

## *Minutes of Council Meeting March 2018*

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Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Louth County Council held in County Hall, Dundalk on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2018

### **In attendance:**

**Cathaoirleach:** Cllr. C. Markey

**Members:** Councillors: M. Butler, 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, 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  
J. Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer  
T. McEvoy, Head of LEO  
A. Sherry, Meetings Administrator  
A. Abbott-King, Senior Planner

**Apologies:** Cllr. P. Bell. E. Coffey

### **Minute No. 33/18**

### **Confirmation of Minutes**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. T. Byrne  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. K. Callan  
**And resolved:**

That the minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2018 be confirmed.

**Minute No. 34/18**

**Minutes for noting**

The following minutes were noted by the members.

Corporate Policy Group 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018

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

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

Municipal District of Ardee 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018

Louth Drugs and Alcohol Forum 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2018

Infrastructure, European & Cross Border Affairs & Sustainable Energy SPC 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017

**Minute No. 35/18**

**Report on CPG Meeting**

It was reported that the meeting of the CPG was held Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018 and the draft agenda for the March meeting was considered and agreed. The list of Conferences & Events was considered and a recommendation made and the Councillors Community Grants (23) were noted and approved. It was agreed to put the €35,000 allocated to homeless and social support organisations at the budget meeting on the agenda of the April CPG meeting and that the members should confer on the issue before then. It was also agreed to have a presentation from Co-operation and Working Together, the cross border health services initiative at the April meeting. Members were informed that the Hungarian ambassador would be visiting the County on Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> March. The CEO confirmed that she would be addressing the budgetary impact of the temporary cessation of parking fees in Drogheda at the Council meeting. Members were informed that it was planned to take pictures of the Council meeting for possible use in the annual report. The meeting then concluded.

**Minute No. 36/18**

**Monthly Management Report**

The CE outlined how it was proposed to deal with the financial shortfall to the Council as a result of the suspension of parking fees in Drogheda, through reserves that the Council was permitted to use and from dividend payments from IPB. The members requested that they be given a copy of the legal advice received by the CE in relation to the bye-laws, and the CE advised that she would not be making it available to them. Members were informed that any change to the fees charged would have to be addressed as part of the annual budget process as the 2018 budget had been adopted on the basis of the existing charges.

When highlighting the fact that the audit committee meeting minutes were not being put up on the website and requesting that the risk register be made available the term dysfunction was used in respect of the Council. The Chief Executive requested that the term 'dysfunction' be withdrawn by the member. The meeting then adjourned for a break. Following the break the CE left the meeting when the comment was not withdrawn. Following a comment from a Director of Service in which he referred to his character "being assassinated" several members expressed their outrage at the use of the word assassinated and the meeting was adjourned.

Following the adjournment the Director in question withdrew the remarks and apologised. The term "dysfunction" was not withdrawn. Following further debate it was **proposed by Cllr. C. Markey and seconded by Cllr. C. Keelan that the business of the meeting proceed.**

A roll call vote followed:

**For:** Cllrs. M. Butler, T. Byrne, K. Callan, A. Campbell, R. Culhane, T. Cunningham, M. Dearey, M. Doyle, K. Flood, F. Godfrey, C. Keelan, C. Markey, J. McGahon, P. McGeough, D. Minogue, R. O' Murchu, L. Reilly, D. Saurin, P. Savage, T. Sharkey, P. Smith, O. Tully, J. Tenanty, A. Watters, M. Yore  
Total: **Twenty (25)**

**Abstain:** Cllr. E. Corrigan  
Total: **One (1)**

**Absent:** Cllrs. P. Bell, J. Byrne, E. Coffey  
Total: **Three (3)**

**An emergency motion requesting that the Chief Executive attend the remainder of the meeting was proposed by Cllr. T. Sharkey and seconded by Cllr. E. Corrigan.**

Following a show of hands in which 14 members voted in favour and 12 against it was agreed to proceed with the emergency motion.

A roll call vote then took place in relation to the emergency motion itself:

**For:** Cllrs. M. Butler, T. Byrne, A. Campbell, E. Corrigan, T. Cunningham, M. Dearey, M. Doyle, K. Flood, F. Godfrey, P. McGeough, R. O' Murchu, D. Saurin, T. Sharkey, A. Watters  
**Total: Fourteen (14)**

**Against:** Cllr. K. Callan, R. Culhane, C. Keelan, C. Markey, J. McGahon, D. Minogue, L. Reilly, P. Savage, P. Smith, J. Tenanty, O. Tully, M. Yore  
**Total: Twelve (12)**

**Absent:** Cllrs. P. Bell, J. Byrne, E. Coffey  
**Total: Three (3)**

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

Both members of the audit committee expressed their dissatisfaction with the comments made in relation to the audit committee.

A report in relation to the recent visit to New York by the Cathaoirleach and two officials was requested.

It was agreed that a submission from the members in relation to the proposed Hinkley Point nuclear power plant would be facilitated by the Planning Department. It was agreed to check if the IDA had made contact with the current owners of the former Coca Cola site.

It was agreed to update members on the Northern Cross Route at the next meeting.

It was also agreed to review the energy efficiency measures carried out on Council dwellings.

It was suggested that the Housing Agency could present to the members at a future meeting in relation to rent pressure zones.

It was proposed by Cllr. F. Godfrey, seconded by C. Markey to suspend standing order in order to allow time for the presentation in relation to the Fleadh, 2018.

**Minute No. 37/18**

**Section 183 Notice - Disposal of Plot of Ground (Rectification of Boundary) at Dromard, Corcreaghy, Dundalk was deferred to the April Meeting.**

**Minute No. 38/18**

**Section 183 Notice - Disposal of Land at No. 5 Slieveroe Crescent, Muirhevnamor, Dundalk**

**Proposed by: Cllr. K. Callan**

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

**And resolved:**

That having considered the notice on the matter dated 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018 to confirm the Disposal of Land at No. 5 Slieveroe Crescent, Muirhevnamor to Cluid Housing Association, Sheriff St. Dublin for a consideration of €5,000 (Five thousand euro)

**Minute No. 39/18**

**Allocation of Community Grants – February 2018**

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

**Seconded by: Cllr. J. Tenanty**

**And resolved:**

To approve Members Community Grant Allocations (No. 23) as listed on the report circulated with the agenda

**Minute No. 40/18**

**Conferences and Events**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. K. Callan  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. J. McGahon  
**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 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018

**Minute No. 41/18**

**Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann - Presentation**

Ms. Lolo Robinson, Cathaoirleach, Drogheda Comhaltas & Fleadh Executive Committee & Mr. Padraic Kierans, Member Fleadh Executive Committee gave a presentation in relation to the Fleadh 2018 taking place in Drogheda and answered queries from the members.

**Minute No. 42/18**

**Notice of Question  
From Cllr. E. Corrigan**

'What is the total spend on emergency accommodations in Louth in 2017, with a breakdown of spend to the service provider in the regions of North, Mid and South Louth, to accommodate Homelessness representations?'

**REPLY:**

<b>North Louth</b>	€
Administration	2,260

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Private Rented	82,080
B&B	599,955.4
Dundalk Simon	525,598
Tenancy Sustainment	251,670
<b>Mid Louth</b>	
Administration	2,260
Private Rented	4,150
Tenancy Sustainment	251,670
<b>South Louth</b>	
Administration	2,260
Private Rented	64,969.6
B&B	605,700.7
Drogheda Women's Refuge	79,820
Drogheda Homeless Aid	187,453.3

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Tenancy Sustainment	251,670
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,911,517</b>

**Minute No. 43/18**

**Notice of Question**

**From Cllr. R. O' Murchu**

What are the numbers of mortgages applied for with Louth County Council under the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan scheme and how many have been approved or refused?

**REPLY:**

**To date we have received 18 Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans which are currently being processed. We have no confirmed approvals/refusals as yet.**

**Minute No. 44/18**

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



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