

Minutes of Council Meeting May 2018

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Louth County Council held in County Hall, Dundalk on Monday 21st May 2018

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. C. Markey

Members: Councillors: M. Butler, J. Byrne, T. Byrne, K. Callan A. Campbell, E. Coffey, 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, 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. Moss, Senior Executive Officer
J. O'Hagan, Senior Engineer
A. Sherry, Meetings Administrator
M. Sheeran, Senior Engineer
J. Lawrence, A/Senior Executive Officer
T. McEvoy, Head of LEO
A. Dullaghan, Conservation Officer
W. Walsh, A/Director of Services
J. O'Hagan, Senior Engineer

Apologies: Cllrs. P. Bell, P. Smith

Minutes of Council Meeting May 2018

Minute No. 66/18

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 16th April 2018 be confirmed

Minute No. 67/18

Minutes for noting

The following minutes were noted by the members.

Corporate Policy Group 5th April 2018

Borough District of Drogheda 2nd April 2018

Municipal District of Dundalk 3rd April 2018

Municipal District of Ardee 5th April 2018

Housing, Community Planning & Emergency Services SPC 22nd January 2018

Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee 28th March 2018

Joint Committee Meeting of Elected Members Newry, Mourne & Down and Louth County Council 31st January 2018.

Minute No. 68/18

Report on CPG Meeting

The meeting of the CPG was held Thursday 10th May 2018 and the draft agenda for the May meeting was considered and agreed. The Councillors Community Grants (9) were noted and approved and the members also considered and agreed

Minutes of Council Meeting May 2018

to recommend the conference that was listed on the agenda. The members also agreed the list of nominees for the Ardee Municipal District Civic Awards on the proposal of Cllr. M. Dearey, seconded by Cllr. C. Markey and it was also agreed to include Scoil Rince Mona Ni Rodaigh as a nominee for a Dundalk Civic Award. Members were informed that Kevin Sharkey had requested to meet the members with a view to being nominated to run for the presidency. That concluded the meeting.

The need to provide training to the members in relation to GDPR was raised and it was agreed to provide same.

Minute No. 69/18

Monthly Management Report

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Dearey, seconded by K. Callan and agreed by the members to seek their own legal advice in relation to the Drogheda Parking Bye-Laws.

It was agreed to revert back to the members in relation to whether or not the funding of €25,000 was sufficient for the work needed on Featherbed Lane.

It was requested to seek a report from Irish Water in relation to the capacity of Carlingford waste water treatment plant and its ability to tackle the CPE bug.

It was agreed that a meeting with the MEPs for the area should be arranged to discuss Brexit.

Dissatisfaction was expressed at the change in the funding mechanism for Tidy Towns and its potential impact on Dundalk and at the way it is currently organised.

It was agreed to review the condition of the public toilets at the blue flag beaches.

More information in relation to the delivery of social housing through the Part V mechanism was requested and the need to maintain the level of detail in the current housing report was emphasised.

Minute No. 70/18

Section 183 Notice - Disposal of Land rear of No. 16 Point Road, Dundalk

Proposed by: Cllr. L. Reilly

Seconded by: Cllr. E. Coffey

And resolved:

That having considered the notice on the matter dated 24th April 2018 to confirm the Disposal of Land 0.0144 hectares at rear of No. 16 Point Road, Dundalk to Joe McArdle, Coe's Rd, Dundalk for the consideration of €6,000 (six thousand euro)

Minute No. 71/18

Section 183 Notice - Disposal of Plot of ground adjoining No. 80 Sliabh Breagh, Ardee

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Tenanty
Seconded by: Cllr. D. Minogue
And resolved:

That having considered the notice on the matter dated 25th April 2018 to confirm the Disposal of Land 515 sq.m adjoining No. 80 Sliabh Breagh, Ardee to Ms. Alison Gough for the consideration of €6,500 (six thousand five hundred euro) plus all legal costs.

Minute No. 72/18

Best wishes for a speedy recovery were extended to Mr. Michael Curran former Director of Services on his forthcoming surgery, and to Cllr. Jim Tenanty following his recent operation.

Minute No. 73/18

Edel O'Doherty and Carmel McPeake from Co-operation and Working Together (CAWT) gave a presentation on cross border health and social care, answered queries and noted points made by the members.

Minute No. 74/18

Review of Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018

Proposed by: Cllr. A. Campbell
Seconded by: Cllr. D. Minogue
And resolved:

That the review of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018 be adopted.

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Dearey, seconded by Cllr. C. Markey and agreed by the members to draft a letter seeking to have County Louth removed from the cluster with Dublin.

Minute No. 75/18

Publicly Funded Housing Loans

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Byrne
Seconded by: Cllr. M. Yore
And resolved:

That this Council through the provisions of the Local Government Act, 2001, agrees to the following total maximum drawdown of €10,000,000 for 2018 from the Housing Finance Agency for the funding of Housing Loans for Private House Purchases / Constructions and for Housing Loans under the Tenant Incremental Purchase Scheme"

Minute No. 76/18

Arts Act Grants – 1st Round 2018

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

That the Arts Act Grants – 1st Round 2018 as circulated with the Agenda were approved.

Minute No. 77/18

Dundalk BIDS (Business Improvement District Scheme) – Submissions Report following statutory period on public display

The report was noted by the members

Minutes of Council Meeting May 2018

Minute No. 78/18

Section 55 Notice Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) proposed deletion from Record of Protected Structures

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Savage

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Yore

To delete from the Record of Protected Structures - LHS004-006D (NIAH Ref. 13900422) North Gate Lodge, Anaverna, Ravensdale, Co. Louth.

A roll call vote was called:-

For: Cllrs. J. Byrne, T. Byrne, K. Callan, A. Campbell, E. Coffey, T. Cunningham, , M. Doyle, K. Flood, C. Keelan, C. Markey, J. McGahon, P. McGeough, D. Minogue, R. O' Murchu, L. Reilly, D. Saurin, P. Savage, O. Tully, A. Watters, M. Yore
Total: **Twenty (20)**

Against: Cllr. M. Butler, M. Dearey, F. Godfrey
Total: **Three (3)**

Absent: Cllrs. P. Bell, E. Corrigan, R. Culhane, T. Sharkey, P. Smith, J. Tenanty
Total: **Six (6)**

The motion to delete from the Record of Protected Structures - LHS004-006D (NIAH Ref. 13900422) North Gate Lodge, Anaverna, Ravensdale, Co. Louth was therefore confirmed

Minute No. 79/18

Draft Amended Bye-Laws on the Regulation and Control of the Consumption of Intoxicating Liquor in Public Places

Proposed by: Cllr. K. Callan

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Yore

And resolved:

To adopt the Draft Amended Bye-Laws on the Regulation and Control of the Consumption of Intoxicating Liquor in Public Places

Minute No. 80/18

Allocation of Community Grants – May 2018

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Butler
Seconded by: Cllr. M. Yore
And resolved:

To approve Members Community Grant Allocations (No. 9) as listed on the report circulated with the agenda

Minute No. 81/18

Conferences and Events

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Butler
Seconded by: Cllr. K. Callan
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 10th May 2018

Minute No.82/18

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Byrne
Seconded by: Cllr. K. Flood

That Louth County Council recognises that homes to rent and to purchase are becoming increasingly unaffordable and calls on government to;

Immediately introduce ambitious affordable rental and purchase housing schemes led by Local Authorities, and where appropriate, Approved Housing Bodies and Housing Co-operatives with clear annual targets for all local authorities; and to

Design the Home Building Finance Ireland fund to prioritise loan finance to small and medium sized builders participating in Council led affordable housing schemes."

The motion was agreed by the members

Minute No.83/18

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. C. Keelan

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Butler

That this Council calls on the Government to enact into law a ban on the manufacture and sale of products containing microbeads in this state. The motion recognises that microbeads are a significant threat to Irish wildlife, in particular fish, and Irish drinking water.

That the motion be then circulated to other local authorities and the Minister for Agriculture, Food & the Marine and the Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government."

The motion was supported by the members & agreed to circulate to all local authorities.

Minute No. 84/18

Suspension of Standing Orders

Proposed by Cllr. M. Dearey

Seconded by Cllr. A. Watters

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.85/18

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Dearey

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Yore

That Louth County Council calls on the HSE Chief Officer for the Midlands Louth Meath CHO area to immediately reverse its decision to cut by 60% Lottery Grant Funding for the Early Intervention Therapy Programme run by the Louth Meath Branch of Down Syndrome Ireland

The motion was agreed by the members

Minutes of Council Meeting May 2018

Minute No.86/18

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. R. O'Murchu

Seconded by: Cllr. A. Watters

"Louth County Council calls on the Minister of Health, Deputy Simon Harris, to request the HSE to review the decision to restrict the use of Versatis pain relief patches to patients, in chronic pain, outside those experiencing post herpetic neuralgia. And to revert to the pre-December status while this review is being undertaken"

The motion was agreed by the members

Minute No.87/18

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Butler

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Dearey

Councillors Butler, Dearey and Doyle call on Louth County Council to request that the Local Government Audit Service prepare and issue the 2013 Auditor's Report for Dundalk Town Council

Reply:

Under Section 120 of the Local Government Act the local government auditor 'may prepare a report on any matter or matters which come to his or her notice during the course of the audit' – in the case of the Dundalk Town Council 2013 audit the auditor did not issue an audit report.

The motion was agreed by the members

Minute No.88/18

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. C. Keelan

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Yore

"In light of the increasing prevalence of Japanese Knotweed and Rhododendron and that this Council calls on the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to introduce an Invasive Species scheme for farmers that will help in the eradication and control of such species similar to REPS, AEOS or GLAS. In addition Louth County Council should take all necessary steps to help address the major problem of Knotweed, Rhododendron and other species such as Ragwort in public areas throughout the county."

The motion to be sent to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine for comment.

Reply:

The motion to call on the Minister to introduce an Invasive Species scheme for farmers is a matter for the members.

In 2017 Transport Infrastructure Ireland funded treatment of invasive species for all National Roads (N52 & N33 in Louth). This work was coordinated by Westmeath County Council , who were appointed by TII to coordinate this work for the entire country. Note: Louth County Council has a Section 85 agreement with Westmeath County Council in respect of the treatment of invasive species on National and Regional Roads.

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Dearey, seconded by Cllr. C. Keelan and agreed by the members to amend the motion to include the words "and Bracken" after the word Ragwort in the motion

The members agreed the amended motion.

Minute No.89/18

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. R. O'Murchu

Seconded by: Cllr. K. Flood

Minutes of Council Meeting May 2018

That this Council supports County Louth becoming free from goods and services produced in Israeli settlements illegally established on stolen Palestinian land and therefore urges Senators to support the Control of Economic Activity (Occupied Territories) Bill, 2018.

The motion was agreed by the members

Minute No.90/18

Notice of Motion

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

This council calls for the ending of persecution of Falun Gong Practitioners in China. Noting that the Special Rapporteur of the United Nations (UN) on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment has issued two reports detailing allegations of organ harvesting in China;

- that the UN and the Council of Europe are planning to introduce a new binding international treaty to prevent trafficking in organs, tissues and cells and have already issued protocols containing appropriate measures to combat the trafficking of human beings for organ removal;- and calls on the Government to actively

support UN and Council of Europe initiatives, including at the Human Rights Council, to oppose the practice of forced organ harvesting in China."

The motion was agreed by the members

Minute No.91/18

Notice of Motion

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

That this council will remove the Daily Star and and Irish Mirror from the approved list of newspapers for publishing planning notices and will recommend The Drogheda Leader on that list in order to improve the opportunity of Louth Residents to view planning notices"

Minutes of Council Meeting May 2018

Reply:

There are no plans to remove the Daily Star and Irish Mirror from the approved list of newspapers for publishing planning notices. It should be noted that the Drogheda Leader is included on the approved list of newspapers for planning applications in the Drogheda area.

Cllr. K. Flood pointed out that the word "include" was used in error and the word "recommend" should replace it.

The reply was noted by the members

Minute No.92/18

Notice of Question

Submitted by: Cllr. F. Godfrey

That Louth County Council informs me of the annual rent charged to Aura Leisure with respect to the swimming pools in Drogheda and Dundalk and what is the expiry date of the leases?

Reply:

Both Swimming Pool and Leisure Centres at Drogheda and Dundalk are operated and managed under contract by Aura Leisure Ltd on behalf of the Council.

The term of the Operation + Maintenance (O & M) Contracts, which dates back to the former Borough/Town Councils, have expired and a composite O+M Contract covering both Centres will be procured before the end of the year

Minute No.93/18

Notice of Question

Submitted by: Cllr. F. Godfrey

Will local clubs have the opportunity to make submissions regarding the conditions of the lease of the swimming pools in Dundalk & Drogheda to help promote water-related activities in both towns?

Minutes of Council Meeting May 2018

REPLY:

It is not proposed to involve local clubs in determining the terms of the operational & maintenance contract, but the new procurement process will endeavour to ensure availability for achievement of community goals. It should be noted that this procurement process will be a competitive process and therefore any conditioning of the process will have a financial impact

Minute No. 94/18

Motions from other Councils

Notices of Motion 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: _____

Meetings Administrator: _____