

## *Minutes of Council Meeting April 2018*

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Louth County Council held in County Hall, Dundalk on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018

### **In attendance:**

**Cathaoirleach:** Cllr. C. Markey

**Members:** Councillors: P. Bell, M. Butler, J. Byrne, A. Campbell, E. Coffey, E. Corrigan, T. Cunningham, M. Dearey, M. Doyle, K. Flood, F. Godfrey, C. Keelan, J. McGahon, P. McGeough, D. Minogue, R. O' Murchu, 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  
E. O' Gorman, Director of Services  
P. Donnelly, Director of Services  
J. McGuinness, Director of Services  
B. Woods, Head of Finance  
C. Duff, A/ Director of Services  
J. O'Hagan, Senior Engineer  
A. Sherry, Meetings Administrator  
A. Abbott-King, Senior Planner  
J. Lawrence, Senior Ex. Officer  
B. Lynch, Accountant  
R. McAuley, Accountant

**Apologies:** Cllr. K. Callan

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### **Minute No. 45/18**

The Chief Executive, Ms. Joan Martin requested that the following statement be read into the minutes:-

At the last meeting of Louth County Council on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March, I asked that Councillor Sharkey withdraw a comment he made where he described the Council as dysfunctional. He has refused to withdraw the remark which indeed he has made on previous occasions and again repeated on LMFM following the meeting. I would like to place on the record that I absolutely reject any suggestion that Louth County Council, the very large and complex organisation which I lead and manage, is dysfunctional.

### **Minute No. 46/18**

#### **Confirmation of Minutes**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. P. Smith  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. M. Yore  
**And resolved:**

That the minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2018 be confirmed with the inclusion of the following amendments:-

Minute 36/18 of the meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2018

The Chief Executive advised the members that she would not be making the legal advice available to them.

The Chief Executive requested that the comment in relation to dysfunctionality be withdrawn prior to the break.

Following a show of hands it was agreed by 13 votes to 7 to include the following;

A Director of Services went to inform the Chief Executive of the motion passed. The Chief Executive did not return to the meeting.

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### **Minute No. 47/18**

#### **Minutes for noting**

The following minutes were noted by the members.

Corporate Policy Group 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Borough District of Drogheda 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Municipal District of Dundalk 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Municipal District of Ardee 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Following a discussion it was agreed that only signed minutes should be circulated to the members for noting.

### **Minute No. 48/18**

#### **Report on CPG Meeting**

It was reported that the meeting of the CPG was held Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2018 and the draft agenda for the April meeting was considered and agreed with the postponement of the presentation from CAWT to the May meeting and the inclusion of the €35,000 allocated to homeless and social support organisations at the budget meeting, on the agenda. The list of Conferences & Events was considered and a recommendation made and the Councillors Community Grants (3) were noted and approved. The list of nominees for the Dundalk Municipal District Awards was approved and it was agreed to have a presentation from Oglaiigh Naisiunta na hEireann at the June meeting. The meeting then concluded.

### **Minute No. 49/18**

#### **Monthly Management Report**

A report was requested for the next meeting in relation to making use of derelict buildings in Drogheda for Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann.

Following a discussion in relation to the meeting of the Chief Executive and the Management Team with NOAC it was proposed by Cllr. C. Markey seconded by Cllr. M. Yore and agreed by the members to proceed to the next business.

It was proposed by Cllr. C. Keelan, seconded by Cllr. M. Doyle and agreed by the members that a taking in charge report should go to the municipal district meetings and not the full Council meeting.

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It was agreed to circulate the members with a report in relation to HAP inspections.

It was agreed to circulate the Ardee members with a report in relation to the drop in housing applicants for the mid-Louth area.

### **Minute No. 50/18**

#### **Section 183 Notice - Disposal of Land at Marymount, Ballsgrove, Drogheda**

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

That having considered the notice on the matter dated 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018 to confirm the Disposal of Land 0.302 hectares (0.746 acres) at Marymount, Ballsgrove, Drogheda to St. Finians Diocesan Trust for a consideration of €40,000 (Forty thousand euro) plus costs and expenses.

### **Minute No. 51/18**

#### **Votes of Sympathy**

Votes of sympathy were extended to the families of the following:-

Brian Britton  
Former Councillor Ray Dempsey  
Jar Clarke  
Jacko Smith  
Pearse Lyons  
Staff Members recently bereaved

#### **Congratulations**

Athlete, Kate O'Connor  
Dundalk Ravens U16 basketball team  
Athlete, Geraldine Finnegan  
Cooley Kickhams U15 football team  
Ardee Community School football team

**Minute No. 52/18**

**Section 183 Notice - Disposal of Plot of Ground (Rectification of Boundary) at Dromard, Corcreaghy, Dundalk**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. P. Savage

**Seconded by:** Cllr. L. Reilly

**And resolved:**

That having considered the notice on the matter dated 27<sup>th</sup> March 2018 to confirm the Disposal of Land (Rectification of Boundary) 496 Sq. metres at Drumard, Corcreaghy, Dundalk to Ms. Teresa Clarke for a consideration of €1.00 (one euro) plus all legal costs.

**Minute No. 53/18**

**2016 Audited Annual Financial Statement including Local Government Auditor's and Audit Committee's Reports:**

- 2016 Audited Annual Financial Statements
- 2016 Local Government Auditor's Report
- 2016 Audit Committee's Report

The above reports were considered by the members.

In the course of the discussion the members had a range of queries answered. There was particular emphasis by the members in relation to the issues raised in the auditor's report such as procurement practices, lack of information being provided, the level of housing rent arrears and the lack of an annual service delivery plan.

**Minute No. 54/18**

**2017 Unaudited Annual Financial Statement including Local Government**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. J. McGahon

**Seconded by:** Cllr. M. Dearey

**And Resolved:**

To approve the 2017 Unaudited Annual Financial Statements including the under/over expenditures as per note 16 and the transfers to/from Capital.

**Minute No. 55/18**

**€35,000 Homeless & Social Support Funding allocated at Budget Meeting**

The Director of Housing proposed to put out a public call for submissions for a single project to be funded by the €35,000 allocation

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

**Seconded by:** Cllr. M. Dearey

**And Resolved:**

As above proposal.

**Minute No. 56/18**

**Nomination of one member to the Regional Health Forum - Dublin North East**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. O. Tully

**Seconded by:** Cllr. D. Minogue

**And Resolved:**

That Cllr. Maria Doyle be nominated to the Board of the Regional Health Forum – Dublin Nth East. Vacancy occurred due to the resignation of Cllr. R. Culhane.

**Minute No. 57/18**

**Annual Service Delivery Plan 2018**

Several members expressed reservations with the lack of specific targets in the plan. The draft annual service delivery plan was adopted subject to the inclusion of climate change actions.

**Proposed by:** Cllr. C. Keelan

**Seconded by:** Cllr. M. Butler

**And Resolved:**

To adopt the draft Annual Service Delivery Plan 2018 subject to the inclusion of climate change actions.

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**Minute No. 58/18**

**Allocation of Community Grants – March 2018**

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

To approve Members Community Grant Allocations (No. 3) as listed on the report circulated with the agenda

**Minute No. 59/18**

**Conferences and Events**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. M. Butler  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. C. Keelan  
**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 5<sup>th</sup> April 2018

**Minute No. 60/18**

**Suspension of Standing Orders**

**Proposed by Cllr. J. McGahon**  
**Seconded by Cllr. D. Saurin**  
**And resolved:-**

“That standing orders be suspended as per Standing Order number 24 to permit the business of the meeting to continue until 2.00 p.m.”

**Minute No.61/18**

**Notice of Motion**

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

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In order to compliment the three defibrillators already present on fire tenders in Dundalk, Drogheda and Carlingford, Louth County Council should also install defibrillators on all fire tenders within the retained service as a matter of urgency"

**Reply:**

**This is a matter that needs to be discussed with the National Ambulance Service of the HSE who are charged with the provision of emergency care services and may need to be discussed at a national level. A report will be brought back to Council in due course.**

**The members expressed strong support for the motion & noted the response**

### **Minute No.62/18**

**Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by: Cllr. C. Keelan**

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

That this Council consider enacting a scheme to enable local businesses to sponsor our roundabouts in the county in a similar manner to the schemes currently in operation by Meath and Wexford County Council where sponsorship cost is determined by traffic flow. All businesses can avail of the scheme save those who promote the sale of alcoholic drinks and tobacco products. Proceeds from this sponsorship to be used to enhance the roundabouts through landscaping and maintenance."

**Reply:**

**The Council will examine the feasibility to develop a roundabout landscaping sponsorship scheme, identify key areas and procedures and prepare proposal in order to invite stake holders to participate/ tender / for sponsorship.**

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Doyle, seconded by J. McGahon and agreed by the members to amend the motion to consult with the tidy towns groups in relation to the scheme.

It was proposed by Cllr. A. Campbell, seconded by D. Saurin and agreed by the members to amend the motion to prohibit sponsorship from alcohol and tobacco companies and fast food restaurants.

**The members agreed the amended motion**



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**Minute No.63/18**

**Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by: Cllr. D. Minogue**

**Seconded by: Cllr. M. Doyle**

That Louth County Council review its policy in relation to the maintenance of tertiary roads, many of these roads are in very poor condition and are badly in need of repair

**Reply:**

**The lack of funding made available for Road Maintenance to the Council for many years has required that funding has had to be prioritised for the roads that are most frequently used.**

**The Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport are making €10M available this year for Community Involvement Schemes**

**The Department of Rural & Community Development introduced funding for Local Improvement Schemes in 2017, €250,000 was made available in County Louth. They propose to operate a scheme in 2018**

It was proposed by Cllr. O. Tully, seconded by F. Godfrey and agreed by the members to amend the motion to include that additional funding should be sought from TII.

**Members agreed the amended motion.**

**Minute No.64/18**

**Notice of Motion**

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

**Seconded by: Cllr. C. Keelan**

That Louth County Council provide public toilets in the main cemeteries for mourners throughout County Louth.

**Reply:**

**There are toilets provided at Newtown Cross Lawn Cemetery however current funding provision is not sufficient to provide toilets in the 'the main cemeteries' for mourners**

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Following a debate in which concern was raised at the likely cost of the provision of public toilets the motion was put to a vote. The motion was defeated on a show of hands with 4 votes in favour and 8 against.

**Minute No.65/18**

**Notice of Question**

**Proposed by: Cllr. T. Sharkey**

When will the minutes of LCC Audit Committee be published up to date?

**REPLY:**

**The Audit Committee reports to Council under Section 60 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.**

That concluded the business of the meeting.

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cathaoirleach: \_\_\_\_\_

Meetings Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_