

Municipal District of Ardee - April 2021

Minutes of the Municipal District of Ardee meeting hosted in The Council Chamber County Hall, Dundalk on Thursday 1st April at 4.30 p.m. and attended remotely over MS Teams.

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Councillor John Sheridan - Present in Chamber

Members: Remote Attendees: Councillors P. Butterly, H. Conlon, D. Minogue, P. McGeough, J. Tenanty

Officials: Joe McGuinness, Director of Services - Present in Chamber
Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator - Present in Chamber
John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer - Remote
David Hanratty, Senior Engineer - Remote
Declan McMahon, Senior Executive Engineer - Remote
Emma Eaton, Staff Officer, Corporate Services - Present in Chamber

Minute No. 35/21

Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 4th March were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. D. Minogue and seconded by Cllr. J. Tenanty

Minute No. 36/21

Matters Arising

- None arising

However updates were requested on reports from previous meetings and Declan McMahon responded on items raised.

Minute No. 37/21

Housing Progress Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting and John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer advised Members on all items

Clarification was sought on the following items:

- Timeframe for Moate View, Upper Main St., Dunleer to be taken over for housing.
- Handover of keys for Fr. Finn Park units.

The number of Housing Applications for Mid-Louth was confirmed as 718.

Minute No. 38/21

Operations and Marine Progress Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting, thanked council officials for maps provided. Declan McMahon, Senior Executive Engineer responded on all Operations Matters with Joe McGuinness, Director of Service and David Hanratty, Senior Engineer, responding also on some matters.

The following matters were noted:

- Ongoing late night illegal dumping of WEEE at R132 Dunleer
- Dangerous footpath in Castlebellingham at Malthouse
- Safety concerns at shop at Carron's Cross, Togher following a number of accidents

Road safety, potholes and suggested traffic calming measures in various areas was discussed, and it was requested that Louth County Council look at replacing 80kph signage with grey signs as the 80kph as this is seen as a target, rather than a limit.

Minute No. 39/21

Taking in Charge Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting. The time frame to take estates in charge was a matter of discussion and James Searson, Executive Engineer responded on all Matters raised.

Members thanked James for his assistance and wished him well in his promotion as this was his last meeting.

Minute No. 40/21

Climate Action Video

David Hanratty, Senior Engineer introduced a Climate Action Video compiled by the Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) for Members which was well received.

Minute No. 41/21

Roads Work Programme 2021

Members thanked officials and welcomed the Road Works Programme and raised some queries on items in the report and on roads not covered within programme. Declan McMahon, Senior Engineer advised Members on all queries raised.

Minute No. 42/21

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. P. McGeough

Seconded by: Cllr. D. Minogue

“That Louth County Council take in charge the lane running at north end of Killanny Graveyard. To access the five houses and one business on this lane that are in County Louth you have to traverse 50 yards in Co Monaghan.”

Amended response in light of clarity on original motion submitted in February:

Louth County Council currently does not have sufficient resources to maintain its entire road network and is therefore not in a position to take on additional liabilities.

Cllr. P. McGeough expressed disappointment at Council Response to what was a 322m length of lane. J. McGuinness advised that having confirmed the intention of the motion was to take over service from Monaghan that this would have required a S85 agreement.

Minute No. 43/21

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Minogue

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Butterly

“That this council would provide communication boards to be installed in playgrounds throughout Ardee. These boards allow children who are non-verbal or have challenges communicating to express themselves, increasing inclusion and independence.”

Reply from Ms. C. Duff, Director of Services, Operations:

Louth County Council will endeavour to provide and install such communication boards to playgrounds when external funding for such work becomes available. The current resources are required for the ongoing maintenance.

Cllr. D. Minogue suggested that if funding was not available that perhaps discretionary funding could be provided for this.

Minute No. 44/21

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Tenanty

Seconded by: Cllr. D. Minogue

“That Ardee municipal council call on Louth county council to take in charge Cappocksgreen road connecting Ardee town to the N33 as this road is a significant part of the infrastructure of the town and a part of the progression and development projects in this area.”

Reply from Mr. F. Pentony, Director of Services, Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development:

An application was received in July 2020 to have this road taken in charge by the Council but the application was incomplete. The Council sought the outstanding documentation and reports on 6th August 2020 and I understand that the developer is working to compile all outstanding documentation requested. On receipt of same the matter can be considered further.

Members noted and welcomed council response to this motion. J.McGuinness stated that he appreciated members patience on this matter as this was subject to a very complex legal process with many players.

Minute No. 45/21

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. P. McGeough

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Sheridan

“That Louth County Council carry out a Village Health Check on Kilsaran /Castlebellingham similar to those done in other towns and villages in Mid Louth area.”

Reply from Mr. P. Donnelly, Director of Services, Housing and Quality of Life:

A small number of village Health Checks have been carried out in the past where specific funding opportunities presented to fund such work. There are currently no sources of funding for further village health checks/plans. The matter will be considered if funding opportunities are identified at a future date.

Cllr. P. Mc Geough noted response and that no funding was currently available but appreciated that this was a start to getting this over the line.

Minute No. 46/21

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Sheridan

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Tenanty

“That Councillors get an update on the Councils plans to provide off street parking in Dunleer.”

Reply from Mr. F. Pentony, Director of Services, Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development:

The Council carried out an initial survey of vacant sites in the area, but a more detailed examination will be required and a report will be presented to Council in the coming months.

Minute No. 47/21

Correspondence from the Minister for Finance

Members noted the correspondence received, and the Cathaoirleach advised of a very positive response received from the Regional Manager of the Bank of Ireland and the staff of the branch in Dunleer.

Cllr. P. Butterly noted that over 100 accounts in the branch were held by residents of St. Marys in Drumcar who experienced enough challenges without the inconvenience of having to travel to Drogheda.

Members wondered why accounts were being moved to Drogheda and not to Ardee branch and whether this was indicative of future plans to close Ardee branch.

It was noted that 15,000 voters represented by 6 Members live within the mid-louth area and members requested that the Cathaoirleach hold a public zoom meeting on what is in store for Ardee under the County Development Plan. This was agreed.

Minute No. 48/21

Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to:

- Two young girls, Shanelle Smyth and Laura Byrne who raised over €4,000 for the Irish Cancer Society on Daffodil Day 2021.
- The Smyth Family, Dromiskin on their successful Raw Milk product which was gaining much accolade.

Minute No. 49/21

Condolences

Members extended sympathy to the family and friends of:

- Christopher (Christy) Kearney, Castlebellingham, ex Louth County Council staff

And all those who had died in the area.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meeting Administrator: _____