

*Minutes of Monthly Council Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019*

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Louth County Council held in County Hall, Dundalk on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 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, Tom Cunningham, Maria Doyle, Michelle Hall, Conor Keelan, Seán Kelly, Colm Markey, John McGahon, Pearse McGeough, Erin McGreehan, Paddy McQuillan, Dolores Minogue, Ruairí Ó Murchú, Declan Power, Tomás Sharkey, John Sheridan, Pío Smith, Jim Tenanty, Eileen Tully, Antoin Watters, Maeve Yore

**Officials:** J. Martin, Chief Executive  
C. Duff, Director of Services  
P. Donnelly, Director of Services  
B. Woods, Head of Finance  
P. Donnelly, Director of Services  
F. Pentony, Director of Services  
D. Hanratty, Senior Engineer  
M. Johnston, Senior Engineer  
J. Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer  
C. Moss, Senior Executive Officer  
W. Walsh, Senior Executive Officer  
A. Lawler, 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. Sherry, Senior Executive Officer/Meetings Administrator

**Apologies:** Councillor Edel Corrigan

**Minute No. 165/19**

**Confirmation of Minutes**

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

That the minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019 be confirmed.

**Minute No. 166/19**

**CPG Report**

The Cathaoirleach reported that the CPG met on Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> September and agreed the draft agenda for the September Council meeting. The CPG noted and approved the 3 Councillors Community Grants and the 4 conferences. It was agreed to consider the submissions in relation to the SPC scheme and aim to have it as an agenda item on the October Council agenda. It was agreed to have the budget workshop as soon as possible and it was recommended that the Municipal District Budget Meetings take place before and after the October Council meeting. It was agreed to defer the consideration of the protocols for awards and books of condolence to the October CPG.

**Minute No. 167/19**

**Monthly Chief Executive's Management Report**

An update in relation to the night time M1 diversions was requested  
An update was requested in relation to the safety works in Kilsaran village  
Details of the number of pre-planning applications received to date in 2019 was requested  
Details of plans for cycling infrastructure in Drogheda was requested  
It was agreed to look into the possibility of having a furniture recycling amnesty and recycling of aerosol cans  
It was suggested that half price on street car parking should be provided during the redevelopment of Clanbrassil Street  
An update was requested in relation to enforcement action in relation to dangerous dogs

**Minute No. 168/19**

**Casual Vacancy**

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

That Ms. Eileen Tully fill the casual vacancy that arose following the death of Cllr. Oliver Tully.

**Minute No. 169/19**

**Election of Leas Cathaoirleach**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. J. McGahon  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. P. Bell  
**And resolved:**

That Cllr. Eileen Tully fill the position of Leas Cathaoirleach.

**Minute No. 170/19**

**Vacancy on the Louth Meath Education & Training Board**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. C. Markey  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. J. McGahon  
**And resolved:**

That Cllr. Eileen Tully fill the position on the Louth Meath Education & Training Board

**Minute No. 171/19**

**Vacancy on the Local Authority Members Association**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. J. McGahon  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. D. Minogue  
**And resolved:**

That Cllr. Eileen Tully fill the position on the Louth Meath Education & Training Board

**Minute No. 172/19**

**Vacancy on the Rural Water Monitoring Committee – Local County Monitoring**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. C. Markey  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. D. Minogue  
**And resolved:**

That Cllr. Eileen Tully fill the position on the Rural Water Monitoring Committee - Local County Monitoring

**Minute No. 173/19**

**Vacancy on the Local Community Development Committee**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. D. Minogue  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. J. McGahon  
**And resolved:**

That Cllr. Eileen Tully fill the position on the Local Community Development Committee – (LCDC)

**Minute No. 174/19**

**Section 85 Agreement with Meath County Council in relation to Boyneside Greenway to Mornington**

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

That Louth County Council agree to enter into Section 85 Agreement with Meath County Council in relation to Boyneside Greenway to Mornington

**Minute No. 175/19**

**Section 85 Agreement with Meath County Council in relation to refurbishment of Obelisk Bridge**

*Minutes of Monthly Council Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019*

**Proposed by:** Cllr. K. Callan  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. M. Butler  
**And resolved:**

That Louth County Council agree to enter into Section 85 Agreement with Meath County Council in relation to refurbishment of Obelisk Bridge

**Minute No. 176/19**

**Review of the County Development Plan**

Members were informed that the review of the county development plan was commencing and that the members would be invited to a workshop in relation to the process

**Minute No. 177/19**

**To agree the rate of Local Property Tax for 2020**

The head of Finance made a presentation to the members and a discussion then took place.

The following proposals were voted on by the members

It was proposed by Cllr. C. Markey and seconded by J. McGahon that the issue be dealt with at a special meeting on Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> September at 8.30 pm.

A roll call vote followed:-

**For:** Cllrs. M. Butler, M. Doyle, C. Markey, J. McGahon, E. McGreehan, D. Minogue, L. Reilly, T. Sharkey, J. Sheridan, E. Tully

**Total : 10 (ten)**

**Against:** Cllrs. P Bell, James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, K. Callan, E. Coffey, H. Conlon, T. Cunningham, M. Hall, C. Keelan, S. Kelly, P. McGeough, P. McQuillan, R O' Murchu, D. Power, P. Smith, J. Tenanty, A. Watters, M. Yore

**Total : 18 (eighteen)**

**Absent:** Cllr. E. Corrigan

**Total : 1 (one)**

## *Minutes of Monthly Council Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019*

It was proposed by Cllr. H. Conlon and seconded by M. Yore that there be no change in the LPT rate for 2020.

A roll call vote followed

**For:** Cllrs. M. Butler, James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, K. Callan, H. Conlon, T. Cunningham, M. Doyle, S. Kelly, C. Markey, J. McGahon, P. McGeough, E. McGreehan, P. McQuillan, D. Minogue, R O' Murchu, D. Power, T. Sharkey, J. Tenanty, A. Watters, M. Yore, E. Tully

**Total : 21 (twenty-one)**

**Against:** Cllrs. P. Bell, E. Coffey, M. Hall, C. Keelan, L. Reilly, J. Sheridan, P. Smith

**Total : 7 (seven)**

**Absent:** Cllr. E. Corrigan

**Total : 1 (one)**

**The motion was carried that having considered the Chief Executive's Report that the Local Property Tax be maintained at the current rate.**

It was proposed by Cllr. E. Coffey and seconded by J. Sheridan to increase the LPT rate by 9%. **This proposal was subsequently withdrawn.**

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Bell and seconded by P. Smith to increase the LPT rate by 10%. – **No vote taken on this proposal as the proposal to maintain the LPT at the current rate had been approved.**

### **Minute No. 178/19**

#### **To agree a date for the Annual Budget Meeting**

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Butler, seconded by K. Callan and agreed by the members to have the Annual Budget Meeting immediately after the monthly Council meeting on Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

### **Minute No. 179/19**

#### **Polling Scheme**

Adoption of the polling scheme as circulated to the members was proposed by Cllr. M. Yore, seconded by C. Keelan and agreed by the members

**Minute No. 180/19**

**Consideration of the draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and the Chief Executive's Report on submission received**

Pursuant to the provisions of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 and the National Adaptation Framework (NAF), 2018, It was proposed by Cllr. K. Callan, seconded by M. Hall and agreed by the members to approve the Louth Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024, having considered the draft strategy, the contents of the CE report on submissions received during the period of consultation and the SEA an AA Screening Reports carried out in accordance with the requirements of the SEA Directive (DIR 2001/42/EC) and Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC)

**Minute No. 181/19**

**Louth County Council Draft Car-Park Bye-Laws 2019**

Adoption of the Louth County Council Car Park bye-laws with an effective date of 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2019 was proposed by Cllr. M. Yore, seconded by S. Kelly and agreed by the members.

**Minute No. 182/19**

**Section 183 Notice Proposed disposal of lands by way of lease at Mullagharlin Park, Dundlak**

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

To dispose of the Creche/Community Building at Mullagharlin Park by way of a lease at an annual rent of €8,500 (eight thousand five hundred euro) per annum until 2024

**Minute No. 183/19**

**Allocation of Members Community Grants**

This was proposed by Cllr. K. Callan, seconded by E. Coffey, and agreed by the members.

**Minute No. 184/19**

**Conferences and Events**

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

**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 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019

**Minute No. 185/19**

**Vote of Congratulations**

Blackrock & St. Helena's Park for achieving their green flag status

Colm Fergus on his impending retirement

Dundalk FC on winning the EA Sports Cup final

Caolann Rafferty for winning the One Finance Scratch Cup

Cooley Bowls team for their national success

Chelsea Farrell for winning the Miss Ireland competition

Martin Briscoe for winning the Novice Irish Road Bowls championship & the Drogheda Bol Chumann for organising the event

Carol Leavy for her Irish dancing success

**Minute No. 186/19**

**Vote of Sympathy**

Marguerite Quinn on the death of her mother

Family of Jim Kirk

Tributes were paid to the late Tommy Byrne for service to the county as a Councillor and sympathies were extended to his family. Cllr. James Byrne thanked everybody for their support.

**Minute No. 187/19**

**Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by Cllr. P. McGeough**

**Seconded by Cllr. A. Watters**

"That this council agree that the current privatised system of our domestic waste services is expensive, bad for the environment and lacking in controls and



*Minutes of Monthly Council Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019*

regulations. That this Council agree to set up a working group with a view to the viability of taking waste collection back into public ownership or at least adopting the 'franchising' model which would give Louth County Council the power to contract a single waste collection service for the county."

**From Director of Operations and Waste Management**

There is no plan to provide a domestic waste collection services by the Council. The Council is working with WERLA to rollout national initiatives locally to tackle illegal waste operators and to ensure that all households can account for their domestic waste collection and waste presentation.

Following discussion on the matter the proposer requested that a roll call vote be taken.

**For:** Cllrs. M. Butler, Joanna Byrne, H. Conlon, T. Cunningham, M. Hall, P. McGeough, P. McQuillan, R O' Murchu, J. Sheridan, J. Tenanty, A. Watters

**Total : 11 (eleven)**

**Against:** Cllrs. M. Doyle, S. Kelly, C. Markey, J. McGahon, E. McGreehan, D. Minogue, D. Power, L. Reilly, M. Yore,

**Total : 9 (nine)**

**Abstain:** Cllr. C. Keelan

**Total : 1 (one)**

**Absent:** Cllrs. P. Bell, James Byrne, K. Callan, E. Coffey, E. Corrigan, T. Sharkey, P. Smith, E. Tully

**Total : 8 (eight)**

The Chief Executive made it clear that she would not consider Louth County Council resuming domestic refuse collection in the County.

**Minute No. 188/19**

**Suspension of Standing Orders**

**Proposed by Cllr. M. Yore**

**Seconded by Cllr. James Byrne**

**And resolved:-**

That standing orders be suspended as per Standing Order number 24 to permit the business of the meeting to continue until 1.40 p.m.

**Minute No. 189/19**

**Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by Cllr. M. Yore**

**Seconded by Cllr. S. Kelly**

"That LCC increase the number of dog litter bins across the County and increase schedule of clearing and cleaning of all dog litter bins to prevent constant overflow of same"

**From Director of Operations**

Louth County Council is currently reviewing the street cleaning service including bin collection. Additional audits of the current service being provide is in progress as a result of recent complaints. An environmental awareness initiative on local media reminded the pubic that you don't need a special bin to dispose of pet waste, it can be put in any bin as long as it is bagged properly.

Members noted the reply.

**Minute No. 190/19**

**Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by Cllr. M. Yore**

**Seconded by Cllr. P. McQuillan**

"In light of the success of Operation Enable by An Garda Siochána and the upgrading of pay parking machines in Louth that LCC introduce a text alert/helpline no. system for the public to report illegal parking in disabled bays to further deter and eliminate 'repeat offenders.' "

**From Director of Operations**

This issue is prioritised by our traffic section. Members of the public can currently report illegal parking in disabled bays during office hours by ringing customer services section at LoCall 1890 202303 or 042 9335457. Customer services will escalate the matter to our traffic section by phone or email without delay.

Members noted the reply

**Minute No. 191/19**

**Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by Cllr. Joanne Byrne**

**Seconded by Cllr. R. O' Murchu**

"As part of the broader social housing reform agenda, a review of income eligibility for social housing supports has been underway for some time now.

The Housing Agency was carrying out the detailed statistical work which would underpin this review on behalf of Minister Eoghan Murphy and the Department of Housing.

We, as County Councillors in Louth, ask that the Minister concludes this report and publishes its findings, and also publishes any recommendations that have arisen as a result."

This motion was agreed by the members

**Minute No. 192/19**

**Notice of Motion**

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

**Seconded by Cllr. P. McGeough**

"That Louth County Council calls on the government to address dysfunction in the Irish Insurance industry which is impacting negatively on individuals, business, and community groups."

This motion was agreed by the members

**Minute No. 193/19**

**Notice of Question**

**Submitted by Cllr. C. Keelan**

"Since January 2018 how many trees have been cut down by Louth County Council and what have been the reasons cited in each case?"

**Reply from Director of Operations:**

## *Minutes of Monthly Council Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019*

### **OPERATIONS**

#### Parks and Open Spaces

The number of trees that were felled between January and December 2018 was eleven. The breakdown on species and reasons for cutting down is as follows

- 6no Poplar - Structure defects
- 1no sycamore.- Storm damage
- 1no Hornbeam – Diseases
- 2no Lime- Structure defects
- 1no Chestnut - Storm damage

For the period January to June 19, the total number was 4 trees.

#### Tree felling in the Areas

The General Services Supervisor would organize the felling of trees that have fallen or are in danger of falling in public places. Each Supervisor has been requested to give an indication of the number for their respective area.

#### Tree planting

2018 - There were 200 small trees (whips) and 60 large trees 18/20 cm girth planted.

2019

During the period January to June 2019 40 large trees 18/20 and 20/25 cm girth have been planted by the Council.

### **INFRASTRUCTURE**

#### Clanbrassil St project

There were a total of 11 trees removed as part of the project. 20 new trees will be provided as part of the scheme at various locations.

### **Minute No. 194/19**

#### **Notice of Question**

#### **Submitted by Cllr. J. Sheridan**

"Can the CE give a listing of the cemeteries vested under the control of the council and their categorization / criteria of priority for routine maintenance. Also if all cemeteries have the same insurance cover or if different levels of cover apply to different cemeteries and if so to include these differences on the listing."

#### **Reply from Director of Corporate Services:**

The Council are currently reviewing the list of graveyards under our control, all of which are covered by our Insurance. This list will be circulated when complete. The Council only have control of graveyards originally developed by burial boards or sanitary authorities which were subsequently vested by law to those authorities.

**Minute No. 195/19**

**Notice of Question**

**Submitted by Cllr. M. Butler**

"Can the Chief Executive please provide an update on a pilot scheme to install public drinking water fountains as per minute no. 62/19 March meeting"

**Reply from Director of Operations:**

LCC has applied for funding under the 2019 ORIS (Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme) for drinking water fountain provision at the Boyne Greenway (St Dominic's Park) in Drogheda and the Greenway in Omeath. The 2019 ORIS funding awards are expected towards the end of this year or early next year.

**Minute No. 196/19**

**Notice of Question**

**Submitted by Cllr. M. Butler**

"Can the Chief Executive confirm that the communication equipment on the roof of Forrestors Hall (Protected Structure ID D237) is planning compliant?"

**Reply from Director of Planning and Infrastructure:**

This matter is being addressed in discussions with the Dundalk Credit Union regarding the future use of the Forresters Hall.

**Minute No. 197/19**

**Notice of Question**

**Submitted by Cllr. C. Keelan**

"Since the last revision of the Casual Trading Bye-Laws by Dundalk Town Council (around 2013) how many Casual One-Day Licenses or Licenses for a Special Occasion have been granted in the Dundalk area?"

**Reply from Director of Operations:**

Since Casual Trading came to Operations in May 2014, no Casual One-Day Licenses or Licenses for a Special Occasion have been granted.

*Minutes of Monthly Council Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019*

**Minute No. 198/19**

**Motions from other Councils**

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

**Minute No. 199/19**

**Correspondence**

Correspondence as listed with the Agenda was 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: \_\_\_\_\_

That concluded the business of the meeting.