

Minutes of Monthly Council Meeting 15th July 2019

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Louth County Council held in County Hall, Dundalk on Monday 15th July 2019 at 10:00 a.m

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Liam Reilly

Members: Councillors Paul Bell, Marianne Butler, James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, Kevin Callan, Emma Coffey, Hugh Conlon, Edel Corrigan, Tom Cunningham, Maria Doyle, Conor Keelan, Seán Kelly, Colm Markey, John McGahon, Pearse McGeough, Erin McGreehan, Paddy McQuillan, Ruairí Ó Murchú, Declan Power, Tomás Sharkey, John Sheridan, Pío Smith, Jim Tenanty, Antoin Watters, Maeve Yore

Officials: J. Martin, Chief Executive
C. Duff, Director of Services
P. Donnelly, Director of Services
B. Woods, Head of Finance
C. Moss, Acting Director of Services
D. Hanratty, Senior Engineer
J. Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer
B. Lynch, Accountant
R. McAuley, Accountant
T. McEvoy, Head of LEO
Y. O'Brien, County Librarian
J. O'Hagan, Senior Engineer
E. Woulfe, Chief Fire Officer
T. Hamilton, Public Realm Designer
A. Morrissey, Public Realm Designer
A. Dullaghan, Conservation Officer
A. Sherry, Acting Director of Services / Meetings Administrator

Apologies: Councillor Michelle Hall

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Minute No. 140/19

Before the business of the meeting commenced the members observed a minutes silence for the late Councillor Oliver Tully. Members then paid tribute to Cllr. Tully for his dedicated public service and commitment to environmental issues. His respect for all other members and willingness to work with members regardless of political affiliation was highlighted. Sympathies were extended to his wife Eileen and his children. Members also extended their sympathies to the Fine Gael group on their loss.

Minute No. 141/19

Confirmation of Minutes

Proposed by: Cllr. E. Coffey
Seconded by: Cllr. P. Bell
And resolved:

That the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 7th June 2019 be confirmed.

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

That the minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 17th June 2019 be confirmed.

Minute No. 142/19

Matter Arising

It was agreed to correct the party affiliations in the minutes of the meeting of the 7th June and to double check minute number 113/19. The need to correct the proposer and seconder in relation to minute 139/19 was highlighted.

Minute No. 143/19

Monthly Chief Executive Management Report

It was agreed to circulate members with a copy of the funding application appeal in relation to the Northern Cross Port Access Route.

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On foot of a query it was explained to the members that individual planning applications could not be discussed at a Council meeting.

It was requested that the Planning report include the number of preplanning application numbers.

It was agreed to report back to the members in relation to issues raised around the attacks on Council tenants homes associated with an organised crime feud.

The request to include the rough sleeper count update in the monthly Housing report was repeated.

Concern was raised at whether or not the Louth Peer Education Programme is compliant with all applicable regulations.

A breakdown of the reasons for the 82 people removed from the housing list as part of the assessment was requested.

Minute No. 144/19

Annual Report 2018 for adoption

Proposed by: Cllr. K. Callan

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Yore

And resolved:

That the Annual Report 2018 be adopted under Section 221 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

Minute No. 145/19

Nomination of Members to Committee for Memorandum of Understanding with Newry, Mourne, and Down Council.

Proposed by: Cllr. S. Kelly

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Butler

And resolved:

That the councilors nominated in each municipal district be confirmed as Members to Committee for Memorandum of Understanding with Newry, Mourne, and Down Council:

Drogheda BD: Cllrs. T. Cunningham, James Byrne, D. Power

Dundalk MD: Cllrs. A. Watters, E. McGreehan, E. Coffey, E. Corrigan

Ardee MD: Cllrs. J. Sheridan, P. McGeough

Minute No. 146/19

SPC Scheme

Proposed by: Cllr. E. Coffey

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Butler

And resolved:

To progress the SPC Scheme as provided for in Section 48 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended by the Local Government Reform Act, 2014.

Minute No. 147/19

Nomination to Local Sports Partnership

Proposed by: Cllr. Joanna Byrne

Seconded by: Cllr. T. Cunningham

And resolved:

To confirm the nomination of Cllr. R. Ó Murchú to Local Sports Partnership.

Minute No. 148/19

Nominations to Placenames Committee

T. Sharkey proposed by A. Watters, seconded by T. Cunningham

J. Sheridan proposed by J. Tenanty, seconded by H. Conlon

K. Callan proposed by J. Byrne, seconded by K. Callan

The members agreed the nominations

Adoption of the proposed structure of the place names committee was proposed by Joanne Byrne, seconded by Tom Cunningham and agreed by the members.

Minute No. 149/19

Notice of Making of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region

Members noted the report.

Minute No. 150/19

Membership of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

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

To confirm the nominations of Ms. Alison Quail and Ms. Elizabeth O'Reilly to serve on the LCDC.

Minute No. 151/19

Audit Committee

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Yore
Seconded by: Cllr. E. Coffey
And resolved:

To confirm the external members approved by the Corporate Policy Group in accordance with SI No. 244/2014 - Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014:

Richard Bowden, Bowden Walsh & Co. Accountant
Billy Doyle, Dundalk Credit Union
Irene McCausland, Dundalk Institute of Technology

Minute No. 152/19

Proposed disposal of lands to Conn Mc Enteggart, Acarreagh, County Louth in accordance with the Notice, dated 25th June, served on each Member

This was proposed by Cllr. S. Kelly, seconded by M. Yore, and agreed by the members.

Minute No. 153/19

Allocation of Members Community Grants

This was proposed by Cllr. M. Butler, seconded by E. Coffey, and agreed by the members.

Minute No. 154/19

IPB Notification of Special Dividend Payment

This was proposed by Cllr. M. Yore, seconded by Cllr. M. Butler, and agreed by the members.

Minute No. 155/19

Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024

Proposed by: Cllr. C. Keelan

Seconded by: Cllr. E. Coffey

And resolved:

To adopt the Traveller Accommodation Programme in accordance with the provisions of Section 9(2) of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998.

Minute No. 156/19

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. E. Coffey

Seconded by Cllr. C. Keelan

“With the real possibility of a 'no-deal' Brexit remaining as high a threat as ever, Not only will the economy take a significant hit if a no deal Brexit was to materialise, the State's finances would also suffer but there is also a concern from Citizens particularity in Louth as to how great the detrimental impact of such a scenario would have on their day to day lives. In those circumstances I am calling for Louth County Council to set up a Sub Committee to assess and if necessary intensify Louth County Councils preparations for all possible Brexit outcomes, including a 'no-deal' scenario.”

Reply from Director of Economic Development:

Louth County Council have through the Louth LEO already provided workshops for business who feel that they may be affected by Brexit. As part of their Brexit Awareness programme Louth LEO have promoted the InterTrade Ireland Brexit Scorecard for business.

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In addition, the 11 Chief Executives of Councils along the border have published a report on the various scenarios which may arise from Brexit.

Brexit is also a standing agenda item on the MOU Cross Border Committee Louth County Council Senior Management team and the Louth Economic Forum.

Members noted the reply.

Minute No. 157/19

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. R. Ó Murchú

Seconded by Cllr. J. Byrne

"Louth County Council calls on the Government to honour agreements that were reached in 2017 with Health Service support staff and their employers – the Department of Health and HSE. These workers include hospital porters, healthcare assistants, chefs and surgical instrument technicians. Without these workers our hospitals would not be cleaned, patients' food would not be served and our health service would not function."

Reply:

This is a matter for the members.

Members agreed the motion.

Minute No. 158/19

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. R. Ó Murchú

Seconded by Cllr. T. Cuningham

"Louth County Council supports the extension of voting rights in Presidential elections to citizens of the North and the diaspora. Louth County Council calls on the Taoiseach to bring the Presidential Voting Rights Bill before the Dáil in advance of recess in July to ensure that the referendum is held in October/November 2019."

Reply:

This is a matter for the members.

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It was proposed by Cllr. Joanna Byrne, seconded by E. Corrigan and agreed by the members to amend the motion to replace the words "in advance of recess in July" with "as soon as possible"

Members agreed the amended motion

Minute No. 159/19

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. James Byrne

Seconded by Cllr. E. Coffey

"That Louth County Council would extend the ban on the sale, marketing, distribution and burning of smoky coal to the entire county effectively designating Louth as a Low Smoke Zone under the Air Pollution Act 2012."

Reply from Director of Operations & Waste:

Low Smoke Zone designations are currently a function of the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment under:

S.I. No. 326/2012 - Air Pollution Act (Marketing, Sale, Distribution and Burning of Specified Fuels) Regulations 2012.

Definitions:

'Specified Area' means an area listed under Schedule 1 or Schedule 2 to these Regulations that has been designated by the Minister under section 53 of the Air Pollution Act 1987

The towns of Dundalk and Drogheda are designated 'Specified Areas' zones under Schedule 1 of S.I. No. 326/2012.

In 2017 the then Minister, Denis Naughten, announced his intention to end the sale of 'Smoky Coal' across the entire country by the end of September 2019. This would have had the effect of making the entire country and Low Smoke Zone 'Specified Area'.

Subsequently, in April 2019 Minister Richard Bruton announced a postponement of the nationwide ban, leaving the current Low Smoke Zones as they are. No date has been fixed for the full introduction.

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It was undertaken to check whether or not the local authority had the legal powers to designate low smoke zones and revert back to the members. Members noted the reply.

Minute No. 160/19

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. C. Keelan

Seconded by Cllr. M. Yore

"Recognising the success of the Council's Centenary Committee during 2016, and the work done by LCC Archives to recognise 100 years of Local Government in Louth, this motion calls for the re-establishment of a Centenary Committee to mark ongoing and significant events during the Decade of Commemorations from 2019 through 2023."

Reply from Director of Libraries, Arts, Heritage & Museum:

Currently the Decade of Centenary has an in house Commemorations Centenary Working Group, and this has been in place since 2017 to mark ongoing and significant events during the Decade of Commemorations through to 2023. The Working Group is the preferred route for engagement on the topic. A programme of commemorative events for 2019 will issue in due course. If significant funding becomes available, the executive will look at the possibility of the re-establishment the Centenary Committee.

Members noted the reply

Minute No. 161/19

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. C. Keelan

Seconded by Cllr. E. Coffey

"Whitestown Village in North Louth was deemed a listed village some 15 years ago with all houses and many curtilages being brought under the listed category. While it is accepted that the Village has many features worthy of preservation, the blanket listing which exists has in actual fact been detrimental to the preservation, revitalization and enhancement of the Village. I wish to propose that the Village be de-listed and that the aspects of the village worthy of preservation be protected by the normal planning procedures."

Reply from Director of Planning:

Whitestown is an Architectural Conservation Area with 7 Protected Structures within its boundary.

An ACA is defined as “a place, area, group of structures or townscape that is of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific social or technical interest or contributes to the appreciation of protected structures”.

An ACA can be a street, a terrace of houses, a town centre or structures associated with a specific building such as a country house demesne.

An ACA aims to protect the character of what makes a place distinctive, by protecting elements such as public realm, traditional settlement patterns and building materials, by controlling the nature of alterations and new development.

Whitestown is a “Clachan” which refers to a small settlement of clustered houses with no church and usually no shop or school. The pattern / layout of the buildings contributes to the unique character of Whitestown.

The importance of Whitestown was highlighted in the 1999 publication “Building Sensitively and Sustainably in County Louth” by Philip and Delphine Geoghegan.

“Whitestown is an agricultural village with timeless quality. It is a remarkable survival of an almost complete clachan settlement, with a fascinating distribution of space and building form. It is essentially a single-street village, with clusters of cottages forming secondary spaces from the street.”

It is an objective of the County Development Plan to preserve the character of the Architectural Conservation Areas ACAs in County Louth.

Notwithstanding the fact that Whitestown is an Architectural Conservation Area Planning Permission has been granted for a number of new dwellings and extensions in and adjoining the ACA.

Members noted the reply.

Minute No. 162/19

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. E. McGreehan

Seconded by Cllr. J. Sheridan

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"That Louth County Council request that the Minister for Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform include funding in the 2020 Budget for the development of our indigenous Bee Keeping industry. This industry whilst popular in Louth needs extra resources and encouragement, to promote new members to get started and the encouragement of established Bee keepers to expand and improve. The value and the protection of the honey bee should be promoted and encouraged. The honey bee is the world's most important pollinator of food crops, therefore is crucial to the health of our future ecology."

Reply:

This is a matter for the members.

Members agreed the motion.

Minute No. 163/19

Notice of Question

Submitted by Cllr. H. Conlon

"What was the income generated by Louth Co. Council under the " Development Contribution Scheme" over the past five years, and also details of the breakdown on the individual projects funded under this heading."

Reply from Head of Finance:

A report on this matter is currently being prepared and will be circulated as soon as possible.

Minute No. 164/19

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.

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

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meetings Administrator: _____

That concluded the business of the meeting.