

Municipal District of Ardee – May 2021

Minutes of the Municipal District of Ardee meeting hosted in The Council Chamber County Hall, Dundalk on Thursday 6th May 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, D. Minogue, P. McGeough, J. Tenanty

Apologies: Councillor: H. Conlon

Officials: Joe McGuinness, Director of Services - Present in Chamber
Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator - Present in Chamber
John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer - Remote
Declan McMahon, Senior Executive Engineer - Remote
Emma Eaton, Staff Officer Corporate Services - Present in Chamber
Niall Callaghan, System Analyst, Information Technology - Remote

Minute No. 50/21

Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 1st April were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. D. Minogue and seconded by Cllr. P. McGeough.

Minute No. 51/21

Matters Arising

- None arising relating to accuracy of Minutes as issued.

Updates were sought on the current status of the following:

- Minute 44/21 - Cappocksgate Road
- Minute 39/21 - Taking in Charge - Rockfield

Clarification was also sought on other items from previous meetings, Members were responded to by sections present and referred to other sections where relevant.

Minute No. 52/21

Housing Progress Report

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

- Members were advised on:
 - Changes to the Housing Application Form
 - Level of applicants on HAP, delays processing time for new applicants, over 3,200 on HAP in Louth
 - Taking back properties where tenant moved to nursing home sensitive subject which must be handled sympathetically - families requested to approach housing.

Minute No. 53/21

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 Service responding also on some matters.

The following matters were noted:

- Manhole on Jervis Street ongoing issue
- Proximity of signage
 - Stop sign at L2215 T Junction too close to junction
 - Speed sign at Collon R168 too close to bend
- Stop signs needed at Mullacrew Cross - accident site

Members were reminded to log items through Sugar for tracking purposes particularly where they pertained to other sections.

Cllr. D. Minogue thanked the council for ongoing disinfecting of playgrounds and wanted to remind the public to wear masks and keep distances, and appealed to public to play their part.

Minute No. 54/21

District Discretionary Budget

Members were presented with the final list of 11 projects covering the proposed spend of the €75,000 Municipal Fund 2021 as follows:

1. Sweeper €20,000 with balance from Operations - confirmed as electric eco sweeper.
2. Litter awareness - €2,000 allocation, e.g. mattress or bins. Catherine Duff to select a programme and confirm.

3. Fitness €5,000 Port beach as a start to fitness zone.
4. Community Halls €10,000. Specifically for creation of a specific project, community group or hall for a capital or once-off investment or a particular feasibility study or expert/engineers study and must have match funding from the same community. Could be to provide a group with the necessary reports needed to apply for capital funding. Open to whole Mid Louth to apply. Decision with Community Section of LCC on the successful projects.
5. Bus Shelter €3,000 opposite Ardee RC church.
6. Speed ramps €10,000 - Operations to decide on two or more locations.
7. Dunleer Library €5,000 - Operations to meet the balance.
8. Community Garden - €3,000.
 - (a) 1916 garden as per Senators/Diarmuid Gavin plan of proclamation, tricolour etc, seven native Irish trees, and named after a prominent local woman.
 - (b) a plaque to remember all those who died during Covid and the sacrifice of the people of Mid Louth during the whole pandemic
 - (c) a plaque to commemorate 125 years since the opening of the Dromin-Junction to Ardee railway line in August 1896.
9. Disabled access Port beach €7,000. Shortfall to be made up of local fundraising.
10. New Leaf Youth. €5,000 - to be put to a specific project which can be identified as being funded by the Councillors.
11. Meals on wheels. €5,000 - Community to enable set up of Meals and Wheels group for Mid Louth.

Adoption of this budget was proposed by Cathaoirleach J. Sheridan and seconded by Cllr. J. Tenanty.

Members expressed approval of the dispersal of funds, and a particular mention was made of the work done by the Cathaoirleach to get an agreed proposal which satisfied all Members.

Minute No. 55/21

Periodic Speed Limit Byelaws

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting and noted that five of the schools were in their electoral division. Cllr. D. Minogue proposed to accept the report as issued and Cllr. P. Butterly seconded this.

Minute No. 56/21

AOB

Dunleer Bank of Ireland Closure

The Cathaoirleach requested a discussion on the BOI closure in Dunleer. Members were updated on responses received by Cllr. J. Sheridan from Bank of Ireland Regional Management who had declined the request for all Members to meet them and had advised that they would only meet individuals. Bank officials implied they had no road map for closure.

Cllr. P. Butterly informed Members that her understanding was that Dunleer closure was set for September. A discussion ensued around whether it was better to have one individual representing or if the request for all should be accommodated.

Mention was made of the public meeting held by zoom which had been attended by 30 members of the public, as well of the response received from the Minister of Finance which response was not regarded as satisfactory by Members.

Members engaged in a lively discussion regarding retention of branch at Dunleer, retention of ATM facility and the unique position of Dunleer due to the area high employment rate.

Reference was also made of the 103 branches closing across the country and the €1billion profit made in previous year and the closure being regarded as an attack on rural Ireland.

A discussion was had about who to campaign to, and at what level to aim campaign.

Ultimately it was agreed that:

- The Bank would again be written to and asked to meet all Members
- The Minister again be written to at same time as bank and asked to intercede
- If the bank declined or if no response from bank in 2 weeks that they be requested to meet the Cathaoirleach of the Council and the Cathaoirleach of Ardee MD.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meeting Administrator: _____