

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in Mtek Building, Knockaconny, Monaghan on Monday 5th February 2007, at 10.00 a.m.

Chair: Cllr P McNally, Mayor

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

Mr. D. Nelson, Co. Manager, Mr David Fallon, Adge King and Paul Clifford Directors of Service, Mr J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr Adrian Hughes, Senior Executive Planner, Maura Cullinan, Executive Planners, Ms Pauline O'Brien, A/Administrative Officer and Ms A. Mackle, A/Staff Officer.

Votes of Sympathy

On the proposal of Mayor, Pdraig McNally, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed to offer condolences to Cllr Conlon on the death of his Aunt, Mary Gallagher, Mr Paudge Connolly, TD on the death of his brother Enda Connolly and to Ms Carmel Thornton on the death of her Mother in Law, Catherine Thornton.

As a mark of respect a minute's silence was held.

The Mayor advised that he had received a notice of urgent business from the Fine Gael members and that he would deal with it after the tea break.

1. Minutes

Cllr McElvaney requested that the minutes of the Budget meeting held on 14th December, 2006, Programme Group 3, page 6, be amended to read as follows-

“Cllr McElvaney proposed that the rate be fixed at no more than the rate of inflation”.

This was agreed.

- (a) *On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr B McKenna it was agreed to confirm the minutes of the Budget Meeting held on 4th December, 14th December (subject to above amendment) and the 21st December 2006.*
- (b) *On the proposal of Cllr B McKenna, seconded by Cllr J O'Brien it was agreed to confirm the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 5th January 2007.*

- (c) *On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr Kieran it was agreed to confirm the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 15th January 2007.*

2. Correspondence:

The following correspondence was circulated -

- Letter from Mr John Conroy, Private Secretary to Minister for Transport, Mr Martin Cullen TD regarding the N2 Emyvale Bypass
- Letter from Dr Martin J. Watters regarding the North East Doctor on Call Service
- Letter from Councillor Gary Carville thanking the Members for their kind expressions on sympathy on the death of his uncle Mr Joe Smyth, Clontibret.
- Letter from Monaghan Furniture Show Organisation thanking the Members for their funding and support.
- A Notice of Motion from South Tipperary County Council regarding the difficulty in getting the ESB to provide and maintain public lighting network.
- Letter from Fonduireacht an Phiarsaigh regarding the Padraig Pearse Awards 2007.
- Non-National Roads Allocation – David Fallon, Director of Services.

Non – National Roads Allocation

Cllr Bannigan stated that the 6% allocation increase in the non-national roads was not acceptable. The Castleblayney area would need an increase of 20% to ensure that the roads currently in need of repair are included.

Cllr Bannigan proposed, Cllr Carville seconded that we write to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, highlighting the need for an increase in Non-National Roads allocation due to the increase in cost of tarmac and the additional costs involved in adhering to the new Health & Safety regulations. Whilst the 6% increase is welcomed it is not enough to ensure that roads are completed and the Members are calling for an increase in the allocation from 6% to 20%.

Cllr McElvaney proposed an addendum to Cllr Bannigan's motion - that Minister Roche be requested to meet with a deputation from this Council to discuss this important matter and that the deputation include the Oireachtas Members. Cllr Maxwell seconded the addendum.

Cllr Bannigan accepted the addendum and the substantive motion was put to the meeting and agreed.

Cllr Conlon requested that the inadequate increase of 3% for Monaghan Town Council be stated in the letter also.

Mr David Fallon, Director of Services said that he had circulated the Non-National Roads Allocation report to the Members to advise them of the current situation. He suggested that regional roads in need of repair and costing over one million should be deferred until the other roads on the list were completed - these regional roads included the Ballybay to Carrickmacross Road, Castleblayney to Clones Road, Monaghan to Ballybay Road. He stated that bitumen had increased in price by between 6 – 8%; other costs impacting on the funding included Health & Safety, signage, land acquisition etc.

Emyvale Bypass

In response to queries raised by the Members, Mr David Fallon, Director of Services replied

- that a traffic survey was carried out on the Emyvale Bypass, as there had been a large increase in traffic volume since 1999 and the NRA were considering reviewing the possibility of the 2+1.
- No correspondence had been received in relation to letters issued arising from the Budget meeting held on 14th December requesting adequate funding to reconstruct and resurface a number of roads in the mid Monaghan area where damage had been caused by the development of the Castleblayney Bypass. Cllr Crowe requested that these letters be followed up.

On the proposal of the Mayor Pdraig McNally, seconded by Cllr B McKenna that following receipt of correspondence from Mr Martin Cullen TD, regarding the N2 Emyvale Bypass, it was agreed to write to the National Roads Authority requesting that officials of the NRA would meet a delegation from Monaghan County Council to discuss what proposals the Authority has for County Monaghan.

The Mayor proposed to invite Department Inspectors to look at the roads that have been affected by the building of the bypasses. It was also agreed that no work should be carried out on these roads until the bypass is nearly completed.

Following a suggestion from Cllr Gallagher to arrange to meet with Members from other local authorities who are affected by the proposed Bypass from Emyvale to Donegal, the County Manager advised that each member of the affected regions were already represented on ICBAN. It was agreed to write to ICBAN to arrange a meeting between the various members to discuss the bypass.

South Tipperary County Council Notice of Motion

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Treanor it was agreed to support the Notice of Motion forwarded by South Tipperary County Council, which wanted to bring to the attention of the Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government the difficulty in getting the ESB to provide and maintain the public lighting network.

3. Section 183 Notice – Disposal of land at Latlurcan, Monaghan:

Cllr Conlon proposed, Cllr Bannigan seconded that the Council dispose of 0.15 hectares of land in the town land of Latlurcan, Monaghan to Frank McEaney, C/oCorvalley Enterprises, Corvalley, Carrickmacross in accordance with notice dated 25th January, 2007 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001

Mr David Fallon, Director of Services advised that the Council had acquired this land for constructing the Monaghan bypass and it was now surplus to requirements. As the original owners had sold their remaining land, it was proposed to sell this land on to the new owner.

Cllr Maxwell stated he was opposing the Section 183, as the road layout was too narrow measuring 17 feet wide with kerbs.

Mr Paul Clifford, Director of Services advised there was a current planning application. The existing hedgerow would be replaced and it is intended to realign the road and kerbs.

Cllr Martin said he could not support this proposal, as he had received no valuation for the land. The County Manager stated the reason for this was that the land had no commercial value.

Cllr Maxwell agreed to withdraw his objection as the planning application proposal had included kerbs and a footpath.

A vote by show of hands resulted in 16 For, 1 Abstention, 3 Absent. The Mayor declared the proposal carried.

4. To approve recommendations from Corporate Policy Group:

On the proposal of Cllr Humphreys, seconded by Cllr Conlon, it was agreed to approve the recommendations from the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on Monday 15th January 2007.

9. Development of Tourism Infrastructure – 2007.

Ms. Dympna Condra, Tourism Officer for County Monaghan gave an outline of the tourism development priorities for County Monaghan over the 2007 – 2013 period, these included the Ulster Canal, Canoe Water Sports Centre, Lough Muckno, All Weather Activity / Adventure Centre, Walking Products, Angling Products, Build Heritage and Arts & Culture Projects. This Draft Plan was to ensure all projects were decided upon before applying for funding, and to allow the Members to have some input. The document circulated was geared towards Failte Ireland.

The Members thanked Dympna Condra for her presentation and made the following points

- The Draft County Monaghan Tourism Development Plan 2007 – 2013 was an ambitious project.
- It was hoped that the Patrick Kavanagh centre would be prioritised as a tourism area.
- County Monaghan has a number of products that could be sold as tourism attractions.
- The Tourism Officer has been successful in drawing down 75% of funding to the county.
- Dartry Estate could also be included and walk ways around the many lakes developed.
- The County needed to be invested in to ensure people are attracted to the county.
- Tourism Officers need to be given longer contracts of employment
- A Forum needs to be developed allowing all local operators who have promoted the county to come together and develop County Monaghan's tourism potential.
- There is a need to call on central government to recognise the tourism potential of the county as it is well placed on the border.
- Cross Border Partnerships and Twinning Partnerships need to be developed further to encourage tourism.
- There is a need to recognise that the tourism product is changing, there are more weekend visitors and this needs to be developed.
- County Monaghan tourism funding is low compared to other counties, half a million is inadequate.

The Manager stated this plan recommended restructuring the tourism sector in the county. A new tourism body that would act as an advisory agency, process grants would be established. He had felt that it would be important that the Members have an input into the tourism plan for the county. Mr. Ray McSherry had indicated that he would like to meet with the Members and it was intended to invite him to the April Council meeting. The Members agreed with this proposal.

In response to queries from Members Ms. Condra made the following replies

- Interreg III provided 75% of the funding towards tourism development in County Monaghan and the County Council made up the remaining 25%.
- County Monaghan was involved with the East Border Tourism board and they were currently involved in a marketing campaign, which would be launched in spring to extend the potential English Market.
- They were currently updating Monaghan's Tourism website and involving themselves in community based projects.

Cllr McElvaney called on the Manager to take rigid steps towards those responsible for illegal dumping at Lough Muckno.

5. New Council Offices:

It was agreed that a debate on the proposed new Council offices would be held 'in Committee' but that the full Council would take any decision as to the location of the new Council Offices in a public session.

Three reports were circulated during the debate,

1. Extract from Council's Register of Lands and Assets
2. Proposed Budget and Repayment from 2008 – 2020
3. Proposed New County Offices – Estimated Cost for each site
(Glen Road, Dublin Street/HSE, Machinery Yard and O'Neill's Farm)

The Members discussed the following topics

1. The location of new offices
2. The cost and the Council's ability to meet loan repayments
3. Seeking Departmental Approval for New Offices
4. Should some current assets be sold to off set the cost of a new Council Office
5. What design process should be used – traditional route –v- Design & Build Option.

The Members debated the issues outlined above. A number of Members indicated that they felt the Machinery Yard site would only meet the Council's short term needs and would not meet the staffing requirements in 20 – 30 years time. Some Members felt the current Glen Road accommodation should be offered to a Government Department as part of their decentralisation program as this would offer a guaranteed income to the county.

In response to queries from the Members, the Manager made the following comments

- A design and build option would be less costly and could deliver the project more quickly
- The O'Neill's Farm site is owned by the Town Council and is available for development.
- The County Council would save up to €100,000 on rates at current value on the O'Neill's farm site.
- The Machinery Yard site option could not proceed as quickly as O'Neill's Farm, as arrangements for its re-location would have to be put in place first.
- A footpath along the Bye Pass may not be acceptable to the NRA; alternative access for pedestrians could be provided along the existing laneway, which was substandard at present.

Mr Adrian Hughes, Senior Planner said there was an argument in locating the new offices in the Machinery yard, most businesses are central to the town and to locate elsewhere would dilute the business potential from the town.

The Members felt that this would discourage the expansion of the town.

The Members agreed to make the decision for the location of the new Council Offices in public.

Cllr Kieran proposed, Cllr Maxwell seconded that the proposed new Council Offices be located on the O'Neill's Farm site on the bypass.

A vote by show of hands resulted in 16 for, 2 against and 2 absent.

Cllr McElvaney wished to be recorded as voting against the proposal.

It was agreed that the Sub-Committee formed to examine the New Council Offices project would prepare an estimated cost for the development of this site.

7. To fix dates for meetings

It was agreed to hold a meeting with the VEC to discuss the Garage Theatre on Monday 12th February 2007 at 2.30 p.m., following the VEC monthly meeting in Inver College, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan.

(a) Draft Development Plan Meeting 2006 – 2012

The Members agreed to hold the Draft Development Plan Meeting on Thursday 22nd February 2007 at 10.00 a.m., in the Mtek Building.

(b) Road Area Meetings

It was agreed that Road Area Meetings would be held as follows:

- (i) **Carrickmacross** – 23rd February 2007 at 10.00 am in the Carrickmacross Town Council Chamber.
- (ii) **Castleblayney** – 23rd February 2007 at 2.00 p.m. in the Castleblayney Town Council Chamber
- (iii) **Clones** – 27th February 2007 at 9.00 a.m. in Clones Town Council Chamber
- (iii) **North Monaghan** – Monday 19th February 2007 at 2.00 p.m. in the Mtek Building, Knockaconny, Armagh Road, Monaghan.

Adjourned Council Meeting

The Members agreed to hold an adjourned Council meeting on Monday 19th February 2007 at 10.00 a.m.

Cllr McElvaney requested that the minutes of the Speed Limit Committee be circulated to Members.

Football Association of Ireland

The Manager advised the Members he had received correspondence from the Football Association of Ireland requesting to attend a meeting of the Council. The Members agreed to invite the FAI to the March Council meeting. Members of Carrickmacross, Castleblayney, Ballybay and Clones are also to be invited to attend.

12. Questions

Mayor Padraig McNally asked

- a. When can we expect to see the development of our new branch Library in Carrickmacross.

Reply - Negotiations with the preferred bidder are due for completion in March/April 2007. A planning application for the entire development will be lodged within weeks of the signing of the contract. Subject to planning, work on the scheme could commence by the end of this year.

- b. When does this Council hope to see the commencement of the development of our Civic Amenity Centre in Carrickmacross

Reply - A response from the Department of the Environment on the required additional funding is still awaited. The Consultants are ready to commence detailed drawings and it is hoped that work will commence on site before July 2007, if approval is received in the next two weeks. Due to site conditions it will be necessary to pile the site, and it is the additional cost of the piling that requires approval and funding from the Department.

- c. Has this Council submitted a further application for the final stage of the industrial link road between the Shercock and Ballybay roads in Carrickmacross.

Reply - Funding has been received for this project and Monaghan County Council will be employing consultants to prepare a design and to proceed to Part 8 planning.

- d. Will this Council examine the possibility of putting in place appropriate speed limits in the following Villages: - Lisdoonan, Corduff, Donaghmoyne, Killanny, Raferagh, Carrickashedge and Drumgossat, all of which have both School and Church.

Reply - This could be looked at as part of a countywide scheme. Regarding the location of speed limits this could be done once the development limits in

the development plan are finalised. Regarding Killanny, both the church and school are in Co. Louth, so this would be a matter for Louth County Council.

Cllr Seamus Coyle asked

- e. What is the up to date position, with regard to safety improvement works to be carried out on the following very dangerous junctions and when will the safety improvement works be completed?
- (a) Creeve Crossroads (R162)
 - (b) Creighanroe (R181)
 - (c) Keady/Oram Road Junction, Derrycreevy (R181/R182)
 - (d) Scotch Corner (R184)
 - (e) Veldin's Cross, Latton (LP07000/Lp03000)

Reply - The County Council proposes to carry out a survey and design on each location in the next few weeks with the intention of having the works completed before June 2007.

- f. Will Monaghan County Council immediately consider the extension of the footpath and public lighting from the Keady road junction to the entrance of Pearse Park, Ballybay on the Castleblayney Road, Ballybay, with the excellent new facilities at the Pearse Bros. G.A.A. grounds, there are a large number of pedestrians using the dangerous stretch of roadway.

Reply – The County Council do not have any proposals to carry out these works in the immediate future, as funding is not available. However, costings can be obtained for the provision of the footpath, public lighting and land costs if necessary.

Cllr V.P. Martin asked

- g. How many civil claims have been made against Monaghan County Council alleging defective road/footpath/verge (including drainage, water supply and sanitary facilities) construction and/or maintenance in the calendar year 2004, 2005, 2006?

Reply

The number of claims received by the Council is as follows

2004	35
2005	51
2006	63

- h. What is the annual insurance premium paid by Monaghan County Council to cover defective roads, footpaths and verge construction (as defined above) and maintenance?

The annual insurance premium paid by the Council for Public Liability Insurance is as follows

2004	€637,500
2005	€541,875
2006	€557,885

This premium covers all the Council's public liability across the full range of services provided by the Council. The premium is not broken down according to service and the element for roads is included.

Cllr Robbie Gallagher asked

- i. Could the Council outline a likely timeframe for the replacement of the playground equipment in Emyvale and give details of the type of equipment, which will replace the previous wooden structure?

Reply - The tender process for the new playground is now complete. The new equipment will comprise of junior and toddler swings; roundabout; climbing structures; rocking equipment; single child springers and seating. The next stage is the drafting of a contract between Monaghan County Council and the successful playground contractor and the appointment of a civil engineering contractor to prepare the site works. It is envisaged that 10-12 weeks will be required to complete this process.

Cllr Noel Keelan asked

- j. How many housing units have Monaghan County Council gained from developers through Part 5 of the Planning & Development Act to date? Approximately how many units is it hoped to gain in 2007 and what is the breakdown per electoral area?

Reply - Part V is administered by the County Council on behalf of the County and four Town Councils. Fifty-three units have been acquired to date with a further sixty-one due in 2007.

Electoral Area	2004-2006	2007
Monaghan	34	49
Clones	7	4
Castleblayney	4	8
Carrickmacross	8	0
Total	53	61

- k. What is the up to date position in relation to having the very important cross border link road R179 Carrickmacross – Culloville Regional route upgraded given its poor state of repair. Will works include the removal of many of the dangerous bends including the bend known as Doyle's Corner?

Reply - There is no funding available for this road in 2007

Cllr Noel Keelan asked

- l. When is it expected to have public lighting in place on the industrial link road in Carrickmacross given that the convent lands housing is now complete and there is now a huge increase in pedestrian activity in that area?

Reply - Bases and ducting for the lighting are in place and the ESB have been notified to have lighting erected

- m. In relation to safety at schools, what schools are still awaiting 'flashing beacons' and extra warning signage throughout the county?

Reply - Further application made for national schools in extended CLAR area as a follow on from 2006 scheme.

Flashing Amber Safety Lights at Schools Scheme - Funded by CLAR						
Local Authority: Monaghan County Council						
Road No/ Name	Name of School	Roll No	Address of School	E.D.	Location of Flashing Amber Safety Lights	2006 Cost Max € ,000
LS08111/ LP04111	Aghnafarcon NS	18023L	Aghnafarcon, Castleblayney, Monaghan	Broomfield	100m either side of school	7,000.00
LP03500	Annyalla NS	16842O	Annyalla, Castleblayney, Monaghan	Annayalla	100m either side of school	7,000.00
R183	Ballybay Central	19884W	Ballybay, Monaghan	Ballybay Rural	100m either side of school	7,000.00
LP05251	Billis NS	10718G	Glaslough, Monaghan	Glaslough	100m either side of school	7,000.00
N2	Clontibret NS	10751E	Clontibret, Monaghan	Clontibret	100m either side of school	7,000.00
LT22414	Comhghall S.N.	17776J	Connons, Clones, Monaghan	Drumully	100m either side of school	7,000.00
R188	Corcaghan NS	16129R	Corcaghan, Monaghan	Kilmore	100m either side of school	7,000.00
LP01131	Deravoy NS	00373P	Emyvale, Monaghan	Anketell Grove	100m either side of school	7,000.00
R183	Doohamlet NS	06117E	Doohamlet, Castleblayney, Monaghan	Cremartin	100m either side of school	7,000.00
LP01153	Edenmore NS	16022W	Emyvale, Monaghan	Anketell Grove	100m either side of school	7,000.00
R183	Fortview NS	15300T	Carn, Clones Monaghan	Clones Rural	100m either side of school	7,000.00
LP02130	Gaelscoil Eois	20055N	Eanach Cille, An Chuil Darach, Clones	Clones Rural	100m either side of school	7,000.00
LP04630	Inis Chaoin Deagha	19251G	Inniskeen, Dundalk, Louth	Inniskeen	100m either side of school	7,000.00

LS06290	Killeevan NS	19364T	Newbliss, Monaghan	Killeevan	100m either side of school	7,000.00
LP01133	Knocknagrave NS	18579M	Tydavnet, Monaghan	Killylough	100m either side of school	7,000.00
LT24111	Latnamard NS	16769H	Smithboro, Monaghan	Drumhillagh	100m either side of school	7,000.00
LP04102	Lisdoonan NS	15143G	Lisdoonan, Carrickmacross, Monaghan	Bocks	100m either side of school	7,000.00
LP02110	Scoil Chroi Ro Naofa	20120V	Roslea Road, Clones, Monaghan	Clones Rural	100m either side of school	7,000.00
LP04602	Scoil Colmcille	18820O	Blackstaff, Carrickmacross, Monaghan	Kiltybegs	100m either side of school	7,000.00
R183	Scoil Eanna	20174V	Ballybay, Monaghan	Ballybay Rural	100m either side of school	7,000.00
LP21805	Scoil Mhuire	19162H	Kilnaclay, Threemilehouse, Monaghan	Kilmore	100m either side of school	7,000.00
N54/LP02 150	Scoil Mhuire	09186P	Magherarney, Smithboro, Monaghan	St Tierney	100m either side of school	7,000.00
LT54512	Scoil Mhuire	18539A	Moys, Clontibret, Monaghan	Castleshane	100m either side of school	7,000.00
LP04510	Scoil Micheál	15142E	Tullymackil- martin, Donaghmoyne, Monaghan	Crossalare	100m either side of school	7,000.00
LS05501	Scoil Micheál	16954C	Rackwallace, Monaghan	Rackwallace	100m either side of school	7,000.00
R182	Scoil Pádraig	18234B	Oram, Castleblayney, Monaghan	Churchill	100m either side of school	7,000.00
LT11131	Scoil Pádraig	19362P	Clara, Emyvale, Monaghan	Derrygorry	100m either side of school	7,000.00
LS08170	Scoil Pádraig Naofa	17735S	Broomfield, Castleblayney, Monaghan	Kilmurray	100m either side of school	7,000.00
R186	St. Dympna's NS	19738L	Tydavnet, Monaghan	Tedavnet	100m either side of school	7,000.00
	St Josephs	20067U	Knockatallen, Monaghan		100m either side of school	7,000.00
Original CLÁR						€210,000

15. Conferences:

On the proposal of Cllr Kieran, seconded by Cllr Carville the Members agreed to be represented at the following conferences by the Members indicated.

Promoting Authority	<u>Subject/The me</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Approx. cost Per member</u>	<u>Members Selected</u>
Cork County Council	Conference on Demand	Clarion Hotel, Cork	8 th & 9 th February 2007	€800	Padraig McNally John O'Brien Seamus Coyle

	Responsive Transport				Vincent P. Martin Brian McKenna
Promoting Authority	<u>Subject/Theme</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Approx. cost per member</u>	<u>Members Selected</u>
Association of County & City Councils	Nominations for ACCC Annual Conference 2007	Park Hotel, Dungarvan, Co Waterford	8 th & 10 th March 2007	€1,000	David Maxwell Pat McKenna Heather Humphreys Hugh McElvaney Gary Carville Padraig McNally Benny Kieran John O'Brien Robbie Gallagher Vincent P. Martin Brian McKenna
TJK Conference Ltd	Planning Seminar for Councillors	Earl of Desmond Hotel, Tralee	16 th & 17 th February 2007	€850	Gary Carville Pat McKenna Hugh McElvaney Benny Kieran Seamus Coyle Jackie Crowe
Wicklow County Tourism	Annual National & International Tourism Conference	Marriott Druids Glen Hotel & Country Club, Newtownmount-kennedy, Co Wicklow	21 st & 22 nd February 2007	€580	Owen Bannigan John Keenan Padraig McNally Benny Kieran Vincent P. Martin
Colmicille Heritage Trust	18 th Colmicille Winter School 2007	Colmicille Heritage Centre, Gartan, Church Hill, Letterkenny, Co Donegal	23 rd – 25 th February 2007	€640	Pat McKenna Heather Humphreys Owen Bannigan John Keenan Hugh McElvaney David Maxwell
Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council	History Conference on the Flight of the Earls	East Tyrone College of Further Education, Circular Road, Dungannon	28 th February – 2 nd March 2007	€680	Owen Bannigan Hugh McElvaney

Signed: _____
Meara

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____
