

Minutes of Council Meeting October 2020

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Louth County Council held in St. Gerard's Hall, St. Alphonsus Road, County Hall, Dundalk on Monday 19th October 2020

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Dolores Minogue

Members: Councillors: Marianne Butler, James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, Kevin Callan, Emma Coffey, Hugh Conlon, Edel Corrigan, Tom Cunningham, Michelle Hall, Conor Keelan, Seán Kelly, Fiachra MacRaghnaill Pearse McGeough, Andrea McKeivitt, Paddy McQuillan, Kevin Meenan, Declan Power, John Reilly, Tomás Sharkey, John Sheridan, Pío Smith, 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
G. Tuomey Meetings Administrator

Apologies: Cllrs. Maria Doyle, Liam Reilly

Minute No. 155/20

Confirmation of Minutes

Proposed by: Cllr. Maeve Yore
Seconded by: Cllr. Emma Coffey
And resolved:

That the minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 21st September 2020 be confirmed

Minute No. 156/20

Confirmation of Minutes

Proposed by: Cllr. Joanna Byrne
Seconded by: Cllr. Seán Kelly
And resolved:

That the minutes of the Adjourned Monthly Meeting held on 23rd September 2020 be confirmed

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Minute No. 157/20

Confirmation of Minutes

Proposed by: Cllr. Maeve Yore
Seconded by: Cllr. John Sheridan
And resolved:

That the minutes of the Adjourned Monthly Meeting held on 30th September 2020 be confirmed

Minute No. 158/20

Confirmation of Minutes

Proposed by: Cllr. Maeve Yore
Seconded by: Cllr. John Sheridan
And resolved:

That the minutes of the Adjourned Monthly Meeting held on 1st October 2020 be confirmed

Minute No. 159/20

Minutes for noting

Corporate Policy Group 9th September 2020
Borough District of Drogheda 7th September 2020
Municipal District of Dundalk 1st September 2020
Municipal District of Ardee 3rd September 2020
Climate Change & Energy SPC 13th July 2020
Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC 20th February 2020

Minute No. 160/20

Report on CPG Meeting

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that the CPG meeting was held in the Council chamber, County Hall on Wednesday 7th October 2020 and CPG members noted the minutes for the September meeting and noted the October Agenda. The CPG was briefed by the Chief Executive on the 2021 Draft Budget Proposal, and the financial effects of COVID.

CPG members discussed new guidance in relation to holding Meetings and discussed the options in relation to holding civic award ceremonies and agreed to refer to Whips. CPG were advised that Louth were requested to promote the National Covid-19 safety message. The members noted a significant improvement to response to Members Queries.

CPG received an update on the Draft Development Plan from the Director of Services for Planning and discussion on submissions took place. It was agreed that the Chair would make the submission on Draft Development plan on behalf of SPC.

CPG were invited to propose on how to support Women & Diversity in Local Government.

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Members sought advice on an invitation received to meeting on Stephenstown Pond. The matter was discussed and in conclusion it was noted that it is a private group and it was a matter for each Member to decide on attendance or not.

Minute No. 161/20

Reports by Strategic Policy Committee Chairpersons

Councillor Joanna Byrne delivered the SPC Chairpersons Report.
A Policy and Procedure document to support Tenants was suggested.

Minute No. 162/20

Monthly Management Report

Members were advised:

- The rates waiver has been extended to year end.
- Irish Waters downturn in income had reduced its capital works programme.
- Members were requested to encourage owners of Air BnBs to engage with Planning Dept on foot of letters that had issued under Statutory Legislation.

Members engaged in a discussion regarding the management of Stephenstown Pond and grant funding from Louth County Council. The Chief Executive advised that this company along with many other private companies had applied for grant funding to Louth County Council over the years and nothing in any application had caused concern or raised alarm. Cllr. Yore wanted it noted that at no time was she accusing anybody of fraud but that there was accountability with regard to public funds. The Chief Executive advised that whoever was behind the social media group should write in to her and explain the issue.

Members received an update on household bin inspections, hedge cutting and Bottlebanks from Catherine Duff, Director of Services Operations and were advised to refer Dog Breeding queries to the County Vet.

An issue of increasing levels of graffiti was raised by Members.

Members acknowledged recent recruitment of Retained Fire Personnel in the Drogheda area, and complimented the increase in coordination of service between Louth and Meath Fire Services.

Members were advised to bring concerns raised of quads and scrambler use to An Garda Siochana.

A number of housing issues were discussed including a housing allocation boundary issue with Meath in Drogheda and asked if Meath could be approached to share their PV allocation, Paddy Donnelly Director of Services for Housing advised on all housing issues.

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Minute No. 163/20

Approval of €5 million Overdraft Facility for 2021

Proposed by: Cllr. Marianne Butler
Seconded by: Cllr. Kevin Callan
And resolved:

To approve the continuation of our €5 million overdraft facility for the year 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021

Minute No. 164/20

Allocation of Members Community Grants

Proposed by: Cllr. Marianne Butler
Seconded by: Cllr. Kevin Callan
And resolved:

To approve Members Community Grant Allocations as circulated with the agenda

Minute No. 165/20

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. Andrea McKeivitt
Seconded by Cllr. John Sheridan

"That Louth County Council write to HSE management and in particular the management of Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital to allow pregnant women have their partners and/or a nominated family member present at maternity appointments and at all times during labour as well as requesting all measures are put in place to make this possible."

This motion elicited significant support from Members.

Minute No. 166/20

Motions from other Councils

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

Minute No. 167/20

Correspondence

Correspondence as listed with the Agenda was 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: _____