

Minutes of Monthly Council Meeting 18th November 2019

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Louth County Council held in County Hall, Dundalk on Monday 18th November 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, Michelle Hall, 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, Eileen Tully, Antoin Watters, Maeve Yore

Officials: J. Martin, Chief Executive
J. McGuinness, Director of Services
P. Donnelly, Director of Services
B. Woods, Head of Finance
C. Duff, Director of Services
F. Pentony, Director of Services
M. Johnston, Senior Engineer
D. Hanratty, Senior Engineer
J. Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer
C. Moss, Senior Executive Officer
A. Lawler, Senior Executive Officer
W. Walsh, Senior Executive Officer
B. Lynch, Accountant
R. McAuley, Accountant
Y. O'Brien, County Librarian
T. McEvoy, Head of LEO
J. O'Hagan, Senior Engineer
E. Woulfe, Chief Fire Officer
A. Sherry, Meetings Administrator

Apologies: Cllr. D. Minogue

Minute No. 225/19

Confirmation of Minutes

Proposed by: Cllr. H. Conlon
Seconded by: Cllr. M. Yore
And resolved:

That the minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 21st October be confirmed.

Minute No. 226/19

Matters Arising

It was agreed to circulate details of arts grant recipients as previously requested

Minute No. 227/19

CPG Report

The Cathaoirleach reported that the meeting of the CPG was held Wednesday 6th November 2019 and the draft agenda for the November meeting was considered and agreed. The Councillors Community Grants (29) were noted and approved and the conferences (2) were also approved and it was agreed to put the draft Corporate Plan to the full Council. The members received a presentation in relation to the charging of rates throughout the county.

Minute No. 228/19

Monthly Chief Executive's Management Report

The members raised concern at the lack of transparency in the refusal of funding applications in relation to projects such as the Northern Cross Port Access Route and Bridge Street regeneration. It was agreed to circulate the members with the original marking scheme in relation to the Port Access Route.

A copy of the report drafted in relation to coastal erosion was requested. An update was requested in relation to the Plato project.

Details of the cost of dealing with diesel sludge in neighbouring local authorities in Northern Ireland were requested.

A schedule in relation to the maintenance of graveyards was requested.

It was agreed to check the flood valves in Baltray.

The need for CCTV in Monasterboice to prevent car break-ins was highlighted.

The need for a guide to voting and voting workshops in advance of the next election was raised.

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A detailed breakdown of applications for housing adaptations was requested.

It was proposed by Cllr. R. O Murchu, seconded by J. McGahon and agreed by the members to suspend standing orders in order to discuss issues not on the agenda.

The members raised concerns about the ownership of land on the Dublin Road, Dundalk that grant funding of €100,000 had been approved for the development of a walkway. This land was now for sale. The members were informed that legal advice had been sought at the time of the funding application and the Council was informed that a right of way existed in relation to the area the funding had been applied for.

In relation to the recent ATM robbery in Dunleer the members encouraged the public to provide An Garda Siochana with every assistance.

Minute No. 229/19

Corporate Plan 2019-2024

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Yore
Seconded by: Cllr. S. Kelly
And resolved:

To adopt the Corporate Plan 2019-2024 as presented to the members

Minute No. 230/19

Revaluation Update

A presentation was made in relation to the revaluation process in County Louth and the member's queries and questions were addressed

Minute No. 231/19

Nomination of one member to the Louth Drugs & Alcohol Forum

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

To nominate Cllr. R. O Murchu to the Louth Drugs & Alcohol Forum

Minute No. 232/19

Nomination of one member to the Drogheda BIDS Company

Proposed by: Cllr. S. Kelly
Seconded by: Cllr. J. Sheridan
And resolved:

To nominate Cllr. James Byrne to the Drogheda BIDS Company

Minute No. 233/19

Nomination of one member to the Dundalk BIDS Company

Proposed by: Cllr. C. Markey
Seconded by: Cllr. M. Doyle
And resolved:

To nominate Cllr. M. Butler to the Dundalk BIDS Company

Minute No. 234 /19

Allocation of Members Community Grants

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Yore
Seconded by: Cllr. K. Callan
And resolved:

To approve Members Community Grant Allocations as circulated with the agenda

Minute No. 235/19

Conferences and Events

Proposed by: Cllr. K. Callan
Seconded by: Cllr. M. Butler
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 6th November 2019

Minute No. 236/19

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. M. Hall

Seconded by Cllr. P. Bell

"That Louth County Council supports the Children's Rights Alliance's 'No Child 2020 Campaign' and pledges to:

(1) Increase the delivery of public housing so that every child can grow up in a secure and affordable home

(2) Allocate a dedicated arts fund for children and young people living in areas of social deprivation, to give them access to cultural experiences in their own community

Reply:

(1) Louth County Council are continually delivering high quality social housing supports through construction and acquisition, through partnering the Approved Housing Bodies and with providing Housing Assistance Payments to all qualified applicants

(2) The Creative Ireland Programme has brought additional funding to Louth (€111,000 in 2019) which aims to 'enable the creative potential of every child'. In addition to the Louth County Council Arts Budget, this funding has resulted in additional community arts programmes being delivered throughout the County targeting children and youth. The Arts Service, through the existing funding of its strategic partners, operates a variety of annual programmes that targets children and youth, at little or no cost to the user. Targeting social exclusion and ensuring the young person's participation in the Arts has always been a priority, and this is reflected in the delivery of our existing youth programmes.

The reply was noted by the members

Minute No. 237/19

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. M. Hall

Seconded by Cllr. M. Yore

Louth County Council will express in writing to Dundalk Institute of Technology's Governing Body, the importance of having a Technology University in the region, and all the benefits that will bring both academically and economically. It must be pursued as soon as possible

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to bring DKIT in line with funding streams and investment projects like the rest of the country's Institutes of Technologies.

The following amendment to the motion was proposed by Cllr. C. Markey and seconded by Cllr. J. McGahon - and invite the President of DKIT to meet Louth County Council in committee

Cllr. T. Sharkey pointed out that he was a member of Board of DKIT and therefore would abstain from the vote.

A roll call vote followed

For: Cllrs. Paul Bell, Marianne Butler, James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, Kevin Callan, Emma Coffey, Hugh Conlon, Edel Corrigan, Tom Cunningham, Maria Doyle, Michelle Hall, Conor Keelan, Seán Kelly, Liam Reilly, Colm Markey, John McGahon, Pearse McGeough, Erin McGreehan, Paddy McQuillan, Ruairí Ó Murchú, Declan Power, John Sheridan, Pío Smith, Jim Tenanty, Eileen Tully, Antoin Watters, Maeve Yore

Total : 27 (twenty-seven)

Abstain: Cllr. T. Sharkey

Absent: Cllr. D. Minogue

The amended motion was agreed by the members

Minute No. 238/19

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. R. Ó Murchú

Seconded by Cllr. Joanna Byrne

Louth County Council calls on the government to:

Recognise the huge contribution low paid workers make to the Irish economy:-

Introduce a Living Wage of €12.30 per hour in 2020, with appropriate legal protections for those SMEs who can show they cannot afford to pay the Living Wage.

The following amendment to the motion was proposed by Cllr. P. Bell and seconded by Cllr. Joanna Byrne - that where an employer declares inability to pay the living wage that employees have the right to request the intervention of the Workplace Relations Commission and Labour Court. The employer in such

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circumstances is obliged to co operate with these state disputes resolution institutions and participate in the process set out by the Workplace Relations Commission and Labour Court.

The amended motion was agreed by the members

Minute No. 239/19

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. R. Ó Murchú

Seconded by Cllr. Joanna Byrne

Louth County Council calls on the government to immediately plan for a United Ireland and furthermore to ask the Minister to call on the British Secretary of State to set a date for a border poll on Irish Unification.

The following amendment to the motion was proposed by Cllr. E. McGreehan and seconded by Cllr. S. Kelly - to delete "to call on the British Secretary of State to set a date for a border poll on Irish Unification"

A roll call vote followed

For: Cllrs. Paul Bell, Marianne Butler, James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, Kevin Callan, Emma Coffey, Hugh Conlon, Edel Corrigan, Tom Cunningham, Michelle Hall, Conor Keelan, Seán Kelly, Liam Reilly, John McGahon, Pearse McGeough, Erin McGreehan, Paddy McQuillan, Ruairí Ó Murchú, Declan Power, John Sheridan, Pío Smith, Jim Tenanty, Antoin Watters, Maeve Yore

Total : 24 (twenty-four)

Against: Cllr. M. Yore

Abstain: Cllrs. M. Doyle, C. Markey, E. Tully

Total: 3 (three)

Absent: Cllr. D. Minogue

The amended motion was agreed by the members

Minute No. 240/19

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. E. McGreehan

Seconded by Cllr. M. Butler

That this Council actively works on harnessing the potential of our Counties hedgerows by encouraging and supporting the planting of Native Irish Trees. Louth County Council should take a positive and progressive lead on this. The thousands of acres of hedgerows in this county and indeed country should be harnessed and that the rich authentic habitats in our landscape should be nurtured and promoted.

Louth County Council should also undertake and make a concerted effort to only plant native Irish Trees and plants. Natives should be planted as they are the best placed to thrive and survive in Irish conditions.

I urge that Louth County Council embrace this policy a viable and realistic means of offsetting some of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions that are produced through our day to day activities. When improving and developing native Irish hedgerows and encouraging and leading by example we are creating the correct biodiversity for our native creatures whilst offsetting our carbon emissions.

Reply:

Louth County Council understand that trees (including hedgerow) are a vital part of our natural life support system e.g. Cleaning the air, combating globe warming etc. Trees produce oxygen that we breathe and absorb green house gases and carbon dioxide and store it in their wood. They also improve the air quality by trapping particulates on their leaves and absorbing harmful gases.

LCC will continue to increase tree stock with particular attention given to native species of local provenance where appropriate and promoting a mix of tree species of different age groups, to ensure a healthy, balanced, tree population.

Tree species for planting are carefully selected for appropriateness to their location (e.g. Streetscape), giving particular consideration to the local landscape and enhancement of biodiversity.

The motion was agreed by the members

Minute No. 241/19

Vote of Sympathy

To the families of the following:-

Rita Smith

Tessie Lennon

Niall Toibin

Frank McCann

Minute No. 242/19

Vote of Congratulations

Dundalk FC and Robbie Benson
Bush Post Primary School
CBNS Primary
Colaiste Ris

Minute No. 243/19

Notice of Question

Submitted by Cllr. J. Sheridan

Can the CE give an update as to the weekly usage figures of the county libraries as well as the LCC mobile library?

There will be an approximate 4.6% increase in attendances across the five Library Branches on 2018 figures, from 259,058 to 270,987

	Dundalk	Drogheda	Ardee	C'Ford	Dunleer	Mobile	Schools
Year to date Sept 2019	83,278	78,175	27,026	2,604	5,629	2,685	3,943
To year end	110,037	104,100	36,035	3,472	7,503	3,580	5,257
Year to Date totals : 203,240							
To year end 2019 : 270,987							

This increased attendance will result in a total issue in excess of 440,000 units

Minute No. 244/19

Notice of Question

Submitted by Cllr. J. Sheridan

Can the CE confirm what measures are taken in respect of private hedges which are overgrown and if the council operates a "cut and bill the landowner" scheme as happens in neighboring councils?

Reply:

Under the terms of the Roads Act 1993, landowners and occupiers of land are obliged to take all reasonable care to ensure that the trees, ditches, hedges and other vegetation growing on their land are not or could not become a danger to people using or working on a public road.

Operations section publish an "Hedge cutting" advert in the local papers and LCC website each year before the winter months (normally in September each year) .

Where the owner/occupier of the land is known to the Council, the local area supervisors will issue a letter requesting pruning work to be done. From time to time the Council has also issued hedge cutting notice where by members of public have made a complaint or where a reminder did not work

Minute No. 245/19

Notice of Question

Submitted by Cllr. J. McGahon

To ask the Chief Executive to confirm whether the €254,595 requested from the Department of Housing will provide for two additional planning enforcement staff to ensure compliance with the new short term letting regulations that has been approved by the Department; if so when will the staff will be in place and what the Chief Executive's plan is in terms of a proactive approach to ensuring full compliance with the new regulations.

Reply:

There has been no approval from the Dept to date.

Minute No. 246/19

Correspondence

Correspondence as listed with the Agenda was noted by the members.

Minute No. 247/19

Motions from other Councils

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

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That concluded the business of the meeting.

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

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meetings Administrator: _____