

## Municipal District of Ardee – January 2022

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Minutes of the Municipal District of Ardee meeting hosted over MS Teams in on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 4.30 p.m.

**In attendance:** *All attendance was remote.*

**Cathaoirleach:** Councillor J. Tenanty

**Members:** Councillors: P. Butterly, B. Conlon, D. Minogue, P. McGeough, J. Sheridan

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

### Minute No. 1/22

#### Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. Dolores Minogue and seconded by Cllr. Pearse McGeough.

### Minute No. 2/22

#### Matters Arising

**Minute 118/21** which stated

*'The following non-operations items were noted:*

- *Members raised concerns regarding the method and timeframe of notification of the Irish Water 'Do Not Consume' notice to those affected. Joe McGuinness, Director of Services advised he would bring this back to the Director of Water Services.'*

The members claimed this did not properly reflect the concerns raised in relation to the presence of contaminants at Greenmount Water Plant and communications on the issue. The Members called for a full investigation by Irish Water into what happened. Members advised of nearly 4000 citizens in area, including elderly residents and felt communications by Irish Water 'left a serious lot to be desired' and advised of other issues at the plant having occurred last weekend.

Cllr. John Sheridan asked if it might be possible to request Irish Water to meet the six Ardee Councillors separately outside of statutory meetings.

**Cllr. John Sheridan proposed** a letter issue to Irish Water requesting a meeting to discuss the matter.

**Cllr. Pearse McGeough seconded** this motion, and this was supported by Members.

**Part 8 Ardee Bypass** – Members queried if they should have been updated by Infrastructure on the legal challenge by a local group to the N52 Bypass and requested an update. Joe McGuinness Director of Services advised Members that Louth County Council had written to An Bord Pleanala asking if an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Appropriate Assessment was required for the Planning Approval Process and the Bord directed that it wasn't. Third Parties have now through the High Court challenge that aspect. Louth County Council are seeking legal advice on how this affects any process. Members were advised that this will most certainly delay works as it will be dependant on any decision of the courts and there is no specific time frame on when it must be heard. Members expressed concerns on any delay and restated the need for a bypass in Ardee for the future growth of the town.

### **Minute No. 3/22**

#### **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:

- It would be checked if four units allocated in Clonmore which were refused would go back on Choice Based Letting and Members would be updated.
- Members asked officials to communicate to those without access to internet when Choice Based Letting properties become available. Members were advised that Customer Services and Library Staff were willing to assist any person presenting expressing interest in units, and can provide information on properties, but following that there were limitations on what could be done.
- It was noted that 125 refusal of properties had taken place even though Choice Based Lettings was set up to prevent refusals. Members were reminded that not all properties were advertised through the Choice Based Lettings system.
- John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer, agreed that it was not ideal that people who express interest in properties are not being informed when not successful, and it is something he would like to see included in the Choice Based Lettings app and has raised it, but currently the facility is not there.

### **Minute No. 4/22**

#### **Operations and Marine Progress Report**

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting and Declan McMahon, Senior Executive Engineer responded on all Operations Matters with Joe McGuinness, Director of Services responding also on some matters.

Among the items discussed the following matters were requested or clarified:

- Ingress of water from public road into private house lands to be investigated
- Double yellow lines outside Dunleer Church of Ireland, Painting at Disabled Bay in Dunleer and at new parking bays in Collon
- Annagassan Bridge damage repair
- Patching and road Surface repairs at various locations inc., Tallanstown and LS6302
- Traffic calming & road safety measures at various locations including Annagassan, Louth Village, from Drogheda Road into Dunleer and Coopers Cross
- Ponding at Stormanstown Junction R132 and Annagassan Road
- Subsidence opposite Killanny playground
- Step at Tallanstown footpath trip hazard
- Bellingham Heights, tracker mentions responsibility of land owner, however estate taken in charge therefore Louth County Council has responsibility
- Bus stop at Dorians Bar which is at a major junction is unlit. Private property previously lit. Lighting request should be put to infrastructure.
- Footpath extension requests should be put for consideration under Town & Village Renewal Schemes.

The following were highlighted

- There will be a Road Closure on N52 at Silver Hill from the 18<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022 for resurfacing and embankment works. Diversions will be in place.
- Dromin Graveyard is not vested in Louth County Council and a Dangerous Structure Notice had been served. Members suggested that it was not served to the owner and the wall was in control of vestry of Church of Ireland but that the area was used by Roman Catholic parishioners for burials and requested that some compromise should be reached to tackle the falling wall.
- Speed Ramps will be installed in Ferdia Park, De la Salle Crescent and Beechwood Drive from €10,000 funding allocated from Ardee Members discretionary fund.

### Minute No. 5/22

#### Taking in Charge Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting and Gerard McCormack, Assistant Engineer advised Members that recent actions had been highlighted in bold in the report as furnished.

The following matters were noted:

**Cherrybrook:** works were for Irish Water Infrastructure only as €10,000 was funded by Irish Water, this does not extend to footpath works. No further funding available for other works.

**Knockfergus:** Water pressure issue may be resolved as valve put in.

**Woodlands, Dunleer:** water pressure issue will be reviewed.

**Mayne Way, Kilsaran:** Right of way issues between 3<sup>rd</sup> party and Irish Water is holding up progress.

**Rockfield, Ardee:** Not much bond money left to progress.

**Beechgrove Castlebellingham:** works progressing on site resolution plan, corresponding with Irish Water.

### Minute No. 6/22

#### Condolences

While a vote of sympathy was expressed at the Council Meeting in December it was thought fitting that Members remembered Shay Rooney who previously served as an Ardee Town Councillor. Cllr. Pearse McGeough led the condolences for Shay who was described as a character, well known in the sports arena of horse and dog racing. He was fondly remembered as a great footballer, and a well liked person who will be missed in the community. All Members spoke to extend their sympathy to his family and friends.

Members expressed their shock at the recent murder of Aishling Murphy while out for a run in Tullamore. Cllr John Sheridan asked Members to join him in a social distanced vigil at 4pm the next day outside Ardee Library to coordinate with the vigil outside the Dáil. Members spoke on the need to address violence against women, with 244 women having lost lives to violence in Ireland since 1996, and an education programme was urgently called for as all members of society should feel safe in the community.

Sympathies and condolences were expressed to the family, friends and colleagues of those deceased.

### Minute No. 7/22

#### Any other business

Members were requested to submit ideas and projects with descriptions for the budget to Joe McGuinness, Director of Services and/or Gráinne Tuomey, Meeting Administrator as soon as possible.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

**Date:**

3 Feb 2022

**Cathaoirleach:**

[Signature]

**Meeting Administrator:**

[Signature]