

Minutes of Council Meeting March 2021

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Louth County Council hosted in Council Chamber and held remotely over MS teams on 15th March 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Dolores Minogue

Members: Councillors: Marianne Butler, Paula Butterly, James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, Kevin Callan, Emma Coffey, Hugh Conlon, Edel Corrigan, Tom Cunningham, Maria Doyle, Conor Keelan, Seán Kelly, Fiachra MacRaghnaill, Pearse McGeough, Andrea McKevitt, Paddy McQuillan, Kevin Meenan, Declan Power, Liam Reilly, Tomás Sharkey, John Sheridan, Pío Smith, Jim Tenanty, Eileen Tully, Antoin Watters, Maeve Yore

All Councillors attended remotely

Apologies: Cllrs. Michelle Hall, John Reilly

Officials: J. Martin, Chief Executive – (present in Council Chamber)
J. McGuinness, Director of Services – (present in Council Chamber)
G. Tuomey, Meetings Administrator – (present in Council Chamber)
P. Donnelly, Director of Services – (attended remotely)
C. Duff, Director of Services – (attended remotely)
B. Woods, Head of Finance – (attended remotely)
F. Pentony, Director of Services – (attended remotely)
M. Bagnell, Head of I.T. (present in Council Chamber)
E. Eaton, Staff Officer, (present in Council Chamber)

Minute No. 39/21

Confirmation of Minutes

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Smith

Seconded by: Cllr. A. Watters

And resolved:

That the minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 15th February 2021 be confirmed.

Minute No. 40/21

Matters Arising

Minute 18/21 should refer to 'Undertaking to engage with housing applicants' rather than tenants.

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Minute No. 41/21

Minutes for noting

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

Corporate Policy Group 3rd February 2021
Borough District of Drogheda 1st February 2021
Municipal District of Dundalk 2nd February 2021
Municipal District of Ardee 4th & 18th February 2021
Louth/ Newry, Mourne & Down District Council Strategic Alliance 11th November 2020
Climate Change & Energy SPC 8th December 2020

Minute No. 42/21

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

Meeting of the CPG was held at 9.00 am on Wednesday 3rd March 2021 by zoom, Members noted the minutes of the February meeting, and having discussed the format of remote meetings and agreed that remote meeting format would continue into April. An update on the Co. Dev. Plan was received.

CPG were given a briefing on items in the March Council Agenda.

Members were requested to use the official tracking system that is Sugar.

Minute No. 43/21

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

Housing SPC - Joanna Byrne reported on the 9th March 2021 meeting of the Housing SPC and advised SPC members had received presentations on:

- Homelessness
- The Disability Strategy

The next Housing SPC is to be held on 8th June, 2021.

Community SPC – Emma Coffey reported on the 12th March 2021 meeting of the Community SPC and advised SPC members had received a presentation from Graham Russell on Sports. The SPC complimented the Sports Center on recent initiatives, hosting Operation Transformation and the NQS award received.
The Work Plan was discussed.

The next Community SPC is to be held on 9th June, 2021.

Climate Action SPC – Liam Reilly reported on the 28th February 2021 meeting of the Climate Action SPC and advised SPC members discussed the Work Plan.

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Minute No. 44/21

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

Members noted all reports, and relevant Directors responded to queries raised.

The recent refusal of funding for the Port Access Route URDF application and the impact of this on Drogheda residents and environs was discussed in depth.

The following items were asked to be considered:

An update on Land Loans and Valuation of Lands
List of Low Cost Safety Measures
Consideration of sites in Ardee for Greening for 2022
Consultation with residents in Tullybrook Estate on proposed social housing and unfinished works
An update on planned timeline for Westgate Vision Project
A copy of the Road Works Programme
Publication of Gritting Criteria
Ongoing maintenance of Cycle lanes
A review of Muirhevnámór Green area
Increased enforcement on Dog Fouling
That LCC sign up to all Ireland Pollinator Plan

Minute No. 45/21

Suspension of Standing Orders

A motion to Suspend Standing Order no. 12 in order to discuss the urgent business of the closure of Dunleer branch of Bank of Ireland, along with other Bank of Ireland Branches was proposed by Cllr Hugh Conlon and seconded by Cllr. Pearse McGeough.

Following the discussion of the proposal a roll call vote was taken as follows:

For:

Cllrs: Marianne Butler, Paula Butterly, Joanna Byrne, Emma Coffey, Hugh Conlon, Edel Corrigan, Tom Cunningham, Maria Doyle, Seán Kelly, Pearse McGeough, Andrea McKevitt, Paddy McQuillan, Kevin Meenan, Dolores Minogue, Declan Power, Liam Reilly, Tomás Sharkey, John Sheridan, Pío Smith, Jim Tenanty, Eileen Tully, Antoin Watters, Maeve Yore

Total : 23 (twenty three)

Absent at time of vote:

Cllrs: James Byrne, Kevin Callan, Michelle Hall, Conor Keelan, Fiachra MacRaghnaill, John Reilly

Total : 6 (six)

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Minute No. 46/21

Section 85 Agreement - Louth County Council / Kildare County Council

Members received an overview of a proposed Section 85 agreement for Kildare County Council to carry out works on behalf of Louth County Council at Embankment on N52 at Ballygowan Ardee.

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Smith
Seconded by: Cllr. J. Tenanty
And resolved:

To confirm the agreement between Louth County Council and Kildare County Council in Accordance with the Provisions of Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001 to carry out works on behalf of Louth County Council at Embankment on N52 at Ballygowan, Ardee.

Minute No. 47/21

Audit Committee Charter and Annual Work Programme 2021

Joe McGuinness requested this matter be deferred to the April meeting following changes to wording of documents by the Audit Committee at their most recent meeting.

Minute No. 48/21

Vacancy – East Border Region

Cllr. Maria Doyle having resigned from the East Border Region Committee proposed that the Vacancy be filled by **Cllr. Paula Butterly**. This was seconded by Cllr. Maeve Yore.

Minute No. 49/21

Vacancy – AILG – Association of Irish Local Government

Cllr. Maria Doyle proposed that the Vacancy on the AILG (arising due to the nomination of Cllr. Colm Markey to the European Parliament) be filled by **Cllr. Paula Butterly**. This was seconded by Cllr. Andrea McKeivitt.

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Minute No. 50/21

Publicly Funded Housing Loans

Proposed by: Cllr. Joanna Byrne
Seconded by: Cllr. Marianne Butler
And resolved

"That this Council, through the provisions of the Local Government Act 2001, agrees to the following total maximum drawdown of €5,520,000.00 from the Housing Finance Agency for the funding of Housing Loans for Private House Purchases/Constructions and for Housing Loans under the Tenant Incremental Purchase Scheme"

Minute No.51/21

Placenames Committee - Standing Orders

Proposed by: Cllr. Marianne Butler
Seconded by: Cllr. Thomas Sharkey

Following discussion on the wording of document presented, and on the remit of the Committee, it was agreed that this would be further reviewed by the Management Team and brought back to the Members.

Minute No. 52/21

Drogheda BIDS Company

Cllr. Maeve Yore proposed that the Vacancy on the Drogheda BIDS Company (arising due to the resignation of Cllr. James Byrne) be filled by **Cllr Pío Smith**, and this was seconded by Cllr. Joanna Byrne.

Minute No. 53/21

Allocation of Community Grants February 2021

Proposed by: Cllr. Maeve Yore
Seconded by: Cllr. Joanna Byrne
And Resolved

To approve Members Community Grant Allocations as circulated with the agenda

Minute No. 54/21

LCDC Annual Report 2019

The Report as circulated with the Agenda was noted by the members

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Minute No. 55/21

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. Emma Coffey

Seconded by Cllr. Andrea McKeivitt

Calling on the Minister of Housing and/ or the Oireachtas members to amend the LDA Bill to remove s.49 and 56 of the bill as it is ultra virus the programme of Government and is a direct stripping of Local Government Councillors executive powers. Should this motion be passed that notification of it be furnished to all local authorities and the Minster for Local Government.

Therein followed a discussion by members on the motion and a request was made to resolve the motion proposed with amended wording to remove 'executive powers' and replace with 'reserved powers'. This was proposed by Cllr. Emma Coffey and Seconded by Cllr. Andrea McKeivitt.

Following the discussion of the proposal a roll call vote was taken as follows:

For: Cllrs: Marianne Butler, Paula Butterly, Joanna Byrne, Emma Coffey, Edel Corrigan, Tom Cunningham, Maria Doyle, Seán Kelly, Pearse McGeough, Andrea McKeivitt, Paddy McQuillan, Kevin Meenan, Dolores Minogue, Declan Power, Liam Reilly, Tomás Sharkey, John Sheridan, Pio Smith, Eileen Tully, Antoin Watters, Maeve Yore

Total: 21 (twenty-one)

Absent at time of vote: Cllrs: James Byrne, Kevin Callan, Hugh Conlon, Michelle Hall, Conor Keelan, Fiachra MacRaghnaill, John Reilly, Jim Tenanty

Total: 8 (eight)

Minute No. 56/21

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. E. Coffey

Seconded by Cllr. A. McKeivitt

And resolved

"Calling on Louth County Council to demand to be included as one of the Local Authorities to avail of the Fáilte Ireland outdoor dining Scheme"

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Minute No. 57/21

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. Joanna Byrne

Seconded by Cllr. Maeve Yore

“This council recognises the upset and distress that the destruction of records by the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby homes has caused to women, their families and their representative groups.

We feel that survivors have already waited far too long to access their records and call on the Minister for Children to publish without delay access to records legislation.

We also call on the Minister of Children to fully support Deputy Kathleen Funchion’s Civil Registration (Amendment) Bill 2021 to ensure that all adopted people are given unconditional access to their birth certificates.”

Minute No. 58/21

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. John Sheridan

Seconded by Cllr. Maria Doyle

That Louth Council County are concerned about the findings of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes overall and how a lifetime of Irish women and their babies were mistreated before, during and after their time in these "homes", up to the present day. The Council notes the naming of Louth County Council in the report and its interactions with other councils, religious institutions and particularly women themselves including referring women in Louth to institutions outside the county.

That the Council Executive would review references to then County Council in the report and also review to what extent archive material from the period are in possession of the Council and the routes these could be accessed by the victims to seek answers. That a report would be made to the Council about this matter and following that review, that the Council would seek to formally apologise for the actions of the then Council on this matter.

**In response to motion raised, the Chief Executive advised that we would further review and bring the matter back to a future meeting of CPG.
Members agreed to this action.**

Minute No. 59/21

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. Pearse McGeough

Seconded by Cllr. Joanna Byrne

That this council marks the Irish Language Festival of Seachtain na Gaeilge, which began on March 1st and that they acknowledge the fantastic work being done by groups in

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County Louth to keep the language alive. Seachtain na Gaeilge is the biggest Irish Language Festival in the calendar and I propose that Louth County Council mark this and invite Conradh na Gaeilge to present to this council when restrictions allow, an outline of how an Ghaeilge could be better supported in County Louth."

However a discussion took place around whether it would be more appropriate to invite Foras na Gaeilge as they might be the correct statutory body in this instance and members agreed for the Chief Executive to check and revert.

Minute No. 60/21

Notice of Question – Cllr. Conor Keelan

"Since 2019 how many individuals have been removed from the Housing List for reasons other than having been allocated a Council house and what have been the reasons in each case?"

Reply from P. Donnelly, Director of Services

Reason for Termination	2019	2020	2021
Applicant deceased	19	25	3
Left Administrative Area	42	26	6
Whereabouts unknown	34	44	1
Requested closure of file/Change in circumstances	10	3	1
Returned to Family Home/moved in with partner	13	24	1
Providing own accommodation	11	13	3
Joining application with another housing applicant	6	9	2
No reply to Further Information request	20	8	1
Over the income limit	64	59	3
No Contact from applicant	60	162	0
Moved into Nursing Home		3	0
Total	279	376	21

Minute No. 61/21

Motions from other Councils

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

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Minute No. 62/21

Condolences

Members expressed sympathy to the family and friends of:

Bernie Deery, Tuites Lane, Blackrock Co Louth
Billy Coyle, St Nicholas Ave Dundalk
Leo Kierans, Greenhills, Drogheda Co Louth
Mary Dowd , Farran Road, Dunleer

That concluded the business of the meeting.

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

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meetings Administrator: _____