

## **Municipal District of Ardee – June 2016**

---

Minutes of Municipal District of Ardee meeting held in the Mid Louth Civic Services Centre, Ardee on Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2016 at 5.30 p.m.

### **In attendance:**

**Cathaorleach:** Councillor Dolores Minogue

**Members:** Councillors: T. Cunningham, P. McGeough, C. Markey,  
L. Reilly, J. Tenanty

**Officials:** Joe McGuinness, Director of Services  
Gerry Kelly, Senior Engineer  
Fiona Downes, Meetings Administrator

### **Minute No. 46/16**

### **Votes of Sympathy**

Votes of sympathy were extended to the family and friends of Mr. Mick Slevin.

### **Minute No. 47/16**

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2016, were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. T. Cunningham and seconded by Cllr. C. Markey.

### **Minute No. 48/16**

### **Matters arising**

- Minute No. 39/16 – G. Kelly, Senior Engineer advised that Infrastructure is looking after Annagassan Harbour and that he will ask for an update on the time span for carrying out the work as the cockle season will be open very soon.
- G. Kelly advised that Salterstown Pier is still closed but swimming is not prohibited. The new handrail will hopefully be in place in the next three weeks.
- Thanks were expressed for works carried out on manhole at Scoil Mhuire na Trocaire.
- Minute No, 40/16 – members requested a budget meeting to be held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June at 5.30 pm. Proposals to be in by Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2016.

## **Minute No. 49/16**

### **Housing and Communities Progress Report**

During discussion on the Report issued with the Agenda the following matters were raised:

- Congratulations were extended re the first choice based lettings in Ardee.
- Query on whether the start and completion dates for Louth Village were realistic.
- Only areas zoned residential would be used for the Dunleer housing scheme.
- J McGuinness, Director of Services gave an update on HAGs and MAGs schemes outlining that the scheme is now closed. Priority 1 applicants were being approved at this stage.
- Member noted that 641 applicants on the housing list at present. Situation is in crisis and there are no schemes in Ardee currently under construction.
- Query regarding purchase of houses in Oaklee development. Joe McGuinness, Director of Services advised that units are not purchasable by law.
- House sizes should be bigger to facilitate families staying in them. J. McGuinness, Director of Services advised that the housing schemes have to be approved by the Department and changes will be made if the units are too big or too small.

## **Minute No. 50/16**

### **Operations, Marine and Infrastructure Report**

During discussion on the Report issued with the Agenda the following matters were raised:

- G. Kelly, Senior Engineer advised that footpaths in Dromiskin would be addressed before year end.
- G. Kelly, Senior Engineer would ask to an update from Infrastructure re coastal erosion locations.
- Thanks were extended for works carried out on footpaths in Dunleer.
- Request for additional bins in Clogherhead Harbour. G. Kelly, Senior Engineer to investigate the position re additional bins.
- G. Kelly, Senior Engineer advised that surfacing dressing is taking priority at present and when the current workload eases, potholes will be addressed.
- Congratulations were extended to engineering staff, especially S. O'Reilly on works carried out on Railway Walk.
- G. Kelly, Senior Engineer advised that the contract has been awarded for repair works on Dawson's Demense and he will check commencement of same. Recoupment of costs will be assessed.

- Query re moving lights from locations that no longer warrant same and the need for lighting from Mountainview to Dunleer under the railway bridge and from Annagassan to Ballygassan. G. Kelly, Senior Engineer advised that public lighting puts pressure on the roads budget and that a National audit has been carried out listing every pole as energy usage has to be reduced. They will be reviewing list again thereby giving an up to date list of every light in the County. The list can be extended to allow for housing estates that have been taken in charge.
- G. Kelly, Senior Engineer advised that there is perfectly good sight distance around the hedge at Collon (Drogheda Road into Collon) and he also stated that the council doesn't have the authority to remove the hedge as it is the boundary to private property.
- Acknowledgement was given for the work carried out on the drains in Dromiskin as it has released water where it was ponding.
- The members requested that a letter be forwarded to the Minister inviting him to meet with them regarding the Western Bypass.

## **Minute No. 51/16**

### **Notices of Motion**

**Proposed by Cllr. T. Tenanty**

**Seconded by Cllr. C. Markey**

' That Louth County Council in connection with Bord Fáilte & Heritage Council, use Ardee Castle as the tourist attraction and focal point of Ardee town & Mid Louth in the Ancient East and Tourism Gem in the Area. Work on the castle should be immediately looked into so that any one visiting the area should have the opportunity of visiting this wonderful attraction in our town and area which in a site of International Importance.'

#### **REPLY:**

**Louth Co. Co. has explored various funding options in the past including with Failte Ireland and the Heritage Council. Unfortunately funding has not been readily identifiable.**

**Ardee Castle is included in our three year capital programme and we will continue to explore all potential funding opportunities to make safe and refurbish the castle.**

Members fully supported the motion. J. McGuinness, Director of Services advised that the refurbishment project is continuing and that the internal capital funding being provided demonstrates the council's commitment to the project. He also advised that Fingal County Council pulled out of the project this month due to resources being needed for their housing programme. Members would like a public meeting with the wider community but prior to this they have requested that the Chief Executive attend to discuss plans and timeframes of proposed works. This to be included in the July agenda.

### **Notices of Question**

The following Notices of question were noted by the members:

**Minute No. 52/16**

**Cllr. J. Tenanty**

'Is Louth County Council considering running out the pilot scheme of open Libraries to Louth and if so would Ardee be ideal for this pilot project'

**REPLY:**

**Currently a review of Open Libraries is being carried out in the three pilots by the Department and Libraries Development, LGMA. Pending a completion of the review of the pilot phase, Open Libraries will be rolled-out on an incremental basis across libraries nationally. A review of which libraries in Louth will be considered for inclusion can be discussed at that stage of the process.**

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

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

Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_