

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Iontas Centre, Castleblayney on Monday 6th December, 2010 at 2.00 p.m.

Chair: Cllr J. Crowe, Mayor.

Present: Cllrs. Bannigan, Carthy, Carville, Conlon, Connolly, Coyle, Gallagher, Humphreys, Keelan, Maxwell, McElvaney, B. McKenna, S. McKenna, McNally, Murray, O'Brien, O'Hanlon, P. Treanor and S. Treanor.

Mr. D. Fallon, Acting County Manager, Mr. P. Clifford, Mr. A. King, Mr. D. Treanor, Directors of Service, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

Notice to suspend Standing Orders:

The Mayor advised the members that he had received a notice to suspend standing orders from the Sinn Fein members. He then read the motion to the members. The Mayor stated that in accordance with Standing Order 25.1 the motion must receive the consent of not less than three quarters of the members present at the meeting. The Mayor then put the proposal to the Members. A recorded vote was taken which resulted as follows:

For: Cllrs Bannigan, Carthy, Carville, Conlon, Connolly, Crowe, Humphreys, Keelan, Maxwell, McElvaney, B. McKenna, S. McKenna, Murray, P. Treanor and S. Treanor. **Total 15**

Against: Cllrs Coyle, Gallagher, McNally, O'Brien, O'Hanlon **Total 5**

The Mayor ruled that the proposal had been carried and that standing orders be suspended to allow the Council discuss the motion.

Cllr Carthy proposed, Cllr B. McKenna seconded,

That Monaghan County Council suspends standing orders to discuss the following motion:

That Monaghan County Council rejects the banking bailout package as agreed by the Irish Government, the EU and the IMF;

We recognise that

- The government had no mandate to negotiate this deal.*
- This is not a bailout for the Irish people, this is a bailout for the banks.*
- It is designed to protect international banks and bondholders and to secure the future of the euro no matter what costs to Ireland.*
- The interest payments are unaffordable and will cripple our public finances for years to come*

- *not another cent should go into Irish banks until their debts are restructured whether through burning the bondholders or giving them debt for equity swaps*
- *This deal has not restored confidence in the international markets ;*

This Council calls on any new Government to refuse to honour the terms of any loan agreed, to burn the bondholders of Irish bank debt, to abolish the banking guarantee leaving only deposits guaranteed, and to use the National Pension Reserve Fund for economic stimulus and job creation measures.

We further state that this council, like the people we represent, has no confidence in this government. We call on the government to suspend the budget and to call an immediate general election.

A lengthy debate then ensued, to which a number of members contributed.

During the course of the debate, *Cllr Bannigan proposed, Cllr Maxwell seconded*

“ That this Council has no confidence in the Government. We call on the government to call an immediate general election ”

The Mayor put Cllr Carthy’s proposal to the meeting. A recorded vote was taken which resulted as follows

For: Cllrs Carthy, Conlon, Crowe, Keelan, B. McKenna, S. McKenna, P. Treanor. **Total 7**

Against: Cllrs Bannigan, Carville, Coyle, Gallagher, Humphreys, Maxwell, McElvaney, McNally, Murray, O’Brien, O’Hanlon and S. Treanor **Total 12**

Abstention: Cllr Connolly. **Total 1**

The Mayor declared the motion defeated. He then put Cllr Bannigan’s motion to the meeting. A vote by show of hands resulted in 15 for 5 against. The Mayor declared Cllr Bannigan’s motion carried.

1. Minutes:

- (i) *On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that the minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 1st November, 2010 be confirmed.*
- (ii) *On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed that the minutes of the Adjourned November meeting held on Tuesday 16th November, 2010 be confirmed.*

2. Correspondence:

The following correspondence was circulated:

- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform regarding the Councils resolution in relation to the advertising of head shop products on Irish websites.
- Letter from Deputy Margaret Conlon enclosing reply from Minister Noel Dempsey regarding Ballinacarry Bridge Scheme.
- Resolution from Monaghan Town Council calling on the Government to recognize the unique and vital role of the postal service in Ireland.
- Resolution from Monaghan Town Council calling on the Government to address the plight of the self-employed who find themselves unemployed to access welfare assistance more speedily.
- Letter from Monaghan Federation I.C.A. thanking the Council for the Civic Reception hosted recently in honour of the I.C.A. celebrating its centenary.
- Resolution from Monaghan Town Council calling on the Government to increase the fuel allowance.
- Resolution from Tipperary North County Council calling on the Government to amalgamate County and Town Joint Policing Committees.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed to write to Mr. Eamon Ryan, T.D., Minister for Communications asking him to introduce a moratorium on the liberalization of the Irish postal market.

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed to adopt the resolution from Monaghan Town Council on the Government to address the plight of the self-employed, who find themselves unemployed, to access welfare assistance more speedily.

3. To consider Section 183 Notices, as follows:

(i) Disposal of land at Ardbannagher, Drumbannagher, Glaslough

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell seconded by Cllr Conlon it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal of 8.67 square metres at Ardbannagher, Drumbannagher, Glaslough to the Electricity Supply Board in accordance with the terms of Notice dated 25th October, 2010 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

(ii) Disposal of land at Bree, Castleblayney

On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal of 8.44 square metres at Bree, Castleblayney to the Electricity Supply Board in accordance with the terms of Notice dated 25th October, 2010 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

3. To consider Section 183 Notices, as follows:

(iii) Disposal of land at Cuirt Ui Mheith, Scarnageeragh, Emyvale

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal of 5.47 square metres at Cuirt Ui Mheith, Scarnageeragh, Emyvale, to the Electricity Supply Board in accordance with the terms of Notice dated 25th October, 2010 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

4. Part VIII Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2001

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr McElvaney, it was agreed that the Council approve the carrying out of works (Ref 10/8007) to lower the existing bridge wall adjacent to the junction of the N54/LT21122, in the townland of Gransha More, Stonebridge to comply with the Director's Report dated 29th November, 2010 and in accordance with Part VIII of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2001.

5. To consider proposal to take in charge the Lough Derry Road in Magheracloone:

It was agreed that this item be deferred to the January Council meeting.

6. To approve recommendations from Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 15th November, 2010

(i) To consider adoption of Draft Litter Management Plan 2010 – 2012

Cllr B. McKenna, Chair of the Environment and Infrastructure SPC presented the draft Litter Management Plan 2010 – 2012 to the Members. He stated that the draft plan had been considered by all local authorities in the county. As part of the public consultation process it was circulated to tidy towns groups and resident associations, the Monaghan Community Forum and the Heritage Council. Six submissions were received. These submissions were considered by the SPC and the amendments have now been included in the Draft Litter Management Plan. He proposed that the draft Litter Management Plan 2010 – 2010 be adopted. Cllr McElvaney seconded the proposal.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Keelan, it was agreed that the following words be removed from the introduction to the Draft Litter Management Plan “one of three Ulster counties in the Republic and the most northerly inland county in the country.”

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr McElvaney, it was agreed that the Council investigate the possibility of providing a small recycling facility in the Clones area.

It was agreed that the Draft Litter Management Plan 2010 – 2012, as amended, be adopted.

Mr. D. Fallon, Deputy County Manager stated that €1.2m has been spent on litter related activities in the county and that it would be more beneficial to have this money available for other areas.

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Connolly, it was agreed that the Council write to the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform requesting information on the proposal to avail of The Probation Service to assist in the clean up of litter black spots in the county.

(ii) Winter Maintenance Policy 2010.

Mr. D. Treanor, A/Director of Services outlined details of the gritting operation that had taken place since the start of the current spell of icy cold weather commenced. He stated that 600 kms are being gritted each night and that circa 2,200 tons of salt has been used to date. A number of members paid tribute to the excellent work being done by the Council's staff in ensuring that the main roads in the county were kept clear of snow and ice.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon it was agreed that the Council write to the National Roads Authority stating that as Monaghan is a drumlin county which has a large number of roads that present particular danger, that the Council is allocated sufficient salt to cater for its needs.

On the proposal of Cllr Murray, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon it was agreed that the Council write to the National Roads Authority making a case for additional funding to purchase salt supplies for gritting of local roads.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Humphreys, it was agreed that on completion of the salt barn at Knockaconny, Monaghan, the Council provide for the sale of salt to the public from that location.

Cllr McNally stated that the Council there is a certain onus on the public to prepare themselves for spells of snow and ice and have stocks of salt in place. He suggested that the Council place a notice in the paper advising the public to this effect.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed that the Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 15th November, 2010 be adopted.

7. To receive minutes of the following meetings

The Members noted the minutes of the following meetings –

- (a) Meeting with Minister Dempsey on 20th October, 2010
- (b) Meeting with Minister Smith on 12th November, 2010
- (c) Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee meeting held on 9th June 2010

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Humphreys it was agreed that the Council write to Minister Smith enquiring how he can state that the position at the Ballybay Agricultural Office has not changed since February 2010 when

- (i) One person has been appointed District Veterinary Officer for both Cavan and Monaghan.*
- (ii) All farmer files, with the exception of reactor herds, have been removed from the Ballybay office and*
- (iii) Staff are presently awaiting news of what their future holds.*

8. To fix date for January 2011 Council meeting.

It was agreed that the January Council meeting would be held on Tuesday 11th January at 10.00 a.m. in the Mtek Building.

9. To receive reports from Members attending conferences (*attached*)

The Members noted the report from Cllrs O'Brien in relation to his attendance at the LAMA Autumn Seminar in Listowel, Co. Kerry.

10. Business submitted by Deputy County Manager

Ballybay Wetlands:

Mr. D. Fallon, Acting County Manager advised that further to a discussion at the September Council meeting in relation to the provision of a contribution of €25,000 to Ballybay Development Association for the Ballybay Wetlands Centre, he had identified unspent funding (under Village Renewal Own Resources) which could be re-allocated to this project, subject to Council approval. Mr. Murray confirmed that the accounts for the Ballybay Development Association had been submitted to the Council which include the accounts for the Wetlands project.

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr O'Brien it was agreed that the Council approve the payment of a contribution of €25,000 to Ballybay Development Association, in respect of the Ballybay Wetlands Centre.

Hope Castle:

Mr. D. Fallon, A/County Manager advised the Council that he had no further update in relation to Hope Castle.

11. Matters arising out of Council meetings held on 1st and 16th November, 2010.

There were no matters arising.

12. Proposed Eirgrid Interconnector

Mr. P. Clifford, Director advised the members that he had received an email from Eirgrid to the effect that it has prepared a draft Transmission Development Plan 2010. Comments/submissions are invited from the public up to the 14th January, 2011. He stated that he would circulate a copy of the summary document to each member.

13. Questions:

Cllr S. Conlon asked:

1. To facilitate the implementation of the 'Making Monaghan Accessible' Disability Strategy, what spend has occurred in 2010 and what funding has been applied for 2011?

Reply: Expenditure to date in 2010 is €275,683.

Funding applied for was €169,000, however, allocation received for 2011 is €146,818 Capital Funding and Current Funding of €7,500, (Total €154,318).

Cllr P. McNally asked:

2. (a) Has this Council made a decision regarding the locating of a bottle bank at Bawn?

Reply: Monaghan County Council officials met with representatives of Bawn Housing and Community Association to discuss a suitable location for a bottle bank facility. A particular proposed site was deemed unsuitable from a Health and Safety point of view. An alternative site is currently being assessed.

2. (b) Is this Council putting a salt bin adjacent to Bawn chapel as promised, and, if yes, when will this happen?

Reply: The Council does not have a policy of providing salt bins at such locations. The Council proposes to include details on its website of suppliers of such equipment and sale stocks

Cllr P. McNally asked:

3. Further to the request from both Carrickmacross Town Council and South Monaghan County Councillors, when will P&S Contractors replace the ramps and road markings in Cloughvalley namely: Rockdaniel road and the road adjacent to Bun Scoil and Scoil Rois?

Reply: *Ramps will be installed towards end of 2010 or early 2011*

4. Has this Council received a letter regarding the final stage of the industrial link road adjacent to Rye Valley with a view to making an application to the Department for funding?

Reply: *The Council has not received correspondence in this regard.*

5. Has this Council arranged for signage which will display opening times to be erected on the public road adjacent to our new Civic Amenity Centre?

Reply: *An information sign which displays the opening times and the range of materials that can be recycled has been erected at the public entrance within the confines of the Civic Amenity Centre site. Monaghan County Council will in conjunction with the site caretaker look at the possibility of erecting additional signage on the public road.*

Cllr R. Gallagher asked:

6. When will the road works that are currently in place on our roads be complete so as to allow easy access to our towns in the lead up to the Christmas shopping period?

Reply: *The road works on the N2 south of Monaghan Town were programmed to be completed in the second week of December. However the Contractor has stopped works due to the severe weather.*

7. What is the expected income from rates this year 2010 and how does it compare to 2009?

Reply: *The expected receipts for Rates in 2010 is €4,700,000. The collection for 2009 was €4,982,354.*

8. Would the Council investigate the lack of road markings, (stop/yield signs), in the centre of Scotstown village in the interest of road safety?

Reply: *The Council will investigate this matter.*

Cllr S. Coyle asked:

9. Can Monaghan County Council (Motor Tax Section) outline the precise details required to accompany application/renewal for Motor Tax on Commercial vehicles?

There is much confusion surrounding tax for commercial vehicles.

Reply: *Article 3 of the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations 1992 provides that a licensing authority must be satisfied that a vehicle is correctly taxed. The applicant, in particular in relation to small vans and adapted goods vehicles, will be asked to submit a completed Goods Only Declaration RF111A and a copy of one of the following supporting documentation which can include but is not limited to:*

- *Certificate of Insurance which should show the carriage of goods in the course of trade or business is covered*
- *Evidence of registration for VAT*
- *Tax Clearance Certificate*
- *Copy of their 'Notice of Tax Registration Form'*
- *Letter from District Veterinary office to confirm Herd No/Flock No*
- *Letter from Employer on headed paper stating that the vehicle is used in the course of the person's employment.*

RF111A (Goods Only Declaration) must be completed if you are taxing the vehicle at the goods rate and the design gross vehicle weight of the vehicle does not exceed 3,500kg

10. Following the very severe winter conditions of last year, what plans have Monaghan County Council made to facilitate such conditions for this winter in terms of:

- Orders of Grit / Salt
- Arrangements with dairy/poultry/animal feed manufacturers for distribution of grit/salt as particular problems were experienced in this sectors last year
- Access to grit/salt by schools/community facilities for the safety of all access their premises.

Reply: *This year the National Roads Authority (NRA) purchased salt for use by local authorities on a national basis. Monaghan County Council is in correspondence with the NRA on a daily basis giving details of daily salt usage and stock levels.*

The Council has a planned network of roads that are treated covering some 600km of national, regional and specific local roads. These details are available on the Monaghan County Council website.

The Road Area offices are dealing with urgent or emergency issues on other roads.

Monaghan County Council has included a list of local salt suppliers on their website www.monaghan.ie where property owners/occupiers can purchase salt.

Cllr S. Coyle asked:

11. Has Monaghan County Council received any confirmation from ESB/Airtricity as to when the public lighting at Monaghan road, Threemilehouse will be connected? The columns etc. have been erected for a long time with no further progress being made.

Reply: *A Certificate of Completion is awaited from ESB Contracts who carried out the works before they can be connected to the ESB network.*

Cllr A. Murray asked:

12. (a) Has the Council sufficient salt available to grit roads in the event of another severe winter.

Reply: *This year the National Roads Authority purchased salt for use by local authorities on a national basis. Monaghan County Council is in correspondence with the NRA on a daily basis giving details of daily salt usage and stock levels.*

(b) Are there any contingency plans to grit areas of county roads which cause extreme difficulties in the event of prolonged frost?

Reply: *The Council has a planned network of roads that are treated covering some 600km of national, Regional and specific local roads. These details are available on the Monaghan County Council website.*

The Road Area offices are dealing with urgent or emergency issues on other roads.

14. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations:

The Mayor proposed a vote of sympathy with the husband and family of the late Mary Rudden, Cormoy, Newbliss, RIP, a serving member of the Council's staff. Cllr McElvaney seconded the vote of sympathy which was agreed by all members.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed that the sympathy of the Council be extended to Cllr Owen Bannigan on the death of his uncle Bernard, Lattycrum, Loughmourne, RIP.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Humphreys, it was agreed that the sympathy of the Council be extended to Cllr Aidan Sheerin, Clones Town Council on the death of his uncle, Michael Sheerin, Clones. RIP.

On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed that the sympathy of the Council be extended to the family of the late Brendan O'Neill, Corrintra, Castleblayney, RIP.

On the proposal of Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna, it was agreed that the sympathy of the Council be extended to Mr. John McEntegart, Monaghan County Enterprise Board on the death of his mother Margaret, 66, Dublin Street, Dundalk, RIP.

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed that the sympathy of the Council be extended to Nuala Woods SEO Housing and the wider McAnenly family on the death of Rosaleen McAnenly, Moy, Emyvale, RIP.

Mr. D. Fallon, Acting County Manager associated himself and the staff with all the votes of sympathy.

A minutes silence was then observed by all present, as a mark of respect.

Votes of congratulations:

The Mayor congratulated Mr. D. Fallon on his appointment as temporary County Manager, Monaghan County Council until a permanent appointment is made and wished him every success in the position.

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

- Latton O'Rahilly GFC on winning the Owen Ward Cup and the Drumlin Group of Credit Unions Senior Football League.
- Truagh Ladies GFC on winning the Division 2A title
- Darren Doherty, Emyvale Handball Club, on winning the U-16 title at the National finals recently.
- His Excellency Loyola Hearn on his appointment as Canadian Ambassador to Ireland.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Meara Meetings Administrator

Date: _____