

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, Mtek Building, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday 2nd February, 2015 at 10.00 a.m.

Chair: Cllr Padraig McNally, Cathaoirleach

Present: Cllrs. Bannigan, Bennett, Campbell, Carthy, Conlon, Connolly, Crowe, Gallagher, Keelan, Maxwell, McElvaney, B. McKenna, McPhillips, O'Hanlon, P. Treanor and S.Treanor.

Mr. E. Cummins, Chief Executive, Mr. P. Clifford and Mr. A. King, Directors of Services, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner, Ms. D. Kierans, Executive Planner and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

Apology: Cllr S. Coyle.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

- (i) *On the proposal of Cllr. S. Treanor seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed that the minutes of Council meeting held on 12th January, 2015, be confirmed.*
- (ii) *On the proposal of Cllr. S. Treanor seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed that the minutes of the Special Council meeting held on 23rd January, 2015, be confirmed.*

2. Correspondence.

The following correspondence was circulated with the Agenda:

- Letter from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform in relation to commercial rates on childcare facilities.
- Letter from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform in relation to the levying of rates on commercial properties to arrive at a more favourable rating system.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Finance in relation to the Council's resolution regarding re-instatement of funding for the Local Improvement Scheme.
- Letter from the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in relation to Ireland 2016, a major national initiative to mark the 100th anniversary of the 1916 Rising.
- Resolution from the Ballybay-Clones M.D. proposing that the Council forms a sub-committee to engage with the rural community in their need and requests for broadband.

The following correspondence was circulated at the meeting:

- Letter from the Minister for Transport regarding funding for regional and local roads in Monaghan.
- Letter from the Minister for Transport regarding funding for the Local Improvements Scheme.
- Letter from the Minister for Transport regarding the proposed N2 corridor from Clontibret to the Border.

Annual Ethics Declaration:

The members were circulated with the following documents:

- Circular Letter LG2/2015 dated 30 January 2015, together with Appendices 1 – 8 to Circular LG2/2015, the Code of Conduct for Councillors and the Annual Declaration Form.

The members were advised by the Meetings Administrator of the importance of reading these documents and that each member should complete the annual ethics declaration form and return to the Ethics Registrar before 28th February, 2015.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Gallagher, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council writes to the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government requesting that (a) a maximum grant for Housing Aid for Older People be restored to €10,500 and (b) the age limit for eligibility be retained at 60 and (c) the assessed means of household income be confined to the applicant and their spouse.

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that this Council calls on the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government, Alan Kelly, T.D., to revert to the lower age limit of 60 years and not 66 years in relation to eligibility of grants for Housing Aid for the Elderly. Also that all household income should not be included in the application it should only relate to the applicant and their spouses.

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr Crowe, it was agreed that this Council writes again to Pascal Donohoe, T.D., Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport requesting a separate fund is put in place for the re-surfacing of the laneways in the country as was the case in the past. These laneway are very important for rural communities especially.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Gallagher, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council writes to Minister Pascal Donohoe, T.D., pointing out that the reduction in road grants from €2.3bn in 2008 to €730 million this year, has meant the grievous deterioration of our local roads and requesting an increase in our allocation for 2015.

Cllr Bennett proposed, Cllr P. Treanor seconded – that this Council writes again to the Minister for Social Protection and the Office of Public Works asking them to reconsider their latest decision to move the current Public Service Card Office out of Ballybay to Monaghan Town. Although no property was deemed up to the required standards of the OPW, with regard to planning permission, fire certification and physical works. This work is estimated to take one year and several properties could be adapted, if the people were given the time to enhance their properties. This decision could help prevent the loss of 30 jobs in Ballybay town.

A vote by show of hands resulted in 15 for 0 against 1 abstention. The Cathaoirleach declared the proposal carried.

Cllr Bennett proposed, Cllr B. McKenna seconded – that this Council writes again to the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform requesting that all childcare facilities are exempt from rates.

A vote by show of hands resulted in 13 for 3 against. The Cathaoirleach declared the proposal carried.

On the proposal of Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr McElvaney, it was agreed that this Council forms a sub-committee to enhance broadband and initiate rural broadband schemes in County Monaghan.

Cllr Conlon asked if notice of motion 16.10 could be taken at this point in conjunction with the consideration of the letter from the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in relation to the 'Ireland 2016' Celebrations. This was agreed.

Cllr Conlon proposed, Cllr P. Treanor seconded

"That this Council establish a committee to co-ordinate the organisation of civic events and celebrations to mark the centenary of the 1916 Rising. That such committee be comprised of elected members of the Council together with support staff, tasked with ensuring that centenary events are conducted in an inclusive, dignified, reflective and educational manner."

In moving the motion, Cllr Conlon referred to the need to establish a committee to plan the celebrations – the committee should be all inclusive. Cllr P. Treanor stated that it was important that the events organised would be conducted in an inclusive and dignified manner.

Mr. E. Cummins, Chief Executive stated that Ireland 2016 will include national and international events based on five intersecting themes – *Remember; Reconcile; Imagine; Present and Celebrate*. The Minister has established a dedicated Ireland 2016 Project Team in her Department and each local authority is required to appoint a dedicated 'Ireland 2016' Co-ordinator and to put in place a steering group to help shape and drive the county programme. The Minister has allocated €1m in funding across all local authorities. Mr. Cummins stated that a programme of events will be developed in the coming months.

Cllr Conlon's motion was put to the meeting and agreed. It was also agreed to await guidelines from the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht prior to putting in place the steering committee.

3. To consider a Material Contravention of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019 regarding the omission of crèche with Coill Darach, Bree, Castleblayney (Ref 14/256).

Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner, referred to the report from the Director of Planning Services dated 23 January 2015 and which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting. He outlined the main provisions of the report and responded to queries from the members.

Mr. Hughes stated that the Planning Authority is of the opinion that the development as proposed, although contrary to Policy HDP8 of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019, is compliant with the relevant Ministerial Guidelines, relevant policies and objectives of the Government, or Minister of the Government and with the Regional Planning Guidelines. As such it is recommended that the elected members pass a resolution requiring that a decision to grant permission be made subject to the conditions outlined in the report.

On the proposal of Cllr Campbell, seconded by Cllr Crowe, it was unanimously agreed that the Council approve a Material Contravention of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-

2019 to grant planning permission (Ref. 14/256) for development at Coill Darach Bree, Castleblayney, subject to the conditions outlined in the Director's Report dated 23 January, 2015.

4. To approve list of newspapers to be used for giving notice of the intention to make a planning application.

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed that the following newspapers are approved in accordance with Part 4, Article 18(2) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2006 for use in Monaghan County Council for giving notice of the intention to make a planning application –

- *Anglo Celt*
- *Northern Standard*
- *Irish Independent*
- *Irish Daily Star*
- *Irish Times*
- *Dundalk Democrat (Municipal District of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney only)*

5. To receive Report on Unfinished Housing Developments.

Ms. D. Kierans, Executive Planner gave a detailed report and presentation to the Council members on the current status of unfinished housing developments in the county. In her report Ms. Kierans stated that there are 20 Unfinished Housing Developments remaining on Monaghan County Council's UHD Register – 5 in the Monaghan M.D., 6 in the Ballybay-Clones M.D. and a further 9 unfinished developments in the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney M.D.

In addition, Ms. Kierans stated that a further 38 developments in the county are being monitored by the Council – 9 in the Ballybay-Clones M.D., 10 in the Monaghan M.D., and a further 9 developments in the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney M.D.

Following the presentation, Ms. Kierans and Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner, responded to queries from the members.

The members complimented Ms. Kierans on a very comprehensive report and also complimented all involved in bringing these unfinished housing developments to an acceptable standard.

Cllr Conlon requested that the Council be circulated with a report outlining the amount of money expended by the Council in legal fees related to unfinished housing developments.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Carthy, it was agreed that this Council requests the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government to address the issue where the legal costs incurred by a local authority in resolving an unfinished housing development dispute are recouped by the local authority through a dedicated legal expenses resolution fund.

6. Management Report – January 2015

The members considered the Management Report for January which had been circulated with the agenda. Mr. E. Cummins, Chief Executive outlined the contents of the report in detail and responded to queries/comments from the members in relation to items contained therein.

Cllr O’Hanlon proposed, Cllr Maxwell seconded – that Monaghan County Council asks Jim Cusack, Sunday Independent Reporter to make a presentation to the Council on his report in that paper and also requests Irish Water and the Fisheries Authority to confirm that everything is safe with the water in Lough Muckno.

A recorded vote was taken which resulted as follows:

For: Cllrs Bannigan, Campbell, Connolly, Maxwell, McElvaney, McNally McPhillips, O’Hanlon, and S. Treanor. **Total 9**

Against: Cllrs Bennett, Carthy, Conlon, Crowe, Keelan, McKenna, P. Treanor **Total 7**

The Cathaoirleach declared the proposal carried.

Cllr Conlon proposed, Cllr Bennett seconded, that in the interest of enhancing the safety and well being of our citizens who are becoming increasingly distanced from emergency medical response and life saving treatment; that this Council collates a database for the purpose of informing our local emergency response agencies, as well as raising public awareness, of the location of AED’s/defibrillators throughout our urban and rural communities.

Mr. E. Cummins, Chief Executive acknowledged the good work being done by local communities in providing defibrillators in their areas. However, he stated that the Council could not take on the work of collating a database and keeping it up to date.

It was agreed to refer this motion to the Monaghan Public Participation Network for consideration.

In relation to a query relating to ‘Keeping Communities Safe’ Mr. Cummins stated that this is a risk based approach to the management of fire services, where there will be no danger to either the fire-fighter or the public.

Cllr Bennett proposed, Cllr Conlon seconded, that Monaghan County Council consider a proposal to add additional road signs with the road numbers each year. This would eventually help emergency response vehicles locate rural addresses.

Mr. E. Cummins stated that the numbering of local roads, whilst desirable, was not a health and safety issue. He referred to the rolling out of post codes by An Post and stated that this may offer a better solution.

It was agreed to refer Cllr Bennett’s motion to each Municipal District for consideration.

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that we invite members of our Environment Section and representatives of Uisce Eireann to the next Council

meeting to inform the members and the general public of their findings in relation to the alleged pollution of Lough Muckno and other waterways in the south of the county.

On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that the Council be provided with the amount of money provided in funding for local roads in 2014 as against the money used for cleaning up diesel wash in 2014.

7. To approve recommendations and minutes of Corporate Policy Group meetings

(i) CPG Meeting held on 8th December, 2014

The Cathaoirleach referred to the recommendation from the CPG that the start time of the monthly Council meetings be 2.00 p.m. He put the proposal to the meeting. A vote by show of hands resulted in 5 for 11 against. The Cathaoirleach declared the proposal defeated.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 8th December, 2014, be confirmed.

(ii) CPG meeting held on 22nd January, 2015

Policy on Section 183 Disposals:

Mr. A. King, Director of Service referred to the decision of the Council at the October meeting that a policy document be prepared in relation to disposals under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 for consideration by the Council. He stated that this document had been prepared and had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting. He then outlined the document in detail, referring in particular to Options A-D.

Mr. King stated that whilst this was a new policy document, it was important to state that all previous disposals had been carried out in strict accordance with the legislation.

Cllr Maxwell proposed, Cllr McPhillips seconded, that the Draft Section 183 Policy be adopted, as circulated.

Cllr Keelan proposed, Cllr P. Treanor seconded – that this Council agrees to put onto the Agenda for the March Council meeting the Section 183 relating to the disposal of land at Mucker, Inniskeen, which was discussed at the October meeting but deferred and that the members of the Council, now having the full information, would consider this Section 183 under the current policy regarding the disposal of land and which is in line with the recommendation of the Council officials.

Mr. E. Cummins, Chief Executive, stated that he would have a difficulty in bringing the Section 183 to the March meeting if the draft policy is adopted at this meeting.

Cllr McElvaney proposed an amendment to Cllr Keelan's proposal – "as presented at the October meeting". There was no seconder for the amendment.

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

A recorded vote on Cllr Maxwell's proposal to adopt the Section 183 policy resulted as follows:

For: Cllrs Connolly, Maxwell, McNally, McPhillips, O’Hanlon and S. Treanor **Total 6**

Against: Cllrs Bannigan, Campbell, Carthy, Conlon, Crowe, Keelan, McElvaney, B. McKenna and P. Treanor **Total 9**

The Cathaoirleach declared the proposal defeated.

A recorded vote on Cllr Keelan’s motion resulted as follows:

For: Cllrs. Bannigan, Bennett, Campbell, Carthy, Conlon, Connolly, Gallagher, Keelan, Maxwell, McElvaney, B. McKenna, McPhillips, McNally, O’Hanlon, P. Treanor and S.Treanor.

Total 16

Against: Nil.

The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

The Chief Executive stated that he would bring forward a new Section 183 notice based on a current valuation(s).

Civic Reception:

Cllr McElvaney referred to the decision taken at the CPG meeting not to host a Civic Reception for Minister Heather Humphreys following her recent appointment as Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

The Cathaoirleach advised the members that the decision was based on the fact that there had been a number of Ministerial appointments in the constituency in the past and no civic receptions had been held to mark those appointments.

Cllr McElvaney proposed, Cllr Bannigan seconded – that a Civic Reception be accorded to Minister Heather Humphreys, T.D., on her recent appointment to the Cabinet by the Taoiseach Enda Kenny, T.D.

A vote by show of hands resulted in 12 for 2 against 3 abstentions. The Cathaoirleach declared the proposal carried.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Keelan, it was agreed that Matt Carthy, MEP would also be afforded a Civic Reception to mark his election to the European Parliament.

It was agreed that a joint Civic Reception would be held for Minister Humphreys and MEP Carthy and that this would be held following the Council meeting scheduled for 13th April, 2015, subject to the date being suitable for both recipients.

Request from Fort August Irish Descendants Association, PEI, Canada:

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna it was agreed that Cllr S. Conlon would be nominated as the contact person between the Council and the Fort Augustus Association.

It was further agreed that Cllr Conlon would be nominated as a member of the Council's Twinning Committee.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna it was agreed that the minutes of the CPG meeting held on 22nd January, 2015 be confirmed.

8. To fix date for meeting of the Disability Steering Committee.

It was agreed that a meeting of the Disability Steering Committee would be held on Monday 23rd February, 2015 at 10.00 a.m.

9. To approve recommendation from An Coiste Logainmneacha – Naming of Doohamlet Housing Estate

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Crowe, it was agreed that the Doohamlet Housing Estate, currently known as 'New Houses, Doohamlet' be re-named as 'Fána na hEaglaise'

10. To receive reports from Members attending Conferences/Training events

It was agreed that the reports received from Cllrs Conlon, Connolly, Coyle, Keelan, Maxwell, McElvaney, McNally and Treanor, in relation to their attendance at the following conferences/training events:

- AILG Training Seminar (Finance), Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan.
- AILG Training Seminar (Housing), Cavan.
- AILG Induction Training, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.
- AILG Training Seminar (Planning) Bundoran, Co. Donegal.
- AILG Autumn Seminar, Cavan
- LAMA Autumn Seminar, Bunrana, Co. Donegal
- Diversity - Creating Community Well Being, Ennis, Co. Clare
- Briefing by Irish Water in Carrick-on-Shannon
- NFLA All Ireland Winter Forum, Dublin.
- East Border Region AGM, Newry, Co. Down.

11. Business submitted by Chief Executive.

There was no business submitted by the Chief Executive.

12. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meetings held on 18th November, 1st December 2014 and 12th January 2015

Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meetings held on 18th November, 1st December and 12th January, 2015 were responded to by the appropriate officials.

13. To receive update on North South Interconnector project

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr Crowe, it was agreed that this Council notes with concern that, to date, the information requested from the Independent Expert Panel has not been supplied to the elected members, despite this information being requested over five months ago. That we write again to the Expert Panel and to the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources seeking this information. That an official of this Council would contact Mr. Ken Spratt in the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources directly expressing the anger of the members at the lack of response on this issue.

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council writes to Minister Heather Humphreys, T.D., seeking information as to what efforts she has made to raise the proposed North South Interconnector at the Cabinet table and to impress upon Government the inequality of treatment that the citizens affected by this proposal have received to date in terms of EirGrid's refusal to consider seriously the undergrounding of the North South Interconnector. Given that Grid-West and Grid Link are being considered for undergrounding.

Mr. E. Cummins, Chief Executive stated that he wanted to highlight to the members that any comparison between Grid West and the North South Interconnector projects cannot be made as they are two completely different projects requiring different solutions.

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that Council's EirGrid Sub-Committee meet with our constituency T.D.s and Minister in the coming weeks, given that a planning application is imminent in relation to the North South Interconnector and given that the proposal is for an overhead line.

14. To receive update on Ulster Canal project

Mr. P. Clifford, Director informed the members that an updated business case was recently completed for the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, and options for progressing the project within the current fiscal constraints are being explored.

15. Questions:

Cllr N. Keelan asked:

1. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the proposed upgrading and improvement of the Dundalk-Cavan Regional Route R178 given the poor state of repair that this very important regional route is in at present; when is it hoped to start works on this road?

Reply: The Preliminary Report is nearing completion. Commencement of work will depend on the availability of funding.

2. In commending the outdoor staff of Monaghan County Council for carrying out the salting programme over the Christmas period and beyond, what is the current position in relation

to our salt supplies; how much has been spent to-date on the salting programme; how much per night does it cost to carry out the salting programme?

Reply: There is 1,200 tonnes of salt in stock and 1,000 tonnes ordered and due for delivery. Winter maintenance to date has cost €540,000. Each call out has an approximate cost of €11,000.

3. In relation to the recent announcement by Government around the provision of housing, what plans have Monaghan County Council to provide housing units in the Carrickmacross area given the huge Housing Waiting List in the south Monaghan area; will this council also consider buying or building housing units in the Inniskeen area?

Reply: Preparatory work has already commenced on the planning for the purchasing and building of houses in all the areas of the county having regard to the terms of the Social Housing Strategy. In respect of local needs in Carrickmacross and Inniskeen, consideration will be given to the nature of demand for houses and housing types as determined from the housing waiting list. Consideration in the short term also has to be given to the availability of properties available to purchase, rent or lease. In the longer term consideration to be given to the land currently owned and also available to purchase.

4. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the taking-in-charge by the Council of Sliabh Dubh estate in Corduff, Carrickmacross?

Reply: The water infrastructure on the site is currently being assessed by Irish Water. The Planning Authority has been advised that a report will be issued from them within two weeks, identifying defects. Upon receipt of this report, the Council will seek to have the defects repaired and the development finished. The bond relating to this site has been claimed, and it shall be used to fund these works. Upon the completion of the development, the taking in charge application shall be concluded.

5. Given the very poor broadband coverage in many parts of county Monaghan, in particular rural areas such as the Lisdoonan area in Carrickmacross and given that Government policy indicates that these rural areas may not be serviced with proper broadband until 2020 or beyond, what can Monaghan County Council do for these communities in relation to the provision of proper broadband, which is now an essential service for any household or business?

Reply: The Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources launched the National Broadband Plan in November 2014. The policy document *Connecting Communities* states that it is the government's plan to build a high-quality broadband network in areas of the country that have no existing or planned high-speed broadband service and that will not be served by private operators by 2016. The Plan aims to provide next generation broadband of at least 30 megabytes per second to people and businesses in all parts of the country that are not served by private operators. An online map of Ireland on <http://www.broadband.gov.ie/> indicates the areas where commercial operators will provide high speed broadband by 2016 and the areas where the State will provide high speed broadband post-2016.

Cllr R. Gallagher asked:

6. Can the Council outline how many call out nights there have been this winter to date for the salting of roads, what is the cost per night for the salting programme and has the Council any plans to increase the number of roads which are treated?

Reply: There was 49 call outs so far this year with an approximate cost of €11,000 euro call out. Monaghan Co. Council treats 24% of the road network and there are no plans to further extend this at present.

7. In relation to the water network in the county, can the Council outline how much of it is made up of lead pipe-work and the location of same?

Reply: This query should be referred to Irish Water. Local Representatives can contact Irish Water directly by calling 1890 178 178 and requesting the Local Representative Support Desk or by e-mail to localrepsupport@water.ie.

8. In relation to the cutting of hedges can the council outline the timeframe for same, are there any plans to allow an extension of the timeframe for landowners to cut hedges and what is the Council's policy in relation to the burning of hedge cuttings by landowners?

Reply: Under the Wildlife Act 1976 as amended by Wildlife (amendment) Act 2000 cutting of hedges is prohibited between 28th/29th February and 31 August each year.

In relation to burning of waste, there are restrictions under the Waste Management Act (prohibition of waste by burning) regulations 2009 and landowners/occupiers should contact the Environment section of Monaghan County Council in relation to this.

9. Can the Council contact Cavan County Council as a matter of urgency with regard to signage to Cavan Hospital, i.e. replacing the small sign to the hospital on the Cavan bypass with a larger, clearer and more visible sign and the erection of signage from the turn on the bypass along the roads leading to the hospital?

Reply: The Council will write to Cavan County Council in relation to this matter.

Cllr C. Bennett asked:

10. In relation to roads being sign posted with numbers. Can Monaghan County Council, please investigate the possibility of all roads having number signs erected. This issue had been brought to my attention due to the lack of roads signposted accordingly in County Monaghan. This is causing a crisis when ambulances or emergency services are called to rural locations.

Reply: There is currently no funding available to signpost all roads.

11. In relation to a proposal that I had previously submitted, with regards to the reduction of speed limits in all housing estates, has Monaghan County Council had any developments with this?

Reply: The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport through a recent circular asked local authorities to undertake a review process of speed limits in housing estates. It is intended to commence this process in February.

Cllr. Sean Conlon asked:

12. For the purpose of carrying out outdoor works such as road repairs, drain clearing, general maintenance what are the current Council staffing levels of employees that are in fulltime, contracted and pensionable salaries, compared to five years ago?

DATE	DESCRIPTION	HEADCOUNT	FULL TIME EQUIVALENT
31/12/10	Outdoor Staff	174	163.43
31/12/14	Outdoor Staff	146	136.12

13. As with the availability of accessing minutes of the monthly County Council meetings on the Council website www.monaghan.ie, will Council similarly make available on this website the minutes of the monthly Municipal District meetings?

Reply: The minutes of the Municipal District meetings are already available on the individual town websites and will be made available on www.monaghan.ie

Cllr. C. Carthy asked:

14. Can Monaghan County Council confirm the expected number of Housing units that will be built/purchased in County Monaghan in line with the Governments new Social Housing policy?

Reply: 285 units additional units are expected to be provided in County Monaghan over the period of the strategy. These are to be provided through a mix of buying or building properties/leasing properties/refurbishment of voids. In relation to a yearly figure this equates to a target of 48 additional units per year.

15. Due to the reduction in the level of Housing available in County Monaghan and the increase in rents facing tenants in the County, what measures do the council have to provide adequate rent allowing to those people who are struggling to pay rent?

Reply: The Council only have the means to set the rent within our own and leased properties through the adopted rent scheme and the application of the differential rent process.

The authority do not have any means to control the rent being charged within the private rented sector. Support is being given to households through the Rent Supplement and Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) however it should be noted that this is governed by national policies and procedures.

16. Notices of Motion:

Cllr Connolly proposed, Cllr S. Treanor seconded, and it was agreed:

1. That Monaghan County Council calls on the HSE NE to provide a dedicated detoxification unit for the area.

It was agreed that the following motion would not be moved as it had already been dealt with in Budget 2015.

- 2. That Monaghan County Council supports the call from the Restaurants Association of Ireland for the ongoing retention of the 9% VAT rate for the food, tourism and hospitality sector that has helped create one of four of the jobs in the economy. That this Council asks the Minister for Finance to keep the VAT rate at 9% into 2015 and beyond.*

ClIr S. Treanor proposed, ClIr Connolly seconded, and it was agreed

- 3. That this Council writes to the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, calling on him to introduce legislation to make it compulsory for home owners to control the growth of trees on their property.*

ClIr P.J. O'Hanlon proposed, ClIr McNally seconded, and it was agreed,

- 4. Approximately 80% of 1.5 million was written off rates in relation to unoccupied building for the year 2013 & similar figures for the previous years. I am proposing that the method for accounting the rates in the budget be amended to remove properties that the Council know are available for rent or lease.*

It was further agreed that this motion would be forwarded to the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government.

ClIrs Crowe proposed, ClIr Keelan seconded, and it was agreed,

- 5. That Monaghan County Council calls on the government to add 18 year olds automatically to the Register of Electors, this would introduce people to a key benefit of their 18th birthday - their right to vote.*

ClIr C. Bennett proposed, ClIr P. Treanor seconded

- 6. That Monaghan County Council calls on the Government to stop fluoride being added to our water supplies.*

A recorded vote was taken which resulted as follows:

For: ClIrs Bennett, Carthy, Conlon, Crowe, Keelan, McKenna, McPhillips, O'Hanlon, P. Treanor and S. Treanor. **Total 10**

Against: ClIrs Bannigan, Campbell, Connolly, Maxwell, McElvaney and McNally **Total 6**

The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

16. Notices of Motion (contd):

In the absence of Cllr S. Coyle, motions 7 and 8 were deferred to the March Council meeting.

Motion 9 was already dealt with under Item 2 - Correspondence.

In the absence of Cllr R. Gallagher, motion 10 was deferred to the March Council meeting.

Cllr S. Conlon proposed, Cllr Carthy seconded

11. That Monaghan County Council writes to Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Alex White TD, rejecting his recent remarks regarding the potential installation of a nuclear power plant in Ireland.

Following a discussion the Cathaoirleach put the motion to the meeting. A recorded vote was called for which resulted as follows:

For: Cllrs Bennett, Campbell, Carthy, Conlon, Keelan, McKenna, McNally, O'Hanlon, P. Treanor and S. Treanor. **Total 10**

Against: Cllrs Connolly **Total 1**

Abstentions: Cllrs Maxwell and McPhillips. **Total 2**

The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

Cllr. S. Treanor proposed, Cllr Maxwell seconded, and it was agreed,

12. That this Council writes to the Minister for Health regarding the lack of progress at the proposed site at Monaghan hospital for the new primary care centre, which was announced in a fanfare of publicity a couple of years ago. That we ask the Minister for Health to confirm if this project has this been put on hold or has it been buried on a shelf somewhere.

17. Votes of sympathy/congratulations.

It was agreed that a vote of sympathy be extended to the following:

- Cllr Cathy Bennett on the death of her cousin, Noreen McCrudden Tyndale, late of Drumcoobradly, Tydavnet
- The wife and family of Ernest Wilkin, RIP, late of Derrylosset, Rockcorry.

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

- Martin McKenna, Tullylone, Tydavnet on his appointment as National President of Motorsport Ireland.

18. Conferences/Training.

On the proposal of Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr Keelan it was agreed that the Council be represented at the following conferences/training events by the members listed.

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members Selected
NUI Maynooth	Urbact National Infoday	Renehan Hall, South Campus, Maynooth University	5 th February	Sean Conlon
BMF Conferences	Irish Renewable Energy Summit	Crowne Plaza Hotel, Santry	19 th February	Noel Keelan
Colmcille Heritage Trust	26 th Colmcille Winter School – The Future of Local Government in Ireland under the New System	Colmcille Heritage Centre, Gartan, Church Hill, Letterkenny	27 th & 28 th February	Robbie Gallagher Padraig Mc Nally Eugene Bannigan Hugh McElvaney Seamus Coyle
AILG	Training Day	The Welcome Inn, Castlebar, Co Mayo	26 th February	Cathy Bennett Sean Conlon Brian Mc Kenna Padraig McNally Paudge Connolly David Maxwell Hugh McElvaney
AILG	Annual Conference	Nuremore Hotel, Carrickmacross	12 th & 13 th March	Cathy Bennett Sean Conlon Colm Carthy Jackie Crowe

The meeting then concluded.