

## *Minutes of Council Meeting May 2019*

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Louth County Council held in County Hall, Dundalk on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at 10:00 a.m

### **In attendance:**

**Cathaoirleach:** Cllr. L. Reilly

**Members:** Councillors: P. Bell, M. Butler, J. Byrne, A. Campbell, E. Coffey, E. Corrigan, 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  
P. Donnelly, Director of Services  
J. McGuinness, Director of Services  
C. Duff, Director of Services  
B. Woods, Head of Finance  
J. O'Hagan, Senior Engineer  
M. Johnston, Senior Engineer  
A. Abbott-King, Senior Planner  
T. McEvoy, Head of LEO  
L. McKenna, Senior Executive Officer  
A. Sherry, Meetings Administrator  
A. Lawler, A/Director of Services  
D. Hanratty, Senior Engineer  
A. Morrissey, Public Realm Designer  
J. Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer  
W. Walsh, Senior Executive Officer  
M. Quinn, Senior Executive Planner

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### **Minute No. 84/19**

#### **Confirmation of Minutes**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. M. Yore  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. D. Minogue  
**And resolved**

That the minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> April be confirmed.

The need for representatives from Irish Water to attend a meeting of the Council was reemphasised.

### **Minute No. 85/19**

#### **Minutes for noting**

Corporate Policy Group 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019

Municipal District of Dundalk 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019

Municipal District of Ardee 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019

### **Minute No. 86/19**

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

The Cathaoirleach reported that the meeting of the CPG was held Wednesday 8th May 2019 and the draft agenda for the May meeting was considered and agreed. The Councillors Community Grants (59) were noted and approved. Concern at the lack of replies to public reps in certain situations was noted and It was agreed to circulate a report to the members in relation to legal advice received in relation to Cllr. Coffey's motion regarding abortion facilities.

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**Minute No. 87/19**

**Monthly Management Report**

The members were advised that the use of unmetered treated water by Drogheda Port Company was a matter for Irish Water.

Concern was expressed at the staffing levels in the Planning Department and the criteria for moving a case from an enforcement notice to a prosecution was requested.

The need to provide a power supply for casual traders in Carlingford currently dependent on generators was raised.

It was agreed to revert back to the members with a timeframe for the issuing of CFRAM tender documents

Annagassen harbour was raised as being in need of repair

The number of dog fouling fines issued was requested

The cost associated with works at Curley Hole was requested.

It was agreed to review progress on the motion in relation to tackling littering of cigarette butts passed in October 2018

Information in relation to whether the cost of dealing with diesel laundering waste had increased or decreased was requested.

It was suggested that the new speed limits required a publicity campaign and a number of existing speed limit signs needed to be repaired.

Concern was raised at emergency accommodation being sub-let and members were requested to provide details to the housing department for investigation.

**Minute No. 88/19**

**Section 183 Notice – Disposal of Fee Simple – at ‘St Fintans’, Scarlet Street, Drogheda, Co Louth**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. F. Godfrey

**Seconded by:** Cllr. P. Bell

**And resolved:**

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That having considered the notice on the matter dated 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019 to confirm the disposal 0.051838 hectares at 'St Fintans', Scarlet Street, Drogheda for a consideration of €65.00 (sixty five euro) to Peter Gillen, Barry Jones and Siobhan Gormally (fee simple disposal)

Purchaser responsible for all legal costs and expenses.

### **Minute No. 89/19**

#### **Section 183 Notice – Disposal of Fee Simple – Disposal of Lands to 21 and 23 Aghameen Park, Dundalk**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. E. Coffey

**Seconded by:** Cllr. M. Yore

**And resolved:**

That having considered the notices on the matters dated 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019 confirm the disposal of 0.0035 hectares adjacent to 21 Aghameen Park, Dundalk, Co. Louth to Mr. Eugene Rooney for a consideration of €127 (one hundred and twenty seven Euro) and 0.00548 adjacent to 23 Aghameen Park, Dundalk, Co. Louth to Ms. Mary McGinn for a consideration of €127 (one hundred and twenty seven Euro)

### **Minute No. 90/19**

#### **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

### **Minute No. 91/19**

#### **Proposed Variation No. 1 of the Louth County Development Plan 2015 - 2021**

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It was proposed by Cllr. P. Savage and seconded by P. Bell to remove the words “small scale” and “for the written agreement of the planning authority” from the proposed variation.

A roll call vote was called

**For (21):** Cllrs. P. Bell, J. Byrne, A. Campbell, E. Coffey, E. Corrigan, M. Doyle, K. Flood, F. Godfrey, C. Keelan, C. Markey, J. McGahon, P. McGeough, D. Minogue, R. O’Murchu, L. Reilly, D. Saurin, P. Savage, T. Sharkey, O. Tully, A. Watters, M. Yore

**Against (2):** Cllrs. M. Butler, M. Dearey,

**Absent (6):** Cllrs. T. Byrne, K.Callan, R. Culhane, T. Cunningham, P. Smith, J. Tenanty

The amended variation was agreed by the members.

**Minute No. 92/19**

**To confirm the draft scheme of priority for affordable dwelling purchase arrangements, in accordance with Section 85 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009**

This matter was deferred to the next monthly meeting of the Council.

**Minute No. 93/19**

**County-wide Car Park Bye- Laws for noting prior to public display**

The members noted the report.

**Minute No. 94/19**

**Create Louth Arts Act Grants 1<sup>st</sup> Round 2019 – for noting**

The members noted the report.

**Minute No. 95/19**

**Notice of Motion**

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

“This council calls for the creation of a road and alleyway adoption fund administered through the Department of Infrastructure to help alleviate the unnecessary burden on residents whose streets, fencing and alleyways weren't officially adopted and handed over to the council for routine maintenance.”

**Reply:**

**The Council currently does not have sufficient funds to maintain the roads and footpaths that are taken in charge. Priority for funding should be focused on these areas and estates that are required to be taken in charge where there are works to be completed. In the situation described community engagement and supports are the mechanisms to resolving the problems at a local level.**

The members noted the reply.

**Minute No. 96/19**

**Notice of Motion**

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

“This council , noting that there is currently no regulations on the planning authority to ensure that the measurements of contiguous properties are accurate , will make it council policy to ensure that the measurements of contiguous properties are accurate and will verify this with a inspection and measurement of neighbouring properties when a planning application is received.”

**Reply:**

**In the matter of the submission of a full and complete planning application, validation is part of the planning application process. The Development Management Guidelines are directional in clearly providing for compliance with the requirements of newspaper notice, site notice, application form and accuracy of documentation while stating that planning authorities should**

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adopt a reasonable approach towards validation. It is clearly stated that it is the responsibility of applicants and agents to submit applications which comply with the Regulations.

The validation process provides that the main features of contiguous structures to any proposed building are clearly shown on the submitted elevation drawings. This is a fair and reasonable requirement underpinned by statutory regulation. However the suggestion that Louth County Council will ensure that the measurements of contiguous properties are accurate and will verify this with an inspection and measurement of neighbouring properties is not practical or reasonable. The additional resource that would be required when a planning application is received to discharge this requirement would be significant and would delay the validation process.

The members noted the reply

**Minute No. 97/19**

**Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. M. Butler  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. M. Dearey

"That Louth County Council join the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy."

**Reply:**

**Louth County Council joining the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy would support the Councils Climate change goals.**

The members agreed the motion.

**Minute No. 98/19**

**Notice of Motion**

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

Given the fact that Louth County Council do not have match-funding available for the turnaround of vacant properties in the County, and the numbers we have languishing on the local authorities housing list, Louth County Councillors request that the Minister for Housing in conjunction with the Department of Finance will

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release additional funding for the immediate restoration of all our vacant properties, not just long term voids."

**The motion was agreed by the members**

**Minute No. 99/19**

**Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by: Cllr. R. O'Murchu**

**Seconded by: Cllr. P. Savage**

"Seamus Ludlow, a 47-year-old, unmarried forestry worker from Thistle Cross, Dundalk, County Louth, was killed in the early hours of the morning on 2 May 1976. To date, no-one has been charged with his killing. A number of suspects in the killing were serving members of the Ulster Defence Regiment of the British Army. This state has failed to properly investigate the murder of one of its citizens. It has also failed the wider Ludlow family through the manner in which the investigation into Seamus Ludlow's murder was conducted.

Louth County Council calls

- on the Government to establish the two Commissions of Investigation recommended by the Joint Oireachtas Committee in 2006.
- on the Garda Commissioner and the Police Ombudsman in the North to meet with the family."

**The motion was agreed by the members**

**Minute No. 100/19**

**Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by: Cllr. R. O'Murchu**

**Seconded by: Cllr. D. Saurin**

Louth County Council notes;

- That there have been numerous attacks by those involved in the sale and supply of illegal drugs on people, homes and property across Louth



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- That people in some areas are living in fear due to the indiscriminate and reckless nature of attacks
- Individuals and members of their families are being attacked, intimidated, extorted and threatened by criminal gangs

Louth County Council calls on the Minister for Justice to:

" Guarantee that the additional 25 gardaí assigned to Drogheda will be permanent  
Increase the staffing levels of the Drugs and Organised Crime Unit in Louth to ensure adequate staff in Dundalk, Drogheda and Mid Louth  
Provide the two marked patrol cars and one unmarked vehicle which have been requested by the Drugs and Organised Crime Unit in Louth  
Extend and enhance the remit of Garda Youth Diversionary Projects across Louth."

**Reply:**

**The motion was agreed by the members**

**Minute No. 101/19**

**Notice of Question**

**Submitted by Cllr. F. Godfrey**

What are the locations of any air monitoring units in Louth?

**REPLY:**

**The Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, manages the national ambient air quality monitoring network, see website <https://www.epa.ie/air/quality/>. They also measure the levels of a number of atmospheric pollutants. They have the following monitoring Station in County Louth:**

- **Dundalk (Current monitoring site) REAL-TIME DATA**

**Note the EPA are seeking to increase the number of monitoring stations as part of their National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme 2017-2022**

**Minute No. 102/19**

**Notice of Question**

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**Submitted by Cllr. F. Godfrey**

Can members have copies of Air Monitoring Reports for Co. Louth?

**REPLY:**

**Air Monitoring is based on Air Quality Zones and the results are predominately GIS Map based data, (though historical data can be downloaded from the EPA Website), the following websites will give details of the status ambient air quality in Co. Louth and the Country:  
<https://www.epa.ie/air/quality/data/> , <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/> or <https://www.epa.ie/air/quality/>**

**Minute No. 103/19**

**Notice of Question**

**Submitted by Cllr. A. Watters**

Can Louth County Council provide the details of funding allocated for tourism related projects, including details of the projects themselves in the last 5 years?

**REPLY:**

**A report in relation to Tourism related projects will be compiled in the near future.**

**Minute No. 104/19**

**Notice of Question**

**Submitted by Cllr. A. Watters**

Can the tourism strategy also be outlined?

**REPLY:**

**The Tourism & Heritage Action Plan 2016-2021 can be viewed at <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/economic-development/louth-economic-forum/action-plans/tourism-and-heritage-action-plan-2016-2021.pdf>**

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**Minute No. 105/19**

**Correspondence**

Correspondence as listed with the Agenda was noted by the members

**Minute No. 106/19**

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

Michael Curran  
Seamus O'Hagan  
All deceased citizens

**Minute No. 107/19**

The Cathaoirleach thanked the members, leas Cathaoirleach, CE and staff for their support over the year. Tributes were paid to Cllr. Savage, Dearey and Byrne and the CE outlined the achievements over the last 5 years and wished all of the members seeking re-election luck.

That concluded the business of the meeting

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

Date:

17/6/19

Cathaoirleach:



Meetings Administrator:

