

Minutes of Monthly Council Meeting 21st October 2019

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Louth County Council held in County Hall, Dundalk on Monday 21st October 2019 at 10:00 a.m

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Liam Reilly

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

Officials: J. Martin, Chief Executive
W. Walsh, a/Director of Services
P. Donnelly, Director of Services
B. Woods, Head of Finance
P. Donnelly, Director of Services
F. Pentony, Director of Services
M. Johnston, Senior Engineer
J. Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer
C. Moss, Senior Executive Officer
A. Lawler, Senior Executive Officer
B. Lynch, Accountant
Y. O'Brien, County Librarian
J. O'Hagan, Senior Engineer
E. Woulfe, Chief Fire Officer
A. Sherry, Meetings Administrator

Apologies: Councillors Paul Bell, P. McQuillan

Minute No. 200/19

Confirmation of Minutes

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Smith

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Yore

And resolved:

That the minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 16th September be confirmed.

Minute No. 201/19

CPG Report

The Cathaoirleach reported that the meeting of the CPG was held Wednesday 9th October 2019 and the draft agenda for the October meeting was considered and agreed. The Councillors Community Grants (21) were noted and approved and the conferences (7) were also approved and it was agreed to put the draft SPC scheme to the full Council. Protocols for books of condolences, flying of flags, and naming of structures and places were agreed by the SPC. Consideration of a protocol in relation to civic awards and receptions was deferred to the next meeting and it was agreed to draft a protocol in relation to attendance at events by the County Cathaoirleach and borough/municipal Mayors/Cathaoirleach.

Minute No. 202/19

Monthly Chief Executive's Management Report

The members requested a meeting with the Minister for Housing to address the issue of the Council's land loans.

Cllr. Doyle declared her interest as a resident of Lis na Dara before raising some queries in relation to LIHAF which it was undertaken to revert back to her on.

Figures were requested in relation to derelict sites

The members were asked to inform the Director of any long delays for pre-planning meetings they are aware of.

The need to address pay parking signage that is no longer visible was raised.

The need to clean up the bottle bank in Dunleer was highlighted.

Minute No. 203/19

SPC Scheme 2019-2024

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Smith

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Yore

And resolved:

That the draft SPC scheme as circulated with the agenda be adopted.

Minute No. 204/19

Drogheda Business Improvement District Scheme

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

In order to establish the scheme it is necessary for one third of the members to vote in favour of the resolution to commence same.

A roll call vote followed

For: Cllrs. James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, K. Callan, H. Conlon, T. Cunningham, M. Doyle, M. Hall, C. Keelan, S. Kelly, C. Markey, J. McGahon, P. McGeough, E. McGreehan, D. Minogue, R O' Murchu, D. Power, L. Reilly, T. Sharkey, J. Sheridan, P. Smith, J. Tenanty, A. Watters, M. Yore
Total : 23 (twenty- three)

Absent: Cllrs. P. Bell, M. Butler, E. Coffey, E. Corrigan, P. McQuillan, E. Tully
Total : 6 (six)

The proposal to establish scheme was approved

Minute No. 205/19

Approval of €5,000,000 Overdraft Facility for 2020

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

To approve the securing of €5,000,000 Overdraft Facility as presented to the members.

Minute No. 206/19

Section 85 Agreement with Meath County Council in relation to traffic calming between Stameen (Louth Area) and Deepford (Meath Area)

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Smith

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Seconded by: Cllr. K. Callan

And resolved:

That Louth County Council agrees to enter into Section 85 Agreement with Meath County Council in relation to traffic calming between Stameen (Louth Area) and Deepford (Meath Area)

Minute No. 207/19

Section 85 Agreement with Meath County Council in relation to Remedial Works at Rosevale Housing Estate - Drogheda

Proposed by: Cllr. K. Callan

Seconded by: Cllr. James Byrne

And resolved:

That Louth County Council agrees to enter into Section 85 Agreement with Meath County Council in relation remedial works at Rosevale Housing Estate, Drogheda

Minute No. 208/19

Arts Acts Grants – 2nd Round 2019

Members noted the report as circulated with the Agenda

Minute No. 209/19

Vote of Sympathy

To the families of the following:-

Tommy McGrory

Tomisin Olukokum

Ita Simpson

Mick Coulter

Pat Rafferty

Minute No. 210/19

Vote of Congratulations

Newtown Blues GFC

Glenmuir FC

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Naomh Mairtin GFC
All involved in St. Gerards novena

Minute No. 211/19

Presentation by Comhairle Na nOg

Florence Goodayle, Amy Giggins, Aisling McGee and Joshua Chanloner gave a presentation detailing their activities over the previous year and answered questions and queries from the members.

Minute No. 212/19

Allocation of Members Community Grants

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Smith
Seconded by: Cllr. L. Reilly
And resolved:

To approve Members Community Grant Allocations as circulated with the agenda

Minute No. 213/19

Conferences and Events

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Smith
Seconded by: Cllr. H. Conlon
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 9th October 2019

Minute No. 214/19

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. T. Cunningham
Seconded by Cllr. A. Watters

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“That Louth County Council provides indoor water dispensers/refill stations in all council buildings in an effort to reduce the amount of single use plastics and to encourage increased footfall into our libraries and museums.”

Reply:

Water dispensers will be made available in the public areas of Council offices subject to there being no significant cost implications in relation to installation and maintenance.

The reply was noted by the members

Minute No. 215/19

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. A. Watters

Seconded by Cllr. R. O’Murchu

“That this Council declares a biodiversity and climate change emergency and recognises the need to respond more urgently to the threat facing the climate and to the global decline of species. This would include a progressive climate action plan and biodiversity plan. We have a duty to protect our children and grandchildren’s future, their quality of life and well-being, their natural eco-system and the climate in which they will live”.

Reply:

The Climate Adaptation Strategy has been recently adopted by Louth County Council. The Council will now progress to implement the actions in the plan.

The following amendment was proposed by Cllr. M. Butler, seconded by Cllr.P. Smith and agreed by the members;

“That Louth County Council commits to a net zero carbon target by 2030 and that we will use our new County Development Plan and all other regulatory, planning and operational mechanisms to achieve this”

The amended motion was agreed by the members

Minute No. 216/19

Notice of Motion

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Proposed by Cllr. A. Watters

Seconded by Cllr. Joanna Byrne

“To call on Louth County Council to introduce a pilot scheme for the 'reverse' vending machine. Reverse vending machines reward people for recycling by issuing cash vouchers in return for deposits of recyclables. The machine pays a voucher worth 10c for each plastic bottle deposited, which is redeemable against purchases in a local shop. This would be a proactive measure that could be used to tackle plastic bottle waste”.

Reply:

Whilst noting the Carrickmacross initiative, which is managed by a local Tidy Towns group, through a variety of sponsors, it is also noted that the Department has already commissioned a review to establish the best way to reach a 90% collection target for beverage bottles including deposit and returns models and it is best to await the outcome of that report.

The reply was noted by the members

Minute No. 217/19

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. J. Sheridan

Seconded by Cllr. E. McGreehan

“Noting the newly opened eHub in Louth village, that the CE will establish a working group on remote working/ work from home initiatives in the county. That the working group would incorporate the local enterprise office to explore funding from central government (Regional Development fund and Dept of Jobs Enterprise and Innovation.) to make Louth a leader in providing alternatives to commuting for residents of the county.”

Reply:

Louth County Co through its Enterprise Office has been working with some of the Community Enterprise Centres in the county to prepare a funding submission towards the delivery of additional co-working spaces in Co Louth. An application to Enterprise Ireland’s REDF (Regional Enterprise Development Fund) has been submitted and it is intended to apply to other national schemes including the RRDF and URDF (Rural/ Urban Regeneration & Development Fund) towards the provision of co-working spaces, to facilitate remote working and enable commuters to work closer to home. Both Creative Spark in Dundalk and the Mill Enterprise Hub in

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Drogheda have reconfigured their offering to increase the amount of space set aside for co-working. The Enterprise Office has also had discussions with Ardee Community Development Company (t/a Ardee Business Park) to encourage it to consider providing co-working space. The Head of Enterprise will prepare a report for the Chief Executive.

It was suggested that a commuter survey should be conducted for County Louth.

Members noted the reply

Minute No. 218/19

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. R. O'Murchu

Seconded by Cllr. Joanna Byrne

“Louth County Council calls on the Central Bank and the Competition & Consumer Protection Commission to open investigations into the use of dual pricing by the insurance industry.”

The motion was agreed by the members

Minute No. 219/19

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. R. O'Murchu

Seconded by Cllr. Joanna Byrne

“Louth County Council calls on the Government and the Minister for Education to address the two tier pay system and other employment issues which affect school secretaries.”

This motion was agreed by the members

Minute No. 220/19

Notice of Question

Submitted by Cllr. J. Sheridan

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Can the CE give an update on the proposed park and share area on the M1 and when construction is due to commence and if funding is all from council funds or if any funding is being provided from central government?

Reply:

Archaeology test trenching and site investigation contracts are currently being prepared. The proposal for part 8 will be brought to the next MD for Dundalk. We intend to publish the part 8 within the next 4 weeks. The scheme is being funded by TII.

Minute No. 221/19

Notice of Question

Submitted by Cllr. T. Cunningham

“Where does our plastics that are not upcycled or recycled in Louth finish up, are they shipped abroad and is there a register kept of their destinations?”

Reply:

The contractor for the Recycling centers at Dundalk and Drogheda send sorted plastics to Shabra Plastics , Castleblayney, who pelletise it turning it into a raw material for new products such as bags etc.

Minute No. 222/19

Notice of Question

Submitted by Cllr. C. Keelan

"What is the latest update on the population of the Vacant Sites Register in the County Louth area?"

Reply:

The Minister for Housing Planning & Local Government indicated by Circular Letter in June that he would consider funding additional staff to administer the Vacant Sites legislation.

Louth County Council applied for 2 additional members of staff in July 2019 but sanction has not been received to date.

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Minute No. 223/19

Correspondence

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

Minute No. 224/19

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: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meetings Administrator: _____