

Minutes of Adjourned Council Meeting held in the Mtek Building, Knockaconny, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday 18th February, 2008 at 10.00 a.m.

Chair: Cllr J Crowe, Deputy Mayor

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

Mr. D. Nelson, County Manager, Mr P. Clifford, Mr D. Fallon and Mr A King, Directors of Service, Mr John Murray, Head of Finance, Ms. Norah Ryan, Senior Staff Officer and Ms. A. Mackle, A/Staff Officer.

Apologies: Cllr Carville, Mayor

(6) Adoption of Speed Limits Bye-Laws 2008.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Humphreys it was agreed to amend item 7 on the Adoption of Speed Limits Bye Laws 2008 list under the heading "Exceptions from the special speed limit prescribed in Article 5 of these regulations and from the built up areas" to include Doctors/General Practitioners in the list provided.

In response David Fallon said the Department of Transport would have to be contacted in relation to this proposal as it would be difficult to identify private vehicles driven by Doctors.

On the proposal of Cllr O'Brien, seconded by Cllr Treanor it was agreed to adopt the Speed Limits Bye Laws 2008 as presented and write to the Department of Transport with the proposed amendments. This was agreed.

7. Update on replacement of Annaghroe & Knockaginney Bridges

Mr. David Fallon, Director said Monaghan County Council has recently received approval from the Department of Transport to appoint the Engineering consultancy firm of Mott McDonald Pettit as Clients Representative on the Annaghroe/Knockaginney Cross Border Bridges Project.

This project consists of the replacement of the two previously demolished bridges over the River Black water at Annaghroe and Knockaginney, Glaslough, County Monaghan. The approach roads to the bridges will be resurfaced also.

The role of the Clients representative is to:

- Prepare indicative designs
- In conjunction with the Council devise and implement a public consultation strategy
- Prepare and submit necessary planning application (Part Eight)

- Procure a construction contractor under the design build form of tender
- Act as Clients Representative during the construction of the bridges.

The current estimated cost of this project is €3.5million. A grant of €900,000 had been allocated by the Department of Transport in respect of costs to be incurred in 2008.

Subject to the complying with all necessary statutory procedures it is envisaged that construction on this project will commence in Autumn 2008.

10. Matters Arising out of the minutes of 7th January, 2008.

Eirgrid

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed to write to Eirgrid with the following proposal:

“ That this Council while welcoming the decision by Minister Eamon Ryan to appoint an independent consultant to examine the proposed 440 KJ overhead power line project from Meath to Tyrone through the heart of Co Monaghan, calls on the terms of reference to be changed to include the following:-

- **The independent Consultant must be of international standing, and one that have not previously worked for the ESB, Eirgrid, NIE or Department of Energy.**
- **The Independent Consultant must be agreed between Eirgrid, The Minister and the local community groups in Monaghan, Cavan and Meath.**
- **The time scale for the independent report must be changed to 4 months from the original 2 months proposed.**
- **That Eirgrid do not announce a preferred route before the completion of the independent study.**

Clar

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed to write to Minister Eamon O’Cuiv, Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, to ask that he provide grant assistance for Local Improvement schemes in lieu with recent allocations and that the announcement of such grants be made early in the year to enable the work to be carried out over the summer period”.

Cllr Gallagher proposed, Cllr Kieran seconded writing to the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs to ask should Monaghan County Council await notification of grant from the Department before carrying out Local Improvement scheme works or should they carry out works and then await confirmation from the Department.

Cllr McElvaney proposed an amendment calling on the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs to ensure inspections of Local Improvement Lanes are carried out by February of each year and that notification of funding be received by March of each year. This was agreed.

Ballybay Development Association

Cllr McElvaney said he recommend to the Corporate Policy Group that the €30,000 (€10,000 per annum) committed to the Ballybay Development Association Water Watch EU project be taken from the €100,000 committed to the Ballybay Wetlands project during the December, 17th 2007 Budget Meeting.

In response the Co. Manager said this was a matter for the Corporate Policy Committee.

Proposed Time Change for Council Meetings

The Members held a discussion on a letter circulated from a meeting of the Party Whips asking the Members to agree a change of time for General Council meetings from 10.00 am – 3.00 p.m.

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Maxwell the Members agreed on a trial basis to hold their General Council Meetings from 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m., suspend the tea break and have tea and coffee facilities available and lunch to be made available from 1.00 p.m. to 1.30 p.m. During this trial period suspend standing order provision 23-2 which states:

“Where the business of the monthly meeting is not completed a second meeting shall be held on the 3rd Monday of the month in order to complete the agenda. If, at the conclusion of the second meeting, the business is not completed the Council shall rise and the remaining business shall be transferred to the next monthly meeting of the Council.

Presentation by East Border Region Committee Chief Executive Pamela Arthur’s

Deputy Mayor, Cllr Crowe welcomed Ms Pamela Arthur’s, Chief Executive of the East Border Region Committee to the council meeting and thanked her for agreeing to give an overview of the role of the East Border Region Committee to the Members.

Ms Pamela Arthur’s gave the following overview of past successes and ERB’s future role:

East Border is a Local Authority led organisation which comprises of Counties: Louth, Monaghan, Meath, Newry & Mourne, Down, Banbridge & Armagh Districts, Craigavon, Ards and North Down Boroughs. It represents a population of 826,000 and represents all political parties North and South. Six new Councils have joined recently who were not previously involved in cross border activity.

Under the Interreg IIIA programme the ERB manage €23m with an additional allocation expected and they manage a total of 35 cross border projects.

The EBR took a strategic approach in 2003 to ensure Local Authorities drew down a significant portion of Interreg funds by establishing Thematic Working Groups.

The Thematic Groups included Tourism, Environment, Economic Development, Infrastructure, Corporate/Admin/IT, Culture/Arts/Leisure/Community.

Monaghan's Success through EBR Interreg IIIA Partnership includes:

Accessing a state of the art E-Marketing system which is based in Monaghan Leisure Centre

Allocation of funding to the following projects

Loch Mor Walkway and Town Park	€50,000
Hollywood Lake	€50,000
County Museum	€40,000
Bath Avenue Carrickmacross	€50,000
Tourist Facility/Leisure Centre	€50,000
Events and Festivals	€10,000

The future role of ERB

Interreg IVA and SEUPB.

To receive Interreg IVA funding SEUPB informed ERB that they would have to develop a Multi Annual Plan but they have not received clear guidelines as to develop this plan.

In response ERB held a Consultation Process and this included holding a broad range of consultation events and specific sectoral events. The ERB received over 110 formal expressions of interest totalling approximately €60 million.

Their plan is set as follows:

Multi Annual Plan – The plan to include Enterprise and Innovation, Tourism, Cooperation for Regional Developments and Infrastructure along with planned financial projections.

The Operation – there will be 3 operations, Enterprise and Innovation, Tourism and Co-operation and Development. The total multi annual plan will cost €33.396 million.

Corporate Governance – A SEUPB requirement, its definition is how an organisation manages its business, determines strategies and objectives and goes about achieving these objectives.

Current Structure

EBRC Company is limited by guarantee with 60 Directors, 6 Councillors from the 10 Member Councils. A board is responsible for Policy, Strategy and all aspects of the company. However Corporate Governance as called for by SEUPB means an ideal board should not comprise of more than 8 people.

In response EBR appointed KPMG consultants who recommended reducing the number of Directors and Board size along with the following:

EBRC Assembly to include Elected Members and Chief Executives/County Managers plus Chairman of the Strategic Assembly

EBRC Executive which will consist of 10 Members and Chair of Assembly and 10 Chief Executive/County Managers for Governance of the EBRC.

Secretariat for the implementation of policies and programme.

Recommendations include an Audit Committee, Training and Evaluation, Financial Control and Risk Register.

Key Message

If EBRC remains as it is, it will not meet corporate governance requirements and thus will not be eligible to receive funds for our Multi Annual Plan.

Current Status

They have submitted 5 different plans to SEUPB; however the financial requirements exceed available funds of €8 million and must await their approval.

ICBAN Presentation by Ms. Linda Monteith, Acting Chief Executive, ICBAN

Deputy Mayor Jackie Crowe welcomed Ms Linda Monteith, Acting Chief Executive of ICBAN and Ms Sharon Watters, Administrator to the meeting.

Ms Linda Monteith outlined the following in her presentation.

ICBAN was formed in 1995 to promote co-operation and communication on a cross border basis on common regional development concerns. It was established as a Cross Border Development Body and Fund Manager – implementing Agent or the Interreg IIIA Programme. They represent a population of 600,000 and have 10 Local Authority Members including:

Northern Ireland

- Fermanagh District Council
- Omagh District Council
- Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council
- Cooks town District Council
- Armagh City and District Council

Republic of Ireland

- Donegal County Council
- Sligo County Council
- Leitrim County Council
- Cavan County Council
- Monaghan County Council.

ICBAN Structures

ICBAN Network - 40 Members and is made up of 4 elected representatives from each of the ten Councils

ICBAN Board - 20 Members, 2 elected representatives from each of the 10 Councils.

ICBAN Interreg IIIA Partnership – 20 Board Members and 20 Social Partners.

ICBAN had received 204 applications, had 72 successful projects which must be completed by the end of June 2008 and must close its programme by the end of December 2008.

SEUPB – New Interreg IVA Programme 2008 -2013

With changes in the new programme ICBAN initiated the following:

June 2007 – ICBAN commissioned FGS McClure Watters to undertake and focus stakeholder’s consultation exercise on the future role and functions of ICBAN.

Dec 2007 – Agreement that ICBAN would be the lead partner of the Multi-Annual Plan submitted on behalf of the member Councils to SEUPB for funding under the new Interreg IVA programme 2008 -2013.

Dec 2007 – Peter Quinn consulting commissioned to make recommendations on our structures and governance requirements going forward on premises ‘form’ follows ‘function’.

Recommendations of ICBAN’s Future Role & Functions

1. Primary Facilitation role
2. Project Implementation role
3. Network development and strengthening cross border relationships
4. strong collaborative lobbying and campaigning function in support of the needs of the cross border region

INTERREG IVA Programme 2008 -2013.

Each Cross Border Group was asked by SEUPB to facilitate the development of a Multi-Annual Plan for their respective regions across 3 areas of operation:

1. Regional Cooperation for Enterprise
2. Tourism
3. Cooperation for Development.

Proposed Recommendations

ICBAN needs to appoint a Chief Executive Officer

The Board/Director composition to be altered – ICBAN CEO & 4 County Managers/Chief Executives (of the 10 member councils) to be co-opted onto the Board as non-executive Directors

A Risk Audit and Finance Committee to be established – a five person committee of which 4 individuals will be from the County Councils/District Councils finance departments

Enterprise Tourism and Collaboration Review Groups (Sub Committees) – proposed establishment of 3 independent review groups.

Conclusion

ICBAN as a lead partner will have a central role between its Member Councils and the SEUPB.

There are to be four Tier Groups

Tier 1: SEUPB Agreement with ICBAN

Tier 2: Formal Partnership Agreement between ICBAN and the Project Leader

Tier 3: Each Project Leader to formalise working relationships with Project Partners

Tier 4: Service Level Agreement

The Co. Manager and Members thanked Pamela Arthur's and Linda Monteith for their presentations and held a discussion on the presentation provided.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed to write to SEUPB to express disappointment that no gap funding had been provided to either of these groups until the new programme is established, this will lead to trained staff been laid off until the new programme is up and running.

In response to a number of queries Adge King said Corporate Governance may cause difficulty for the participating bodies/personnel especially if Directors have company liability.

Signed: _____

Meara

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____

