

**Minutes of meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Clones Credit Union Board Room on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2011 at 3.30 p.m.**

**Chair:** Cllr S. Coyle, Mayor.

**Present:** Cllrs Carthy, Carville, Conlon, Connolly, Crowe, Gallagher, Keelan, Maxwell, B. McKenna, McElvaney, McPhillips, McNally, Murray, O'Brien, P. Treanor and S. Treanor.

Mr. D. Fallon, A/County Manager, Mr. P. Clifford, Mr. D. Treanor, and Mr. A. King, Directors of Service and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

**Apologies:** Cllrs Bannigan, S. McKenna O'Hanlon

*At the outset, the Mayor proposed a vote of sympathy to Cllr P.J. O'Hanlon on the death of his father Peter, RIP, who passed away that weekend. Cllr Murray seconded the proposal.*

A number of members expressed their sympathy to Cllr O'Hanlon and his mother Rosaleen, a former member of the Council, as did the A/County Manager on behalf of the staff. The motion was passed unanimously.

The Mayor then adjourned the meeting for a short period as a mark of respect to Cllr O'Hanlon.

On resumption, the Mayor welcomed the Members to Clones and thanked the Board and Manager of the Clones Credit Union for providing the venue for the Council meeting. He welcomed Ms. Maura Greenan, President of Clones Credit Union and Mr. Jim McMahan, Irish League of Credit Unions and Clones Credit Union and invited them to address the Council.

Ms. Greenan welcomed the Council to the Credit Union Boardroom and wished the Members a successful meeting. She also wished them all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Mr. Jim McMahan also welcomed the Council. He referred to the severe restrictions which the Financial Regulator has placed on over 300 credit unions and the impact it is having on the ground and on the ordinary people who depend so much on their local branch. These restrictions are driving people into the hands of money-lenders who are charging exorbitant rates of interest. He called on the Councillors to lobby their Dail counterparts to put pressure on the Regulator to allow credit unions and banks lend to ordinary people instead of them having to go to money-lenders.

The Mayor thanked Ms. Greenan, Mr. McMahan and Mr. Brendan. Jenkins, Manager for the use of the venue and for their assistance and wished them success in 2012.

## **Urgent business:**

The Mayor informed the Members that he had received two notices of urgent business:

### **(1) in the names Cllrs Connolly and S. Treanor:**

*That Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Transport to make it mandatory that all public vehicles carrying or serving members of the public should be fitted with winter grade tyres from the months of November to March each year.*

A vote by show of hands on Cllr Connolly's proposal resulted in 1 for, 6 against. In accordance with Standing Order 14.2 the Mayor ruled that the motion had been defeated as it had not received the support of one half of the Council. The Mayor advised that Cllr Connolly could put down a notice of motion for the next meeting of the Council.

### **(2) in the names of Cllrs Coyle, McNally, Gallagher, O'Hanlon and O'Brien.**

*" That Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Finance, Michael Noonan T.D., asking him not to introduce the proposed increase in VAT from 21% to 23% and also that he would not increase the duty on central heating fuels, petrol and diesel as these increases would cause undue hardship to business in the border areas "*

Cllr Maxwell stated that there was a similar motion from Monaghan Town Council included in the correspondence circulated with the agenda and that the matter could be dealt with at that time.

A vote by show of hands resulted in 5 for 10 against. In accordance with Standing Order 14.2 the Mayor ruled that the motion had been defeated as it had not received the support of one half of the Council.

## **1. Confirmation of Minutes:**

### **(i) Minutes of Council Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2011**

*On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2011 be confirmed.*

## **2. Correspondence**

The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda for the meeting.

- Letter of acknowledgement from the office of An Taoiseach in relation to the Housing Grants Scheme.

## 2. Correspondence (contd):

- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Finance in relation to the Housing Grants Scheme.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Health in relation to the Housing Grants for the Elderly Scheme.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the office of An Taoiseach in relation to the Council's resolution regarding the Keane Report on people with mortgage difficulties.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the office of An Taoiseach in relation to the recoupment of An Bord Pleanála oral hearing costs.
- Letter from the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources in relation to the refund of expenses incurred by community groups involved in the An Bord Pleanála oral hearing.
- Letter from the Minister of State at the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources in relation to the refund of expenses incurred by community groups involved in the An Bord Pleanála oral hearing.
- Letter from Brendan Smith TD enclosing reply from the Minister of State at the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources in relation to the refund of expenses incurred by community groups involved in the EirGrid oral hearing.
- Email from Deputy Heather Humphreys enclosing response from the Minister in relation to the refund of expenses incurred by community groups involved in the An Bord Pleanála oral hearing.
- Letter from EirGrid offering to deal with outstanding issues from the Members related to the North South 400kv interconnector.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Education and Skills in relation to the Higher Education budget for 2012.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Social and Family Affairs in relation to the eligibility criteria for the Internship Scheme.
- Letter from the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government in relation to the Non-Principle Private Residences Charge.
- Letter from Deputy Caoimhghin Ó Caoláin in relation to the Council's request to him to lobby the Minister for Health in relation to the Minor Injuries at Monaghan General Hospital.
- Email from Deputy Heather Humphreys in relation to the Council's request to her to lobby the Minister for Health in relation to the Minor Injuries Unit at Monaghan General Hospital.
- Email from Deputy Sean Conlan in relation to the Council's request to him to lobby the Minister for Health in relation to the Minor Injuries Unit at Monaghan General Hospital.
- Letter from the Chairman of the Arts Council in relation to the continuation of funding to the arts in the county.
- Letter from Cumann Peil Gael na mBan Mhuineacháin thanking the Council for the contribution of €1,000 to the Monaghan Ladies team.
- Email from Deputy Caoimhghin Ó Caoláin in relation to the Council's request to explain the stance taken by him during a debate on a Private Members motion in Dail Eireann on health issues.

- Resolution from Ballybay Town Council calling on the Council to take whatever action is necessary to save Town Councils.
- Resolution from South Tipperary County Council calling on the Minister to amend the Valuation Act 2011.
- Resolution from Donegal County Council calling on the Government to address the serious reduction in services and benefits for people with disabilities.
- Resolution from Monaghan Town Council calling on the Minister for Finance not to increase the higher rate of VAT or duty on fuels/heating oils.

**Proposals arising out of correspondence:**

*That the Council write again to the Minister for Health, Mr. James Reilly, T.D., seeking an urgent meeting in relation to the Minor Injuries Unit at Monaghan General Hospital.*

*Cllr Carthy proposed, Cllr P. Treanor seconded that the Council adopt the resolution from South Tipperary County Council, as follows:*

*“ That the Council mindful of the effect which decreasing turnovers, in the current economic climate, are having on the ability of retailers to pay their rates, calls on the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government to amend the Valuation Act 2011 to permit the revision of a rateable valuation in respect of a retail outlet, to take cognisance of the profit of that retail outlet, so that the ability of retail outlets to pay their rates would be more realistically reflected by their profit ”*

A vote by show of hand resulted in 10 for 4 against. The Mayor declared the motion carried. Cllr Maxwell requested that he be recorded as voting against the motion.

*On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Carthy, it was agreed that the Council write to the Valuation Office inviting officials from that office to make a presentation to the Council outlining how premises are valued for rating purposes.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed that the Council adopt the resolution from Monaghan Town Council calling on the Minister for Finance to think again about the proposed increase in VAT from 21% to 23% and also the plans to increase the duty on central heating fuels, petrol and diesel.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed that the Council write to the Arts Council thanking them for their words of encouragement to the Council and appealing to them to maintain funding for Artswell and Iontas in Castleblayney and to re-instate venue funding for the Garage Theatre – the letter to be copied to Pat Moylan, Orlaith McBride and Val Balance.*

*On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that the Council write to the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government requesting that the Tenant Purchase Scheme be extended beyond the 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2011. It was further agreed that the Council write to the Government T.D.s for this constituency asking them to lobby the Minister in this regard.*

*On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that the Council write to the Minister for Justice and Equality asking him to outlaw all 'door to door money-lenders'.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was agreed that the Council write to TV3 congratulating them on an excellent programme that was aired recently in relation to shopping in the North of Ireland –v- the Republic of Ireland.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr Crowe, it was agreed that the Council adopt the resolution from Donegal County Council, as follows –  
“In acknowledging the increasing difficulties being faced by many people in this state that the Council discuss the serious reduction in services and benefits for people with disabilities and calls on the Government to immediately address the situation in Budget 2012”.*

**3. To approve recommendation from Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 21 November, 2011.**

*On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2011 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.*

**4. To fix dates for the following meetings:**

**(i) January Council meeting.**

It was agreed that the January Council meeting would be held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2012.

**(ii) Speed Limit Committee Meeting**

It was agreed that a meeting of the Speed Limits Committee would be held on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2012 at 3.30 p.m.

**(iii) Landfill sub-Committee meeting**

It was agreed that a date for this meeting would be scheduled at the January Council meeting.

**5. To receive reports from Members attending Conferences:**

The Members noted the reports from Cllrs Coyle and Gallagher in relation to their attendance at the La Touche Legacy Conference, Greystones, Co. Wicklow

The Council approved the following change to the November Conference list – that Cllr Gallagher be substituted for Cllr P.J. O’Hanlon at the Clare Tourist Council Conference on 25/26<sup>th</sup> November.

It was agreed that the Meetings Administrator in consultation with the Mayor of the day could authorise a change in the members attending a conference that had previously been approved at a Council meeting.

**6. Proposed Eirgrid 440kv Interconnector**

*On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Crowe, it was agreed that the Council write to the leader of the Fine Gael party, Mr. Enda Kenny, T.D., requesting him to deliver on his party’s election commitment to refund the oral hearing costs of the local groups involved in the An Bord Pleanála oral hearing for the Eirgrid Interconnector.*

**7. Business submitted by County Manager**

**Council meeting room refurbishment** – The A/County Manager outlined the proposal to refurbish/upgrade the meeting room in Mtek used by the Council for its meetings. A layout out plan was circulated to the Members. He stated that the cost of the work is estimated to be in the region of €30,000 and that, if agreed by the Council, the work would be undertaken in early 2012. The Members agreed to the proposed refurbishment of the meeting room, as outlined by the A/County Manager.

**Meeting re A5/N2 road corridor:** Mr. Fallon informed the Members that the Mayor and himself had attended meetings in relation to the A5/N2 road corridor. A further meeting is taking place with Minister Varadkar on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2011.

*On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna it was agreed that the Council write to the Minister for Transport and the National Roads Authority seeking funding in 2012 to progress the route selection for the N2 Clontibret to the Northern Ireland Border Road Scheme to preliminary design stage.*

*On the proposal of Cllr McNally seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed that the Council seek a meeting with the Minister for Transport and the National Roads Authority to discuss the progression of the N2/A5 road scheme.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr S. Treanor it was agreed that the Council seek a meeting with the National Roads Authority to discuss the allocation of funding to progress the N2 realignment north of Monaghan Town to Corracrin.*

**Local Government Fund** – Mr. Fallon advised the members that the Council had received notification of the 2012 LGF allocation amounting to €1.9m down from €12.746m in 2011.

**Ulster Canal** – Mr. Fallon informed the members that the planning application for the Ulster Canal project had been submitted to the Council. In response to queries from Members, Mr. P. Clifford advised that there is a trans-boundary element to this application and therefore the normal decision deadline will not apply.

The members requested that this matter would be reviewed at each monthly meeting under Manager's Business. This was agreed

**8. Matters arising out of minutes of Council meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November.**

Queries arising out of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November were responded to by the appropriate official.

**9. Questions:**

**Cllr M. Carthy asked:**

1. Will the Council give an up-to-date report on progress regarding the proposed Group Home for women with physical and sensory disabilities; when is it now expected that a planning application will be lodged and what is the target date for completion of this important project?

**Reply:** *Before submitting the revised formal application to the Department the Approved Housing Body Respond requires confirmation of the revenue funding that is to be provided by the H.S.E.*

*The H.S.E. is looking at options for the management of the home when completed. The Planning Application cannot be lodged until the formal application has been examined by the Department's technical advisors.*

*Timescale for completion will be dependant on stage approvals by DoECLG; however if it were assumed that all approvals will be granted within a reasonable period of time then it would be anticipated that the project could be completed within approximately 18 months including the planning process (it should be noted that this is an indicative estimate by Respond and is based on an assumption as outlined above including grant of funding and no objections to Planning).*

**Cllr M. Carthy asked:**

2. Are there additional costs incurred to the Council as a result of a need for reporting relating to the government's agreement with the ECB/ IMF; if so will the Council outline the detail of these costs?

**Reply:** *There is no additional monetary cost in complying with these reporting requirements. The reports are returned on a quarterly basis and their completion has been assigned to staff in the Finance Section.*

3. Can the Council outline the amount of people in County Monaghan who sought emergency homeless accommodation during the year 2010, and from January-November 2011; the number of applicants who received emergency accommodation; and the number of applicants who did not receive emergency accommodation but were referred to other agencies?

**Reply:** *In 2010, 52 adults and 41 children presented as homeless to Monaghan Local Authorities. Assistance that was given for people who presented as homeless and the initial outcomes following their presenting to the Council*

- *Advice 20 persons*
  - *Advice and moved on to private rented accommodation 14*
  - *Advice and back home 1*
  - *Advice B&B and back home 1*
  - *Advice B&B and move to private rented accommodation 10*
  - *Advice and move to local authority accommodation 6*
- Total 52 adults*

**2011:** *In 2011, 36 adults and 17 children presented as homeless to Monaghan Local Authorities. Assistance that was given for people who presented as homeless and the initial outcomes following their presenting to the Council*

- *Advice 4 persons*
  - *Advice B&B and back home 1*
  - *Advice and private rented 10*
  - *Advice B&B and private rented 4*
  - *Advice and back home 3*
  - *Advice and move to voluntary housing 4*
  - *Advice and referred to a hostel 1*
  - *Advice support B&B and private rented for tenants of Fairgreen and back to local authority housing 9*
- Total 36 adults*

4. When is it expected that new speed ramps will be put in place at Clonseady Housing Estate, Magheraclone and when will the existing ramps at Tailte An Chlochair, Carrickmacross be improved?

**Reply:** *The Council intends to have these works complete before the end of the year.*

**Cllr M. Carthy asked:**

5. With regard the Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) for the resurfacing of lanes:  
 a. How many applications has Monaghan County Council on file in each electoral area?

**Reply:** *The number of applications are as follows: Clones 51, North Mon 50, Castleblayney 48, Carrickmacross 36*

- b. How many lanes were completed under this scheme in 2011 (in total and per electoral area), what were the corresponding figures for 2010?

**LIS 2 Years List**

	<b>Ordinary List 2011</b>	<b>Special Circumstances 2011</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>Clones</b>	9	0	<b>9</b>
<b>CBY</b>	3	2	<b>5</b>
<b>Nth Mon</b>	1	1	<b>2</b>
<b>CMX</b>	0	3	<b>3</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>19</b>
	<b>Ordinary List 2010</b>	<b>Special Circumstances 2010</b>	<b>Totals</b>
CMX	4	7	11
Clones	3	0	3
Nth Mon	1	2	3
CBY	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>18</b>
	<b>2010 &amp; 2011</b>	<b>Two Year Totals</b>	
	14	<b>Carrickmacross</b>	
	12	<b>Clones</b>	
	6	<b>Castleblayney</b>	
	5	<b>North Monaghan</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>		

- c. What is the average time on the waiting list for this scheme, when is the longest waiting applicant apply?

**Reply:** *Average waiting times are approximately six years however this varies depending on the level of funding available.*

**Cllr P. McNally asked:**

6. (a) Has this Council received a final completion date from the Contractors regarding the redevelopment of the OPD's in Cloughvalley, Carrickmacross?

**Reply:** *The Contractor has indicated that due to poor weather conditions and other delays the completion date will now be in early 2012.*

**Cllr P. McNally asked:**

(b) When is it expected that these houses will be allocated?

**Reply:** *It is hoped that the houses will be ready for allocation in February or March 2012 depending on the completion date.*

(c) Will those Tenants that were transferred out of the original OPD's be automatically offered a new house?

**Reply:** *It is envisaged that Tenants that want to move back to Cloughvalley can be accommodated in the new houses.*

7. Has this Council put in place an improved emergency plan to deal with extensive flooding such as the flooding on the 24th of October? If so, are there additional sand bags available in all areas of the County and are there contact numbers that can be published to help people seek help in an emergency.

**Reply:** *The Council has in place a Major Emergency Plan that provides a framework to deal with all emergencies including flooding. In addition the Council propose to allocate resources to prepare a specific plan to deal with flooding. The Council carry a stock of sandbags. Out of hours contact details are included in the front section of the phone book in the green pages. The Council are putting in dedicated emergency contact numbers to deal with public queries during an emergency. These numbers will be advised to the public through the media.*

8. Will this Council be again making an application to the Department of the Environment for funding for the final phase of the Industrial link road adjacent to Rye Valley Foods in 2012 as this is important to eliminate the dangerous junction at Barford Meats?

**Reply:** *Funding for capital works on regional roads has been significantly reduced; the current funding is being allocated to maintain the existing regional roads network. It is unlikely therefore that this will be funded in the foreseeable future. As part of the Review of the County Development plan options for link roads are being assessed.*

9. (a) How long will those availing of the Sewerage Connection Discount Scheme in Carrickmacross have to pay the connection charge when offered?

**Reply:** *Discounted connection charges must be paid, in full, within six months of the final commissioning of the scheme. Monaghan County Council will notify all existing dwellings on septic tanks / proprietary treatment systems within the serviced area accordingly. Notifications will be issued before Year end.*

**Cllr P. McNally asked:**

9. (b) Will there be any time constraints as to when they have to make the connection itself thereafter?

**Reply:** *To ensure disruption to public footpaths and public roads is minimised a time limit will need to be introduced.*

**Cllr S. Coyle asked:**

10. When will Monaghan County Council carry out works on a Pedestrian/School Crossing at Latton village? It's currently highly dangerous on the road adjacent to Scoil Mhuire National School & Latton Social Services Resource Centre, with a very large volume of children & parents crossing the road on a daily basis.

**Reply:** *Monaghan County Council is hoping to commence works in the next 2 weeks, with the crossing to be completed by the end of January 2012, weather permitting.*

11. Given that Local Authorities can now act as lead partner in applying for funds under R.D.P from the Leader Programme for Village Enhancement Projects, does Monaghan County Council now plan to apply for & carry out Village Enhancement Projects in villages around the county in conjunction with the local community?

**Reply:** *Yes the Council is actively pursuing this opportunity to secure the optimum amount of funding for County Monaghan. Ms Carol Lambe, Community & Enterprise Development Officer, is in liaison with Community Groups and Area Engineers in this regard.*

12. Has Monaghan County Council completed plans and received costings for additional public lighting in the Connons i.e. at St. Alphonsus' Church, the Connons Community Centre & St. Conghals National School? This area is proving highly dangerous for pedestrians accessing the local facilities.

**Reply:** *Clones Area Office will contact public light providers in the New Year with a view to receiving a cost for additional lights. There are currently 18 other schemes in the Clones Area waiting for funding.*

13. When will Monaghan County Council complete the welcome road safety improvement works at the junction of the LP03000/1 to LS0700/0? The much-needed works on this junction, locally known as 'Veldins Cross' Latton, would greatly improve driver visibility & safety.

**Reply:** *Monaghan County Council intends to complete the works prior to Christmas.*

**Cllr P. Treanor asked:**

14. What plans has Monaghan County Council to reduce the hardness in the water supply in the Smithborough/Scotstown area? The filaments of electric kettles, showers, washers, etc, are being destroyed on a regular basis and must be replaced at great expense to households and business. When will action be taken?

**Reply:** *Monaghan County Council has no plans to reduce the hardness of the water supplied to either the Smithboro or the Scotstown areas. Highest Hardness level measured in the past four years, expressed as Calcium Carbonate [CaCo3], in the Smithboro PWS was 178mg/l and in the Scotstown Area was 202mg/l.*

*Ranges for hardness in mg/l CaCO3 are:*

*Soft – Less than 75*

*Moderately Hard - 75 to 150*

*Hard – 150 to 300*

*Very Hard – Greater than 300*

*There is no set limit on hardness under the Drinking Water Regulations which transposed the EU Drinking Water Directive [80/778/EEC] into Irish law. Rather, there is a minimum set if an attempt is made to soften water, as hardness it is deemed good for human health.*

*The following is extracted from the World Health Organisation reference manual - Guidelines for drinking-water quality, third edition, incorporating first and second addenda*

*Hardness - Hardness caused by calcium and magnesium is usually indicated by precipitation of soap scum and the need for excess use of soap to achieve cleaning. Public acceptability of the degree of hardness of water may vary considerably from one community to another, depending on local conditions. In particular, consumers are likely to notice changes in hardness.*

*The taste threshold for the calcium ion is in the range of 100–300 mg/litre, depending on the associated anion, and the taste threshold for magnesium is probably lower than that for calcium. In some instances, consumers tolerate water hardness in excess of 500 mg/litre.*

*Depending on the interaction of other factors, such as pH and alkalinity, water with a hardness above approximately 200 mg/litre may cause scale deposition in the treatment works, distribution system and pipe-work and tanks within buildings. It will also result in excessive soap consumption and subsequent “scum” formation. On heating, hard waters form deposits of calcium carbonate scale. Soft water, with a hardness of less than 100 mg/litre, may, on the other hand, have a low buffering capacity and so be more corrosive for water pipes.*

15. Will Monaghan County Council co-operate with the O.P.W. and the Northern Rivers Agency to have fallen trees, branches and rubble removed from the Finn River from Aghafin through Stonebridge, Analore, Cumber, Annes, to the Erne? The River Agency is currently clearing the river in Fermanagh as far as Aghafin, which means that landholders in Monaghan will face further flooding in future.

**Reply: Monaghan County Council will co-operate with these agencies. However the Council are not aware of any such requests being made.**

**Cllr P. Treanor asked:**

16. When will work begin to remove the dangerous bends at Cladowen/Glear on the Clones Newbliss road? Will this work require road closure? Will disruption be kept to a minimum?

**Reply: Works are programmed to commence before the end of the year. A road closure will be required to complete tie-in works between the new alignment and the existing road.**

**Cllr N. Keelan asked:**

17. (a) In commending Group Water Schemes across County Monaghan for the work they do in the provision of water, particularly to rural communities, what role has Monaghan County Council in relation to Group Water Schemes?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council has two significant roles with respect to the Group Water Schemes in County Monaghan**

- **Monaghan County Council are the Supervisory Authority in relation to Water Quality, under the Drinking Water Regulations of 2007**
- **Monaghan County Council administer the Rural Water Programme on behalf of the Department of the Environment, Communities and Local Government.**

(b) In relation to the upgrading and ongoing works being carried out to the distribution network of Killanny and Reaghstown Group Water Scheme, and given the number of complaints made both to myself and to Monaghan County Council regarding poor workmanship, damage being caused to property, damage being caused to our road network and questionable health and safety practices being carried out by the appointed contractor on behalf of the scheme, what action will Monaghan County Council take to ensure that the issues I have raised on behalf of concerned residents are addressed?

**Reply: As Group Water Schemes directly engaged the services of Consultant Engineers / Employers Reps to supervise construction of the above project, it is the responsibility of these representatives to ensure that materials and workmanship comply with the project specification. The appointed contractor for these types of project shall apply for and obtain a Road Opening Licence from the Roads Dept., Monaghan County Council. It is the responsibility of the contractor to maintain the works undertaken in the roadway for a period of twelve months from the date of substantial completion. Failure to maintain the road within the maintenance period can result in loss of the deposit for the Road opening Licence.**

*Monaghan County Council forward all complaints to the Consultant engineer / Employers rep for follow up. Monaghan County Council will continue to monitor progress on this project.*

**Cllr N. Keelan asked:**

18. In welcoming the improvement works that have been carried out by Monaghan County Council in Bawn village in recent months, why is there such a delay in having the new public lighting switched on?

**Reply:** *Lights are in place and civil works complete. The Council is currently awaiting the ESB to make connection to the supply network.*

19. (a) In relation to the flood damage that has been caused to our road network in some areas of the county, has the council applied for special funding to have this damage repaired? Is the Council receiving good cooperation from other agencies such as the O.P.W., fisheries and farming community?

**Reply:** *Monaghan County Council contacted the Department of Transport regarding the cost of emergency repairs required after the flooding. However the Department advised that no additional funding was available to cover storm damage but that flexibility would be allowed in the 2012 capital grant allocations to cover these remedial works.*

(b) In relation to damaged roads in the south of the county such as the road at Shanco and Ummerafree in Corduff, when is it hoped to have these roads fully repaired and surfaced?

**Reply:** *The Council are undertaking emergency interim works on these damaged roads. Full and permanent repairs will be undertaken once a source of funding has been agreed.*

20. In relation to Monaghan County Council's new policy of 'Purchase a Salt Bin Scheme', how many applications have been received by the Council for a salt bin; what will happen in areas where there is no residents group or community group structure; have the salt bins been purchased in Co. Monaghan?

**Reply:** *Monaghan County Council have received 42 applications for 56 Salt Bins. The scheme is open to individuals as well as residents and community groups. The salt bins were sourced from Kingspan in Carrickmacross.*

21. In relation to Inniskeen village, have Monaghan County Council plans in place to extend the sewage collection network out to service our housing development at Ednamo and other private residents in the area?

**Reply:** *Yes water services have designed this proposed extension to the network to serve approximately 12 houses. However due to funding constraints this project was not advanced.*

**Cllr P. Connolly asked:**

22. In view of the importance of trying to increase the level of tourism activity in the county and the resultant financial benefits:

(a) What key policies and actions have been identified?

**Reply:**

*(a) The Tourism Business Leaders Forum has identified the following actions as key policies for the short to medium term:*

- *Marketing of County Monaghan as a tourism destination*
- *Development of themed breaks/packages in Co Monaghan*
- *Development of amenity infrastructure in the county*
- *Optimising the current opportunities to develop rural tourism attractions/facilities provided by the National Rural Development Programme and EU funding programmes*

22 (b) What marketing or franchised tools are being used?

*(b) There are several promotional materials being used to raise awareness of Co Monaghan to visitors. These include the following:*

- *Print (Brochures, guides, leaflets etc)*
- *Website*
- *Social Media (Facebook, YouTube)*
- *New Technologies (Podcasts, Mobile phone apps etc)*

23. Has Monaghan County Council any plans to meet with the CEO of Enterprise Ireland or the minister of state at The Dept of Agriculture Marine and Food to discuss applications and opportunities for the food sector in the county?

**Reply:** *The Business Leaders Food Forum held a meeting recently with the CEO of Enterprise Ireland, Mr Frank Ryan on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2011 in Monaghan. Also, the Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Marine and Food, Mr Shane McEntee attended and spoke at the Forum's Food Seminar held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2011. No arrangements have been made to date for any further meetings.*

24. Following the heavy rainfall in late October and the resultant damage to equipment in a number of waste water plants has the damage been costed and are these costs recoverable via insurance?

**Reply:** *Yes all the flood damage to these plants has been costed. However flooding to these plants is not covered under our policy. A funding application to the Department was lodged following this incident recover the costs involved.*

**Cllr P. Connolly asked:**

25. Further to the recent flooding has damage caused to roadworks and infrastructure been costed and what level of funding will be retrieved from the Government?

**Reply:** *Monaghan County Council contacted the Department of Transport regarding the cost of emergency repairs required after the flooding. However the Department advised that no additional funding was available to cover storm damage but that flexibility would be allowed within the 2012 capital grant allocations to cover these remedial works.*

**Cllr R. Gallagher asked:**

26. Will Monaghan County Council seek clarification from the Minister / NRA as to what the position is with regard to funding for the ongoing improvement works on the Dublin-Derry Road, the N2, between Monaghan Town & Emyvale?

**Reply:** *Monaghan County Council received grant funding of €3.27m from the National Roads Authority for these works in 2011. The grant allocations for 2012 are not yet known.*

27. Regarding the Clontibret to the Border Scheme, what is the Council's understanding of the present situation in relation to:  
(a) funding for the proposed route  
(b) status of the design of the proposed roadway between Clontibret and the Border.

**Reply:** *Monaghan County Council received grant funding from the National Roads Authority to progress the route selection phase of the project in 2011. The grant allocations for 2012 are not yet known. It is intended to announce the preferred route corridor in the New Year.*

**10. Notices of Motion:**

**Cllr C. McPhillips proposed, Cllr Carthy seconded, and it was agreed,**

1. *That Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Energy, Communications and Natural Resources and the Commission for Energy Regulation to review the Commission's policy whereby only those electricity customers already in arrears and on the verge of disconnection, are entitled to the installation of "Pay as you Go" meters in their home, thus exacerbating personal debt and increasing the threat of losing a necessary commodity.*
2. In the absence of Cllr O'Hanlon it was agreed that this motion be deferred until the January meeting.

**10. Notices of Motion (contd):**

**Cllr R. Gallagher proposed, Cllr McNally seconded and it was agreed,**

3. *That this Council ask the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government that a facility be established whereby motorists would be able to pay their motor tax in instalments, over the 12 month period, similar to insurance policies.*

**11. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations**

**It was agreed that the sympathy of the Council be extended to the following:**

- An Taoiseach Enda Kenny, T.D., on the death of his mother Eithne, RIP.
- Dermot Deeney, Council employee on the death of his cousin Laurence Mohan, Killylough, RIP
- Matt Caulfield, Ballinode on the death of his brother Seamus RIP
- Brendan Smith, T.D., on the death of his brother Stephen RIP
- Rev Mervyn Burnside on the death of his wife Alison, a former employee in the Council's library service.

**It was agreed that the Council extended a vote of congratulations be extended to the following:**

- Grainne & Therese McNally and Ciara McAnespie of the Emyvale Ladies Football Club and Sharon Courtney of the Donaghmoynne Ladies Football Club who were all selected as All-Stars for 2011.
- Therese McNally, Emyvale Ladies GFC on being selected as Footballer of the Year at the Ulster GAA Writers Awards.
- Cremartin GFC on winning the 2011 Dr. Ward Cup and the Junior Football League to complete the elusive double in 2011.
- Michael Lawson, Largy College and Newbliss on reaching the final of the "North East Got Talent Competition".
- Currin Sons of St. Patrick's GFC on celebrating their 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Monaghan's first ever club to do so.

The Mayor wished all present a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Meara Meetings Administrator

Date: \_\_\_\_\_