

**Minutes of meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Mtek Building,  
Armagh Road, Monaghan on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2012 at 10.00 a.m.**

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

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

Mr. D. Fallon, A/County Manager, Mr. P. Clifford, Mr. D. Treanor, and Mr. A. King, Directors of Service and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

**Apologies:** Cllr S. McKenna.

At the outset, the Mayor welcomed all present to the first meeting of the Council in 2012 and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

*The Mayor proposed a vote of sympathy to Cllr Carville on the death of his mother Carmel, RIP. Cllr McElvaney seconded the proposal.*

A number of members expressed their sympathy to Cllr Carville and his father Arthur, a former member of the Council. The motion was passed unanimously.

Cllr McElvaney welcomed Cllr Bannigan back to the Council following his recent illness. All members joined in good wishes to Cllr Bannigan.

*Cllr McElvaney proposed that the sympathy of the Council be extended to Cllr Bannigan on the death of his uncle James Bannigan RIP. Cllr Murray seconded the proposal. The motion was passed unanimously.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Murray, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that the sympathy of the Council be extended to Cllr Mark Clarke, Carrickmacross Town Council on the death of his father Patrick RIP.*

*On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr McElvaney was agreed that the sympathy of the Council be extended to Nicholas and Michael Boylan, Scotstown on the death of their uncle Eamonn Holland, late of Croydon, London and Mullantimore, Tydavnet RIP.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr O'Brien it was agreed that the sympathy of the Council be extended to Cllr Brendan Hughes, Castleblayney Town Council on the death of his sister Geraldine McMillan RIP.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna it was agreed that the Council extend good wishes to Cllr Sheila McKenna for a speedy return to full health.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed that the Council congratulate Cllr Matt Carthy on being elected Chairperson of County Monaghan Vocational Education Committee.*

The A/County Manager associated himself and the staff with all the votes.

Cllr Carville thanked all present for their kind words and he expressed his thanks to all those who had called to the house or attended the funeral of his late mother. He also paid tribute to the local community and the local GAA club for all their assistance during the wake and the funeral.

Cllr Bannigan also thanked everyone for the expressions of sympathy on the death of his uncle. He also thanked them for their good wishes during his recent illness.

The Mayor then adjourned the meeting for a short period as a mark of respect.

### **Urgent Business:**

On resumption the Mayor stated that he had received a notice of urgent business from the Sinn Fein Members expressing support for the employees of Lagan Brick, Kingscourt on the recent closure of the company. A vote by show of hands resulted in 17 for, nil against. The Mayor declared the proposal carried and that he would take the urgent business at the end of the meeting.

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

##### **(i) Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2011**

*On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2011 be confirmed.*

##### **(ii) Minutes of Budget Meeting held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2011**

*On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Murray it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2011 be confirmed.*

Cllr McElvaney referred to a proposal made at the budget meeting in relation to a sign indicating Dublin on a lay-by off the N2 near Clontibret that should be removed and that no reference was made to this in the minutes.

The Meetings Administrator stated that no proposal to this effect had been put to the meeting by the Mayor and therefore had not been recorded.

The A/County stated that he noted Cllr McElvaney's comment and would have the matter examined.

#### **2. Correspondence**

The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda:

- Letter from the Minister for Justice & Equality in relation to the Occupiers' Liability Act.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for the Environment in relation to Council resolution regarding the Valuation Act 2011.

- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Housing and Planning in relation to the Housing Grants Scheme.
- Email acknowledgement from the Minister for Housing and Planning in relation to the Tenant Purchase Scheme.
- Email from Deputy Sean Conlan in response to Council resolution regarding the Tenant Purchase Scheme.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Health in relation to the Council's resolution regarding the minor injuries unit at Monaghan Hospital.
- Letter from Killarney Town Council pledging support for the Council's resolution for distressed mortgage holders.
- Resolution from Limerick County Council calling on the Minister for Foreign Affairs to restore the Irish Ambassador to the Holy See.
- Resolution from South Dublin County Council expressing its revulsion at racist remarks or actions and committing to inclusive representation of all residents with the local authority area.
- Resolution from Wexford Borough Council pledging support for the Council's resolution for distressed mortgage holders.
- Resolution from Clare County Council calling on the Ministers for the Environment and Social Protection to transfer people on unemployment assistant to local authorities to enable them work a 3 day week for their benefits plus possible incentives.
- Resolutions from Monaghan Town Council in relation withdrawal of the winter fuel allowance; cuts in funding for CE Schemes and the payment of motor tax by instalments.
- Letter from Carrickmacross Town Council inviting the Council to hold a monthly meeting in the new Civic Offices in Carrickmacross.
- Letter from the National Roads Authority in relation to the discontinuation of the "goodwill" payment of €5,000 per acre for compulsory purchase land acquisitions.
- Letter from the Minister for Health stating he is unable to meet a deputation from the Council in relation to the Minor Injuries Unit at Monaghan Hospital.
- Letter from the Minister for Health in relation to the housing grants for the elderly.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Justice and Equality in relation to the Council's resolution regarding door to door money-lenders.
- Email from Deputy Heather Humphreys in response to Council resolution regarding the Tenant Purchase Scheme.
- Resolution from Kilkenny County Council in relation to the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme.
- Political Donations Declaration and Ethics Declaration for completion before 31<sup>st</sup> January and 28<sup>th</sup> February 2012, respectively.

**Proposals arising out of correspondence:**

*On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that the resolution from Monaghan Town Council, as follows, be adopted*

- a) *"That this Council deplores the withdrawal by this Government of the 6 week winter fuel allowance for those who most need it".*

*Cllr Connolly proposed, Cllr Carthy seconded that the resolution from Monaghan Town Council, as follows, be adopted.*

*(b) “That this Council condemns the proposed cuts in funding for CE Scheme participants”.*

Cllr Bannigan proposed that the motion be amended by substituting the word sponsors for the word participants. Cllrs Connolly and Carthy accepted the amendment and the substantive motion was put to the Council and agreed.

*On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Connolly it was agreed that the Council write to the two Fine Gael T.D.s for County Monaghan asking them to meet with Dr. James Reilly, T.D., Minister for Health and impress upon him the importance of meeting with a deputation from Monaghan County Council in relation to the continuation of existing services at Monaghan General Hospital.*

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that the Council write again to the Minister for Housing, Ms. Jan O’Sullivan T.D., in relation to the Tenant Purchase Scheme 2011.*

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr McPhillips it was agreed that the Council adopt the resolution from South Dublin County Council, as follows: “That this Council, in the wake of recent commentary regarding the relationship between local elected representatives and our new communities, expresses its revulsion at any racist remarks or actions; that this Council recommits itself to the inclusive representation of all residents within this local authority; and that a copy of this motion be circulated to all local authorities in Ireland.”*

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna it was agreed that this Council write to the Minister for Transport, Mr. Leo Varadkar, T.D., seeking the reversal of his decision to discontinue the €5,000 per acre ‘goodwill’ payments; at least for all cases currently under negotiations.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Coyle it was agreed that the Council accept the invitation of Carrickmacross Town Council to hold a meeting in its Chamber in the new Civic Offices.*

*Cllr B. McKenna proposed, Cllr P. Treanor seconded that the Council adopt the resolution from Limerick County Council calling on the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Government to restore the Irish Ambassador to the Holy See. Ireland has had an 80 year old diplomatic association with the Vatican.*

A vote by show of hands resulted in 11 for 3 against, 2 abstentions. The Mayor declared the proposal carried.

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed that the Council write to the Minister for Transport, Mr. Leo Varadkar, T.D., seeking the reversal of his decision to discontinue funding for the Local Improvements Scheme in 2012.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Connolly it was agreed that the Council write to the National Roads Authority and the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government outlining its total opposition to major infrastructure route corridors in the region of 400m and indicating that the Council will not identify and sterilise such routes in the Monaghan County Development Plan and that this Council seeks to meet the National Roads Authority and the Minister to discuss our concerns.*

*On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna seconded by Cllr Coyle it was agreed that the Council write to the T.D.'s for the constituency asking them to arrange a meeting with the National Roads Authority and a deputation from Monaghan County Council to discuss the route selection for the N2 Clontibret to the N.I. Border Road Scheme.*

**3. To consider the Annual Financial Statement and Audit Report for 2010**

The members considered the Annual Financial Statement and Audit Report for 2010 which had been circulated with the agenda. The A/County Manager, the Head of Finance and the Director of Roads/Environment responded to a number of queries from the Members in relation to the audit report

*Cllr Connolly proposed, Cllr S. Treanor seconded that following the opening of tenders, by the Tenders Committee, that the Members of the Council are advised what firm/tenderer has been awarded the contract.*

*A vote by show of hands on Cllr Connolly's proposal resulted in 14 for 1 against 1 abstention.*

Cllr O'Brien requested that the County Manager advise the Members of any pending major litigation cases.

**4. To fix dates for holding meetings of the following committees:**

**(a) Corporate Policy Group**

It was agreed that a meeting of the Corporate Policy Group would be held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2012 at 11.30 a.m.

**(b) Landfill Sub Committee meeting.**

It was agreed that a meeting of the Landfill sub-committee would be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2012 at 10.00 a.m. in Mtek 2.

**(c) Lough Muckno Sub Committee meeting**

The A/County Manager advised that, subject to the agreement of the Council he has invited the Council's legal advisor to brief the Members at the February meeting and that it was not necessary to have a sub committee meeting. This was agreed.

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

The Members noted the reports from Cllrs Coyle, Gallagher Maxwell, McElvaney, Murray and O'Brien in relation to their attendance at the Clare Tourism Conference in Ennistymon, Co. Clare.

**6. Proposed Eirgrid 440kv Interconnector:**

During a debate on this item, the following proposals were put to the meeting –

*On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr O'Brien it was agreed that this Council calls on the Government to legislate for the full refund of monies, to anyone or any organisation, spent in opposing a planning application to the Strategic Infrastructure Board where it is later withdrawn – the applicant should be liable for such refund.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that this Council write to the Minister for Communications, Energy & Natural Resources and all the Oireachtas Members for Cavan/Monaghan enquiring when the Independent Report on the North/South Interconnector will be available and, when available, that –*

- (i) the report be made available to any member of the public who wishes to acquire it*
- (ii) the report be presented to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Energy by the Independent Commission and that the Commission will answer questions from the Oireachtas Committee;*
- (iii) no Cabinet/Government decision on the contents of the Report be made until such time as the public have an opportunity to study the report and it is discussed at Oireachtas level.*

**7. Business submitted by County Manager**

**Hope Castle:**

The County Manager advised that the hearing regarding the lease on Hope Castle was listed to be heard in the Circuit Court on the 25<sup>th</sup> January. Mr. Fallon stated that a Malicious Injury Claim, seeking compensation of €2.8m for damage to the Hope Castle, had been received from solicitors acting for Chris Haren before Christmas.

**Ulster Canal:**

Mr. P. Clifford, Director of Planning referred to the update on the Ulster Canal Planning Application that was circulated at the meeting. The report detailed the current status of the application. As this application is considered to be a Trans-boundary Application all relevant bodies in Northern Ireland were notified on 7<sup>th</sup> November and the consultation period expires on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2012 in respect of submissions received in Northern Ireland. Pending any submissions received the Planning Authority will then duly consider this application further.

*On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that this Council writes to the office of Minister Jimmy Deenihan T.D. relaying to him the*

*content/minute of Council debate on the re-opening of the Ulster Canal, forwarding the circulated update and requesting his department to make budgetary preparations that will facilitate continued progress of the Canal re-opening and that the Council seek information on the proposed inter-agency working group being established.*

### **Household Charge:**

Mr. Fallon advised the Members that the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government, Mr. Phil Hogan T.D., has now indicated that he wishes local authorities to have a role in the collection of the Household Charge. It had been planned that the Local Government Management Agency would operate a shared service through a dedicated website and central payment bureau. The decision to involve local authorities in a front line role was confirmed in a meeting between the Department and the County & City Manager's Association Project Board on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2011.

A lengthy debate then took place during which members sought clarification on a number of issues relating to the household charge. The Head of Finance responded to the queries and stated that in addition to the County Council, the four Town Councils in the county were also accepting these payments.

The following proposals were put to the meeting –

*On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Murray it was agreed that the Council write to the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government requesting that information leaflets about the Household Charge are issued immediately to all households and that the Department undertakes a national advertising campaign both on television and in the print media. And further that the Department recoups the cost of administering the collection of the charge to local authorities.*

*Cllr Connolly proposed, Cllr S. Treanor seconded that the Council write to the Minister requesting that all levels of unfinished housing development are exempt from the household charge.*

A vote by show of hands resulted in 6 for, 12 against. The Mayor declared the proposal defeated.

*On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr O'Brien, it was agreed that the Council write to the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government and ask him to extend the March 31<sup>st</sup> cut off date for payment of the household charge, so that the public is adequately informed of all details relating to the charge.*

**8. Matters arising out of minutes of Council meetings held on 5<sup>th</sup> December and 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2011**

Matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meetings held on 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> December were responded to by the relevant officials.

*On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed that the members convey to the Tourism Business Leaders Forum as a recommendation, the necessity of producing a Canadian tourism market specific leaflet that highlights the shared community of interests between our twinned regions of Monaghan and the north east Canadian provinces.*

Cllr Conlon requested that the Heritage Officer, Clogher Historical Society and the Irish Canadian Society would be included in this initiative.

In relation to a query from Cllr P. Treanor in relation to the clearance of blockages from the Finn River the A/County Manager stated that the Council will liaise with the Office of Public Works and The N.I. River Agency in this regard.

**9. Questions:**

**Cllr S. Coyle asked:**

1. What is the current position of Monaghan County Council as the lead partner for the €7.8 Peace III funded Clones Erne East Sports Partnership Project as to when:
  - a) Contracts for the project will be signed?
  - b) Construction works will commence?
  - c) The project will be completed & available for use?

**Reply:** *5 No Tenders were received prior to the closing date of 12<sup>th</sup> December 2011. These were formally opened on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2011 and are currently being examined and assessed by the Councils Design Team. It is envisaged that the contractor for the construction element of the project will be appointed during March 2012, with construction work commencing in April 2012. It is anticipated that the completed project will be available for use in late 2013.*

2. With regard to Monaghan County Councils housing waiting list for rural accommodation:
  - a) How many applicants are currently on the waiting list for "Farm Homes"? Has Monaghan County Council made a funding application to the Department?

**Reply:** *There are currently no approved farm home applications on hand.*

- b) How many applicants are currently on the waiting list for "Demountable Homes"? Has Monaghan County Council made a funding application to the Department?

**Reply:** *There are currently 3 approved demountable applications on hand. The Part VIII planning has been approved and sites are currently being prepared. Demountable unit provision is funded by means of Internal Resources.*

**Cllr S. Coyle asked:**

c) How many "Farm Homes" & "Demountable Homes" were constructed by Monaghan County Council in 2011?

**Reply:** *Farm Homes – No units constructed in 2011. Demountables – 3 units under construction in 2011 and due to complete in 2012.*

3. Have Monaghan County Council prepared/completed plans or costings, or made application for funding to alleviate the reoccurring flooding problems at Cumry, Anney & Lisnalong on the Ballybay to Cootehill Road (R190-2, R190-3)? The regular flooding here is having disastrous consequences for the residents, farmers & the economic activity in the area.

**Reply:** *Monaghan County Council has no plans or costing at present to alleviate the reoccurring flooding problems at Cumry, Anney & Lisnalong on the R190 Ballybay to Cootehill Road. The flooding in question is caused by the Dromore River system and an extensive catchment survey is required in order to determine the most appropriate works required. Monaghan County Council has made previous applications for funding to the OPW to carry out a study in this area and have highlighted the recurring flooding to the OPW. The Council understands that the OPW will now include the section of the Dromore River in Ballybay as an area for further assessment as part of their ongoing Catchment Flood Risk Analysis and Management (CFRAM) Programme.*

4. Have Monaghan County Council completed design & costings for the erection of public lighting on the Monaghan Road, Rockcorry and at St. Mary's Chapel Corravacan? This area is very dangerous for pedestrians and motorists.

**Reply:** *The cost of extending the public lights on the Monaghan Road in Rockcorry to the existing speed limit has been estimated at €25,000. Clones Area office are waiting for public lighting suppliers to visit St. Mary's Chapel Corravacan, St. Alphonsos Church, Connons and St. Anne's Church, Ture to determine the cost of providing lights at these locations.*

**Cllr C. McPhillips asked:**

5. I commend Monaghan County Council for the works being carried out along the Threemilehouse to Newbliss road, in particular the works at Cornasoo Cross. Can the Council now outline its planned works to the section of this road, from Cornasoo Cross to Drumgarley Cross over the next 18 months?

**Reply:** *Monaghan County Council intends to extend the existing road widening works by a further one kilometre towards Greenan's Cross in the next 18 months subject to adequate funding being available.*

6. Can Monaghan County Council, please advise how many lighting projects are on the waiting list in the Clones Electoral Area, the total combined costs of these and how many are expected to be carried out in 2012?

**Reply:** *There are currently 19 individual public lighting schemes on the waiting list in the Clones Electoral Area, the combined cost of these projects is €250,000. It is envisaged that only 2 schemes will be carried out in 2012 with the €10,000 allocated for new public lighting by the Council.*

**Cllr C. McPhillips asked:**

7. Can Monaghan County Council please outline, in detail its policy with regard to the salting of roads? In particular, who decides when salting is necessary and is there any time restrictions in place as to when salting can commence, for example can salting commence before 7pm?

**Reply:** *Monaghan County Council has, in consultation with the elected members, developed a schedule of roads totalling 600km that are planned to be routinely salted in County Monaghan when there is a risk of ice forming on the road surface. In accordance with NRA guidelines, these roads have been categorised as follows;*

*Priority 1 Roads - are the National Routes through County Monaghan.*

*Priority 2 Roads - are Regional and a small number of certain strategic local roads.*

*Priority 1 and priority 2 roads are routinely salted every time there is a callout.*

*The Priority 1 and Priority 2 roads are available to view on Monaghan County Council's website.*

*Priority 3 roads are other local roads servicing facilities and commercial premises that may receive intermittent treatment during severe weather and subject to available resources and local conditions.*

*Monaghan County Council use 8 lorry mounted salt gritters to salt the road network and use between 80 - 120 tonnes of salt on every callout depending on the prevailing conditions. It takes 4-5 hours to complete salting on the network. Each salting callout requires significant resources in terms of manpower and salt usage.*

*The decision to salt the roads is based on detailed information supplied by Met Eireann through a specialist software package called Vaisala Icecast. The Met Eireann forecast is supplemented by other forecast information from the Met Eireann website, Northern Ireland meteorological office and other weather forecasting sites. Generally salting is undertaken before ice is predicted to form on the road surface. When rain falls salt will be washed off the road, and the timing of salting operations should be planned for after the rain has fallen. Where necessary weather conditions and temperatures are continually monitored by the duty engineer and the time for salting is determined based on actual data to determine the effectiveness of the treatment. On some nights where freezing occurs interspersed with rain or sleet showers, two treatments of the network are on occasion required to ensure an effective treatment of the icy conditions.*

*Currently there are no constraints or restrictions on when treatment may take place, and this season callouts have been made at a wide range of times, including 4.30pm, 9pm, midnight, 4.00am and 5.00am. Between the 6th November and 23rd December there have been 26 callouts. On 8 of these occasions there have been double callouts where salting was undertaken twice overnight.*

*In contrast with the winters of 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 where weather conditions were much colder but also a lot drier, the winter season to date has seen a higher occurrence of rain/sleet/snow showers. This severely impacts the effectiveness of the salt, and ice can form even after roads are treated. Furthermore on some nights the actual road temperatures (continuously monitored by the duty engineers) were lower than the forecast temperatures and resulted in the duty engineers having to make unscheduled callouts at short notice on these occasions. While the Monaghan County Council staff involved in winter maintenance are flexible and are willing to co-operate to provide a service at all times through the day and night, due to the length of roads to be treated and the difficulty in predicting when rain and sleet showers have stopped falling, in some instances ice may form on roads before salting takes place and consequently motorists should always drive with caution during winter weather.*

**Cllr A. Murray asked:**

8. Will the Council consider erecting a Pedestrian Crossing in Farney St Carrickmacross near the junction with Emmet Road?

**Reply:** *The Council will examine this proposal in terms of feasibility and possible sources of funding.*

**Cllr P. Connolly asked:**

9. In view of the increased levels of traffic on the Monaghan to Clogher road what plans are there to erect a safety barrier at Toneyssillogagh on left side of the road going towards Clogher?

**Reply:** *There are currently no plans to erect safety barrier at this location.*

10. In relation to the awarding of contracts and the procurement of goods and services by Monaghan County Council

- (a) What is the total number and value of contracts awarded in 2010 and 2011 to
  - Companies in Co Monaghan?
  - Other Irish companies?
  - Northern Irish companies?

- (b) What is the total value of other goods and services procured from companies during 2010 and 2011 in

- Co Monaghan?
- Other Irish companies?
- Northern Ireland?

**Reply:** *Because many non Irish Suppliers have registered offices in Ireland it is not possible to distinguish between payments to Irish suppliers and non Irish suppliers. Monaghan County Council procured the following goods and services for 2010 and 2011:*

	2010	2011
<i>Sub Contractor Payments</i>	<i>€23,222,231</i>	<i>€19,339,081</i>
<i>Other Goods &amp; Services</i>	<i>€ 9,241,827</i>	<i>€10,763,398</i>

*At the end of 2011 the breakdown of the Council's suppliers was as follows*

<i>Sub Contractors from County Monaghan</i>	<i>273</i>
<i>Sub Contractors not from County Monaghan</i>	<i>309</i>
<i>Other Suppliers from County Monaghan</i>	<i>3,099</i>
<i>Other Suppliers not from county Monaghan</i>	<i>3,688</i>

**Cllr P. Connolly asked:**

11. Will Monaghan County Council consider requesting the NRA to put rumble strips on the left side of Monaghan / Armagh road ahead of the turn off for Glaslough in order to improve road safety at this junction?

**Reply:** *The Council will discuss the matter with the NRA to examine whether an application for funding under the road safety improvement scheme allocation at this location would be appropriate.*

**Cllr M. Carthy asked:**

12. When will the speed ramps at Clonseady housing estate, Magheraclone be put in place?

**Reply:** *Speed ramps will be put in place by the end of January/early February, 2012.*

13. To ask the Council to list all housing estates in County Monaghan for which an application to be taking-in-charge by this Council is outstanding; to further ask for a current status position on each of these applications.

**Reply:** *There are 11 number applications for Taking in Charge pending, details as follows:*

*Inver Park, Carrickmacross.*

*Requested additional information from developer in August, 2009, reminder issued March 2011, no response to date.*

*Drumlyn Manor, Castleblayney.*

*Requested certification and vesting maps from developer in June 2010, no response to date.*

*Clairmont Rise, Rockcorry.*

*Enforcement Notice issued in August, 2011 in relation to landscaping and water services.*

*Glenowen, Ballinode.*

*Requested additional information in December, 2009, partial response received.*

*Ascail Dubh, Carrickmacross.*

*Additional information requested in March 2011, received in December 2011.*

*Sliabh Dubh, Corduff, Carrickmacross.*

*Unfinished housing development - in discussions with developer.*

*Gola Crest, Bough, Scotstown.*

*Developer advised on non-compliance with conditions of planning permission in February, 2011, no response to date.*

*Old Coach Manor, Annahale, Castleblayney.*

*Requested additional information in September, 2011, no response to date.*

*Ashling Grove, Bree, Castleblayney*

*Received October 2011, currently being assessed*

*Drumbear Wood, Monaghan.*

*Additional information requested in December, 2011.*

*Village Court, Scotstown.*

*Additional information requested in March, 2011, no response to date.*

**Cllr M. Carthy asked:**

**14.** With regard to Monaghan Local Authority's Housing waiting list:

**a.** How many new applicants, per electoral area, applied for social housing with Monaghan Local Authorities during 2011?

**Reply:** North Monaghan – 127

Clones – 27

Castleblayney – 86

Carrickmacross – 57

**b.** How many applicants, per electoral area, were housed in Council dwellings by Monaghan Local Authorities during 2011?

**Reply:** North Monaghan – 32

Clones – 18

Castleblayney – 25

Carrickmacross – 12

**Cllr M. Carthy asked:**

**c. How many applicants are currently on the Housing lists of Monaghan Local Authorities, per electoral area?**

**Reply:** North Monaghan – 411  
Clones – 186  
Castleblayney – 336  
Carrickmacross – 363

**15.** What is the most up-to-date position regarding the proposed group home in Carrickmacross for women with physical and sensory disabilities; when will this project finally commence and what is the envisaged completion date at this time?

**Reply:**

- *The H.S.E. has confirmed that revenue funding for the running of the group home will be provided within current budgetary allocations.*
- *The Approved Housing Body Respond has submitted the revised formal application for the capital grant and Monaghan County Council processed the application and submitted it to the Department in late December 2011.*
- *The Planning Application cannot be lodged until the formal application has been examined by the Department's technical advisors.*
- *Timescale for completion will be dependant on stage approvals by Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. However if it were assumed that all approvals will be granted within a reasonable period of time then it would be anticipated that the project could be completed within approximately 17 months including the planning process (it should be noted that this is an indicative estimate by Respond and is based on an assumption as outlined above including grant of funding and no objections to Planning)*

**Cllr M. Carthy asked:**

**16.** How many planning applications were received by Monaghan County Council in 2011? Of these:

- a. How many in total were refused, withdrawn, granted (in numbers and percentage)?
- b. How many per electoral area were received and of these how many were refused, withdrawn or granted?
- c. How many decisions were subsequently appealed to An Bord Pleanála and of these how many appeals were upheld?

**Reply:** *There were 392 planning applications received in 2011.*

- a) *There were 401 decision issued in 2011, 28 (7%) of these decisions were to refuse permission while 373 (93%) decisions to grant permission were issued. 38 (9%) applications were withdrawn during the year, before a decision was made.*
- b) *Statistics are not kept on an electoral area basis*
- c) *There were 12 decisions appealed to An Bord Pleanala, of these 9 were upheld, 2 were overturned and 1 has yet to be determined.*

## **10. Notices of Motion:**

### **Cllr P.J. O’Hanlon proposed, Cllr O’Brien seconded**

1. That Monaghan County Council proposes that the €200 NPPR charge should not apply to any person who owns one house only.

In proposing the motion Cllr O’Hanlon stated that he had become aware of cases where unemployed house owners had moved abroad to find work to pay off the mortgage on their homes. In their absence they had rented their homes and were now liable for the NPPR charge. Cllr O’Hanlon called for a change in the regulations to ensure that these people were not liable for this charge.

Cllr O’Brien referred to the level of interest being charged where people have to pay the NPPR charge retrospectively.

*Cllr Bannigan proposed, Cllr Maxwell seconded – that the following words be added to Cllr. O’Hanlon’s motion after the word only – “and that an Appeals mechanism is put in place to deal with those specific issues.” Cllr O’Hanlon accepted the addendum.*

The substantive motion was put to the meeting and agreed unanimously.

### **Cllr S. Coyle proposed, Cllr McNally seconded, and it was agreed,**

2. That Monaghan County Council calls on An Taoiseach Enda Kenny TD, and Minister for Agriculture, Food & the Marine, Simon Coveney TD, to reject the current EU CAP 2013 proposals and to seek a flexible CAP programme that targets the SFP to active productive farmers & delivers a Rural Development Programme to support Agriculture & Rural Ireland.

## **11. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations**

It was agreed that the Council extend a vote of congratulations to Arthur and Macartan Kierans, Corleck, Latnamard on their success in the Border Rally Championship and to the Aghabog community on the successful celebration night held in their honour.

## **12. Conferences**

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

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members
Centre for Cross Border Studies (ICLRD Conference)	Planning for a New Future	Crowe Plaza Hotel Dundalk	19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> January, 2012	Cllr Robbie Gallagher Cllr John O'Brien Cllr Sean Conlon
TGR Seminars	The Rise of the Creative individual: Master Strategies for top professional achievement in 2012	Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise, Co Laois	20 <sup>th</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup> January, 2012	Cllr PJ O'Hanlon Cllr Pdraig McNally Cllr David Maxwell Cllr Hugh McElvaney Cllr Owen Bannigan Cllr Jackie Crowe Cllr Seamus Coyle
TJK Conferences Ltd	Local Government Seminar for Councillors	Patrick Punch Hotel, Limerick	27 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> January, 2012	Cllr Paudge Connolly Cllr John O'Brien Cllr Robbie Gallagher Cllr Gary Carville Cllr Noel Keelan
Smart Marketing	The role of the Council in encouraging & supporting the development of Enterprise through Tourism & Sport	Abbey Court Hotel Nenagh, Co Tipperary	27 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> January, 2012	Cllr Pdraig McNally Cllr PJ O'Hanlon Cllr Hugh McElvaney Cllr Owen Bannigan Cllr Pat Treanor Cllr Seamus Coyle
TEAGASC	Economic Prospects for Agriculture	Lyrath Estate Hotel Kilkenny	19 <sup>th</sup> January 2012	Cllr Pdraig McNally Cllr Owen Bannigan Cllr Aidan Murray Cllr B McKenna Cllr Seamus Coyle

### **Urgent Business:**

Cllr Carthy proposed, Cllr McNally seconded

*“ That Monaghan County Council notes with concern the treatment of the former employees at the Lagan Brick plant in Kingscourt, many of whom are residents of County Monaghan. That we call on the Minister for Enterprise Jobs and Innovation and the Minister for Social Protection to intervene, if necessary, to ensure that these workers receive a fair deal following many decades of dedicated service to the company.*

In proposing the motion Cllr Carthy stated that although the Lagan Brick factory is located in Co. Cavan a number of the 25 strong work-force are living in the south Monaghan Area. He hoped that there would be a satisfactory outcome from the Labour Relations Commission talks and he condemned the actions of the company in closing the plant on 15 December with only one hour's notice to the employees.

Cllr McNally seconded the motion and referred to the profits made by such companies during the building boom because of the demand for brick. He stated that major changes needed to happen in employment law to prevent such situations taking place. A number of members spoke in favour of the motion.

The Mayor put the motion to the meeting and it was passed unanimously.

The meeting then concluded.