

Minutes of Adjourned Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in Mtek Building, Knockaconny, Monaghan on Monday January 15th 2007 at 11.00 a.m.

Chair: Cllr P McNally, Mayor

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

Mr. D. Nelson, Co. Manager, Mr. M. Fitzpatrick, D. Fallon, and P. Clifford Directors of Service, Mr J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr Adrian Hughes, Senior Executive Planner, Padraig Maguire, Executive Planners, Ms C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator and Ms A. Mackle, A/Staff Officer.

Item 1(b) Minutes of Meetings to consider submission on the Draft Development Plan

Ms. C. Thornton, Meeting Administrator advised the Member of four amendments to the Draft Development Plan minutes, as follows

1. Minutes of Meeting held 1st November 2006, page 55, **Submission 57** “**A vote by show of hands on Cllr Carville’s proposal resulted in 12 for, 1 against, 4 abstentions (3 absent)**” should read Cllr Crowe and not Cllr Carville.
2. Minutes of Meeting held 15th November, 2006, page 98, **Submission 274** include the proposals “*that area of land shaded blue on attached map located between Submissions 274 and 234 be included in development limit for Lough Egish*”
3. Minutes of Meeting held 17th November, 2006, page 109 under heading Oram should include the words “**Cllr Carville proposed, Cllr Keenan seconded**”
4. Minutes of Meeting held 29th November, 2006, page 183, Para 8.4.4 – Ribbon Development and Infill “**Where 4 houses plus derelict non domestic building, e.g. Mushrooms, Poultry, Agricultural buildings, exist and have done so for a period of at least 20 years**” should read 10 years.

The amendments as outlined above were accepted and agreed by the Council.

In response to queries from Cllr McElvaney, Mr. M. Fitzpatrick, Director said he wished to clarify that the Members were being asked to verify the accuracy of the minutes taken during the Development Plan process. The Council was required to adopt each set of minutes with or without amendment. Any issues arising out of the minutes could be dealt with under matters arising.

Minutes of Draft Development Plan Meeting held on 17th October 2006

On the proposal of Cllr Kieran, seconded by Cllr Keenan it was agreed that the Minutes of the Draft Development Plan Meeting, held on 17th October 2006, be confirmed and adopted

Minutes of Draft Development Plan Meeting held on 26th October 2006

On the proposal of Cllr Humphreys, seconded by Cllr Treanor, it was agreed that the Minutes of the Draft Development Plan Meeting, held on 26th October 2006 be confirmed and adopted.

Minutes of Draft Development Plan Meeting held on 1st November 2006.

Cllr Keenan said Submission 244 – Inniskeen Action Committee, the line “**Cllr Keenan – Inniskeen is in my electoral area**” should read Cllr Keelan.

The Members agreed to amend the minutes to reflect this correction.

On the proposal of Cllr Kieran, seconded by Cllr Treanor, it was agreed that the Minutes of the Draft Development Plan Meeting held on 1st November 2006 be confirmed and adopted.

Minutes of Draft Development Plan Meeting held on 7th November 2006.

Cllr Carthy requested that the minute relating to Submission 89 (4th paragraph) – Terence Keelan and Tommy McNally be amended to read –

“Cllr Carthy advised that this land can be accessed through other zoned land”

Cllr Bannigan stated that he had declared an interest in relation to this submission but it had not been recorded in the minutes. He requested that this be done.

The Members agreed to amend the minutes to reflect these corrections.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed that the Minutes of the Draft Development Plan Meeting held on 7th November 2006 be confirmed and adopted.

Minutes of Draft Development Plan Meeting held on 15th November 2006.

Cllr Keenan requested that the minute relating to Submission 269 – Lisdoonan Community, Lisdoonan, be amended to read as follows

Under heading Submission 269 - 2nd paragraph – delete 1st sentence and replace with the words “ **Cllr Keenan stated that the wishes of Lisdoonan Community be adhered to as far as possible**”.

The Members agreed to amend the minutes to reflect these corrections.

On the proposal of Cllr Keenan, seconded by Cllr B McKenna it was agreed that the Minutes of the Draft Development Plan Meeting held on 15th November 2006 be confirmed and adopted.

Minutes of Draft Development Plan Meeting held on 17th November 2006.

On the proposal of Cllr P McKenna, seconded by Cllr Kieran it was agreed that the Minutes of the Draft Development Plan Meeting held on the 17th November 2006 be confirmed and adopted.

Minutes of Draft Development Plan Meeting held on 20th November 2006.

On the proposal of Cllr Treanor, seconded by Cllr Kieran it was agreed that the Minutes of the Draft Development Plan Meeting held on 20th November 2006 be confirmed and adopted.

Minutes of Draft Development Plan Meeting held on 23rd November 2006.

On the proposal of Cllr P McKenna, seconded by Cllr Treanor it was agreed that the Minutes of the Draft Development Plan Meeting held on 23rd November 2006 be confirmed and adopted.

Minutes of Draft Development Plan Meeting held on 29th November 2006.

Cllr Maxwell said under 9.4.4 Zoning Objective D – Commercial, the sentence “**There are a number of business in Monaghan Town who have been to the Planning Office with a view to moving out to this site**”, be amended to read “**of town**”.

The Members agreed to amend the minutes to reflect this correction.

On the proposal of Cllr B. Kieran, seconded by Cllr J. Keenan it was agreed that the Minutes of the Draft Development Plan Meeting held on 29th November 2006 be confirmed and adopted.

Matters Arising from Draft Development Plan Minutes

Submission CY249 – Roadstone Provinces Ltd

Cllr O’Brien said the zoning of this area was changed but there had been no formal proposer or seconder. In the Draft Development Plan it had been zoned for high density purposes, now it was zoned a lake area.

The Mayor, Padraig McNally said the minutes were accurate, this was agreed at that meeting.

Cllr Carville said that it was agreed at that meeting to leave the area industrial and if the applicants wanted to they could look at it as a variation at a later date.

Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Executive Planner said the purpose of the submission was to change the land from Industrial to residential.

Mr. P. Clifford, Director of Services Planning stated that there had been an oversight in the original Draft Development Plan in that the lake had not been identified and the only change to the original draft plan was that the lake now been clearly identified.

Submission M318 – Brendan Mallon

A debate took place on the plans to route the Inner Relief road through the Riverside area of Coolshannagh. A number of Members stated they were not in favour of this proposal and requested that the application for Part 8 Planning permission be deferred pending further consultation and also that alternative route options be explored.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Gallagher, it was agreed to defer consideration of the Part 8 on the N54 Inner Relief Route pending further consideration of the proposed route.

Mr. D. Fallon, Director of Services said this he would examine alternative options and report back to the Members.

Debate on the New Council Offices Project:

The County Manager said there were six issues to deal with when considering New Council Offices

1. Location
2. Size
3. Relocation of Machinery Yard to a centralised site.
4. Cost
5. Design- Design & Build or Consultant Based
6. Investment for the future

The County Manager stated that before any decision is taken in relation to design etc. a decision needs to be made on the actual location. The Council was currently in the process of acquiring the freehold interest in the Machinery Yard site and if the Stores and Yard were to be relocated to a centralised location then this site may be suitable as a location for the proposed new Council offices. The County Manager said he had requested Mr. D. Fallon, Director of Services to prepare a full report on this matter.

The Members generally welcomed the idea of a centralised machinery depot.

Cllr Bannigan said that the major concern to the Members was the cost of the project – at an estimated cost of €37 million the loan charges would require a repayment per annum of approx €1.4m. This would be a significant demand on the annual budget and could impact on the other Council projects. He proposed that the Council explore what options are available to it in order to reduce the borrowing requirement. He further proposed that the Council examine the possibility of providing a building at a cost that would ensure that annual loan repayments were maintained at around €1m.

Cllr McElvaney said he was not in favour of building new offices, as the cost would be borne by the ratepayers. He proposed relocating a section of the Council to the existing Library H.Q. in Clones when it becomes vacant.

The County Manager said that decentralisation of services in other local authorities had not been very effective and that the county was too small to justify such a move. In relation to Lough Muckno he stated that the case had been on the High Court list since October but that no date had been fixed for a hearing.

Cllr Maxwell asked could the cost of providing a building at the Machinery Yard compared to the cost at O'Neill's farm be provided. He said he favoured O'Neill's farm site as he felt the cost of providing underground car parking at the Machinery Yard site would prove to be more expensive.

In response to queries from the Members relating to differences in costs between the various sites being examined, Mr. K. McNally, A/Senior Engineer said that building costs were very similar. There are advantages and disadvantages for each site. The estimated cost of providing new offices is in line with those of the National Building Agency.

The County Manager stated that the Council was currently compiling a register of all Council assets, which would be available for the February meeting. He indicated that the difference in fees between the traditional design route -v- the Design & Build option would be approximately 5%. He confirmed that he would make the following information available for the February meeting

1. Information on Council assets
2. A report on the up-to-date position in relation to Muckno
3. A report highlighting the options available to the Council in relation to borrowing requirements.
4. Cost comparison between a town centre site and the O'Neill's Farm site

The Mayor asked the Members to indicate by a show of hands which location they would be in favour of for the New County Offices. He confirmed that this was purely indicative and would not be binding. A show of hands resulted in 8 for a Town Centre site and 9 for the O'Neill's Farm site.

Correspondence

Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator read a letter from Mr Paddy Harte, Project Director of “Island of Ireland Partnership” regarding an invitation to attend a St. Patrick’s Day parade in Messines, Leper and the Somme.

It was agreed that this correspondence would be circulated with the Conferences List for the February Council meeting.

Urgent Business

The Mayor confirmed that he had received a proposal to deal with Urgent Business, in the names of Cllrs Carville and Bannigan, as follows:

That pursuant to standing Order 14.2, this Council resolves to consider the following as urgent business:

“The proposal of the officials of this Council to close temporarily the busy thoroughfare of the Knockagolis Road, Castleblayney, for a period of 3 months, and the serious implications such a closure and re-routing of traffic would have for local people and for road users in the area.”

The Council agreed to deal with the motion of urgent business.

In proposing the motion Cllr Carville said that residents in the Knockagolis area were given less than 24 hours notice, by a hand delivered letter, that the Knockagolis road was to close for three months to accommodate part of the Castleblayney Bypass. . There were two alternative routes given, the Carrickagarvan and Carrickaslane Road, both of which are already dealing with an unprecedented amount of traffic due to the construction of the Castleblayney Bypass. The Members had already voiced their concern over the use of these roads as rat runs for traffic trying to avoid delays through Castleblayney and now they were to be used as alternative routes. There was a lack of consultation and they were calling on the officials for alternative re-routing options.

Cllr Bannigan seconded the motion and concurred with the sentiments expressed by Cllr Carville as did Cllrs Crowe, O’Brien and Coyle. All members expressed concerns that the roads being proposed as alternative routes were not capable of taking the diverted traffic.

During the course of the debate Cllr Carville proposed, Cllr Bannigan seconded and it was agreed

“ That this Council directs the County Manager and Executive of this Council to abandon plans to re-route traffic from the Knockagolis Road Castleblayney via the Kinnegan and Carrickagarvan roads from 28 January 2006 for a 3 month period, in view of the serious traffic hazards which the proposed re-routing would cause and in view of the lack of consultation with local residents on the matter and furthermore, calls on the Executive of this Council to provide for alternative re-routing options

within the CPO area at the Knockagolis Road as had already been provided for at other similar junctions along the bypass route ”

Mr. David Fallon, Director of Services stated that he would take on board the concerns being expressed by the Members. The Contractor had given them a time-frame of three months for completion of this work. He felt it was not necessary to close the road for this period and had requested the Contractor to look at other alternatives to closing the road. He stated that it would, however, be necessary to close the road an approximate period of two weeks to carry out some of the work involved. Due to the number of objections received it will not be possible to close the road for three months and the Contractor will be advised accordingly.

Cllr Bannigan asked that Mr. Fallon contact the Mid Monaghan Members when the contractors came back with alternative proposals.

Cllr Crowe, O’Brien and Coyle voiced their support for this proposal.

The Members agreed to extend a vote of sympathy to

- **Con McCrossan on the death of his father Dan McCrossan.**
- **Walter Pringle on the death of his brother William Pringle.**

Signed: _____
Meara **Meetings Administrator**

Date: _____