

## **Minutes of Council Meeting April 2019**

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Louth County Council held in County Hall, Dundalk on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019

### **In attendance:**

**Cathaoirleach:** Cllr. L. Reilly

**Members:** Councillors: P. Bell, M. Butler, J. Byrne, A. Campbell, E. Coffey, 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

**Apologies:** Cllr. T. Byrne

**Officials:** J. Martin, Chief Executive  
F. Pentony, Director of Services  
P. Donnelly, Director of Services  
J. McGuinness, Director of Services  
B. Woods, Head of Finance  
J. O'Hagan, A/Director of Services  
M. Johnston, Senior Engineer  
C. Duff, Senior Engineer  
A. Abbott-King, Senior Planner  
T. McEvoy, Head of LEO  
R. McAuley, Accountant  
B. Lynch, Accountant  
L. McKenna, Senior Executive Officer  
A. Sherry, Meetings Administrator  
A. Lawler, Senior Executive Officer

***Minutes of Council Meeting April 2019***

**Minute No. 69/19**

**Confirmation of Minutes**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. F. Godfrey  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. R. Culhane  
**And resolved:**

That the minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> March be confirmed

**Minute No. 70/19**

**Minutes for noting**

Corporate Policy Group note for 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Borough District of Drogheda 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Municipal District of Dundalk 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Municipal District of Ardee 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019

**Minute No. 71/19**

**Matters Arising**

Details of the cost of the Cathaoirleach's trip to New York were requested again. It was agreed to circulate the members with details of the revaluation figures for Drogheda. It was pointed out that minute 46/19 should refer to Redeemer Celtic FC. Details of the social houses retrofitted with energy saving equipment through the BEC scheme were requested

**Minute No. 72/19**

**Report on CPG Meeting**

The Cathaoirleach reported that the meeting of the CPG was held Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019. The draft agenda for the April meeting was considered and agreed and Councillors Community Grants (54) were noted and approved. There were no issues raised under the Members Communication Plan

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### **Minute No. 73/19**

#### **Monthly Management Report**

It was agreed to invite the representatives of Irish Water who met members previously in relation to the capacity of the waste water treatment plant at Staleen to attend a Council meeting.

The need for an Irish Water to hold a clinic in the mid-Louth urgently was raised.

It was agreed to circulate the members with a copy of the appeal in relation to the URDF application.

A report in relation to pre-planning meeting requests and the waiting time was requested.

The need for more disability toilets and signage at the Fleadh for 2019 was raised.

It was agreed to update the members in relation to the proposed works at Annagassen harbour and the need for an environmental impact study.

It was agreed to provide members with a copy of the submission made by the Council in relation to the regional spatial economic strategy.

Members sought an update in relation to CPOs in Narrow West Street

### **Minute No. 74/19**

#### **Presentation to Retiring Members**

The Cathaoirleach invited members to speak about Cllr. Dearey and Savage on their stepping down from the Council. He pointed out that as Cllr. Tommy Byrne was unable to attend the meeting a presentation would be made to him at a later date.

Members thanked Cllr. Dearey for his service to the Council and in particular for his well researched knowledge and principled stance on issues. He was praised for his inclusive approach to the roles of chair of the Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC and Dundalk Municipal District.

Cllr. Dearey thanked the members and the officials and expressed his best wishes to Cllr. Savage and Cllr. Byrne. He also expressed his view that environmental issues had now become embedded in the public discourse.

Members then paid tribute to Cllr. Savage for his long service to the Council and his willingness to share his knowledge and insight into a wide range of issues, along with his encouragement for all members of the Council. He was also commended for his work tackling poverty and lack of education for girls in Malawi. Members said how much his wit and humour would be missed in the Council chamber. He was praised for his respect for all viewpoints in his 7 terms as Cathaoirleach of the Council.

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Cllr. Savage thanked the members and officials past and present and shared some anecdotes and expressed his frustration with the lack of involvement of local Councillors in the areas of health, education and agriculture and the reduced powers of local government. He then wished all members well in the forthcoming election.

The Chief Executive thanked Cllr. Dearey and Savage for their outstanding service to the people of Louth and expressed sadness that Cllr. Byrne was not present due to ill health.

The Cathaoirleach made a presentation to both members present.

### **Minute No. 75/19**

#### **Monthly Management Report (continued)**

It was agreed to include the cost of diesel sludge clean ups in the monthly report. The Chief Executive undertook to meet Ardee residents with concerns in relation to the Ardee bypass.

A report was requested into the possibility of a game reserve/sanctuary in North Louth.

It was agreed to produce a quarterly report with additional information in relation to the Fire Service.

It was requested to circulate the ministerial report in relation to cooperation between Louth and Meath to all members.

A report in relation to the meetings in Pikeville, USA was requested.

Concern was raised at the lack of control of the Council in relation to the roster for groups using Drogheda swimming pool.

It was agreed to investigate cases of social housing tenants receiving delayed rent increase notifications if specific details were supplied.

Details of the cost of the provision of social housing in Dunleer through a PPP arrangement was sought.

An update was requested in relation to the Dundalk municipal athletic facility.

Members were reminded by the Cathaoirleach that legal privilege did not apply in the Council chamber and to refrain from naming contractors or individuals in their contributions.

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### **Minute No. 76/19**

#### **Unaudited 2018 Annual Financial Statement**

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

**Seconded by:** Cllr. P. Smith

**And resolved:**

To approve the unaudited accounts for 2018 including the over/under expenditure as per Note 16 and the transfers to and from Capital.

### **Minute No. 77/19**

#### **Regional Homeless Action Plan**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. M. Yore

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

**And resolved:**

To approve the Regional Action Plan as circulated with the Agenda

### **Minute No. 78/19**

#### **Allocation of Members Community Grants**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. M. Yore

**Seconded by:** Cllr. E. Coffey

**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 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. 79/19**

#### **Suspension of Standing Orders**

**Proposed by** Cllr. M. Yore

**Seconded by** Cllr. E. Coffey

**And resolved:-**

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That standing orders be suspended as per Standing Order number 24 to permit the business of the meeting to continue for a further 15 minutes.

### **Minute No. 80/19**

#### **Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by Cllr. F. Godfrey**

**Seconded by Cllr. E. Coffey**

**"That Louth County Council builds bungalows for families with children who have autism or other special needs throughout the county"**

#### **Reply:**

**Louth County Council builds many adapted dwellings throughout the county and have a number in the pipeline. They vary from 1 bed homes to 4 bed homes and are reserved for families and tenants with disabilities. Once available for a family they are allocated on the basis of the family with the most need of this dwelling at that time.**

**The reply was noted by the members**

### **Minute No. 81/19**

#### **Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by Cllr. E. Coffey**

**Seconded by Cllr. C. Keelan**

**And resolved:-**

**'On behalf of Aitheantas I am calling on Louth County Council to write to Minister Zappone's Department requesting/demanding that her Department acknowledges Adoptee Identity Rights and immediately allows Adoptees access to their own information on Health, History and Heritage in line with the equality and personal autonomy rights of other citizens and as voted for in two referenda'**

**The motion was agreed by the members**

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**Minute No. 82/19**

**Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by Cllr. P. McGeough**

**Seconded by Cllr. A. Campbell**

**And resolved:-**

"I wish to call for the full implementation of the recommendations in the Anne O Keeffe report"

**Reply:**

**This matter was reported at the Corporate Policy Group Meeting in January and its implementation is kept under review by the Corporate Policy Group as a standing item on their agenda**

***An update was requested in relation to the Action Plan. The motion was agreed by the members***

**Minute No. 83/19**

**Motions from other Councils**

Motions from other Councils as listed 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:

20/5/19

Cathaoirleach:



Meetings Administrator:



