Site Levy (VSL). This presentation detailed that a Variation of the Louth County Development Plan 2015 – 2021 is required to incorporate specific policy objectives for the purposes of implementation of the VSL. The drafting the proposed Variation to the CDP is underway and it is proposed to bring it to the full council meeting in October, with a view to it going on public display.

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Members noted the reply

Minute No.182 /17

Correspondence

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

Minute No.183 /17

Motions from other Councils

Motions from other Councils as circulated with the Agenda were noted

That concluded the business of the meeting.

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

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meetings Administrator: _____