

Municipal District of Ardee – October 2015

Minutes of the Municipal District of Ardee meeting held in the Mid Louth Civic Services Centre, Ardee, on Thursday 1st October, 2015 at 5.30 pm.

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach:	Cllr. C. Markey
Members:	Councillors: T. Cunningham, J. Tenanty, P. McGeough, L. Reilly D. Minogue
Officials:	J. McGuinness, Director of Services P. Donnelly, Director of Services/Meetings Administrator G. Kelly, Senior Engineer M. Murtagh, Senior Executive Officer
Guests:	Superintendent Andrew Watters, An Garda Síochána Ann Clarke, Tús Co-ordinator, Louth Leader Partnership Aibhlín McCrann, Communiqué International
Apologies:	none

Minute No. 81/15

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 3rd September, 2015.

Proposed by: Cllr. L. Reilly,
Seconded by: Cllr. T. Cunningham

Minute No. 82/15

Matters arising

In regard to Minute No. 78/15 for clarification, following the motion of Cllr. Minogue in relation to Ardee Castle, it was proposed by Cllr. Colm Markey and seconded by Cllr. Tom Cunningham that Fingal County Council be invited to the Municipal District Meeting to update the members on the current position in regard to the Castle.

Minute No. 73/15, Cllr Reilly raised the matter of funds available to Ardee Tidy Towns. The Director of Service confirmed that the amount paid in 2014, would be available again to the Tidy Towns in the current year.

Cllr. Reilly also raised the matter of safety works at Louth Village. Senior Engineer, Mr. Gerry Kelly, confirmed that the proposal had not yet been fully developed and he expected he would have full details for the November meeting.

Minute No. 83/15

Suspension of Standing Orders

The Cathaoirleach sought the member's indulgence to note a number of issues; this was seconded by Cllr. Dolores Minogue.

The Cathaoirleach noted and welcomed the €50,000 allocation in relation to the REDZ initiative for Ardee, noting that there was a second project for Drogheda. Based on the small number of projects that had been agreed around the country, it was welcoming and heartening to see that Ardee was included in the list.

The Cathaoirleach congratulated all concerned in Ardee Tidy Towns on re-gaining their bronze medal and for scoring their highest score to date in the Tidy Towns Competition. Tallanstown were also congratulated on winning their silver medal in the Tidy Towns Awards and Dromiskin were congratulated on winning the Youth Award in the Tidy Towns Competition. The effectiveness of the CE and Tús Scheme workers in contributing to the Tidy Towns achievements was also noted and commended by the members.

The St. Mary's football team were congratulated on winning the Under 16 Championship.

The Louth Lady's football team were congratulated on winning the All-Ireland Junior Championship, and in particular the Captain of the team, Michelle McMahon, from the Mid Louth Area.

These were unanimously agreed and supported by all the members present.

Minute No. 84/15

Halloween Measures

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Superintendent Andrew Watters to the meeting and noted that this was the Superintendents second time in presenting to the Municipal District Meeting despite the fact that he is only a short number of months in the Ardee District.

The Garda Superintendent thanked the members for their invitation, and outlined to the members in some detail the activities that An Garda Síochána would be engaging in over the Halloween period, in order to ensure that the celebrations are enjoyed by all. He said that he and his team will be as proactive as possible in supporting events and they are identifying a number of issues that he would ask the

members to hold in confidence as he did not wish to outline fully his operational plans in the public arena at this stage. He confirmed that arrest would be the last course of action, but where individuals engage in activities that were preventing others from enjoying the evening, his members would have no hesitation and no option but to initiate such measures. The Superintendent invited the members to bring to him directly any issues which they felt were of such a specific nature that caused problems in the past and he would endeavour to work with them to ensure that they were addressed and not an issue on the night.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the Superintendent for his attendance and wished him and his team every success in their policing and making Halloween a safe and enjoyable night for all in the Municipal District.

Minute No. 85/15

School Wardens for Collon/Ardee Area

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Ann Clarke, Tús Co-ordinator, Louth Leader Partnership. Ms. Clarke circulated some promotional information in relation to the Tús Scheme and outlined to the members how the Tús Scheme works and the availability of individuals for work in the Municipal area. In particular in regard to School Wardens, Ms Clarke highlighted issues in ensuring that there was continuity of work for any participant on such a scheme.

Following a lengthy discussion on the matter, it was agreed that the members would revert to Ms. Clarke with proposals in regard to nominating a body who might support Tús workers, and may include work in relation to school wardens as part of the position. This would need further discussion with the Operations Section of the County Council. Ms. Clarke was thanked for her attendance and the members looked forward to working with her in the future.

Minute No. 86/15

Local Economic & Community Plan Process

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Aibhlín McCrann, Communiqué International, who together with the Director of Services Mr. Joe McGuinness outlined to the members the process in relation to the Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP).

Ms. McCrann outlined that there were two elements to the plan, the Economic strategy and the Community strategy. She outlined that the timeline for submissions and observations on the plan had been extended and she would encourage the Elected Members and members of the community to engage with the process. She

reminded the members of a conference that would be held on 14th October to progress the development of the plan and to ensure as much local and community engagement as possible could be had in the plan process.

The Director of Service confirmed that sign off on the plan had now been extended to 28th February, 2016 and he expected that they would meet this deadline.

Ms. McCrann was thanked for her ongoing engagement in this process, and the members looked forward to attending the event on 14th October.

Minute No. 87/15

Housing & Communities Progress Report

Mr. Joe McGuinness, Director of Services, presented the Housing and Communities progress report dated 21st September, 2015 and addressed the members' queries in relation to same.

Minute No. 88/15

Infrastructure, Operations & Marine Progress Report

Mr. Gerry Kelly, Senior Engineer, presented the October Report and addressed the members' queries in relation to same.

Mr. Kelly outlined that the winter gritting programme would commence with effect from 19th October and all regional and national routes in the county would be on the gritting route as has been the practice to date. He outlined that maps in relation to same would be posted on our website.

There was some discussion in regard to the availability of salt supplies for schools etc. Mr. Kelly outlined that this was a matter for the schools and it was not a matter for the Council to provide supplies in this manner.

Cllr. McGeough raised the matter of the footpath from Commons Grove to Dromiskin Village centre. This was supported by Cllr. Liam Reilly. The members sought the installation of a footpath where there is none to improve road safety for the residents walking from the housing development to the village centre, and if this would be possible under the Village Renewal Scheme. Mr. Kelly advised the members that he would keep the matter under consideration and if a source of funding became available he would be happy to access same.

Minute No. 89/15

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. D. Minogue

Seconded by Cllr. C. Markey

"That this council agree to install a skate park in the Fair Green Park, Ardee."

REPLY:

Louth County Council have no plans to install such a facility in Ardee.

The Director of Services outlined that there had been no call from any particular group nor was there evidence of a need for a skate park in the town of Ardee. There followed a discussion in the matter in regard to such facilities and the Director advised that should funding become available and a need for the facility be identified he would be happy to make application for such funding.

Minute No. 90/15

Fireworks for Halloween

On the proposal of Cllr. Reilly and seconding of Cllr. Minogue it was proposed that the €2,700 allocated for the Twinning function be allocated to a Halloween fireworks display in St. Marys field in Ardee. This was agreed by all.

There being no other business the meeting concluded.

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

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meetings Administrator: _____