

## **Minutes of Council Meeting March 2019**

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Louth County Council held in County Hall, Dundalk on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019

### **In attendance:**

**Cathaoirleach:** Cllr. L. Reilly

**Members:** Councillors: P. Bell, M. Butler, J. Byrne, K. Callan, 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:** Cllrs T. Byrne

**Officials:** J. Martin, Chief Executive  
F. Pentony, Director of Services  
P. Donnelly, Director of Services  
B. Woods, Head of Finance  
W. Walsh, A/Director of Services  
M. Johnston, Senior Engineer  
J. O'Hagan, Senior Engineer  
C. Duff, Senior Engineer  
A. Abbott-King, Senior Planner  
T. McEvoy, Head of LEO  
J. Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer  
M. Sheeran, Senior Engineer  
L. McKenna, Senior Executive Officer  
A. Sherry, Meetings Administrator  
T. Hamilton, Public Realm Designer  
A. Morrissey, Public Realm Designer  
A. Lawler, Senior Executive Officer

## ***Minutes of Council Meeting March 2019***

### **Minute No. 42/19**

#### **Confirmation of Minutes**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. P. Bell  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. P. Smith  
**And resolved:**

That the minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> February be confirmed

### **Minute No. 43/19**

#### **Minutes for noting**

Corporate Policy Group note for 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019

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

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

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

Infrastructure, European & Cross Border SPC 13th December 2018

Economic Development & Enterprise Support 10th September 2018

Joint Committee of Elected Members - Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and Louth County Council 20th November 2018 (Memorandum of Understanding Action Plan February 2019 attached)

### **Minute No. 44/19**

#### **Matters Arising**

Details of the cost of the Cathaoirleach's trip to New York were requested. An update was requested in relation to the possibility of putting community wardens in place. It was agreed to circulate members with details of the Council's 2019 centenary commemorations when they are finalised.

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### **Minute No.45/19**

#### **Report on CPG Meeting**

The Cathaoirleach reported that the meeting of the CPG was held Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019 and the draft agenda for the March meeting was considered and agreed. The Councillors Community Grants (59) were noted and approved and the members also considered and agreed to recommend one conference. Issues in relation to replies to public reps were noted for attention and an e-mail to be circulated to senior staff and elected representatives in relation to data protection was agreed. It was agreed to review the performance of the strategic policy committees before drafting the scheme for the new Council and it was also agreed to mark the departure of councillors not seeking re-election at the April Council meeting.

### **Minute No. 46/19**

#### **Monthly Management Report**

The need to resolve the water issues on Quay Street in Dundalk was raised. It was agreed to provide the members with clarification in relation to the capacity of the waste water treatment plant at Staleen, it was suggested that IW representatives who had previously met Councillors should attend a future meeting. The need for a bye-pass to address traffic congestion in the southern end of Ardee was raised.

The need to address the road surface at St. Mary's Bridge, Drogheda was highlighted.

It was agreed to update members on when the dog fouling bins would be replaced with litter bins and the need to inform the public that litter bins could be used for dog foul was highlighted.

It was suggested a committee similar to a tidy towns committee was needed to maintain the Navy Bank walk.

It was suggested that a safety audit should be conducted in relation to Carlingford Pier

The need to publicise the deadline for inclusion on the supplementary register was raised.

It was agreed to revert back to the members with details of the number of staff employed and the amount of funding provided in relation to the Civil Defence.

It was agreed to provide the members with the number of Council houses that have been retrofitted with energy saving equipment funded through the Better Energy Communities grant scheme.

It was agreed to check the figure of 23 units given in a parliamentary reply in relation to the number of houses directly built by Louth County Council for 2018.

The need to finalise the lease in relation to the Redeemer Centre was raised.

An update in relation to the engagement of the Council with the property owners of Narrow West Street was requested.

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**Minute No. 47/19**

**Section 183 Notice – Disposal of Fee Simple – land at rear of No. 102 Duleek Street, Drogheda**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. F. Godfrey  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. M. Butler  
**And resolved:**

That having considered the notice on the matter dated 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 to confirm the disposal of 0.06129 hectares in total of land at rear of 102 Duleek Street, Drogheda for a consideration of €235.00 (two hundred and thirty-five euro) to Margaret Keegan (fee simple disposal)

Purchaser responsible for all legal costs and expenses.

**Minute No. 48/19**

**Issuing of Polling Information Cards to Electors**

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

To approve the issuing of Polling Information Cards to Electors eligible to vote in the forthcoming Local Elections to be held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019

**Minute No. 49/19**

**Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Programme**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. J. Byrne  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. F. Godfrey  
**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.

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**Minute No. 50/19**

**LCDC Annual Report 2018**

Report was noted by the members

**Minute No. 51/19**

**Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024**

Report was noted by the members

**Minute No. 52/19**

**Joint Policing Committees Report 2018 – Presented in accordance with Section 36 (5) (a) of An Garda Siochana Act 2005**

Report was noted by the members

**Minute No. 53/19**

**Conferences and Events**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. M. Butler  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. E. Coffey  
**And resolved:**

To approve attendance of members recorded in the Conference & Events Register at such Conferences and Events listed within the agenda & approved at Policy Group on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019

**Minute No. 54/19**

**Allocation of Members Community Grants**

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

To approve Members Community Grant Allocations (No.59) as circulated with the agenda

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**Minute No. 55/19**

**Drogheda BIDS Proposal**

Geoff Fitzpatrick and Niall Kierans of the Drogheda BIDS committee gave a presentation and answered queries from the members.

**Minute No. 56/19**

**Vote of Congratulations**

To the Christian Brothers in Dundalk on their 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**Minute No. 57/19**

**Votes of sympathy were extended to the families of the following:-**

Ruth Maguire  
Martin Patterson  
Shane McAnallan  
Maura Carroll  
Staff members recently bereaved

**Minute No. 58/19**

**Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by Cllr. D. Saurin  
Seconded by Cllr. J. Byrne**

"That Louth County Council calls on the Government, following the passing of the No Consent, No Sale bill to facilitate the quick passage of this bill through the remaining legislative stages."

**A roll call vote followed:-**

**For:** Cllrs. M. Butler, J. Byrne, A. Campbell, E. Corrigan, T. Cunningham, M. Dearey, K. Flood, F. Godfrey, P. McGeough, R. O'Murchu, D. Saurin, A. Watters, M. Yore

**Total: 13 (thirteen)**

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**Against:** Cllrs. E. Coffey, R. Culhane, M. Doyle, C. Keelan, D. Minogue, L. Reilly, P. Savage, O. Tully

**Total: 8 (eight)**

**Absent:** Cllrs. P. Bell, T. Byrne, K. Callan, C. Markey, J. McGahon, T. Sharkey, P. Smith, J. Tenanty

**Total: 8 (eight)**

**The motion was agreed by the members**

### **Minute No. 59/19**

#### **Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by Cllr. T. Cunningham**

**Seconded by Cllr. A. Watters**

**And resolved:-**

"That Louth County Council calls on the Government to establish a stand-alone Department for Fisheries, Marine and Coastal Communities together with a designated Minister.

I feel that the fishing industry and our coastal communities are under threat. The new Department's role would be to safeguard and promote our fishing sector, coastal communities, Islands and marine biodiversity.

**The motion was agreed by the members**

### **Minute No. 60/19**

#### **Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by Cllr. J. Byrne**

**Seconded by Cllr. D. Saurin**

**And resolved:-**

"This Council calls on The Minister for Transport to intervene on the recent directive issued to staff and volunteers of the Irish Coast Guard stating that their drivers are no longer permitted to use blue lights and sirens whilst driving on public roads.

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If this decision cannot be reversed, we ask that the Minister make a commitment that all relevant personnel will be provided with the sufficient training in line with the ESDS Driving Code as a matter of urgency so that this invaluable service is not restricted any further and lives are no longer put at risk."

**The motion was agreed by the members**

### **Minute No. 61/19**

#### **Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by Cllr. M. Yore  
Seconded by Cllr. P. Savage  
And resolved:-**

"That current elected Members and All Election Candidates will adhere to the voluntary code of practice not to erect election posters for Local elections in 2019 and forthcoming election campaigns across County Louth"

**A roll call vote followed:-**

**For:** Cllrs. L. Reilly, P. Savage, M. Yore  
**Total: 3 (three)**

**Against:** Cllrs. M. Butler, J. Byrne, A. Campbell, E. Coffey, E. Corrigan, T. Cunningham, M. Dearey, M. Doyle, K. Flood, F. Godfrey, C. Keelan, P. McGeough, R. O'Murchu, D. Saurin, O. Tully, A. Watters  
**Total: 16 (sixteen)**

**Absent:** Cllrs. P. Bell, T. Byrne, K. Callan, R. Culhane C. Markey, J. McGahon, D. Minogue, T. Sharkey, P. Smith, J. Tenanty  
**Total: 10 (ten)**

### **Minute No. 62/19**

#### **Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by Cllr. M. Dearey  
Seconded by Cllr. M. Butler  
And resolved:-**



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That Louth County Council installs drinking fountains in our public parks and in the future development or regeneration of key civic spaces in towns and villages in Co Louth. Such an initiative would enhance the urban commons and reduce the generation of single use plastic and subsequent littering.

**Reply:**

**Louth County Council will examine the matter and give consideration to a pilot scheme.**

**The motion was agreed by the members**

### **Minute No. 63/19**

**Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by Cllr. M. Butler  
Seconded by Cllr. M. Dearey  
And resolved:-**

In light of the ongoing pressure on pollinating insect populations and the habitats they rely upon, that Louth County Council recognises its duty of care to our local biodiversity and adopts the operational Guidelines for Councils contained in the All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015 to 2020 issued by the National Biodiversity Data Centre.

**Reply:**

**LCC has been taking account of the need to encourage pollinators in planning and carrying out its landscape management works. Tasks specific to this objective carried out to date by the Council include:**

- **The planting of a total of 35,000 different bulbs species in various areas over the last 18 month – These will provide earlier nectar for bees and other insect species.**
- **A significantly reduced use of herbicides and pollinator friendly management of our parks as evidenced by our achievement in the last two years of Green Flags for four of our parks.**
- **Our increased emphasis on pollinator friendly plants e.g. herbaceous perennials instead of bedding plants.**

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- **Our increased emphasis on maintaining existing species-rich habitats to attract pollinators e.g. we have adjusted the grass cutting regime in specific areas such as public parks and open spaces, to manage them as meadow rather than with an intensive mowing regime.**
- **Our selection of pollinator friendly tree species for our tree planting programme, choosing native species where possible.**
- **Our introduction of a layered mowing approach to road-side verges**

**In managing its parks and open spaces, Louth County Council's parks management team will continue to have regard to the needs of pollinators and will take account of the operational Guidelines for Councils contained in the All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015 to 2020.**

**The motion was agreed by the members**

### **Minute No. 64/19**

#### **Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by Cllr. F. Godfrey**

**Seconded by Cllr. C. Keelan**

**And resolved:-**

**That Louth County Council changes its policy regarding Zone 6 policy which restricts locals from building one-off dwellings on family-owned lands**

#### **Reply**

**LCC would not be in favour of varying the policies in relation to Control Zone 6. This Control Zone was introduced in the Louth County Development Plan 2015-2021 adopted by the members, specifically in recognition of the Outstanding Universal Value of both the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Brú na Boinne and the Tentative World Heritage Site of Monasterboice. These policies seek to protect the integrity and authenticity of these sensitive and vulnerable heritage and cultural landscapes.**

**Any proposed change would require a variation of the County Development Plan**

**The members noted the reply**

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**Minute No. 65/19**

**Notice of Question**

**Submitted by Cllr. T. Cunningham**

Can the council please confirm the process followed by Louth County Council in monitoring the progress of housing estates after the granting of planning permission. What time frames are involved for the developer to finish a development ready for Louth County Council to take the development in charge? What are the penalties for the developer not meeting the time frames?

**REPLY:**

**The procedures for the taking in charge of completed Housing estates are outlined in the Appendix of the Louth County Development Plan.**

**There are no specific timeframes within which a housing estate shall be completed, other than the expiry date for the planning permission (normally 5 years). The developer must conform to the conditions set out during the planning application and subsequent approval. Accordingly, there are no penalties for failing to meet timeframes which are not specific, although the calling in of the Bond and enforcement proceedings may be initiated for failure to complete a housing estate in accordance with the approval granted.**

**Minute No. 66/19**

**Notice of Question**

**Submitted by Cllr. P. Smith**

Please provide details on the financial cost of bringing void properties and re let properties up to the standard for social housing purposes in 2018

**REPLY:**

**Expenditure on properties described as voids in 2018 amounted to - €408,630**

**Expenditure on Council properties returned to Housing stock per Housing Engineering area in 2018 was as follows:**

**Ardee - €97,224**

**Drogheda - €148,555**

**Dundalk - € 208,562**

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**Minute No. 67/19**

**Notice of Question**

**Submitted by Cllr. P. Smith**

Please state the total cost spent on housing maintenance in 2018 across the housing stock

**REPLY:**

**Expenditure on housing maintenance is divided across three board categories as set out below together with the pertinent expenditure for each category**

**Planned Maintenance - €122,468**

**Recurring Maintenance - €76,508**

**Reactive Maintenance**

**Ardee - €492,681**

**Drogheda - €906,493**

**Dundalk - €695,288**

**Minute No. 68/19**

**Motions from other Councils**

Motions from other Councils as listed with the Agenda were noted by the members

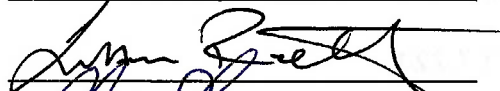
That concluded the business of the meeting

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

Date:

15-04-2019

Cathaoirleach:



Meetings Administrator:

