

Municipal District of Ardee – July 2016

Minutes of Municipal District of Ardee meeting held in the Mid Louth Civic Services Centre, Ardee on Thursday, 7th July, 2016 at 5.30 p.m.

In attendance:

Leas Cathaoirleach: Councillor Colm Markey

Members: Councillors: T. Cunningham, P. McGeough, J. Tenanty

Officials: Joan Martin, Chief Executive
Bernie Fennell, A/ Director of Services
Gerry Kelly, Senior Engineer
Fiona Downes, Meetings Administrator

Apologies: Cllr. L. Reilly

Minute No. 53/16

In the absence of the Cathaoirleach and Leas-Cathaoirleach it was agreed that Cllr. P. McGeough would chair the meeting.

Minute No. 54/16

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd June, 2016, were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. J. Tenanty and seconded by Cllr. T. Cunningham.

Minute No. 55/16

Housing and Communities Progress Report

Members discussed the report dated 25th June 2016 as circulated with the Agenda and B. Fennell, A/Director of Services addressed the following matters:

- The distribution of the newsletter was commended.
- Maintenance to structural elements to council houses such as back doors would be reviewed on an individual basis. The Tenants handbook outlines the responsibilities of the tenant with regard to repairs and maintenance.
- Update on the Choice Based Letting Scheme in Ardee to be provided.

Minute No.56/16

Leas Cathaoirleach Cllr. C. Markey arrived and took over as Chair.

Minute No. 57/16

Item ID 1694 Ardee Castle

J. Martin, Chief Executive gave an update regarding current status of project and circulated draft design documents for noting. She expressed her firm intention of proceeding with the project.

The following issues have still to be addressed:

- Accessibility – limited lift access, step at front of Castle and access to different parts of the Castle.
- Fire safety issues – one exit only from the Band Room which is a challenge as it cannot be adapted as we would like.
- Use of caretakers / judge's house next door – relocate main entrance and put in lift and fire escape such as was done at Malahide Castle.
- €1.2 million was provided for out of development contributions as part of the capital programme. Funding is also being sought through Fáilte Ireland and the first stage of the application process has been completed for both Ardee Castle and the next phase on the Tholsel. If successful there is match funding available.
- Once the design drawings have been completed, the Part 8 process can commence.
- A Grade I conservation architect is required for this project and is being procured at present.
- Discussions re. use for the space can be ongoing when works are underway. Consultations with the wider community can start later in the year. Proposals for use must be sustainable.
- The members thanked the Chief Executive for coming to the meeting to give an update on Ardee Castle stating that the project was for the good of the people of the town and will be a major tourist attraction.
- Will revert back re. the possibility of putting the lift next to the fire escape to the top floor for elderly and disabled access.
- Once the handover process has been completed between Louth and Fingal the drawings will go to Part 8 and the plans will hopefully be passed before Christmas.

Minute No: 58/16

Operations, Marine and Infrastructure Report

Members discussed the report dated 20th June 2016 as circulated with the Agenda and G. Kelly, Senior Engineer addressed the following matters:

- Surfacing dressing delayed due to inclement weather conditions but works should be complete within the next couple of weeks.

- Diverting river at Annagassan Harbour –a report has issued from RPS outlining the onerous tasks involved in diverting the river and the necessary compliance required for same. A copy of the report to be forwarded to the members. Need to look at the system that's in place to see what can be done to make it work.
- Blakestown Cross – tenders received and it is hoped to award contract by the end of August.
- G. Kelly, Senior Engineer advised that the probability of placing three additional bins in Clogherhead Harbour has been referred to the area engineer and that he will follow up re same.
- G. Kelly, Senior Engineer advised that he would get the area engineer to look at the verge on the left hand side approaching Drumcar Bridge.
- Grass cutting along the sea front and ditches at Salterstown is subject to a funding being available
- Request update for the next meeting on Dunleer flooding, coastal erosion and bridges from the Infrastructure Section. G. Kelly, Senior Engineer advised that he would request the area engineer to look at the drains in Dunleer.

Minute No. 59/16

Notices of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. T. Tenanty

Seconded by Cllr. C. Markey

"That this Council call on Louth County Council to provide 3 parent and child parking bays at the front of the Fairgreen to facilitate the parents of small children using the playground as its danger to both motorist and pedestrian when parking on the Mullenstown Road because it is not wide enough to facilitate both."

REPLY:

While this type of parking bay is used in private car parks there is no legal basis upon which its use can be permitted in public parking areas.

The Traffic Signs Manual, published by the Dept. of Transport, is a comprehensive document that sets out information on signs that are permitted to be used on public roads.

Road Markings are a form of road signage under legislation. Section 1.1.19 of the Traffic Signs Manual states the following:

'Only traffic signs which are in accordance with this Manual or associated Regulations shall be provided on public roads'.

Therefore the provision of such road markings would not be appropriate.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meeting Administrator: _____