

Municipal District of Dundalk – July 2016

Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Dundalk held in the Town Hall, Dundalk on Tuesday, 5th July, 2016 at 5.30 p.m.

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Councillor Mark Dearey

Members: Councillors: M. Butler, E. Corrigan, M. Doyle, J. Cassidy Green, C. Keelan, J. Loughran, J. McGahon, K. Meenan, P. Savage, T. Sharkey

Officials: Frank Pentony, Director of Services
Gerry Kelly, Senior Engineer
Pat Finn, Senior Engineer
John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer
Fiona Downes, Meetings Administrator

Apologies: Cllrs. E. Coffey, M. Yore

Minute No. 80/16

To suspend the standing orders to discuss Brexit

Proposed by: Cllr J. McGahon

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Dearey

That the standing orders be suspended to discuss Brexit.

Members commented on Britain voting on exiting the EU and the following issues were raised:

- The political discourse may have serious consequences for North and South of the border including the tendering for services and goods.
- It is not feasible to be making economic decisions at this point when things are so uncertain. The people in the North voted to stay in the EU. The free movement of goods and people is essential for the farming community and the wider business interests as well as schools, healthcare.
- Concern over the cross border funding as Louth has received significant monies over the last number of years.
- The need to be practical for planning for the future and needing to protect the interests of Louth especially regarding the effect on FDI.

The establishment of a Brexit working group to ensure unity of purpose and assist / advise the local authority on matters re. Brexit was proposed by Cllr. M. Dearey and seconded by Cllr. M. Doyle.

F. Pentony, Director of Services to seek clarification if this can be done by municipal council.

Minute No. 81/16

Minutes

The minutes of the AGM meeting held on Tuesday, 7th June 2016 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. M. Butler and seconded by Cllr. P. Savage.

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 7th June 2016 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. M. Butler and seconded by Cllr. C. Keelan.

Minute No. 82/16

Housing and Communities Progress Report

Members discussed the report dated 25th June 2016 as circulated with the Agenda and J. Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer addressed the following matters:

- Housing Need Assessment (HNA) – national date for assessment is 21st September but Louth are commencing same early due to the numbers on the housing list. Forms will be sent out to all housing applicants during July and it is the responsibility of the applicant to complete form and return otherwise they will be removed from the housing list. Councillors to be notified when letters go out. The use of radio to get the message out re. importance of completing and returning forms may be considered.
- The swift actions of the team from Operations Section were commended on the removal of the rubbish in Coxes Demense. Queries were raised re. what could be put in place to act as a deterrent such as CCTV to alleviate the dumping from reoccurring.
- Ath Leathan site –J. Lawrence, A/ Senior Executive Officer advised that the council hasn't been advised on the results of the testing. The Housing Association is looking at different options to renovate site which will encompass part of the existing structure.
- Sale of site scheme is no longer in place. The Incremental Purchase Scheme is currently available where houses are offered to approved housing applicants on a discounted basis.
- The distribution of the newsletter was commended
- Discussions ensued re. notification to councillors when houses are being allocated with regard to data protection.
- Proposed by Cllr. T. Sharkey and seconded by Cllr. C. Keelan to bring a research programme which looks at the housing need of tenancies throughout

the lifespan of same to the Housing SPC and perhaps partner with DKiT. Cllr. T. Sharkey to write to chair of SPC re. inter-generational living.

- For the September meeting – right of way at Castle Heights and Marion Park

Minute No. 83/16

Infrastructure, Operations & Marine Progress Report

Members discussed the report dated 20th June 2016 as circulated with the Agenda and F. Pentony, Director of Services, G. Kelly, Senior Engineer and P. Finn, Senior Engineer addressed the following issues:

- The no right turn from the Ramparts into Stapleton Drive will be reviewed.
- The National guidelines on speed limits were circulated to Councillors earlier this year and comments were invited from the public. Recommendations will be brought to council when reviewed.
- Future plans on the Red Cow will be brought back to council for September meeting.
- Queries were raised re the proposal to include the Narrow water Bridge project with the Newry Southern Relief Road. P. Finn, Senior Engineer advised that Louth County Council did not instigate this proposal and there is currently no prospect of funding for the Narrow Water Bridge Project at present.
- P. Finn, Senior Engineer advised that they are in constant discussions with the OPW re Balmers Bog and will bring update to members as soon as one is available.
- Traffic management survey will be redone at Dowdallshill.
- Request to have a report on the condition of manhole covers throughout the town for the September meeting.

Minute No. 84/16

Notion of Motion:

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Green

Seconded by: Cllr. T. Sharkey

"Calling on Louth County Council to implement speed calming measures on the Point Road and Lower Point Road from Clarke's Bar to Soldier's Point."

REPLY:

LCC have carried out one traffic speed survey on the Lower Point Road.

LCC propose to carry out a second speed survey on the Point road in the vicinity of the Army barracks and then compare and evaluate the results of the two speed surveys.

Minute No. 85/16

Notices of Question

The following Notices of question were noted by the members:

Cllr. J. Green

"(i) how much Public Money, if any, is going toward BIDS?

(ii) How much money, if any, is being given to BIDS from business rates?"

REPLY:

1. As agreed ratepayers within the BIDS area make the required Bids payment to Louth County Council. A total payment of €108,000 is then made by Louth County Council to BIDS Company on a yearly basis. While the payment is accounted for within the Louth County Council Revenue Budget as an income and then outgoing expenditure these monies are not public monies.

2. The BIDS payment is 1.5% on top of the rates payment. The monies collected from BIDS is then paid to the BIDS Company. No monies from the actual commercial rates is made to BIDS. The BIDS payment is collected with the commercial rate but is accounted for separately.

Minute No. 86/16

Votes of Sympathy

Votes of sympathy were extended to the family, friends of Stan Corrigan, father of Cllr. E. Corrigan.

Minute No. 87/16

Item ID 1692 re St. Patrick's Cemetery – G. Kelly, Senior Engineer advised that a conservation engineer has been appointed to advise on the works required to the railings. The issue of dumping is being monitored by staff in the cemetery. Where cars are parking on top of graves this needs to be brought to the council's staff attention and the council may be able to erect a bollard to alleviate same. The opening hours have been extended to enable people to carry out work on the graves and Mr. Kelly will check to see what connect has been made with the Gardaí re the upcoming pattern.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meeting Administrator: _____