

Minutes of Council Meeting October 2018

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Louth County Council held in County Hall, Dundalk on Monday 15th October 2018

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. L. Reilly

Members: Councillors: M. Butler, T. Byrne, J. Byrne, K. Callan, A. Campbell, E. Corrigan, 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, , 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
W. Walsh, A/Director of Services
T. McEvoy, Head of LEO
M. Johnston, Senior Engineer
M. Sheeran, Senior Engineer
J. O'Hagan, Senior Engineer
A. Abbott-King, Senior Planner
C. Moss, Senior Executive Officer
J. Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer
A. Lawler, Senior Executive Officer
L. McKenna, Senior Executive Officer
B. Lynch, Financial Accountant
A. Sherry, Meetings Administrator
C. Mullen, Administrative Officer

Apologies Cllrs. P. Bell, E. Coffey

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Minute No.172 /18

Confirmation of Minutes

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

That the minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 17th September 2018 be confirmed

Minute No. 173/18

Matters Arising

Costings were requested again in relation to the update circulated to the members on the Buttergate. It was requested that the letter issued to the Minister in relation to the timing of television and radio advertising of BFSS food be sent also to the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland.

Minute No. 174/18

Minutes for noting

Corporate Policy Group 5th September 2018

Borough District of Drogheda 3rd September 2018

Municipal District of Dundalk 4th September 2018

Municipal District of Ardee 6th September 2018

Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC 11th June 2018

Minute No.175 /18

Report on CPG Meeting

The Cathaoirleach reported that the meeting of the CPG was held Wednesday 3rd October 2018, with the Cathaoirleach being the only elected member in attendance. The draft agenda for the September meeting was considered and agreed by the Cathaoirleach. It was agreed that the Irish Heart Foundation should make a presentation to the council at the January meeting

Minute No. 176/18

Monthly Management Report

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Savage and seconded by P. Smith that the Cathaoirleach should seek a meeting of the members with the Minister for Housing, planning and local Government to address the funding challenges faced by the Council.

Members were informed that the budget for 2019 would be drafted on the basis of the hourly charge for parking in Drogheda being €1.00.

An update was requested in relation to the painting of electricity boxes in public places.

It was requested that we write to Revenue to establish if the initiative of marking diesel had been an effective tool against illegal activity.

An update was given in relation to the sponsoring of roundabouts and it was requested that the member who proposed the motion be invited to attend any discussion at the SPC.

An update was requested in relation to the use of an anti-illegal dumping billboard campaign

Minute No. 177/18

Votes of Congratulations

SS Dundalk Centenary Committee
Cooley Football clubs Ladies and U16s teams
Dundalk FC
St. Mochtas GAA Club
Casey Burns – wished a speedy recovery
Ardee Concert Band
Emer O’Gorman on her move to Fingal County Council
Noel Carr and Peter Clinton for their success in rowing
Drogheda FC
St. Fechin’s GAA club

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Members were informed of the unveiling of a public seat in honour of Noel Carroll in Annagassan on Sunday, 21st October

Minute No. 178/18

Section 183 Notice – Disposal of Land at Sunday’s Gate Drogheda

Proposed by: Cllr. F. Godfrey
Seconded by: Cllr. P. Smith
And resolved:

That having considered the notice on the matter dated 1st October 2018 to confirm the Disposal of 464.7 square metres (0.04647 hectares) of land at Sundays Gate Drogheda to Mr. Damian Moore for a consideration of €807.00 (eight hundred and seven euro) Purchaser to be liable for costs and expenses

Minute No.179 /18

Section 183 Notice – Disposal of land at No.3 Albany Terrace, Drogheda

Proposed by: Cllr. F. Godfrey
Seconded by: Cllr. T. Byrne
And resolved:

That having considered the notice on the matter dated 1st October 2018 to confirm the Disposal of Land 214.5 square metres (0.02145 hectares) at 3 Albany Terrace, Drogheda to Michael Comyn for a consideration of €1,500 (fifteen hundred euro) Purchaser to be liable for costs and expenses.

Minute No.180/18

Section 183 Notice – Disposal of land at Marshes Upper, Dundalk

This item was deferred – members requested that a workshop take place on this matter

Minute No.181/18

Approval of €5 million Overdraft Facility

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Smith

Seconded by: Cllr. O. Tully

And resolved:

To approve the securing of €5 million overdraft facility as presented to the members

Minute No. 182/18

Allocation of Community Grants

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Yore

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Smith

And resolved:

To approve Members Community Grant Allocations (No. 84) as listed on the report circulated with the agenda

Minute No. 183/18

Conferences and Events

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Smith

Seconded by: Cllr. O. Tully

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 4th October 2018

Minute No. 184/18

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Byrne
Seconded by: Cllr. A. Watters
And resolved:

"Louth County Council recognises the essential role carried out by emergency service workers including Ambulance, Fire Service, Gardaí and Customs, and the risks that these frontline workers take in the service of the public.

We also recognise that assaults carried out upon such emergency services in the course of their duties, can hamper, delay, and prevent these services coming to the assistance of the public, often during situations and events of serious duress and danger.

- Therefore, we consider the nature of such assaults as serious, and it should be considered an aggravating factor, where any assault is made against a frontline worker during the commission of their duties, and that any review or future sentencing guidelines should provide that it would be considered an aggravating factor"

Motion was agreed by the members

Minute No. 185/18

Notice of Motion

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

"Louth County Council calls for the introduction of a long term plan for the private rental sector to provide tenants with long term security of tenure, rent certainty and improved policing of quality and standards. These objectives would be achieved by introducing tenancies of indefinite duration, linking rents to an index such as the CPI, inspecting a minimum of 25% of all rental properties per year and requiring landlords to provide an NCT style certificate on commencement of a new tenancy. The strategy should also provide increased support for landlords to improve the professionalization of the sector".

Motion was agreed by the members

Minute No. 186/18

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. O. Tully
Seconded by: Cllr. J. McGahon
And resolved:

That Louth County Council should implement a county wide awareness campaign on the issue of cigarette related litter, particularly cigarette butts, which is becoming increasingly difficult for tidy towns volunteers to deal with. Any campaign should involve radio advertisements, newspaper promotions, awareness signage in towns and villages, posters and leaflets in public houses, bookies and outlets that sell cigarettes. This should be supplemented with increased litter warden presence in identified black-spots including ensuring commercial property owners are aware of their obligations under the Litter Pollution Acts. Should available budget be considered a barrier to undertake this campaign in the short-term we ask that the relevant section of the Council seek sponsorship from the tobacco industry in particular Carroll's who were long associated with the county and, in particular, the Dundalk area.

Reply:

Louth County Council will submit an application for funding support to undertake a countywide campaign highlighting issues around cigarette litter under the Anti- Litter & Anti Graffiti Awareness Grant Scheme to the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment in 2019. The Funding scheme is closed for 2018.

Motion was agreed by the members

Minute No. 187/18

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Bell

That Louth County Council call on the Minister for Housing and Environment to provide specific financial assistance to retained Fire Fighters in order to secure private rented accommodation within close proximity to their assigned station, in order to guarantee their commitment to the service at a time of significant housing pressures and also to protect the public investment in training and development of these key members of the community Fire Service resource"

Motion fell as Cllr. Bell was not present at this time for two meetings in succession

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Minute No. 188/18

Notice of Motion

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

That LCC write to Housing Minister Eoghan Murphy proposing A Pilot scheme for Louth between Credit Union Development Assoc /ÓCualann Co-operative Housing Assoc/Louth Co Co to build affordable/social housing on Louth County Council land banks and recoup to Louth CC the costs of the lands incurred"

Motion was agreed by the members

Minute No. 189/18

Notice of Motion

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

"That Louth County Council write to Dept of Justice requesting a dedicated National Missing Persons Unit be set up immediately"

Motion was agreed by the members

Minute No. 190/18

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. A. Campbell

Seconded by: Cllr. A. Watters

And resolved:

This Council calls for the Department of Finance to ringfence the revenue from the Sugar Sweetened Drinks Tax to reinvest in children's health and health promotion activities

Motion was agreed by the members

Minute No. 191/18

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. P. McGeough

Seconded by: Cllr. F. Godfrey

And resolved:

Following last Novembers budget, all Councillors engaged in a 6 week process with facilitator Anne O Keefe which commenced in January.

This council notes that the findings of this process has been neither published nor furnished to the members. We are calling for this report to be published immediately."

Reply:

Anne O'Keefe sent her report to the Cathaoirleach and Chief Executive on the 17th of April 2018, following which Management Team considered the recommendations in the report and prepared a draft action plan. The draft action plan was forwarded to the Cathaoirleach on the 18th of May 2018 for dissemination to the whips. The report and draft action plan were again sent to the Cathaoirleach on the 22nd of June 2018 following the Annual General Meeting.

Work has been ongoing in the background since the drafting of the action plan, particularly in respect of our CRM system.

Reply was noted by the members

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Minute No. 192/18

Notices of Motion from other councils

Notices of Motion from other Councils as circulated with the Agenda were noted by the members.

Minute No. 193/18

Correspondence

Correspondence as listed 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: _____