

**Minutes of meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the GAA Training Grounds, Cloghan, Annyalla on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2014 at 10.00 a.m.**

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

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

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

**Apology:** Cllr McPhillips.

At the outset the Mayor thanked the members of the County Monaghan GAA Board and that staff of the Cloghan facility for the opportunity to hold a Council meeting in such an exceptional venue. He referred to the ethos being instilled in young people by the GAA of being committed to a recreational endeavour and sticking at it for as long as possible. There was no doubt, he said, that this contributed to the development of young people as well-rounded individuals. He also referred to the funding allocated by the Council to the GAA over the past few years and said it was evident that productive use was being made of this funding. He wished the organisation continued success in the future.

Mr. Pdraig Sherry, County Monaghan GAA Chairman welcomed the Council members and officials to the venue. He outlined the background to the project which commenced 15 years ago. The project had been developed through grants from GAA headquarters and the dedicated support of the county's clubs. He said that words could not describe how valuable the development is to the GAA in the county. He thanked the Council for the funding in the past and for the additional funding committed in 2014.

Mr. John McArdle, County Children's Officer outlined his role which embraced two functions. Firstly, it was about making sure that all children involved in the organisation were safe and that all their games were conducted in a safe environment. He also looked after the youth fixtures programme. He also outlined the coaching and development programmes being undertaken in the county. He was hopeful that at some time in the future a national Feile competition might be held in Co. Monaghan where they had facilities on a par with anywhere else in the country.

The party whips also complimented the GAA on the excellent facility and on its work and the work of the many volunteer coaches in the coaching and development of young people.

The County Manager joined in the congratulations to the GAA on the excellent development at Cloghan and paid tribute to the work of the current and previous County Board officials.

The Mayor again thanked the GAA officials, who then withdrew from the meeting room. The Mayor then advised that he was proceeding with the business of the meeting.

## **Notices of Urgent Business:**

The Mayor advised the members that he had received five notices of urgent business and he proposed to take them at 2.00 pm, subject to the agreement of the Council.

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

*On the proposal of Cllr Carville seconded by Cllr Gallagher, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2014, be approved.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Carville seconded by Cllr McElvaney, it was agreed that the minutes of the Budget meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2014, be approved.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was agreed that the minutes of the adjourned Budget meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2014, be approved.*

### **2. Correspondence:**

**The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda:**

- Letter from the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government in relation to the allocation amount of €237,632 to Cavan-Monaghan Leader.
- Letter from the Water Services Policy Section, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government regarding arrangements for non domestic debtors.
- Briefing note for elected representatives from Irish Water.
- Email from Deputy Heather Humphreys regarding meeting with Minister Jan O'Sullivan in relation to housing issues.
- Email from Deputy Heather Humphreys regarding representations made to Minister Hogan in relation to the repeal of the Strategic Infrastructure Act.
- Notice of Motion from South Tipperary County Council calling on the Ministers for Finance, Education and Social Protection to immediately review the flat fee of €833 introduced for apprentices attending Institutes of Technology.

The following correspondence was circulated at the meeting:

- Resolution from Monaghan Town Council regarding cuts to the Housing Grants Scheme for Older People.

### **Proposals arising out of correspondence:**

*On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna it was agreed that the Council meet with Minister Jan O'Sullivan, T.D., and that the Minister be notified of the following matters that the Council wish to discuss with her*

- 1. The need for a local authority housing provision programme.*
- 2. The Rental Accommodation and Rent Allowance Schemes.*
- 3. The Tenant Purchase Scheme.*
- 4. The maximum rent limits in place for rent allowance.*
- 5. The Housing Grants Scheme.*

6. *Phase 4 of the Mullaghmat Remedial Works Scheme.*
7. *The Group Home in Carrickmacross for people with a physical or sensory disability.*

*On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr McNally, it was agreed that this Council calls on the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government to include representatives from the business community as part of the Board of Uisce Eireann.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr McNally, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council, in welcoming the additional allocation of €237,632 under the Rural Development Programme to Cavan/Monaghan Leader (CML) requests the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government Mr. Phil Hogan, TD to make further allocations to CML as the group has received a cut of €1,873,620 from initial committed funding of €12,035,118 in 2009.*

*On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr McNally, it was agreed that this Council calls on the Government to include representatives of the four National Pillars on all semi-state bodies.*

It was agreed that this resolution would be circulated to all local authorities.

*On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Connolly it was agreed that the Council adopt the motion from South Tipperary County Council calling on the Ministers for Finance, Education and Social Protection to immediately review the flat fee of €833 introduced for apprentices attending Institutes of Technology.*

**3. To consider Taking in Charge request for development known as 'Ascail Dubh', Carrickmacross in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2010**

At this point Cllr Keelan declared an interest and withdrew from the meeting room.

The Members considered the report dated 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2014 which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting.

*On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon it was agreed that the taking in charge request for the development known as 'Ascail Dubh', Carrickmacross in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2010 be approved.*

**4. To consider Section 183 Notice – disposal of land at Monaltyduff, Carrickmacross**

*On the proposal of Cllr Murray, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that the Council approve of the disposal of 0.088 hectares (0.22 acres) of land in the townland of Monaltyduff, Carrickmacross in accordance with the terms of notice dated 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2014 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, be approved.*

Cllr Keelan returned to the meeting at this point.

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

The Members noted the reports from Cllrs Bannigan, Coyle, McElvaney and O’Hanlon in relation to their attendance at the following conferences –

- Immigration into Ireland, Bunratty, Co. Clare.
- Political Reform 2014, Dublin
- Valuation Process for Rating Properties, Limerick
- Branding in Political Elections, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork

**6. To receive report on ‘The Gathering’ in County Monaghan.**

The Members noted the report on ‘The Gathering’ in County Monaghan that had been circulated with the agenda.

The Mayor and Members paid tribute to the work undertaken by Ms. D. Condra, Tourism Officer and Ms. Catriona Coleman in achieving a very successful output from “The Gathering” in County Monaghan.

**7. Proposed Eirgrid 440kv Interconnector**

*On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Keelan it was agreed that this Council writes to An Taoiseach and Minister Pat Rabbitte, T.D., requesting that the North-South Interconnector must be included in the review commissioned by the Government into EirGrid’s plans to erect pylon supported powerlines throughout the country. That we further write to Minister Rabbitte and EirGrid seeking assurances that the planning application into the N.S. Interconnector will not be submitted prior to the publishing of the Review Panel’s Reports. We call for an independent cost benefit analysis into the under-grounding versus overhead development of the N.S. Interconnector.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllrs Keelan and Murray it was agreed that the Council write to Ministers Rabbitte and Hogan informing them that EirGrid has refused to release information under the Access to Information on the Environment Regulations in relation to the study into existing high voltage powerlines. The Council requests the release of this information so as to inform the public before any planning application is lodged.*

**8. Update on Ulster Canal Project**

*On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that the Council again write to the Minister for Arts, Mr. Jimmy Deenihan, T.D., and also to Caral Ni Chuilin MLA, Minister for Culture, Arts & Leisure, seeking meetings in relation to the advancement of the Ulster Canal.*

**9. Business submitted by County Manager**

There was no business submitted.

**10. Matters arising out of minutes of Council meetings held on 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2014**

Issues raised under this item were responded to by the relevant officials.

**11. To receive presentation from Dr. Nazih Eldin, Head of Health Promotion, Health Service Executive.**

The Mayor welcomed Dr. Nazih Eldin, Head of Health Promotion, Health Service Executive and invited him to address the meeting.

Dr. Eldin gave a very informative and factual presentation on the problem of obesity in Ireland during which he outlined the medical complications linked to obesity. He stated that its link to heart and liver diseases and cancer was now well known. He advised that findings published in 2010 showed that almost one in every four seven year olds were over-weight or obese a condition that also affected two out of every three adults in Ireland. He stated that the HSE was providing support to health care professionals to correctly identify and diagnose over-weight and obese children through screening and routine measurement in schools and GP practices.

Dr. Eldin said it was appropriate that the Council meeting that day was being held at the Cloghan GAA Training Centre and he praised the great initiatives being run by the GAA including the 'Healthy Clubs' scheme that introduced a fun and exercise element into gaelic games.

He said the Council could help in the fight against obesity by including a health dimension in their planning review processes for example when determining the location of new fast food outlets. Currently, in Ireland it is legal to have a fast food outlet at the gate of a school. He stated that the planning process should be used as a vehicle to improve the health of people. Planning urban environments should be done in a way conducive to helping people becoming more health – there should be more parks, open spaces and play facilities.

Following his presentation, Dr. Eldin responded to comments and observations from the Council members. He referred to the VAT rate on water being the same as other drinks because it was bottled. He stated that Ireland had the biggest proportion of volunteers in the world and he praised the contribution of volunteers to the Community Games, Active After Schools programmes and GAA activities.

*On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr O'Brien, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Health to implement new labelling in relation to minerals and sweets and that 50% of the label details the calorie count of each product.*

*On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr O'Brien, it was agreed that the Council request the Minister for Finance to immediately take away the VAT on bottled water.*

The Mayor thanked Dr. Eldin for a very informative presentation and wished him continued success in his future work programme.

**12. Questions:**

**Cllr J. O'Brien asked:**

1. Can Monaghan County Council look at improving the foot paths in Clontibret?

**Reply: Routine maintenance has been carried out on the footpaths in this area.**

**Cllr C. McPhillips asked:**

2. Can Monaghan County Council please advise how many housing adaptation grants for older persons were awarded to persons aged between 60 and 66 during 2013?

**Reply: 81 HOP grants approved in 2013 – table below shows breakdown per age profile**

<b>No of Grants approved</b>	<b>Applicant Age</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>55-60</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>60-64</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>69</b>	<b>66 and over</b>

3. Can Monaghan County Council advise how many applicants were awarded grants in excess of €8,000?

**Reply: Of the 81 HOP grants approved – 11 applicants were awarded grants in excess of €8,000.**

4. Can Monaghan County Council confirm when flood prevention works will commence in Threemilehouse village and why these works have not commenced to date?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council are intending to commence works in February on the flood prevention works. The delay has been due to high water levels in the vicinity of the proposed works area.**

5. Can Monaghan County Council please provide a report to the members with regard to The Gathering? Can such a report please detail the assistance (financial and otherwise) given by the Council to Gathering events? Can the number of visitors to our County as a result of these events be gauged? Has there been any feedback received from the event organisers with regard to possible economic return to our County?

**Reply: A report on The Gathering in Co. Monaghan is included on the agenda for this month's meeting**

**CLlr C. McPhillips asked:**

6. Can Monaghan County Council advise whether any correspondence has been received from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs in relation to the application for playground funding?

**Reply:** The Minister for Children and Youth Affairs made funding available last autumn to local authorities for play and recreation facilities. An application was made by Monaghan County Council for funding towards the following projects:

1. Cloughvalley Playpark	€15,000
2. Upgrading of existing playpark at Killygoan, Monaghan town	€15,000
3. Upgrading of existing playpark (MUGA) at Ballybay Town park	€15,000
4. Upgrading of Mulladuff playpark, at Smithboro	€5,000
Total requested from Dept.	€50,000

Funding of €14,000 was awarded to the MUGA at Ballybay Town Park. However, the Dept were not in a position to fund all projects. A new opportunity has opened up for funding this type of project via the Sports Capital Programme, which is open to applications from local authorities, and an application is being prepared at present.

**CLlr B. McKenna asked:**

7. What progress has there been with the National Roads Authority in relation to securing funding for the planting of a hedgerow along the N2 from Clontibret Chapel to Clontibret village adjacent to the wooden fence there, which has seen up to ten sections of this fence blown down again by the wind in recent weeks?

**Reply:** The Council will prepare an application for funding under the annual maintenance programme to the National Roads Authority in the coming weeks.

8. While acknowledging that in most cases landowners make an effort to clean the road after works, what action can the County Council take in relation to landowners who continually soil the public road making it dangerously slippery and likely to be the cause of an accident either to pedestrians or vehicle drivers?

**Reply:** Under Section 76 subsection 5 of the Roads Act 1993 the Road Authority can serve a notice on the owner or occupier of any land adjacent to a public road requiring him to take specific measures to prevent water, soil or other material from flowing onto a public road. An owner or occupier failing to comply with such notice shall be guilty of an offence under Subsection 11.

9. With the NRA recently designating an 80km speed limit on the newly realigned N2 Monaghan to Emyvale road, have the Roads Section sought additional Department funding for the purpose of installing additional signage that will highlight road users to this irregular reduction in speed limit for a National Primary road?

**Reply:** The Council have sought the consent of the National Roads Authority to apply the 80km speed limit to N2 between Monaghan and Emyvale. The Department of Transport published a Speed Limit Review Report in November 2013. One of the

actions recommended in that document, is that speed limits on the National road network be updated in accordance with the guidelines for special speed limits to ensure an appropriate fit. This action is to be repeated at intervals no greater than five years. The responsibility is with the National Roads Authority supported by the Local Authorities and this action is to be completed by quarter four 2015.

**Cllr S. Conlon asked:**

10. With the IDA Horizon 2020 Strategy setting out a regional economic development target of 50% of investments in regions outside Dublin and Cork as well as their 2013 end of year statement that declares their intention to embark on a programme of building in select regional locations, are Council Executive in periodic contact with IDA seeking to be included in any such programmes?

**Reply:** The IDA Horizon 2020 Strategy was launched in March 2010. In an end of year statement the IDA stated that:

*“Horizon 2020 set an ambitious regional economic development target of 50% of investments in regions outside Dublin and Cork and this has proven to be a challenge. The result for 2013 is below target at 30%, but ahead of the outcome of 25% in 2012.”*

A delegation from Monaghan County Council met with Breda O’Toole, Head of Regional Business Development, IDA Ireland in Monaghan on 30 October 2013.

11. Have the Roads Section been informed yet by the Department of Transport of the county’s annual allocation for the Local and Regional Road Maintenance Programme for 2014? How does this allocation compare to last year?

**Reply:** The Allocations were notified by circular RW3/2014 dated 24 January. The total allocation for 2014 is €6.907, 750m. The 2013 allocation was €8,491,097m RW2/2013. This represents an 18.6% reduction on 2013 allocation or €1,583,347m.

**Cllr P. Connolly asked:**

12. In view of the fact that local Authorities were asked to supply an initial assessment to the Government of the cost of the storm at the beginning of the year

(a) What level of damage was caused as a result of the storm and what assessment value was put on this damage?

**Reply:** The high winds mainly affected the west coast of the country. While the Council had numerous callouts attending to fallen trees and incidents of localised flooding, no significant damage was experienced in Monaghan compared to the west coast of Ireland.

(b) What level of funding will be forwarded to Monaghan County Council as a result?

**Reply:** No additional funding is anticipated.

**Cllr P. Connolly asked:**

13. (a) In view of the fact that the Road Safety Strategy (2013-2020) plan envisages all speed limits being reviewed by Local Authorities over the coming 2 years what plans have Monaghan County Council to commence an assessment of this task?

**Reply:** The Department of Transport published a Speed Limit Review Report in November 2013. One of the actions recommended in that document, is that speed limits on the National road network be updated in accordance with the guidelines for special speed limits to ensure an appropriate fit. This action is to be repeated at intervals no greater than five years. The responsibility for this action is with the National Roads Authority supported by the Local Authorities and this action to be completed by quarter four 2015. There is also an action in that document requiring L.A.'s to review and update regional and local road speed limits between quarter two 2014 and quarter four 2015.

- (b) What opportunities will members of the public have to contribute regarding speed limits on local roads?

**Reply:** In accordance with current legislation, Local Authorities publish and invite submissions from the public in relation to proposed speed limit bye-laws.

14. Are there any plans in place to use funding from the Low Cost Road Safety Initiative to improve road safety at the Tydavnet Community Centre?

**Reply:** The Low Cost Safety Initiative scheme has been fully allocated for the 2014 programme. This location will be investigated and forwarded for consideration for future funding.

**Cllr S. Coyle asked:**

15. Will Monaghan County Council be making a submission to the Waterways Ireland draft Corporate Plan 2014-16 as it is now open to public consultation with closing date for submissions 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014?

**Reply:** A submission is being prepared by Monaghan County Council to provide for the inclusion of the restoration of the Ulster Canal in Irish Waterway's Corporate Plan 2014-16.

16. Re-Threemilehouse village:

- (a) When will works commence and be completed in Threemilehouse Village to re-align the road (R189), to improve sight visibility on the Corcaghan Road junction, improving driver and pedestrian safety?

**Reply:** Monaghan County Council has recently completed public consultation in relation to the proposed realign of the R189/Togan Road junction and is proposing to commence works in late February 2014.

- (b) When will Monaghan County Council undertake works on the Drumsnatt Road

(LP02180), Threemilehouse, to improve safety for vehicles and pedestrians, as the road verge is very dangerous in sections, along the adjacent river?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council are in the process of determining the most appropriate measures required to improve the existing road verge along the LP02180 with a view to carrying out the works in March 2014.**

**Cllr S. Coyle asked:**

(c) When will Monaghan County Council, undertake safety improvement works on the R189, on the section on the Monaghan side of Threemilehouse Village, at the end of the public lighting/footpath, where numerous accidents have taken place, with a number in recent weeks/months?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council are proposing to install high friction grip surfacing on the bend on the Monaghan approach to Threemilehouse village and are in the process of obtaining quotations for the proposed work. It is envisaged that works will take place in March 2014.**

17. Will Monaghan County Council give a full update on the local improvement scheme (LIS) for lanes in the County, are any works expected to be carried out on LIS lanes in 2014 and what are the current waiting list numbers per electoral area etc.?

**Reply: The lanes are taken in chronological order on a county wide basis. There is 193 applications on the waiting list for the entire county. No funding has been allocated for 2014.**

18. What plans have Monaghan County Council to erect public lighting at Christ Church, Church of Ireland, Aughnamullen?

**Reply: Correspondence has been received from the Church and it is proposed to place this as an item for discussion on the agenda of the next Road Area Committee Meeting.**

**Cllr C. Bennett asked:**

19. Have Monaghan County Council made any requests to Telecom Eireann to put a finished surface at the forecourt of their premises in Scotstown Village?

**Reply: Eircom were contacted and they responded stating that a survey will be carried out on the forecourt property to assess what works are required. They will inform Monaghan Co. Council of the outcome.**

20. Have Monaghan County Council any provisions in place to resurface the St. Dymphna's Terrace in Scotstown?

**Reply: The roads programme for the coming year will be determined at the next Road Area Committee Meeting to be held soon.**

21. With a view to improve the hardness levels of the water, in the Ballinode and Scotstown localities, can Monaghan County Council please direct my question to Irish

Water and enquire if an appointment can be made to discuss the possibility of joining the present water line to a neighbouring group water scheme?

**Reply:** Monaghan County Council has made contact with Irish Water with regards to the possibility of the Ballinode and Scotstown areas being supplied from a different source i.e. neighbouring private group water scheme. When a response has been received the councillors will be informed. As previously stated the water supplied to these areas is to a high quality and complies in all regards with the Drinking Water Standards.

**Cllr C. Bennett asked:**

22. In regard to the proposal for new footpaths on the Roslea Road, Scotstown and at Corlatt Housing Estate, Knockatallon.
- (a) Has any further developments occurred in regard to either?
- (b) Has funding been allocated to facilitate the commencement of either project?
- (c) In regard to repair works at the footbridge at Scotstown Village and the footpath on the Smithboro road, Scotstown, has any maintenance or repair works been carried out on either of these footpaths? When is this repair work scheduled to occur?

**Reply:** A report will be prepared for the next Road Area Committee Meeting addressing all sections of this question.

23. With reference to a previous question submitted, has this Council had the opportunity to evaluate the need for road safety measures in the vicinity of Urbleshanny School? Has a member of the Road Safety Authority examined the feasibility of the suggested changes and what was the outcome?

**Reply:** The Council is arranging an appointment with the Regional Roads Safety engineer to discuss the safety concerns at Urbleshanny School.

**Cllr R. Gallagher asked:**

24. Can the Council outline arrangements and dates for this years Spring Clean?

**Reply:** Nationally, Spring Clean is held during the month of April, however, Monaghan County Council extends this to the end of May, to allow groups more time to get their clean ups done. Similar to previous years, Monaghan County Council will fully support any group, school or club who wishes to organise a local clean up. Support is provided by giving materials such as litter pickers, high visibility vests and refuse bags and arranging a collection of the waste collected either by Council staff or by a permitted waste contractor. All of this is done free of charge to the community group.

Monies have been provided in the annual budget to allow areas to litter pick and clean up litter black spots. This work is ongoing throughout the year.

**Cllr R. Gallagher asked:**

25. Can the Council give details of progress with regard to the proposed sewer connections for the 12 No houses at Coolshannagh, Monaghan?

**Reply:** Permission to access these lands for the laying of a sewer line adjacent to Coolshannagh Nos. 1-12 Coolshannagh Road has now been received. It is intended to commence these works in the next 4-6 weeks, subject to weather (the access is prone to flooding) and availability of the Contractor.

26. Has the Council made any progress with regard to safety measures for pedestrians using the Monaghan Town bypass?

**Reply:** The Council has written to the NRA seeking funding for the design and construction of pedestrian facilities along the Monaghan Town Bypass.

27. Can the Council give an update with regard to negotiations with Coillte with regard to Rossmore Park?

**Reply:** A draft Memorandum of Understanding between Coillte and Monaghan County Council has been prepared and a meeting with Coillte officials will be scheduled in the coming week

**Cllr P. McNally asked:**

28. Has this Council received any further correspondence from the CEO of Teagasc regarding the possible date for him to address this Council as promised?

**Reply:** The Council has received notification that Professor Gerry Boyle, CEO of Teagasc will meet with a delegation from Monaghan County Council on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2014 at a Monaghan venue.

29. Regarding the Carrickmacross water upgrade, when is it planned to resurface both the Ballybay road and Lisanisk both of which were dug up as part of the upgrade.

**Reply:** The resurfacing of these roads should be complete by May 2014.

30. Will this Council examine and rectify the flooding problem between the GAA pitch and the roundabout on the Ballybay road before resurfacing takes place.

**Reply:** This matter will be put on the agenda for next roads area committee meeting.

31. What is the latest position regarding the upgrade of the N2 from Dublin to Donegal?

**Reply:** A 400m wide corridor has been preserved and no funding has been allocated to progress this project to preliminary Design stage in 2014.

32. Has this Council made an application for funding to further upgrade the very dangerous section of the Carrickmacross/Shercock road R178 namely between Reilly cross and Corduff cross.

**Reply:** Monaghan County Council did make an application for funding. However, no funding has been made available for 2014 for this road.

**Cllr N. Keelan asked:**

33. How much, on average, per annum has Monaghan County Council spent on legal fees and opinion in the last 3 to 4 years?

**Reply:** The Spend for the last four years on both Revenue and Capital Accounts is as follows

	2010	2011	2012	2013
Housing & Building	24,297	11,359	5,701	2,143
Road Transport & Safety	59,686	256,981	128,718	39,482
Water Services	139,977	43,009	122,558	84,828
Development Management	89,361	23,842	14,289	35,139
Environmental Services	3,777	5,498	3,291	2,676
Miscellaneous Services	10,856	33,603	2,138	3,484
Central Management		1,174		2,009
<b>Total</b>	<b>327,954</b>	<b>375,466</b>	<b>276,695</b>	<b>169,761</b>

34. In relation to the establishment of Irish Water, what impact will this new development have on the Council's plans to carry out works on waste water treatment plants that may be causing a problem, or plans to extend the water and waste water network in towns, villages and rural areas as requested by our citizens?

**Reply:** When a need has been identified for such works as suggested then a business plan will be prepared and submitted to Irish Water seeking the necessary funding to carry out the works.

35. As previously requested, will the Council consider extending the waste water collection network out to the townland of Ednamo in Inniskeen and by so doing take out of commission the small treatment plant, thus saving taxpayers money in the medium to long term?

**Reply:** A business plan has been submitted to Irish Water seeking the necessary funding to carry out these works.

36. In relation to Killanny village

- (a) Will Monaghan County Council consider extending the public lighting into the Monaghan side of Killanny adjacent to the church as requested by local residents?

**Reply:** This matter will be put on the agenda for the next road area committee meeting.

- (b) Has there been any further discussion between Monaghan County Council and Louth County Council in relation to granting Killanny village status?

**Reply:** There has been no contact since September 2013 with Louth County Council in respect of this matter.

**Cllr N. Keelan asked:**

37. In relation to Lisdoonan village, will Monaghan County Council have the road markings in and around the village repainted, and in particular the markings in and around the school in the interest of road safety?

**Reply:** This matter will be put on the agenda for next road area committee meeting.

**Cllr S. Treanor asked:**

38. What provisions has this Council put in place to curtail abuses of the electoral system, as has happened in the past in Co. Monaghan, in local elections?

**Reply:** Application for inclusion on the register of electors is governed by the Electoral Acts. Monaghan County Council must include applicants on to the register in accordance with the requirements of the Acts. Any alleged abuses or offences should be reported immediately to An Garda Síochána.

### **13. Notices of Motion:**

#### **1. Cllr S. Treanor proposed, Cllr Connolly seconded**

*That this Council writes to the Minister for Transport and Tourism, Leo Varadkar TD requesting that funds already paid by the Irish Government for the proposed upgrading of the road from Aughnacloy to Derry be transferred back to Monaghan County Council as this proposed project seems to have been abandoned. The relevant funds could then be used to upgrade the roads of County Monaghan.*

Following a debate, the Mayor put the motion to the meeting. A vote by show of hands resulted in 4 for, 15 against. The Mayor declared the motion defeated.

Consideration of Notices of Motion 13(2) and (13(3) was deferred to the next meeting.

### **14. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations:**

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

- The Mohan Family, Birmingham on the death of Jim Mohan, a former member of the Monaghan Association in Birmingham.
- Hugh McCaul and the McCaul family on the death of Michael McCaul, Kilmore, Rockcorry.

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

- The Patrician High School, Carrickmacross on winning the U-19 All Ireland Basketball Cup Final in Tallaght.
- Gaeil Triucha on qualifying for the All-Ireland Intermediate Football Final and good luck in the final in Croke Park where they meet Kiltane from Co. Mayo.
- Daniel McKenna, John McCarron and Padraig McKenna (Gaeil Triucha GFC) and Ryan McAnespie and Mervyn Brown (Emyvale GFC) on being selected on the Gaelic Life All Star Ulster Team for 2013.
- Gaelscoil Ultain Muineachain, Priomhoide Joe Gallagher, staff and talented pupils on securing All-Ireland victory at the National Primary School Drama Competition as featured recently on the TG4 series An Ceoldrama.
- Drumhowan GFC Instrumental Music Group on winning the Ulster Scor na nÓg title and best wishes to them in the All Ireland finals.
- Aogán Farrell, Drumgoon Eire Óg GAA Club on his campaign to become President of An Cumann Luthchleas Gael.
- Terry Cavanagh, Tydavnet on his nomination to the Forbes Magazine – 30 under 30 List.

#### 15. Conferences:

*On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that the Council be represented at the following conferences by the members listed.*

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members Selected
Association of County & City Councils	Local Government in a time of change.	Slieve Russell Hotel, Ballyconnell, Co. Cavan.	6 <sup>th</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2014	Cllr B. McKenna Cllr G. Carville
AMAI	Spring Seminar 2014	The Great Northern Hotel Bundoran, Co Donegal.	14 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2014	Cllr C. Bennett Cllr A. Murray
Training Seminar for Councillors	Seanad Reform an the Councillors	The Millrace Hotel, Bunclody, Co. Wexford.	20 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2014	Cllr P. McNally Cllr S. Coyle Cllr J. O'Brien Cllr P. Connolly Cllr H. McElvaney Cllr O. Bannigan
Clare Tourist Council	Folk – Heritage Tourism 25th Annual Tourism Conference	Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare.	21th – 22nd February 2014	Cllr P. Treanor Cllr P.J. O'Hanlon Cllr A. Murray Cllr D. Maxwell

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members Selected
<b>25<sup>th</sup> Colmcille Winter School</b>	The Irish Economy Post Bailout	The Colmcille Heritage Centre, Gartan, Church Hill, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.	21 <sup>st</sup> - 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2014	Cllr N. Keelan Cllr R. Gallagher Cllr G. Carville
<b>Association of Irish Regions</b>	Ireland's Region Looking to the Future	Kilronan Castle, Ballyfarnon, Co. Roscommon.	28 <sup>th</sup> February 2014	Cllr J. Crowe
<b>Training Seminar for Councillors</b>	Budgets and Financing of Local Authorities	Talbot Hotel, Wexford.	28 <sup>th</sup> February and 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2014	Cllr P. McNally Cllr S. Coyle Cllr P.J. O'Hanlon Cllr R. Gallagher Cllr P. Connolly Cllr G. Carville Cllr H. McElvaney

#### **Urgent Business:**

The Mayor advised the members that he had received five notices of urgent business. He outlined the contents of each notice to the meeting. It was unanimously agreed to discuss all five motions.

**1. Notice in the names of Cllrs Bennett, Carthy, Conlon, Crowe, Keelan, B. McKenna and P. Treanor.**

Cllr Carthy proposed, Cllr Maxwell seconded and it was agreed,

*Recognising that many roads in our county are in a deplorable state of repair as a result of the cuts to our road allocations since 2008, Monaghan County Council notes with concern the 20% reduction in the 2014 allocation.*

*That we hereby call on the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport to immediately review the allocation for Regional and Local Road Grant allocations with a view to increasing substantially the provision to Monaghan County Council. Such an allocation should, at the very minimum, match the 2013 allocation.*

**2. Notice in the names of Cllr's Bennett, Carthy, Conlon, Crowe, Keelan, McKenna & P. Treanor**

It was agreed that Notice of Motion 13 (4) would also be taken in conjunction with the urgent business motion.

*Cllr Conlon proposed, Cllr P. Treanor seconded,*

*With the continued growth of emigration and settlement of Irish citizens living abroad, that this Council seeks of the Government to take a more robust approach of meeting the needs of Irish citizens living abroad by applying the letter and spirit of Article 2 of Bunreacht na hEireann where it declares that 'the Irish nation cherishes its special affinity with people of Irish ancestry living abroad who share its cultural identity and heritage'.*

*This County Council calls on the Government to take the following steps as a minimum: Set up, as a matter of urgency, a time limited Oireachtas committee, including representation from Department of Foreign Affairs accredited Diaspora organisations, to examine how best to provide Oireachtas representation for Irish emigrants. We also call on the Minister to immediately appoint a minister for the Irish overseas and the Diaspora to give effective representation to the global Irish community.*

Following a debate on the motions, the Mayor put them to the meeting and they were agreed.

**3. Notice in the name of Cllrs Coyle, Gallagher, McNally, O'Brien and O'Hanlon:**

*Cllr Coyle proposed, Cllr McNally seconded,*

*That Monaghan County Council expresses serious concern at the recent job losses in the county, particularly the announcements in the past week of 20 redundancies at Abbott Ireland, Dromore West, Dartrey, Cootehill and 7 redundancies at Snipe Design , Clones Enterprise Centre, this Council offers its assistance and support to Abbott Ireland and Snipe Design, their management and employees, particularly those who are being made redundant and their families. We seek an urgent meeting with the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Richard Bruton T.D., to highlight the unemployment crisis in County Monaghan and the lack of job opportunities in the county.*

Following a brief debate the Mayor put the motion to the meeting and it was agreed.

**4. Notice in the names of Cllrs Coyle, Gallagher, McNally, O'Brien and O'Hanlon**

*Cllr Coyle proposed, Cllr McNally seconded, and it was agreed:*

*That Monaghan County Council urge the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Phil Hogan, T.D., the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Brendan Howlin, T.D., and the Government, to maximise the co-funding percentage for Leader under Pillar II of the Rural Development Programme at 46% co-funding, giving a Leader budget nationally of €283 million over 7 years.*

Following a brief debate the Mayor put the motion to the meeting and it was agreed.

**5. Notice in the names of Cllrs Gallagher, O'Hanlon, McNally and Coyle**

*Cllr Gallagher proposed, Cllr McNally seconded,*

*“ That this Council calls on the Minister for Transport, Mr. Leo Varadkar, T.D., to immediately engage with his UK counterpart seeking a reversal of the proposed £10 levy on lorries (HGV's) entering Northern Ireland, with effect from April 2014.*

Following a debate the Mayor put the motion to the meeting and it was agreed.

The meeting then concluded.