

Municipal District of Ardee – June 2022

Minutes of the Municipal District of Ardee meeting hosted in the Dermot O'Brien Room, Ardee Civic Offices, Ardee on Thursday 2nd June, 2022 at 4.40 p.m.

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Councillor Paula Butterly

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

Officials: Joe McGuinness Director of Services
Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator
Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services
Declan McMahon, Senior Executive Engineer
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer
Alan Wilson, Technician
Joanna Kelly, Senior Planner

Minute No. 55/22

Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 5th May 2022 were confirmed on the proposal of Councillor John Sheridan and seconded by Councillor Jim Tenanty.

Minute No. 56/22

Matters Arising

- Min 46/22 referring to a foot bridge – A request for an update on possible source of funding was made. Upgrade works done to the bridge were noted but queried if sufficient. Declan McMahon, Senior Executive Engineer advised he would inspect and revert.
- It was confirmed that no response had been received from the TII on the Councillor Pearse McGeough's April motion.

Minute No. 57/22

Housing Progress Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting and Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services answered queries raised:

- €3.3m had recently been allocated on retrofitting 102 social housing units. An update will be available once properties have been identified and confirmed.
- There was no reason known for the high level of anti-social behaviour listed in the Ardee area.
- Increasing difficulty in securing private rental properties and mortgages was acknowledged but thresholds for qualification for social and affordable housing are set

Nationally. Housing for all targets for Louth will be brought to members who were advised that the council are also encountering difficulties in acquiring turn key properties and on building/trade costs.

- Landlords refusing HAP tenants is difficult to prove.

Minute No. 58/22

Operations and Marine Progress Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting and Declan MacMahon, Senior Executive Engineer responded on all Operations matters.

Updates were given on previously raised items. Requests for attention to new items were also raised including:

- Road safety concerns were raised, and signage, line painting requests made at various locations including at Black Cross, Ballyoran Road Louth Village and Castle Lane Dillonstown. Members were advised these would be referred to the Area Engineer.
- Trip hazard reported on footpath at the Sheriffs Pub in Collon
- Works to improve road visibility crossing Collon main street from Kells Road noted, but concerns still exist. Flood issue also noted on Kells Road.
- Public Toilet provision or fittings to allow at future date requested at Fair Green Ardee.
- A report on grass cutting was again requested for all villages and estates along with update on any Ministerial ruling.
- Sugar response contradicting tracker information on lining of disabled parking bays raised.

Minute No. 59/22

Infrastructure

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting and John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer responded on all matters.

Councillor Dolores Minogue **proposed** and Councillor Paula Butterly **seconded** a motion to receive and update on Regeneration projects at the next Ardee Municipal Meeting.

Members were advised that a court case concerning Ardee Bypass had been adjourned to the 28th June 2022.

Discussions took place around:

- Location and number of bus shelters in Ardee town – members were advised that 38 locations had been identified in Louth for shelters by NTA with works by Louth County Council to commence within the month.
- Previously requested bus stop and public lighting at Dorians Pub and crossroads was again highlighted
- A discussion around the non inclusion of Ardee on the TII cycle network took place

Minute No. 60/22

Derelict Sites Update

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting and Joanna Kelly, Senior Planner and Alan Wilson Technician responded on all matters.

Members were advised of the difficulty in pursuing enforcement on one particular site where the owners lived in the north, then the banks took the property, it then went to a vulture fund, then receivership, and onto auction but no buyer was found. Following attempts to engage at all stages for resolution, a file is now being prepared for legal action.

A call was made for a Village Health Check for Castlebellingham.

Minute No. 61/22

Nomination of Members to the PEACEPLUS Partnership Board

The following Elected Members were nominated to sit on the PEACEPLUS Partnership Board:
Councillor Pearse McGeough

Proposed by: Councillor Pearse McGeough

Seconded by: Councillor Jim Tenanty

And resolved.

Councillor Dolores Minogue

Proposed by: Councillor Paula Butterly

Seconded by: Councillor Bernie Conlon

And resolved.

Minute No. 62/22

District Discretionary Budget 2022

It was agreed to hold a meeting online by Councillors to agree a final allocation.

Minute No. 63/22

Amenity Grants submitted in accordance with Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001.

A discussion around the criteria, allocation and distribution of grant funds for Amenity Grants took place. A second round of grant funding was advised for those who had not yet applied. Members were advised that approval of grants was a reserved function so they had the ability not to approve the grants before them. It was suggested and discussed by Members that while further discussion might be needed on how the grants are allocated it would not be fair to withhold payment from the applicants in front of the Members.

It was therefore:

Proposed by Councillor Dolores Minogue and

Seconded by Councillor Bernie Conlon and resolved to approve the grants as presented to Members in accordance with Section 66 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.

Minute No. 64/22

Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to the Louth Hurling team for their recent success in the Lory Meagher Cup.

Leaving Cert Student were wished the best of luck in upcoming exams.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date:

7th July 2022

Cathaoirleach:

[Signature]

Meeting Administrator:

[Signature]