

Municipal District of Ardee – June 2015

Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Ardee held in the Mid Louth Civic Services Centre, Ardee, on Thursday 4th June, 2015 following the Annual General Meeting.

In attendance:

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

Minute No. 54/15

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th May, 2015 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. Reilly and seconded by Cllr. Cunningham.

There were no matters arising.

Minute No. 55/15

Garda Superintendent

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Superintendent Andrew Watters of An Garda Síochána, the recently appointed Superintendent to the Ardee/Mid Louth Area.

Superintendent Watters thanked the Cathaoirleach and the members for their kind invitation and he was delighted to have the opportunity to meet all the Councillors and Officials, some of whom he had the opportunity to engage with on the Joint Policing Committee Steering Group. The Superintendent outlined his most recent role involved international liaisons and protection and outlined his experience working in Dublin as a Superintendent. Since his arrival in Ardee he has been very impressed by the community spirit in Ardee and the Mid Louth Area. He had a number of ideas that he wished to implement including getting members of the Gardai back on the beat and having a high presence of Gardai in the area of operation. He would also endeavour to ensure that the Garda Stations were manned as frequently as possible in order to provide an improved service and easier access to the members of the community. He is encouraging his members of An Garda Síochána to get involved with community activities and to be available to

support, within their resources, community events that would happen across their jurisdiction.

The members welcomed the comments of the Superintendent and noted some of the changes that had already happened since his arrival, and they looked forward to working with him in the years ahead.

In response to some queries, the Superintendent confirmed that the Divisional Traffic Unit resources were available to the District and it is a resource he will call upon as and when required. In regard to Halloween arrangements it was agreed that the Superintendent would re-visit the matter and present his views and proposals on the matter to the members at their September meeting. He looked forward to working with the members in regard to the Community Safety Strategy through the Joint Policing Structure.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the Superintendent for his attendance.

Minute No. 56/15

Ardee Municipal District Budget

Mr. Joe McGuinness, Director of Services, presented the proposed expenditure in relation to the Municipal District Allocation and noted that the members had discussed this at length at a number of workshops in the previous weeks. The expenditure as presented was proposed by Cllr. Tenanty and seconded by Cllr. Reilly. There was a show of hands in regard to this with five (5) elected members in favour and one (1) against. Cllr. Minogue requested that her objection to the expenditure as drafted be recorded.

Minute No. 57/15

Municipal District Amenity Grants

A proposal in relation to Municipal District Grants was circulated to the members for their approval. This was proposed by Cllr. Tenanty and seconded by Cllr. Reilly.

Cllr. McGeough raised the matter of community groups having to have a bank account and the difficulty this was causing some local communities. The Director of Service advised this was a legislative requirement and it was expected that in the future it would become more onerous, as expenditure will most likely have to be vouched for.

Cllr. T. Cunningham expressed his disappointment that pro rata there was not a fair distribution of the grant money as set out.

There was a show of hands called for with Cllrs. Markey, Reilly, Minogue and Tenanty in favor and Cllrs. McGeough and Cunningham against.

Minute No. 58/15

Housing and Communities Progress Report

Mr. Joe McGuinness, Director of Services, presented the Housing and Communities Progress Report dated 27th May, 2015. A number of issues were raised in regard to the report including Choice Based Lettings and the HAP Scheme.

Minute No. 59/15

Operations, Infrastructure and Marine Progress Report

Mr. Gerry Kelly, Senior Engineer presented the Operations, Infrastructure and Marine Progress Report dated 25th May, 2015. A number of queries from the members were addressed by the Senior Engineer.

Minute No. 60/15

Notice of Motion

**Proposed by Cllr McGeough and Cllr Cunningham
Seconded by Cllr Tenanty**

"That Louth County Council commission a traffic management plan for Ardee"

REPLY:

Louth Local Authorities engaged Consultants for the development and presentation to the Council in 2013, of an Active Travel Town Walking & Cycle Strategy for the towns of Drogheda and Ardee, in line with the Louth County Council Development Plan and Government policy including the Smarter Travel Policy and the National Cycle Policy Framework. The Council can examine the requirement for a further traffic management plan for Ardee in line with strategic policy. Currently there is no funding for such an engagement, but if specific issues are raised in discussion with elected members then they may be capable of being dealt with in-house.

Minute No. 61/15

Notice of Motion

**Proposed by Cllr Minogue
Seconded by Cllr Tenanty**

"That the weeds on Ardee Castle be dealt with"

REPLY:

In consultation with the Conservation Officer, we will investigate the work required and a suitable methodology to deal with the weeds on this monument.

Minute No. 62/15

Notice of Question

Cllr. D. Minogue

"Is there any development on the naming of the link road?"

REPLY:

This is not a public road at present and therefore there is no plan to name it.

This was noted by the members.

There being no other business the meeting concluded.

The Minutes were confirmed at the meeting held on:-

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meetings Administrator: _____