

Minutes of Council Meeting June 2020

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Louth County Council held in St. Gerard's Hall, St. Alphonsus Road, County Hall, Dundalk on Monday 15th June 2020

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Dolores Minogue

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, Erin McGreehan, Pearse McGeough, Paddy McQuillan, Kevin Meenan, Declan Power, Liam Reilly, Tomás Sharkey, John Sheridan, Jim Tenanty, Eileen Tully, Antoin Watters, Maeve Yore

Officials: J. Martin, Chief Executive
F. Pentony, Director of Services
C. Duff, Director of Services
J. McGuinness, Director of Services
P. Donnelly, Director of Services
B. Woods, Head of Finance
A. Sherry, Meetings Administrator

Apologies: Cllr. Pio Smith

Minute No. 67/20

Confirmation of Minutes

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Yore

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Bell

And resolved:

That the minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 18th May 2020 be confirmed

Minute No. 68/20

Minutes for noting

Corporate Policy Group 11th March, 8th April & 6th May 2020

Borough District of Drogheda 2nd March & 18th May 2020

Municipal District of Dundalk 3rd March 2020

Municipal District of Ardee 5th March 2020

Climate Change & Energy SPC 9th March 2020

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Minute No. 69/20

Report on CPG Meeting

The Cathaoirleach reported that the meeting of the CPG was held remotely on Wednesday 3rd June 2020. The members agreed the agendas for the annual meeting and the monthly meeting of the Council in June. It was agreed to remove the co-option in relation to the vacancy created by the election of John McGahon to Seanad Eireann from the draft agenda, along with the associated committee vacancies, to be placed on the July agenda. It was agreed to consider options in relation to the holding of civic award ceremonies. It was agreed to pursue the possibility of remote SPC meetings in July. Cllr. Marianne Butler announced that she was stepping down as Chair of the Climate Action and Sustainability SPC and asked that appointment of a new Chair be included on the June agenda

Minute No. 70/20

Monthly Management Report

It was agreed to raise the issue of sewage odours in Termonfeckin with Irish Water.
It was requested that the percentage of invalid applications be included in the monthly Planning report
It was agreed to revert back to the members with an update in relation to the vacant site register
It was agreed to check whether or not cycling was permitted on the Navy bank
It was pointed out that the Council's website should include details of the PEACE IV project plan
It was agreed to revert back to the members with an update in relation to the Ardee by-pass
The need to increase the frequency of emptying litter bins in Carlingford was raised.
It was suggested that the relevant Minister should support businesses in Carlingford that do not have sufficient space to facilitate social distancing
It was agreed to carry out an audit of takeaway restaurants as to whether or not they are providing litter bins at their premises
The need for funding to be provided for the replacement of windows and doors in Council housing stock was raised.

Minute No. 71/20

Section 183 Notice – Disposal of Lands at Ard Dealgan, Quay Street, Dundalk

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Yore

Seconded by: Cllr. E. Tully

And resolved:

That having considered the notice on the matter dated 27th March, 2020 to confirm the disposal 0.077 hectares of land at Quay Street, Dundalk to the McGrath Group, 36 Upper Leeson Street, Dublin D02 Y982 for the consideration of €20,000 (Twenty-thousand euro). The sale is subject to the purchaser discharging all legal costs in relation to the conveyance of the site.

The members agreed that a condition stating that the site can only be sold for the development of social housing should be included.

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Minute No. 72/20

Appointment of Chair of the Climate Action and Sustainability SPC

Grouping Systems as per Schedule ten Paragraph 18 of The Local Government Act, 2001 applies. Group requirement is six (6)

Proposed by: Cllr. E. Coffey
Seconded by: Cllr. C. Keelan
And resolved:

That Cllr. Liam Reilly be elected to the Chair of the Climate Action & Sustainability SPC – vacancy occurs due to the resignation of Cllr. M. Butler.

Minute No. 73/20

Vacancy – Local Sports Partnership Committee

Proposed by: Cllr. Joanna Byrne
Seconded by: Cllr. E. Coffey
And resolved:

That Cllr. Tom Cunningham be elected to the Local Sports Partnership Committee – vacancy occurs due to the election of Cllr. R. O’ Murchu to Dail Eireann.

Minute No. 74/20

Section 141 Reports – Cllr. J. Sheridan

Members noted the reports

Minute No. 75/20

Annual Report 2019 – for adoption under section 221 of the Local Government Act, 2001

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Bell
Seconded by: Cllr. M. Butler
And resolved:

Members agreed to the adoption of the report subject to the inclusion of the financial and performance indicator reports at a later date.

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Minute No. 76/20

Vote of Congratulations

Members and the CE paid tribute to Cllr. Bell for his service to the Council on his stepping down as a Councillor to take up a position with the Labour Court. He thanked the members and the officials and his wife for her support.

Minute No. 77/20

Vote of Sympathy

Members and the Chief Executive paid tribute to former Councillor Nicky McCabe and extended their sympathy to his family.

Patrick Carroll

Minute No. 78/20

Draft Protocols for the awarding of Civic Honours – for adoption

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Butler
Seconded by: Cllr. L. Reilly
And resolved:

To adopt the protocols as presented with the Agenda. It was suggested that the names of civic award recipients should be put on the Council's website.

Minute No. 79/20

Draft Protocols in relation to the role of An Cathaoirleach – for adoption

Proposed by: Cllr. L. Reilly
Seconded by: Cllr. M. Butler
And resolved:

To adopt the protocols as presented with the Agenda

Minute No. 80/20

JPC Annual Report 2019 – for noting

The Report was noted by the members

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Minute No. 81/20

Suspension of Standing Orders

**Proposed by Cllr. L. Reilly
Seconded by Cllr. Joanna Byrne
And resolved:-**

That standing orders be suspended as per Standing Order number 24 in order to complete the business of the meeting

Minute No. 82/20

Notice of Motion

**Proposed by Cllr. E. McGreehan
Seconded by Cllr. E Coffey**

That Louth County Council would facilitate that all staff undertake 'Disability Awareness Training', with priority given to frontline staff initially. It should also facilitate Access Auditing Training for all planning and infrastructure technical staff.

The awareness training would provide clear and accurate information for employees of Louth County Council about working with and supporting people with disabilities.

Reply:

Training for the staff of Louth County Council is driven by the Performance Management System of the organisation and the budget available. Where Disability Awareness or Access Auditing is identified through that process, it will be facilitated.

The reply was noted by the members

Minute No. 83/20

Notice of Motion

**Proposed by Cllr. J. Sheridan
Seconded by Cllr. E. McGreehan**

That Louth County Council would work with the appropriate contractors to publicise bring bank collection schedules publicly at bring banks and online in order to help the patterns of usage of bring banks. It would also mean public reps and local community groups could spread the message as to collection time frames to help better bring bank usage.

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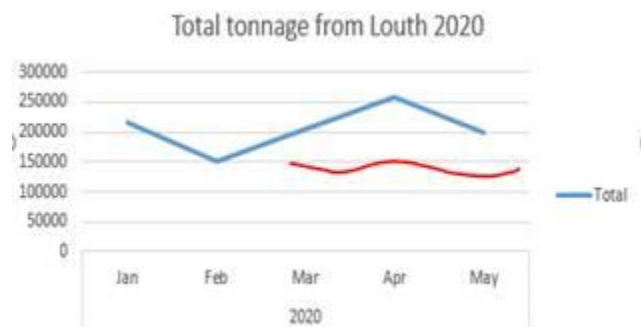
Reply:

LCC is keeping Glassco updated as bins fill up and we can attest to a significantly increased level of response from them. As the situation settles, as demand levels settle somewhat, and as Glassco's collection and administrative capacity is ramped up over time in response to the current conditions, we hope that this situation can be revisited.

Demand at bottle banks has risen very significantly as:

- In the present conditions, each serving of alcohol is generating one individual item of packaging (bottle or can). No servings are being sold/served by the on-trade in reusable glasses
- Off licences have stated that they have seen growth levels of 40% over their normal levels of business on the same months last year
- The bring bank network nationwide is designed to cater for domestically produced quantities of glass. Commercial glass is collected at the "back-door" of the pub/hotel/restaurant. The bring bank network is currently catering for volumes covering what is typically domestically produced and commercially produced.
- As more and more people return to the workplace, a drop off in consumption is expected. The impact of people being at home during periods of good weather is a significant driver of current levels of consumption
- More meal preparation is taking place in the home and this is generating larger than normal levels of glass packaging.

Glassco covers over 1800 sites nationwide. They are currently experiencing an approximate 50% rise in demand compared with normal conditions, as demonstrated on the graph of demand over time for Louth below (the red line indicates expected tonnage for this time of year):



In scheduling collections, Glassco does not know under current conditions how much material is waiting for collection at the beginning of collection runs. In "normal" times they can plan their collection schedule based on many years' experience of seasonal demand, typical usage and so on for each site. However, currently normal demand usage levels have been severely disrupted upwards. They are experiencing erratic tonnage demands at all sites nationwide, varying from very high to more "normal". So, their scheduling has become very hard to predict. When collection trucks are full, they return to the Glassco depot for emptying. If there is enough time left in the day or in the driver's legally allowable daily driving time, the truck may return to the collection area. Glassco informs us that they have already deployed all available resources and have been working at full capacity for the last two months.

To cater for this demand in the long term, they are in the process of training new drivers on routes, crane use and certification plus regular H&S processes. However they also need to source scarce new (highly specialised) trucks. They already operate most of those available in the country. It can take several months to commission a new truck like this. In addition, as with many service providers currently, Glassco has indicated that between home working adjustments and sick leave, they are suffering an impact to their administrative capacity.

The reply was noted by the members

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Minute No. 84/20

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. J. Sheridan

Seconded by Cllr. M. Hall

“Tacaíonn Comhairle Chondae Lú le comhlíonadh rialacháin de chuid Acht an dTeangacha Oifigiúil 2003 agus go bhfaigheann baill nuashaonrú ar ghearáin, ar chomhlíonadh agus ar ghníomhartha ceartaitheachta”

“Louth County Council endorses the compliance with regulations of the Official Languages Act 2003 and that members receive an update on complaints, compliance and corrective actions.”

Reply:

Whilst compliance with the Official Language Act is a matter for the executive, I can confirm that Louth County Council are in the process of addressing all matters raised in An Comisinear Teanga’s Investigation Report, which was referred to in his Annual Report for 2019.

The reply was noted by the members

Minute No. 85/20

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. M. Yore

Seconded by Cllr. Joanna Byrne

“That Louth County Council write to relevant departments in caretaker and new government - if and when formed - demanding all businesses impacted by Covid-19 have rates waived for 2020 and Government to compensate/properly fund Local Authorities for loss of income from same to maintain services “

The motion was agreed 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: _____