

## *Minutes of Council Meeting July 2021*

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Louth County Council hosted in Council Chamber and held remotely over MS teams on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

### **In attendance:**

**Cathaoirleach:** Cllr. Pio Smith (present in Chamber)

**Members:** Councillors: Marianne Butler, Paula Butterly, James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, Kevin Callan, Emma Coffey, Edel Corrigan, Tom Cunningham, Maria Doyle, Michelle Hall, Conor Keelan, Fiachra MacRaghnaill, Pearse McGeough, Andrea McKeivitt, Paddy McQuillan, Kevin Meenan, Dolores Minogue, Declan Power, John Reilly, Liam Reilly, Tomás Sharkey, John Sheridan, Jim Tenanty, Eileen Tully, Antoin Watters, Maeve Yore

### **All Councillors attended remotely**

**Apologies:** Cllr. Sean Kelly

**Vacancy:** Cllr. Hugh Conlon RIP

**Officials:** J. Martin, Chief Executive – (present in Council Chamber)  
J. McGuinness, Director of Services – (present in Council Chamber)  
F. Pentony, Director of Services – (present in Council Chamber)  
P. Donnelly, Director of Services – (present in Chamber)  
C. Duff, Director of Services – (attended remotely)  
B. Woods, Head of Finance – (present in Chamber)  
Grainne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator (present in Council Chamber)

### **Minute No. 130/21**

#### **Mark of Respect for Cllr. Hugh Conlon RIP**

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Pio Smith spoke and called on members to speak on behalf of their parties for Cllr. Hugh Conlon who had recently died. Representatives from the Labour, Fine Gael, Fine Fail, Sinn Fein, and Independent Parties spoke of their shock in Hugh's passing, and remembered Cllr. Conlon fondly as a dedicated, genuine politician who had his community's best interest at heart, and who was hugely involved in community activities including music, poetry and other cultural activities. Particular reference was given to his determination to represent his Municipal District as demonstrated by his attendance at the County Development Plan meeting from his hospital bed.

The Chief Executive spoke on behalf of the management team and all the staff of Louth County Council of her admiration and awe at his attendance while ill.

Deepest sympathies were extended to Cllr. Conlon's family and a minute's reflection was held in his memory.

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### **Minute No. 131/21**

#### **Casual Vacancy - Cllr. Hugh Conlon RIP**

The Cathaoirleach requested Members to defer this item to the September meeting to allow himself and Director of Services to discuss with Cllr. Conlon's family after the Month's Mind.

This was proposed by Cllr. Maeve Yore, and seconded by Cllr. Fiachra MacRaghnaill

### **Minute No. 132/21**

#### **Confirmation of Minutes**

**Proposed by: Cllr. F. MacRaghnaill**

**Seconded by: Cllr. J. Tenanty**

**And resolved:**

That the minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021 be confirmed.

### **Minute No. 133/21**

#### **Confirmation of Minutes**

**Proposed by: Cllr. M. Doyle**

**Seconded by: Cllr. F. MacRaghnaill**

**And resolved:**

That the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021 be confirmed.

### **Minute No. 134/21**

#### **Confirmation of Minutes – Consideration of the Chief Executive's Report on Draft Submissions made on Development Plan which took place on the following dates:-**

1) April 12<sup>th</sup> 2021

Proposed by Cllr. Liam Reilly

Seconded by Cllr. Jim Tenanty

2) April 16<sup>th</sup> 2021

Proposed by Cllr. Michelle Hall

Seconded by Cllr. Declan Power

3) April 20<sup>th</sup> 2021

Proposed by Cllr. Dolores Minogue

Seconded by Cllr. Paula Butterly

4) April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2021

Proposed by Cllr. John Sheridan

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Seconded by Cllr. Michelle Hall

5) April 26th 2021

Proposed by Cllr. Jim Tenanty

Seconded by Cllr. Dolores Minogue

6) April 28th 2021

Proposed by Cllr. Paula Butterly

Seconded by Cllr. Jim Tenanty

7) May 5th 2021

Proposed by Cllr. Pio Smith

Seconded by Cllr. Jim Tenanty

8) May 11th 2021

Proposed by Cllr. Pio Smith

Seconded by Cllr. Michelle Hall

9) May 13th 2021

Proposed by Cllr. Jim Tenanty

Seconded by Cllr. Liam Reilly

10) May 17th 2021

Proposed by Cllr. Liam Reilly

Seconded by Cllr. Michelle Hall

11) May 20th 2021

Proposed by Cllr. Dolores Minogue

Seconded by Cllr. Declan Power

12) May 24th 2021

Proposed by Cllr. Paula Butterly

Seconded by Cllr. Jim Tenanty

13) May 25th 2021

Proposed by Cllr. Pio Smith

Seconded by Cllr. Jim Tenanty

14) May 26th 2021

Proposed by Cllr. Pio Smith

Seconded by Cllr. Paula Butterly

15) May 31st 2021

Proposed by Cllr. Pio Smith

Seconded by Cllr. Liam Reilly

16) June 2nd 2021

Proposed by Cllr. Pio Smith

Seconded by Cllr. Dolores Minogue

17) June 8th 2021

Proposed by Cllr. Pio Smith

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Seconded by Cllr. Paula Butterly

18) June 9th 2021

Proposed by Cllr. Pio Smith

Seconded by Cllr. Dolores Minogue

### **Minute No. 135/21**

#### **Matters Arising**

Updates were requested on the following:-

Minute 89/21 – Accessibility clause in Parklet Policy and Application

Minute 109/21 – Letter to Paul Reid re CHO8 attendance

Minute 121/21 – Fleadh Audit Accounts

Funding for PANCR

- It was agreed to amend 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph of Minute 121/21 to read “The Chief Executive stated that she had always been honest...” and to remove reference to ‘allegations of impropriety’.

### **Minute No. 136/21**

#### **District Meetings Minutes - Noted**

Minutes of the District meetings listed below were noted by the members.

Municipal District of Dundalk Annual Meeting & Monthly Meeting held on 1st June 2021

Municipal District of Ardee Annual Meeting & Monthly Meeting held on 3rd June 2021

Borough District of Drogheda Annual Meeting & Monthly Meeting held on 14th June 2021

### **Minute No. 137/21**

#### **Committee Meetings Minutes - Noted**

Minutes of the Committee meetings listed below were noted by the members.

Corporate Policy Group 9th June 2021

Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC 26th November 2020

Climate Change & Energy SPC 8th February 2021

Audit Committee 11th March 2021

Placenames Committee 1st & 14th April 2021

### **Minute No. 138/21**

#### **Tuarascáil ó Chathaoirleach an Ghrúpa Beatais Corpaideach / Report from Chairperson of Corporate Policy Group**

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The Cathaoirleach informed the members that the meeting of the CPG was held in the Council chamber, at 9.00 am on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021 by zoom. Items discussed included:

- Progress on the County Development Plan, and the LPT process
- The Draft Workplan on Climate Change and Energy as well as the Sustainable Energy Communications Policy

The CPG recommended:

- A delegation from DKIT be heard at the next Council Meeting
- Nominations be put forward for LCDC to replace 2 outgoing committee members

Members referred the review of the Mother and Baby homes report to be held to September CPG to allow proper assessment and discussion in the interim.

The rationale behind holding the Mother & Baby home report until September was questioned, and Members were advised that the report could be furnished to any member on request. Members were told that due to the sensitivity of the report and the desire not to cause any more pain and suffering to those affected by the report it was decided to refer this to the CPG in their statutory capacity. The CPG decided to refer the report to the Whips so cross party agreement could be achieved on action to be taken on foot of the report.

#### **Minute No. 139/21**

#### **Tuarascail o Chathaoirligh an Choiste an Beartaqs Straiteiseach / Strategic Policy Committee Chairperson's Report**

##### **Climate Action & Energy**

Cllr. Liam Reilly, Chair of the SPC informed the members that the meeting of the SPC was held on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021 by zoom. Members were advised that representatives from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council gave a joint presentation with SPC Members. It is intended to work with Newry, Mourne and Down to achieve funding for initiatives under Peace +.

Director of Services Catherine Duff gave an update on the Workplan and anti-dumping initiatives. Some events planned for 2021 would now be postponed to 2022. SPC members received the Energy Management Policy.

Members were advised there were problems between SEAI grant funding and retrofitting, and that a copy of the Litter Management Plan would be circulated to the 3 MDs over the following weeks. The next meeting of the SPC is scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> September.

#### **Minute No. 140/21**

#### **Breithniú ar Thuarascálacha agus ar Chomhréitigh ón bPríomhfheidhmeannach / Consideration of Reports and Recommendations from Chief Executive**

- Monthly Management Report
- Finance & Water Services
- Economic Enterprise, Planning & Infrastructure
- Operations & Waste Management
- Corporate & Emergency Services
- Housing & Quality of Life

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Finance & Water Services - The following items were noted:

- High levels of manganese in water supplies were discussed, along with pressure valves, pipe flushing and burst pipes affecting water supply. A request was made for more information to issue to the public around what to do when this occurred. Members were advised that Irish Water control the information that issues but that this would be fed back to Irish Water Management. Members were advised to refer issues and possible site locations for water capital infrastructure to Irish Water.
- The Chief Executive advised Members of notification of unexpected funding from IPB totaling €385,000 from 2021 premium refunds. She suggested that if Members were in favour this might be evenly split between Housing Maintenance and Disabled Persons Grant funding.
- Cllr. Maeve Yore proposed to accept this suggestion, and this was seconded by Cllr. Kevin Meenan and Resolved.
- Following other suggestions from Members on how to spend the funding the following was confirmed:
  - The Executive would explore the possibility of developing or buying an app to notify residents of emergency issues or as a notification tool, using own resources outside of the IPB refund.
  - Void Funding had been received for all but two problematic dwellings.

Economic Enterprise, Planning & Infrastructure

- Frank Pentony, DoS, updated Members on a meeting with the Dept with regards to the failed Port Access Northern Cross Route (PANCR) application. While similar schemes were successful in obtaining grant funding under the URDF, his team were advised not to submit any future application under the Urban Renewal Development Fund stream again as criteria did not match, though this was challenged. The Dept are to engage with Louth County Council on identifying suitable funding mechanisms. Consideration is being given to a Development Contribution Scheme. The Chief Executive advised that construction of the PANCR is of strategic importance to the Executive and is listed as a strategic objective in the Corporate Plan, and that no stone would be left unturned in trying to get this complete.
- A request that Housing Estates going through the 'Taking in Charge' process might be considered under the Housing Estate Speed Limit Byelaws application process was noted but only those estates qualifying as public roads could ultimately be accommodated.

### **Minute No. 141/21**

#### **DKIT - Presentation Technological University Vision**

Having taken a short tea break, the Cathaoirleach requested Members to hear the presentation from DKIT now as they had been given a guide time of 12pm to present. Members were advised they could then resume items under the CE report.

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Michael Mulvey - President, Irene McCausland - Vice President of Strategic Planning, Communications and Development and Patrick (Paddy) Malone, Chairman, Governing

Body, Dundalk Institute of Technology: joined the meeting and gave a presentation to Members on the proposal to change the status of DKIT to a Technological University. The importance of a third level university in attracting FDI and supporting Economic Growth in the Region was noted, agreed and supported by Members and Executive, many of whom had attended DKIT in some manner.

### **Minute No. 142/21**

#### **Resumption of Consideration of Reports and Recommendations from Chief Executive**

Returning to the Chief Executive Report, the following items were highlighted:

Operations & Waste Management:

- Junctions at Rock Road, Sandy Lane and Bridge Street were built in line with Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMUR's) standards and were therefore correct in their layout. The design is to slow down traffic.
- Cllr. Yore requested it be noted that she did not agree with the junction layout designs.
- Speeding enforcement is a matter for An Garda Síochána.

Corporate and Emergency Services

- A request to highlight the current Orange Fire Warning would be accommodated.

Housing and Quality of Life

- Not all presenters under Homelessness qualify as homeless. Recent reports of 287 homeless is incorrect there are 96 recorded homeless currently.
- 10% of 227 approved transfer applicants will be accommodated this year.

### **Minute No. 143/21**

#### **Adoption of Regional Homeless Action Plan 2021-2023**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. Pio Smith

**Seconded by:** Cllr. Maeve Yore

**And resolved**

The following clarifications were given to Members on request:

- No individual groups are singled out in the regional plan as it encompasses all individuals.
- Louth County Council employs a social worker who interacts with individuals and the housing team have built links with members of the Traveller Community.
- Low figures of Homelessness in Cavan and Monaghan.
- Not all those homeless offered accommodation take up the offer.

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### **Minute No. 144/21**

#### **Local Property Tax**

Following a briefing by Bernie Woods, Head of Finance setting out what increases in LPT could achieve, it was proposed to maintain the current LPT level.

**Proposed by:** Cllr. Emma Coffey

**Seconded by:** Cllr. Kevin Callan

**And resolved**

### **Minute No. 145/21**

#### **Periodic Speed Limit Bye-laws**

Adoption of the Periodic Speed Bye-Laws was:

**Proposed by:** Cllr. John Sheridan

**Seconded by:** Cllr. Kevin Callan

**And resolved**

### **Minute No. 146/21**

#### **PPN Social Inclusion Nominations To LCDC**

Approval of the nominations of Ms. Bernadine Quinn and Ms. Carol West as Social Inclusion representatives on the LCDC was:

**Proposed by:** Cllr. Michelle Hall

**Seconded by:** Cllr. Pio Smith

**And agree**

### **Minute No. 147/21**

#### **Suspension of Standing Orders as allowed under Standing Order no. 24**

During the Meeting, as time was running out, the Cathaoirleach asked Members if they wished to propose to suspend Standing Order 3 to extend the time of the meeting. Other meetings due to take place today following the Council Meeting were noted.

It was proposed to suspend Standing Orders to hear all remaining Statutory Business and Notices of Motions & Questions by Cllr. Maeve Yore, and this was seconded by Cllr. Maria Doyle.

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An amendment to this proposal was put by Cllr. Kevin Callan to hear Statutory Business only, and this was seconded by Cllr. Liam Reilly and a roll call vote was held as follows:

	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
BUTLER, Marianne	1			
BUTTERLY, Paula	1			
BYRNE, James	1			
BYRNE, Joanna	1			
CALLAN, Kevin	1			
COFFEY, Emma	1			
CONLON, <i>Hugh</i> (RIP)				
CORRIGAN, Edel	1			
CUNNINGHAM, Tom	1			
DOYLE, Maria		1		
HALL, Michelle	1			
KEELAN, Conor				1
KELLY, Sean				1
MacRAGHNAILL, Fiachra	1			
McGEOUGH, Pearse	1			
McKEVITT, Andrea				1
McQUILLAN, Paddy				1
MEENAN, Kevin	1			
MINOGUE, Dolores	1			
POWER, Declan	1			
REILLY, John	1			
REILLY, Liam	1			
SHARKEY, Tomás	1			
SHERIDAN, John		1		
SMITH, Pio	1			
TENANTY, Jim				1
TULLY, Eileen	1			
WATTERS, Antoin	1			
YORE, Maeve		1		
<b>Totals</b>	20	3	0	5

### **Minute No. 148/21**

#### **Allocations of Members Community Grants**

Approval of the allocation of Members Community Grants as circulated with the agenda was:

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**Proposed by:** Cllr. Michelle Hall

**Seconded by:** Cllr. Maeve Yore

**And resolved.**

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All Notices of Motions and Questions were therefore deferred to September.

Meeting concluded following approval of allocation of Members Community Grants.

The Cathaoirleach wished all a good break and Members were advised that they would most likely revert to St. Gerards Hall for main Council Meeting in September.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cathaoirleach: \_\_\_\_\_

Meetings Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_