

Municipal District of Ardee – October 2022

Minutes of the Municipal District of Ardee meeting hosted in the Dermot O'Brien Room, Ardee Civic Offices, Ardee on 6th October 2022 at 4.30 p.m.

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Councillor Paula Butterly

Members: Councillors: Dolores Minogue, Pearse McGeough, John Sheridan, Jim Tenanty

Apologies: Councillor(s): Bernie Conlon

Officials: Joe McGuinness Director of Services
Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator
John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer
Declan McMahon, Senior Executive Engineer
Keith McArdle, Assistant Engineer

Minute No. 94/22

Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 2nd September, 2022 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr Pearse McGeough and seconded by Cllr Dolores Minogue.

Minute No. 95/22

Matters Arising

- The members raised the issue of the pedestrian crossing on the Main Street and indeed it's location. It was noted that there was a recent road traffic accident in the vicinity of same involving a truck and a pedestrian. Members requested upgrade to the crossing in the first instance with change of location thereafter. The injured party was wished well by Members. It was noted that this matter was already under review by TII.
- Yellow box upgrade queries were responded to
- The acknowledgement of Minister Ryan to the letter issued by member was welcomed

Minute No. 96/22

Housing Progress Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting, and John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer answered queries raised.

- Members will be updated with timelines for allocations of units at Tierney St when available
- Stoney Lane units were praised, and members advised all will be housed with persons from Louth County council social housing list
- Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund Scheme – 11 applications have been received, more expected. Inspections will be required and resources allocated to this new initiative.

- A request was made that Planning condition new housing estates with one access/egress point only
- No funding available for a windows & doors scheme but it is hoped to ramp up the Energy Efficiency Programmes next year, department funding dependant
- New questionnaires are required for the recently adopted Scheme of Priority for Affordable Dwellings

Minute No. 97/22

Placemaking and Physical Development Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting. Declan McMahon Senior Engineer addressed matters raised.

Director of Services Joe McGuinness was thanked for the recent announcement that a Pop up Pool was coming to Ardee in January, and consideration of a permanent pool requested.

Members thanked officials for various works carried out including resurfacing works, subsidence repair, and for the purchase and installation of the road sweeper from discretionary funds.

Along with dips in road, flooding, manhole cover noise issues, footpath and road subsidence repair, traffic calming, road safety and signage requests, sign relocation for visibility & sign cleaning, road resurfacing, road lines, at various locations, the following items were highlighted:

- Projects cancelled under the 2022 Road Works Programme will be given priority in 2023
- Disabled bays and associated lowering of footpaths were requested on Beechwood Drive to accommodate those using the disabled equipment in the park
- Pole at new Aldi site hindering accessibility on footpath will be referred to relevant body

Minute No. 98/22

Taking in Charge Report

Director of Services Joe McGuinness introduced Keith McArdle, Technician as the new contact for Taking in Charge. Members welcomed Keith to the meeting.

Queries were raised on various estates in the area including Chapel View, Coopers Place, and Fosters Close.

***Cllr Jim Tenanty declared a possible conflict of interest when a query was raised on Fosters Close and left the meeting for the duration of the response.**

Members were advised of ongoing efforts to engage with Irish Water and Developers in estates, and that an estate once gated no longer qualifies for Taking in Charge as it becomes a gated development.

Minute No. 99/22

Motion: Cllr John Sheridan

Seconded by: Cllr Pearse McGeough

"That Louth County Council would consider the provision of a civilly owned and operated cemetery in Mid-Louth including space for traditional style burials and a columbarium wall for cremated remains to allow for interments of citizens of all religious backgrounds and none."

Reply from C. Duff, Director of Place Making and Physical Development

The Council has no plans to develop a cemetery in Mid Louth. The Council will explore the proposal for a columbarium wall for cremated remains in County Louth

Speaking on the motion Cllr Sheridan welcomed consideration of the proposal for a columbarian wall. Noting the results of the previous census where 17% cited no religious beliefs, and perceived lack of burial space in Mid-Louth Cllr Sheridan called for consideration of a non-denominational graveyard. A request was made for Louth County Council to be updated to reference burial policy.

Cllr Tenanty advised of a planning application being submitted soon for burial grounds in Mid Louth by the local parish and considered that this might encompass all.

All councillors present supported the motion and the inclusivity of all persons and beliefs.

Minute No. 100/22

Motion: Cllr Jim Tenanty

Seconded by: Cllr Paula Butterly

"That this council call for the reinstatement of the windmill and turbine at the civic offices at fair green Ardee as Energy and sustainable alternative in these worrying times "

Reply from J. McGuinness, Director of Organisational Development

"Wind turbines require annual maintenance and regular monitoring to ensure their proper operation. The wind turbine installed at Ardee Civic Centre did not generate sufficient electrical energy to cover the maintenance costs. Accordingly, it was removed for more suitable use.

Louth County Council has a multi-annual plan to address energy use across all of our buildings, with a view to achieving our target to reduce emissions by 51% by 2030. It is envisaged that energy use in all buildings including Ardee Civic Centre will be addressed as part of that programme. "

Speaking on the motion Cllr Tenanty referred to the construction of Ardee Civic Offices in 2010 which he said were state of the art and ahead of their time and had one of the first turbines in the area, which was then predicated to be able to provide more energy than necessary and sell some back to the grid. He felt the response did not reflect the product installed.

Cllr Butterly agreeing with Cllr Tenanty felt that technology had moved on since 2010 and this could be revisited, a sentiment that was shared by other councillors present.

Director of Services, Joe McGuinness agreed that while the Gap to Target plan to reduce energy usage had not particular plans for Ardee Civic Offices that he would look again at the proposal and feedback any updates to Members.

Minute No. 101/22

Congratulations

Congratulations were offered to the two St. Mary's teams on recent success, along with Naoimh Finbars Ladies team who beat Ardee Ladies Senior Ladies team who were themselves offered commiserations.

Minute No. 102/22

Condolences

Condolences were extended to the family and friends of:

- o Joseph (Joe) Torres, Lawlesstown, Dunleer following a tragic accident. Cllrs remarked on his many community and charitable efforts and good works and how he was well known and respected by the Community.
- o All those who had passed in the area.

Minute No. 103/22

AOB

Members requesting an updated presentation on Ardee 2040 were advised of quarterly attendance by the Placemaking Physical Development staff.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date:

3 Nov 2022

Cathaoirleach:

D. W. M. G.

Meeting Administrator:

A. P. M. G.