

Municipal District of Dundalk – October 2017

Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Dundalk held in the Town Hall, Dundalk on Tuesday, 3rd October, 2017 at 5.15 p.m.

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Councillor John McGahon

Members: Councillors: M. Butler, A. Campbell, E. Coffey, E. Corrigan, M. Dearey, M. Doyle, C. Keelan, J. McGahon, R. O'Murchu, P. Savage, A Watters & M. Yore

Officials: Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services
Pat Finn, Senior Engineer
Vincent Toner, Senior Executive Engineer
John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer
Aoife Lawler, Senior Executive Officer
Fiona Downes, Meetings Administrator

Apologies: Councillor Peter Savage

Minute No. 76/17

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 5th September 2017 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. M. Doyle and seconded by Cllr. J. McGahon.

Minute No. 77/17

Matters Arising

- Minute 68/17 Mount View should read Mount Avenue.
- Minute 66/17 Strongbow Close should read Schomberg Close.
- Members concerned re lack of publicity re the Go Car scheme.
- Planning application for Mount Avenue is a matter for An Bord Pleanala.

Minute No. 78/17

Housing and Communities Progress Report

Members discussed the report as circulated with the Agenda and the following points were addressed:

- Members were informed that Ard Dealgan is at an advanced stage.
- Concern raised at the lengthy delays in getting funding from central government to progress the construction programme.
- Choice Based letting scheme – Aoife Lawler advised that she would ask the IT supplier to compile details on the clients who have not engaged with the system to date and if particular groups of clients are not engaging.
- Members were advised that rent arrears inadvertently increase at each rent review due to people not providing relevant information re increase in earnings throughout the year. The Council is beginning to see people entering into payment plans. There are two other categories of tenants– those who entered into payment plans and broken same and those who have not entered into payment plans.
- Rent arrears are assessed on an individual basis. There is no set minimum weekly payment.

Minute No. 79/17

Infrastructure, Operations & Marine Progress Report

Members discussed the report as circulated with the Agenda and the following points were addressed:

- Pat Finn advised that private funds were used for the redevelopment of the Demense.
- Council commended for works done to resolve drainage problems in Jenkinstown area. Members were in favour of the inclusion of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (suDs) in future planning applications in order to avoid drainage problems in the future. Pat Finn advised that there are problems with the maintenance of suDs.
- Paddy Donnelly answered questions regarding the increased fees into the recycling centres. He advised that Louth County Council are aware of the increase and are satisfied that it is well below charges in other areas. The operation of the centres were put out to tender and that it is a matter for the operator to determine the charge. He also advised that the centres also have increased costs as they are now rateable.
- Pat Finn advised that Coláiste Chu Chulainn went through the Part 8 process and as it is now subject to legal proceedings he was unable to comment on situation regarding the ESB substation.
- The construction of N53 is at an early stage. Pat Finn is confident that concerns will be addressed.
- Congratulations were extended to Blackrock, Dundalk and Knockbridge Tidy Towns committee for their hard work and for receipt of awards.

Minute No. 80/17

Allocation of Community Grants

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Butler

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Doyle

And resolved:

To approve Members Community Grant Allocations (No. 3) as listed on the report circulated with the agenda

Paddy Donnelly advised members to get their applications into finance in the next month in order to distribute remaining monies.

Minute No. 81/17

Outstanding reports from Notice of Motions

Proposed by: Cllr. E. Corrigan

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Yore

And resolved:

To cap time allowed to discuss outstanding report to 5 minutes. The following issues were raised:

- Speed survey on Avenue Road
- Problems Hazel Wood Avenue. Paddy Donnelly advised that it was a matter for Irish Water.
- Laneway beside Tool Fix – Pat Finn advised that development in that area is subject to planning as it is a private lane. More studies are required.

Minute No. 82/17

County Facilities Scheme

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Dearey

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Butler

And resolved:

To approve the listings of LCDC applications 'approved and denied' under the award of funding under the Community Facilities Scheme 2017.

John Lawrence advised the members on the assessment criteria, process undertaken and the role of the Local Community Development Committee in ensuring an equitable countywide distribution of the available funds. He further advised that the Community Office in Louth County Council will look for other funding opportunities for promoters unsuccessful in securing a grant under this scheme. Mr Lawrence answered queries and questions from the members.

Minute No. 83/17

Taking in Charge – Schomberg Close

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Doyle

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Butler

And resolved:

That the roads in the development known as Schomberg Close, Dundalk, be declared Public Roads from a date agreed by the Council or 7 days after this report is considered by the Council in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.

Furthermore, in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) the Council take in charge any public open space, public lighting, unallocated car parks, sewers (excluding service connections) and water mains with the grounds of the development

Maintenance services to be provided by the Council will be as set out in the Council's Taking in Charge Policy, as approved on the 17th May 2010.

Minute No. 84/17

Taking in Charge – Tates & Carron's Park, Knockbridge, Co. Louth

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Doyle

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Butler

And resolved:

That the roads in the development known as Tates & Carron's Park, Knockbridge, be declared Public Roads from a date agreed by the Council or 7 days after this report is considered by the Council in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.

Furthermore, in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) the Council take in charge any public open space, public lighting, unallocated car parks, sewers (excluding service connections) and water mains with the grounds of the development

Maintenance services to be provided by the Council will be as set out in the Council's Taking in Charge Policy, as approved on the 17th May 2010.

Minute No. 85/17

Update on Taking in Charge of Housing Developments

Members briefly discussed the report as circulated with the Agenda and the following points were addressed:

- Responsibility for public lighting in Harbour Grove is that of the new developer.
- Pat Finn to clarify with planners regarding legal obligation of new developer who has taken over a site and whether they have an obligation to rectify problems in a 1st phase etc.
- Members requested that the financial risk from estates not taken in charge to be quantified by the Local Government Auditor. Paddy Donnelly advised that it is not a function of the Local Government Auditor to carry out such an exercise. The Council have no alternative but to take unfinished estates in charge when a plebiscite has been submitted.

Minute No. 86/17

Notice of Motion:

Proposed by: Cllr. A, Watters
Seconded by: Cllr. A. Campbell

"Call on Louth County Council to undertake an accessibility audit for people with mobility issues in the Dundalk Town Centre."

REPLY:

The Council is currently progressing a rejuvenation scheme on Clanbrassil Street and St. Nicholas' Quarter. As part of this process the Council will liaise with the disability forum setup for County Louth which is led by the Louth Partnership Chief Executive. This group brings together all the disability groups within County Louth and is supported by LLP community office and financially by Louth County Council under SICAP. The issue of how best to address mobility issues in the public realm will form part of these discussions.

Paddy Donnelly advised that there is a lot of work to do regarding accessibility but it is not productive to continually criticise the Council for previous works done. The works that were previously carried out were within the budget available and to standard.

Minute No. 87/17

Notice of Motion:

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Yore
Seconded by: Cllr. J. McGahon

"That Dundalk Municipal District removes small island at entrance to Green Acres on Avenue Road to alleviate ongoing damage to vehicles exiting estate due to location of same."

REPLY:

The traffic island at the junction of Green Acres and the Avenue Road form an integral part of the road design. The road expanse at this location is exceptionally wide and the traffic island is necessary to ensure safe crossing for pedestrians. Technical staff have reviewed the site and are satisfied that the design and construction are suitable for this location.

Members queried the feasibility of painting the island to improve visibility.

Any Other Business:

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meeting Administrator: _____