

Minutes of Council Meeting held in the Iontas Centre, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan on Monday 3rd December, 2007 2.00 p.m.

Chair: Cllr G Carville, Mayor

Present: Cllrs Bannigan, Carthy, Conlon, Coyle, Crowe, Gallagher, Humphreys, Keelan, Keenan, Kieran, Martin, Maxwell, McAnespie, McElvaney, B. McKenna, P. McKenna, P. McNally, O'Brien and Treanor.

Mr. D. Nelson, County Manager, Mr. M. Fitzpatrick, Mr P. Clifford, Mr D. Fallon and Mr A King, Directors of Service, Mr John Murray, Head of Finance, Mr Jim McNally, Management Accountant, Mr Toirleach Gourley, Senior Executive Planner, Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator and Ms. A. Mackle, A/Staff Officer.

The Mayor welcomed the Members and staff to Castleblayney and introduced Sr. Celine McArdle, Director of the Iontas Centre. Sr. Celine also welcomed the Members to the Iontas Centre. She thanked the Council for its financial support to the centre over the past few years.

1. Minutes

- (i) Cllr Bannigan proposed, Cllr McElvaney seconded that the Minutes from Council meeting held on November 6th in relation to the Donaghmoynne Group Water Presentation (page 24, third paragraph) be amended by adding the words “**in 2004**” after the words - Had Donaghmoynne stayed in the bundle”

Cllr McElvaney requested that the minutes of this meeting be further amended after the second last paragraph (page 24) to include the following line –

‘Cllr McElvaney enquired as to who these Members were and if he were one of them, as did Cllrs McNally and Humphreys, to which Mr. McDaid replied that they were not.’

The Members accepted both amendments.

“On the proposal of Cllr Treanor, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 6th November, 2007 be confirmed subject to the foregoing amendments”

- (ii) Cllr Conlon proposed that the Minutes from adjourned Council meeting held on 19th November, 2007 be amended to read (page 6, second paragraph second bullet point), include the word “Woodlands” after the words Canal View.

“On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Kieran it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 19th November, 2007 be confirmed subject to the foregoing amendment”.

2. Correspondence:

The following correspondence was circulated to the Members:

- Letter from Kathy Sinnott, MEP for Ireland South, regarding a letter in relation tot the World Trade Organisation talks and the viability of Irish agriculture.
- Letter from Mr Martin Cullen, T.D., Minister for Social and Family Affairs regarding Habitual Residency Conditions and payment of Child Benefit.
- Letter from Ms Sinead Finnegan, Private Secretary to Mr. Brian Lenihan, T.D., Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform regarding Habitual Residency.
- Letter from Mr Eamon O Cuiv, TD, Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs regarding a request he sent to Ms Mary Harney, TD, Minister for Health to meet with a delegation from the Council.
- Letter from Mr Martin Walsh, County Secretary of Waterford County Council regarding a Mortgage Subsidy Scheme Resolution.
- Conference report from Cllr Matt Carthy regarding the LAMA Winter Conference 2007.
- Letter from Mr Tony Murphy, Meetings Administrator Galway County Council calling on the Minister for the Environment to remove the cap for sewerage schemes in accordance with circular L7/06.
- Letter from Ms Linda Grealy, Principal Officer, Office of the Refugee Applications commissioner regarding a request from Monaghan County Council calling on the Government to speed up the process of determining the status of those seeking asylum in this country.
- Letter from Mr Patrick Binns, Canadian Ambassador thanking the Members and Monaghan County Council for hosting a Civic Reception in his honour.
- Email from Mr Brian Murphy, Acting Town Clerk regarding a motion adopted by Trim Town Council regarding Eirgrid.

Trim Town Council (Eirgrid Motion)

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed to write to Mr Brian Murphy, Acting Town Clerk advising that it was remiss of Trim Town Council not to include a reference to County Monaghan in its resolution and requesting the Council their motion and include a reference to County Monaghan.

On the proposal of Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr Keelan it was agreed that Monaghan County Council support Trim Town Councils motion subject to the inclusion of the word Monaghan where Cavan and Meath are mentioned.

Habitual Residency Condition:

On the proposal of Cllr B McKenna, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed that this Council write to Mr. Martin Cullen, T.D., Minister for Social and Family Affairs, requesting that, in relation to Irish citizens, the Habitual Residency Condition be removed from all Social Welfare payments that it applies to ”

3. **Part VIII – Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2001 - Ref No: 07/8005**

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Humphreys it was agreed to approve the construction of one demountable dwelling with associated site works, septic tank and percolation area at Urcher, Stranooden, Co. Monaghan as per the Director of Planning Services report dated 23 November 2007.

4. **To approve Section 183 Notices:**

(i) **Disposal of land at Crinkill, Doohamlet:**

On the proposal of Cllr P Treanor, seconded by Cllr Humphreys it was agreed that the disposal of 0.169 acres of land situated in the townland of Crinkill, Doohamlet, in accordance with notice dated 19th November, 2007 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, be approved.

5. **Water Services Investment Programme:**

The Members resumed the discussion on the Water Services Investment Programme which had been adjourned from the previous meeting.

The County Manager stated that the making, revision or replacement of a Water Services Strategic Water Plan is a reserved function of the elected members.

Cllr Carthy said it was a bad decision of the Government to remove the responsibility for the Water Services function from the Town Councils and place it under the remit of the County Councils. He suggested that a letter be sent to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government asking that this decision be reversed.

Cllr B McKenna referred to the ‘polluters pays principle’ that was agreed during the signing of the Maastricht Treaty in relation to the recovery of capital costs for non-domestic water/wastewater services. He proposed that Circular L7/02 (WSP) regarding water Services Pricing Policy Information and frequently asked questions, be circulated to all Members prior to the next Budget meeting.

Mr. David Fallon, Director responded to a number of queries raised by the Members and he suggested that the Members be updated on a three/six month basis on the implementation of the Water Services six year plan. He confirmed that the Council is obliged to recover the full non-domestic capital costs and future domestic capital costs of all infrastructural projects from the major beneficiaries of this infrastructure.

6. **To approve recommendations from Corporate Policy Group:**

On the approval of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed to approve the recommendations from the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on Monday 12th November, 2007.

7. Naming of New Link Road – Dundalk Road to Old Ardee Rd, Carrickmacross.

The Council considered the report prepared by Mr. Larry McDermott, local historian in relation to the naming of the new link road in Carrickmacross. The report suggested that the road be named Bóthar Oirialla/Oriel road.

Cllr Carthy proposed, Cllr Martin seconded that the Irish version only be used - Bóthar Oirialla.

Cllr Humphreys proposed an amendment, Cllr Keenan seconded - that both the English and Irish versions of the name be used - Bóthar Oirialla/Oriel Road.

A roll call vote on Cllr Humphreys amendment resulted as follows:

For: Cllrs Bannigan, Carville, Coyle, Gallagher, Humphreys, Keenan, Kieran, Maxwell, McElvaney, P. McKenna, McNally and O'Brien. **Total 12**

Against: Cllrs Carthy, Conlon, Crowe, Keelan, McAnespie, B. McKenna, Martin and Treanor. **Total 8**

The Mayor declared the amendment carried.

The substantive motion was put to the meeting which resulted in 12 for, 7 against, 1 abstention. The Mayor declared the motion carried.

8. To receive Minutes of the following meetings:

(i) **On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was agreed that the minutes of meeting with Mr Dara Mullally, Department of Arts, Sports and Tourism on Thursday, 1st November, 2007 be noted.**

(ii) Cllr Martin requested that the minutes be amended to reflect his attendance at the meeting with Minister Ó Cuiv. This was agreed.

On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was agreed that the minutes of meeting with Minister Ó Cuiv on 21st November, 2007 be noted.

The Members held a lengthy debate on the minutes of the meeting with Minister Ó Cuiv, Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, in particular the following matters which were discussed at the meeting.

Local Improvement Scheme/CLAR

Cllr McNally proposed, Cllr Coyle seconded that in order to safeguard the 2007 grant funding allocated, that the Council immediately submit a number

of eligible lanes in the Clar area to the Department of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs for approval ”

Cllr McElvaney proposed that Members forgo selecting lanes in a particular electoral area and submit an application that selects the areas most in need so that Co. Monaghan benefits from the grant funding under the Clar programme. This was agreed by the Members.

On the proposal of Cllr Keenan, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed to write to Minister Ó Cuiv, TD Minister for Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs requesting that all local authorities be notified about Clar funding no later than May of each year.

In response to the debate, Mr. Michael Fitzpatrick, Director stated that the Council submitted a list of schemes to the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in July 2007 and commenced work to evaluate similar to 2006. The actual notification was not received until 22nd October 2007 and the Department refused to pay the grant because the Council had most of the work completed prior to the notification. It would not be possible to carry out works from the date of the notification to the required completion date of November 2007 and it appears that the only reason for refusal to pay the grant is because the works were carried prior to this notification. The Members were advised that the monies spent, which are in the region of €686,000 may not be recoupable from any Government department. The work will have to be funded from other sources. The issue of a charge/surcharge does not arise.

Ulster Canal

“ Cllr McElvaney proposed, Cllr Carville seconded and it was agreed that the Council support the Clones Re-generation Partnership’s application for funding to employ a Co-ordinator for the Ulster Canal Project to ensure that the potential for economic development along the Ulster Canal corridor is maximised ”

“ Cllr McElvaney proposed setting up a sub-committee consisting of Clones electoral area Members and the County Manager to meet with Waterways Ireland, Minister Ó Cuiv and Minister Poots from Northern Ireland to push forward the redevelopment of the Ulster Canal ”

Cllr P Treanor said the Clones Erne East were meeting this coming Wednesday to discuss the Ulster Canal and proposed inviting the Clones Electoral Members to attend.

Cllr Maxwell proposed that the North Monaghan Members as part of the Sub-committee. Cllr McNally proposed that all areas of the county be represented on the committee.

Cllr Coyle proposed, Cllr Kieran seconded that the Council seek a meeting with Minister Poots in the Northern Ireland Assembly to discuss the Ulster Canal project with a view to progressing it.

Mr. Declan Nelson, County Manager suggested inviting a representative from Waterways Ireland to address a Council Meeting to let the Members know what needs to be done to develop this project and suggested that the Council defer writing to Minister Poots until after this presentation. This was agreed by the Members.

Social Cohesion Process

Cllr B McKenna suggested contacting Cavan Leader and County Monaghan Partnership to enquire as to the current situation in relation to the Social Cohesion process.

Monaghan Hospital

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed to write to Minister Mary Harney requesting that she meet with a deputation from Monaghan County Council to discuss the hospital situation.

Cllr Carthy proposed writing to Mr Kieran Coughlan, Clerk of Dail Eireann requesting a copy of the Dail's Roll Call vote in relation to a vote of no confidence tabled by the Labour Party against Minister for Health Mary Harney, TD's on November 24th, 2007 "

A vote by show of hands on Cllr Carthy's proposal resulted in 11 for, 7 against. The Mayor declared the motion carried.

9. To fix dates for meetings:

Civic Reception for Mr Thomas Freeman

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr P McKenna it was agreed to hold a Civic Reception for both Thomas Freeman on receiving the 2007 All Star Award. It was further agreed that Mr Paraic Duffy who was recently appointed as the GAA's new Director General would also be honoured on this occasion.

- (i)** The Civic Reception was provisionally agreed for 7th January, 2007 in the Mtek Building, Knockaconny, Armagh Road, Monaghan Town, Co Monaghan.
- (ii) Sub-committee re Eirgrid Interconnector** – It was agreed that this meeting would be held on Monday 10th December, at 2.00 p.m. in the Iontas Centre, Castleblayney
- (iii) Interreg IVA Committee** – It was agreed that this meeting would be held on Tuesday 18th at 9.30 a.m. in the Mtek Building, Knockaconny, Armagh Road, Monaghan.

10. Matters Arising out of Minutes

Community Childcare Subvention Scheme

On the proposal of Cllr Humphreys, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed to write again to Minister Brendan Smith.T.D., in relation to the Community Childcare Subvention Scheme, which had issued from Office of the Minister for Children to the County Childcare Committees.

Hardness of Water - Scotstown and Smithboro Schemes

In response to a number of queries David Fallon said he would place the consultants report in relation to this matter on the February Agenda.

Roads Matters

In response to a number of queries and following a meeting with the Area Committee, Mr. M. Fitzpatrick, Director said he would be circulating a report on the Castleblayney bypass to the Members and that he would contact the National Roads Authority and Colas about the cleaning of road signs within the county.

11. **Questions:**

Cllr O'Brien asked:

1. When will the Council provide improved safety measures at the junction known as Scotch Corner?

Reply: Signage and lighting works are ongoing and lining is complete.

2. Will this Council review its policy regarding road signage and seek the NRA to provide a sign for the village at Doohamlet on the Ballybay junction of the new Castleblayney By-pass?

Reply: A draft policy on the provision of information signs on all roads in the county is currently being prepared and it is hoped to bring it to the next SPC meeting for discussion. The policy will take into account National Policy, NRA Guidelines and Failte Ireland Guidelines for the provision of signs.

3. Will this Council provide a sign for the village of Doohamlet on the Ballybay/Monaghan Road (Maxol Garage) junction.

Reply: Monaghan County Council will provide a sign at this location in the New Year.

Cllr McNally asked:

4. In light of the failure of the P.P.P. project on the Convent Lands to go through, will this Council now consider allowing it to be used for a Business Park development i.e. dispose of individual site to suitable applicants.

Reply: The Council has agreed that a sub committee be set up to examine proposals for the site and this proposal can be considered by them.

5. Has this Council any indication from the ESB as to where all of the planned improvements to our public lighting will be placed i.e. Inniskeen, Carrickashedge, Lisdoonan and others?

Reply: Monaghan Co. Council has a number of locations in which we are awaiting the ESB to erect public lighting and connect power to Public lights.

Inniskeen: - all civil works are completed and waiting on ESB to connect power.

Lisdoonan: - Committee members want an upgrade of existing lighting to decorative lighting, no funding available this year.

Carrickashedge:- No funding or plans to erect public lighting in 2007, will be considered in 2008.

6. Has this Council finalised plans for regional road R178 Dundalk to Carrickmacross, to upgrade the section between Essexford and Ballymackney as it is in very urgent need of realignment.

Reply: This road is to be upgraded jointly between Cavan, Monaghan and Louth County Councils. A submission for funding is being made for 2008 to appoint consultants to assess the route and prepare a design. This will include this section of the R-178. In 2007 the Council carried out pavement restoration works on this section of the R-178 as an interim measure.

Cllr Gallagher asked:

7. Regarding the houses allocated in Scarnageeragh, Emyvale - what is the reason for the delay in handing over these houses to those who have been allocated them; when is it anticipated that the reason for the delay will be overcome and when will those allocated houses be able to get keys and occupy same?

Reply: The houses were let in early November when the augmentation of the water supply to the village was completed.

8. What progress has been made with regard to the N2 bypass between Monaghan Town and Aughnacloy?

Reply: At present Monaghan County Council has a Part 8 approval for a single carriageway realignment from the Monaghan Town Bypass to north of Emyvale. This includes a Bypass of Emyvale village. However the NRA is now in the process of appointing consultants to explore the feasibility of providing a new 2+2 scheme from North of Castleblayney Bypass to the border at Aughnacloy.

9. Is there any update on plans to alleviate traffic congestion through the use of traffic control lights or parking restrictions on Main Street, Emyvale?

Reply: Monaghan County Council is currently in the process of carrying out a survey on Main Street Emyvale to examine the current on street car parking arrangements. This should be complete early in 2008.

10. What is the likely completion date for the playground in Emyvale village?

Reply: The playground, including signage, was completed on 24th October 2007.

11. Can the Council give an update on the provision of a footpath linking the new development of social-affordable housing in Knockatallon with the rest of the village?

Reply: The contractor who erected the affordable housing in Knockatallon has also constructed a pedestrian footpath at the entrance to the new estate. The new footpath links the new estate with the existing footpath on the neighbouring Corlatt Estate, which carries on into Knockatallon village. A separate footpath from the new estate into the village is not necessary.

Cllr Carville asked:

12. Will the Council provide safety barriers / railings along the footpath from Doohamlet National School to the village centre in view of the narrow width of the footpath from the school and the volumes of traffic on the Regional Road through Doohamlet?

Reply: Planning has been granted for a housing development in the village and has been conditioned to construct a 2 m footpath and pedestrian crossing to facilitate access to the school, which will improve the current situation.

13. What action is Monaghan County Council taking, in conjunction with the NRA to address issues arising concerning signage, turning lanes, public lighting, at the following junctions on the Cremorne Way / Castleblayney By-Pass: Shercock Road, Ballybay Road Interchange, Annayalla road junction and Cremartin Road junction in Avelreagh and will a regular report be given to the Mid Monaghan members and the whole Council as appropriate?

Reply: *These issues were discussed at the last Steering Committee meeting on 22nd November. It was agreed that countdown markers and delineators be installed at the approach to these junctions. Monaghan County Council has written to the NRA outlining the concerns raised by the Mid Monaghan members and pointing out that as this is a pilot scheme some mechanism should be put in place for continually monitoring and reviewing the performance of the road.*

14. Will the Council endeavour to erect some signage for the village of Doohamlet on key arterial routes in the Mid Monaghan area in view of the growth of this village and community in recent years and the fact that it is the only village in Co Monaghan not signposted?

Reply: *A survey will be needed to examine whether there is a deficiency in signage for Doohamlet along these arterial routes prior to erecting new or additional signage.*

Cllr Carville asked:

15. What is the up to date position concerning the Council's interest in Lough Muckno, Castleblayney?

Reply: *I have checked the position with Mr. Enda O'Carroll, Law Agent, on 30th November 2007.*

The Lough Muckno case is on the Court list. We are awaiting a date for the hearing.

Cllr Martin asked:

16. How is it proposed to spend the additional monies allocated by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government for bring banks and civic amenity facilities? Will any of these monies be assigned in particular to smaller communities still awaiting the introduction of bring centres? Are there any plans to extend, improve and make further additions to the type and format of existing recycling services in the county? If so, briefly outline the proposed plans?

REPLY: *The monies received at the beginning of November from the DOEHLG (€57,750) were to cover costs that Monaghan County Council had incurred in operating recycling activities for the period July to December 2006. The grant payment relates to costs that Monaghan County Council incurred in running both the Materials Recovery Facility and the Bring site network over this period. This allocation from the department is not intended for the development of further sites.*

In 2001, Monaghan County Council received a DOEHLG grant of €162K under the Initiatives Fund to extend the network of bring sites

from 7 sites in 2000 to 25 sites currently. This target has been achieved and has been a huge success and recycling rates over this period at the bring sites have increased by approximately 900%. For example in 2000, 96 tonnes of glass were collected at the bring sites and by the end of 2007 it is estimated that in the region of 900 tonnes of glass will be collected.

As of November 2007, a total of €48,000 remains in the Initiatives Fund, and earlier this month, the environment section of Monaghan County Council wrote to the department seeking approval to carry over the remainder of the allocation i.e. €48,000 to allow the development of further bring sites in the county.

There are also plans to extend the scope of the bring banks to include the collection of textiles at the sites. Tenders are presently being sought from interested parties. A number of bring banks currently operate textile collection on a trial basis but the council intends to formally regulate and extend this service.

Cllr Martin asked:

17. (i) How much money has this Council spent on the recycling service in the county (including operational costs associated with bring bank and civic amenity centres in the year 2005, the year of 2006 and to date in 2007?)

Reply The following is a breakdown of the monies spent by Monaghan County Council in operating the bring site network and the Civic Amenity/MRF at Scotch Corner in 2005, 2006, 2007*

NB (2007 - Costs for first 6 months of 2007 only)*

Year	Bring Site Network	Civic Amenity/ MRF	WEEE handling charge	Total
2005	€62,309.94	€162,506.07	-	€224,816.01
2006	€44,274.26	€148,850.26	-	€193,124.52
2007*	€27,800	€64,846.32	€3,853.80	€92,646.32

In addition to the above costs, approximately €114,000 has been spent by Monaghan County Council developing bring sites in the past 5 years under the Initiatives Fund. The costs in the above table are “operational” costs only.

- (ii) Please briefly outline a breakdown of how the monies are spent

Reply *In relation to the operation of the bring banks, the costs are made up as follows. Monaghan County Council pays €25/tonne of glass*

collected. In addition, there is a cost of €400 per bring site location to cover the cost of infrastructure depreciation, repair and replacement and damage due to vandalism. Approximately 25% of our environmental patrol warden/wages are also charged to the bring sites as he approximately spends 25% of his time inspecting sites and arranging clean-ups if necessary. There is no charge for aluminium can collections.

In relation to the MRF/Civic Amenity site, the costs are made up of the annual caretaking fee plus a charge for the purchase of a baler system and also an additional charge for handling WEEE equipment on site.

Cllr Martin asked:

18. How much money has been spent to date in the preparatory work associated with proposed civic amenity centre for Carrickmacross?

Reply: As of November 2007, Monaghan County Council has spent €253,000 on preparatory works associated with the proposed civic amenity site in Carrickmacross. Part of these costs are made up of detailed site investigation works fee, consultant's design fees to date, and a topographical survey fee. However, the majority of this cost can be attributed to the purchase of the site i.e. €195,000.

Cllr Carthy asked:

19. "Will the Council agree to erect location signage at each of the entrances to 'Ard Ross Avenue', Carrickmacross?"

Reply: As this is an Urban Street this is a matter for Carrickmacross Town Council.

Cllr Keelan asked:

20. When will signage be erected on the Carrickmacross bypass, for the Parish of Killanny, so it can be put back on the map.

Reply: A draft policy on the provision of information signs on all roads in the county is currently being prepared and it is hoped to bring it to the next SPC meeting for discussion. The policy will take into account National Policy, NRA Guidelines and Failte Ireland Guidelines for the provision of signs.

21. In relation to the Convent Lands link road, when do we hope to have the public lighting in place. And in relation to public lighting in general, what outstanding work has the ESB to complete in the Carrickmacross Electoral area. Are there completion dates for the proposed work?

Reply: The convent lands link road lights should be erected before Christmas. The civil works have been completed some months ago and

MCC has been in constant contact with the ESB about erecting the proposed 17 new lights to this link road. Other outstanding issues include:-

- *Lighting up the existing new lights to the new 800m of newly constructed footpath out to the Nuremore Hotel on the Old Ardee road which is due to be carried out in coming days.*
- *Supplying power to light up the new lighting columns and also infill lighting at Inniskeen.*
- *Erect new lights to the Gallows Hill (Drummond Etra- Playpark and all Paths)*

22. In relation to the new Castleblayney Bypass, what efforts have Monaghan County Council made to deal with the obvious disastrous design faults, such as:-

- (i) No slip lanes when turning left.
- (ii) Slow moving vehicles delaying traffic on the single lane,
- (iii) The very short distance available to pass out slow moving traffic.
- (iv) The very poor/non-existent public lighting at the junctions.

Reply: It is not accepted that the design concerns raised are design faults. With regards to the individual issues raised these were discussed at the last Steering Committee meeting on 22nd November. It was agreed that countdown markers and delineators be installed at the approach to these junctions. Monaghan County Council has written to the NRA outlining the concerns raised by the Mid Monaghan members and pointing out that as this is a pilot scheme some mechanism should be put in place for continually monitoring and reviewing the performance of the road.

23. In relation to the Carrickmacross traffic light system, why is there such a long delay in repairing the lights when they are defective?

Reply: The existing traffic lights on Main Street Carrickmacross have been examined by technical experts who recommend replacing them totally with new ones, due to malfunctioning arising from to their age.

In the mean time a component of the traffic lights was taken away for repair and the lights are now up and running again.

MCC has received a quotation for a new set of traffic lights at this location and the replacement system will be in place early in 2008.

24. What is the up-to-date position in relation to having the Civic Amenity/Recycling Centre for Carrickmacross operational?

Reply: The current situation is that Monaghan County Council on November 26th received copies of the contract documents and design details from the consultants and the Council's technical staff are presently reviewing these. The aim is to go to tender before Christmas.

The Council had envisaged going to tender in October but following advice from our consultants, we had to significantly change our contract documents due to major procurement changes by the Department of Finance. Under the DOF's Construction Procurement Reform there are major revisions regarding the procurement of public works projects.

Our aim is to appoint a contractor in February and commence works in March with a view to having the facility in operation in the third quarter of 2008. However, it should be noted this will be subject to appropriate funding being made available by the DOEHLG as any new projects commencing next year may be subject to a new tranch of departmental funding.

Cllr Kieran asked:

25. Has Monaghan County Council any plans to erect school warning signs on the road approaching Urbleshanny N.S. similar to those erected outside all National Schools in the Clar Area?

Reply: The Council have no plans at present to erect school warning signs at National Schools outside of the Clar area as there is no funding available.

26. Given the unsatisfactory service being provided by the ESB in the installation of new lighting in villages, would Monaghan County Council consider withholding payment of the public lighting account until such time that the issue is addressed?

Reply: This is not an option as the Council is bound by the Prompt Payments of Accounts legislation.

27. In the interest of safety would the Engineering staff consider introducing yellow rumble strips outside Rockcorry N.S., and also speed ramps at Crann Mor estate and Boyher to combat excessive speeding in the vicinity?

Reply: The Council is currently carrying out a survey of the areas in question to determine the most appropriate traffic calming measures. It is envisaged that works will take place in early 2008.

28. What plans has the County Council to alleviate flooding that occurs on the Threemilehouse/Newbliss Rd in the townland of Kilnaclay?

Reply: The Council is planning to carry out major road improvement works on this section of the R189 Threemilehouse to Newbliss Road in 2008 subject to funding being obtained from the DOELG. The proposed works will include the lifting of the existing road level, new

embankments and resurfacing. It is hoped that these works will alleviate the current flooding problem.

Cllr Kieran asked:

29. To combat the hazard of anti social behaviour in the area adjacent to the children's play facilities in the Crann Mor estate Rockcorry has the Council any plans to increase the safety aspect of the play area and help eliminate this behaviour?

Reply: The Local Area Engineer met with a number of residents in relation to works that they wish the Council to consider carrying out at this estate. The residents were asked to submit a list of the works required, to enable the works to be costed. The matter will be further examined upon receipt of the list of the works as agreed to by all the residents.

12. Notice of Motions

The Members considered the motion in the name of Cllr Martin which had been deferred from a previous meeting pending a report from Mr. D. Fallon in relation to the costs involved.

“ That Monaghan County Council adopt (in conjunction with the Northern Standard Newspaper) an arrangement similar to that practised by Cavan County Council with the Anglo-Celt Newspaper, whereby Cavan County Council supply the aforesaid newspaper at regular intervals throughout the year with a classified, easy to read list of all planning applications received by the Council to the great benefit of the Cavan public and in particular its property owners.”

Mr. David Fallon, Director advised that the weekly cost of publishing the list of all planning applications received by the Council would be as follows:

- Northern Standard Newspaper: €855 plus VAT per week
- Monaghan Post: €400 plus VAT per week

A vote by show of hands on the proposal resulted in 0 for and 17 against. The Mayor declared the motion defeated.

- (b) In the absence of Cllr Martin it was agreed to defer Notice of Motion 12(b) to the January meeting.
- (c) Motion in the names of Cllr Treanor, B McKenna, Carthy, McAnespie, Conlon, Crowe and Keelan:

“That Monaghan County Council reaffirms, as a central objective, its desire to see the establishment of a united 32 county Irish Republic as declared in the Proclamation of Easter 1916. That whenever opportunities arise we will work with all other statutory agencies, on both sides of the border, to see this objective realised”

In moving the motion Cllr P. Treanor said they wished to advance this motion to encourage an all Ireland economy which would benefit Monaghan and Ireland as a whole. One spatial strategy would benefit the countries infrastructure; the twelve areas of co-operation with six implementing bodies.

Cllr B McKenna said since 1916 and 1921 there was a lot of lip service given towards a united Ireland. Previous arguments were that Unionists would not want to see a united Ireland as they would feel threatened – this is no longer the case as Ireland has become a more secular society. There are barriers and benefits to both states now in the current economic environment and it should be the aim of this Council to overcome these barriers.

Cllr Carville proposed the following amendment to this motion, as follows:

“ to delete all words after “the establishment of” and replace with

“ the unity of our country as a Republic, by peaceful means with the consent of a majority of the people, democratically expressed, in both jurisdictions of the island, in furtherance of the spirit of the Easter Proclamation of 1916 and the Good Friday Agreement 1998, which has the democratic approval of the people of both jurisdictions. That whenever opportunities arise we will work with all other statutory agencies, on both sides of the border, to see this objective realised.”

In proposing the amendment Cllr Carville stated that the democratic will of the people must be paramount in determining whatever form of government the people want and what form of political arrangements are arrived at for the people of the island. He referred to the adoption of the Good Friday agreement, the process to which all parties present at this meeting were a party to. He believed that in expressing the desire of this Council in terms of Irish unity we should not deviate from what is already freely expressed by the Irish people in the Constitution. This Council has a proud record in terms of its part in our national self-determination, being the first local authority in Ireland to declare its allegiance to Dail Eireann in 1919.

Cllr Maxwell seconded the amendment.

Following further debate on the motion, the Mayor indicated he was putting the motion to the meeting.

A roll call vote on Cllr Carville’s amendment resulted as follows:

For: Cllrs Bannigan, Carville, Coyle, Humphreys, Keenan, Kieran, Maxwell, McElvaney, P. McKenna, McNally and O’Brien. Total 11

Against: Cllrs Carthy, Conlon, Crowe, Keelan, McAnespie, B. McKenna and Treanor. Total 7

The Mayor declared the amendment carried. The substantive motion was put to the meeting and agreed.

- (d) On the proposal of Cllr Kieran, seconded by Cllr Coyle it was agreed to take a motion in the name of Cllr Benny Kieran:

“That Monaghan County Council support the campaign spearheaded by Sen. Labhras O Murchu to accord national honours to Thomas Kent and have his remains re-interred in a more appropriate and significant location. As Irishmen we are all aware of the significance of 1916 yet for 90 years the remains of Vol. Thomas Kent, who was executed in Cork prison on the 9th May 1916 as part of the justice afforded those who took part in the Easter Rising, is still buried within the walls of the prison.”

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Keelan it was agreed to include the wording “and women” in the sentence “As Irishmen”.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed to remove the wording “spearheaded by Sen. Labhras O Murchu”.

Cllr McElvaney proposed, Cllr P McKenna seconded that consideration of the motion be deferred until it is established that it’s the wishes of his family to have the remains of Vol. Kent re-interred in a more suitable burial ground.

A vote by show of hands on the proposal resulted in 5 for 10 against. The Mayor declared the motion defeated.

A vote by show of hands on the original proposal resulted in 14 for, 1 against and 1 abstention. The Mayor declared the motion carried.

Cllr Carthy proposed sending resolution to the Department of An Taoiseach and the Department of Justice. Cllr Kieran requested that the resolution be also passed to all County and Town Councils. These proposals were agreed.

- (e) It was agreed to defer consideration of this motion to the January meeting.

14. Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations

Votes of Congratulations

The Council agreed to extend a vote of congratulations to Mr. Paraic Duffy on his appointment as Director – General of the GAA

Votes of Sympathy

The Council agreed to extend votes of sympathy to the following

- Damien Treanor on the death of his father, Frank
- Jim McNally on the death of his father, Michael

The meeting then concluded.

Signed:

Meara

Meeting Administrator

Date
