

Minutes of the Municipal District of Ardee meeting held in the Mid Louth Civic Services Centre, Ardee on Thursday 15th January, 2015.

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach:	Cllr. J. Tenanty
Members:	Councillors: T. Cunningham, C. Markey, P. McGeough, L. Reilly, D. Minogue
Officials:	J. McGuinness, Director of Services G. Kelly, Senior Engineer P. Donnelly, Meetings Administrator
Apologies:	None

Minute No. 01/15

Minutes

The minutes of the Municipal District meeting held on Thursday 4th December, 2014 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. C. Markey and seconded by Cllr. D. Minogue. There were no matters arising.

Minute No. 02/15

Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads

The members noted the correspondence from Mary T. Daly, Acting Director of Services Infrastructure, in regard to the intention to proceed with the statutory process of declaring roads to be public at Ard na Tuire, Cloughan Bridge, Glyde View, Kilpatrick and Woodlands. This proposal was welcomed by all in attendance.

Minute No. 03/15

Housing and Communities Progress Report

Mr. Joe McGuinness, Director of Services presented the Housing and Communities Progress Report dated 5th January, 2015. In response to the members queries Mr. McGuinness confirmed that a Capital Budget had not yet been identified in relation to a House Purchase and/or Construction Scheme. The members would be kept advised of this matter.

Minute No. 04/15

Operations, Infrastructure and Marine Progress Report

Mr. Gerry Kelly, Senior Engineer presented the Operations, Infrastructure and Marine Progress Report dated 22nd December, 2014. The Senior Engineer addressed the members' queries in regard to the report.

The members were also advised that a draft proposed Road Works Programme would be circulated to the members for their consideration and they should revert to the Senior Engineer when having considered same, with a view to having the Road Works Programme being presented in full to the February meeting of Council. This would allow the tendering process commence as early as possible and ensure that the majority of the works listed on the programme would be completed during the summer months.

The Senior Engineer also addressed the issue of the pedestrian crossing at the Bank of Ireland in Ardee following a recent accident. The members were advised that the matter had been reviewed in the past and it is difficult to find an ideal location for the crossing. The Senior Engineer would be considering the addition of further signage in advance of the crossing for motorist's attention.

In regard to the Western Bypass, the Senior Engineer confirmed that the fencing of the project is ongoing and the project would be described as shovel ready. While there is no funding available at present, should funding become available at short notice as a result of a delay in another project Louth County Council would be in the position to progress the matter in a speedy manner.

The Senior Engineer advised the members that in regard to the recent incident of snow and ice on the N2, that the road had been gritted on four occasions and crews did deploy to a number of incidents where traffic had got into particular difficulty. The extent of the snow and ice, while localised, was intense and did create significant driving hazard despite the road being gritted on four occasions.

Minute No. 05/15

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. T. Cunningham

Seconded by: Cllr P. McGeough

"That Louth County Council carry out a road safety survey at the pedestrian crossing in Collon at school times to see if road safety measures can be improved upon"

Reply:

This survey will be included in the 2015 works programme.

Minute No. 06/15

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. D. Minogue

Seconded by Cllr. L. Reilly

"That a bus shelter be placed at the boys school that will suit those who are waiting on buses, and that the shelter that is facing the field be used as a changing room for school and clubs."

Reply:

The Council will explore the feasibility of providing a bus shelter with the National Transport Authority and the Bus Service providers.

Minute No. 07/15

Notice of Question

The following Notice of Question from Cllr. Dolores Minogue was noted by the members:

"Can ramps be placed between the two Carrick and Dundalk road roundabouts, due to complaints of speed?"

Reply:

This road is a national road, and the installation of ramps on this road would require the prior consent of the National Roads Authority. In addition, the ramps are not considered as an appropriate traffic calming measure for this class and function of road and therefore, it is recommended that ramps are not installed at this location.

Minute No. 08/15

Correspondence

Members noted correspondence from the County Louth Archaeological and Historical Society in regard to Ardee Castle and would encourage the area team and those responsible for the Castle to do what they can to maintain this important structure in Ardee.

Members also noted a request from a group in Dunleer which had been received from Mr. Hugh Conlon seeking an opportunity to discuss recent flooding issues that occurred in Dunleer with the members. Following clarification by the Meetings Administrator that any group presenting at a meeting would have an opportunity to have two delegates speak for a maximum of 15 minutes, the members felt that it might be more appropriate to facilitate a bigger group in a less formal setting. It was therefore agreed that the group of residents who wish to meet the members could do so at 5.00 pm in advance of the next Municipal District meeting. It was also agreed that as the December meeting had not taken place in Dunleer as planned, that the February meeting subject to the availability of the venue would now be hosted in the Market House, Dunleer on Thursday 5th February, with the above residents being facilitated at 5.00 pm. The members also agreed that a formal delegation from the group would be permitted to present at the meeting should that be necessary, this was agreed by all in attendance on the proposal of the Cathaoirleach.

Minute No. 09/15

Suspension of Standing Orders

It was proposed by the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. J. Tenanty and seconded by Cllr. L. Reilly in accordance with Standing Order No. 69, to suspend Standing Orders to permit discussion on a number of issues.

1. Query in regard to Municipal Allocation

Mr. Joe McGuinness, Director of Services circulated to the members details of expenditure incurred by the former Ardee Town Council in regard to projects and support of the Mid Louth Town, together with details of the Municipal Allocations. The members discussed this in some detail and agreed to revert to the Meetings Administrator by 12th February with proposals as to how the Municipal Allocation and the other allocations would be spent in the Municipal area in the coming year. The Director reminded the members that they should consider the entire Municipal area, and not just the main centres of population.

On the proposal of Cllr. L. Reilly and seconding of Cllr. D. Minogue it was agreed to allocate €2,250 to the Ardee Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee and to do so at this early stage to allow them to plan for what is our national celebration 'Lá le Padraig'.

2. Operation Transformation

Cllr. Dolores Minogue reminded members of the local participant in the RTE production Operation Transformation, and events that are to be held in Ardee in support of this event.

There being no other business the meeting concluded.

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

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meetings Administrator: _____