

**Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in Mtek Building,
Knockaconny, Monaghan on Friday 5th January 2007, at 10.00 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 and Toirleach Gourley, Executive Planners, Ms C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator and Ms A. Mackle, A/Staff Officer.

The Mayor, Padraig McNally wished all the Members and Staff of Monaghan County Council along with the press a successful 2007.

1. Minutes

(a) On the proposal of Cllr B McKenna, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed to confirm the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 4th December 2006.

(b) Cllr Bannigan said that he was aware that some Members had only received the copy of the Planning Minutes in the days prior to this meeting and had not had time to examine them in full. He acknowledged that they had been posted on 22nd December.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Conlon, it was agreed to postpone the adoption of minutes of Planning meetings until the next meeting.

2. Correspondence:

The following correspondence was circulated -

- Manager's Order No. 07/01, Subject: Development Contribution Charges
- Letter from Joe Allen, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government regarding amendments to the Councillors allowances system and to the retirement gratuity arrangements.
- Letter from Mr Éamon Ó Cuív, T.D., Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs regarding the CLÁR Programme
- Resolution from County Carlow VEC, which calls on the Minister for Finance to reduce the current 21% rate of VAT, charged on personal protective equipment for road users to zero.
- Letter from Cathleen Curry, A/General Manager HSE regarding Doctor on Call Service

- Letter from Michael Sludds, Taoiseachs Private Office acknowledging receipt of letter and stating letter has been forwarded to the office of the Minister for Transport, Mr Martin Cullen, T.D.
- Acknowledgement from Mr Raymond McHugh thanking the Members, Management and Staff of Monaghan County Council for their kind wishes on his appointment as Principal of St. Macartans.

Development Contribution Charges

Cllr McElvaney proposed that the Council do not adopt the Managers Order 07/1; he felt the contribution should be left at last year's rates. There was no seconder for the proposal.

Mr. P. Clifford, Director of Services stated that legislation required that the development contribution charges must be increased each year by the wholesale price index.

The County Manager stated that the sewerage connection charge imposed by Monaghan County Council was one of the lowest in the country. Cost of developing a private sewerage system or septic tank would be significantly more. Similarly the water connection charge was very modest as the cost of joining a group scheme or sinking a private well and providing a pump with electrical connections etc. would be significantly more expensive.

Mr. Clifford said he had carried out a survey in relation to other utility services and the following increases had been made in recent times

- Telephone Charges had increased by 7.4% since 2003
- ESB Standing Charges had increased by 78.14%; the unit cost of electricity had increased by 33.7% since 2003.
- Water Charges increased by 26.39% since 2003 while Water standing charges have increased by 22.75% over the same period.

Cllr Conlon asked if a connection had been made and the infrastructure had been put in place why are apartment complex charged per unit, private dwellings are charged individually.

In response to a query from Cllr Conlon on the cost of a water connection, Mr. Clifford, said the charge is highly competitive compared to the charges levied by the Group Water Schemes.

CLAR Programme

Cllr McElvaney proposed that the new Clar Committee seek a meeting with Éamon Ó Cuív, T.D., Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs regarding the CLÁR Programme. This was agreed

Nitrates Directive:

A number of Members referred to the report from Mr David Fallon, Director of Services which had been circulated to the Members that morning in relation to the Nitrates Directive. The Members highlighted the fears being expressed by the farming in relation to cuts to their single payments and also the lack of sufficient prior notice of on-farm inspections. They acknowledged the co-operation between the Council, the IFA and the farming community and called for a proactive approach by the Council to ensure that their fears and concerns are addressed.

Mr. D. Fallon, Director of Services referred to the advisory role the Council would play in relation to its designation as a Nitrates Directive enforcement authority. The primary role of the Council was to carry out its functions relating to the protection and improvement of water quality. Cross compliance inspections were to be undertaken by the Department of Agriculture and Food but not by the local authorities. He hoped that the high level of co-operation that the Council currently enjoyed with the IFA and the farming community in the county would continue.

Cllr Bannigan said he had submitted a notice of Urgent Business at the December meeting on this topic which had been deferred until this meeting.

The Mayor stated he would allow time for a discussion on this matter later in the meeting.

HSE – Doctor on Call

Cllr Coyle said the letter from the HSE indicated that a patient can contact a surgery if a case is urgent, however he understands that a doctor's surgery closes at 5.15 and there is no cover between the hours of 6.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. in the evening and 8.00 a.m. to 9.00 a.m. each morning.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Conlon it was agreed to write again to the HSE seeking clarification as to who is responsible for medical cover during the hours from 5 – 6 p.m. each evening and from 8 – 9 a.m. daily (weekends excluded)

On the proposal of Mayor, Pdraig McNally, seconded by Cllr P McKenna it was agreed to write to Ms. Cathleen Curry, A/General Manager, HSE to ask would she meet with a delegation of Councillors to discuss the Doctor on Call service.

Cllr Conlon said that he was concerned with the last line of the correspondence from Cathleen Curry of the HSE, which states that at present there are no plans to place a permanent Doctor on Call Centre in Monaghan.

Cllr B McKenna said at the last meeting of the Regional Health Forum he had put forward a motion, which had been passed requesting that a Doctor on Call centre be opened in Monaghan Town. At that meeting they had requested a

report to be prepared on the feasibility of establishing a Doctor on Call Service in Monaghan. They had been informed that there is a room already established in St Davnet's, which is fully equipped to accommodate this service.

Cllr Martin proposed that they invite a representative(s) of the HSE Doctor on Call service to attend a full Council meeting?

It was agreed that the Council would invite a representative of the HSE to attend a Council meeting and failing this they would request that the HSE would meet a deputation from the Council to discuss the matter.

In response to a query from Cllr Gallagher, Ms C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator confirmed that all the doctors in the Monaghan/Clones area had been written to in relation to the matter but as yet no return correspondence was received.

Carlow VEC Resolution

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed to endorse Carlow County Councils proposal in relation to the removal of 21% VAT charged on personal protective equipment for road users to Zero Rate on lifesaving equipment such as helmets, boots, jackets, trousers gloves, reflective helmets and child car safety seats.

Ethics & Political Declarations:

Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator informed the Members that they had been issued with the annual declaration forms under the Ethics & Political Donations Regulations. She requested that Members complete the forms and return them before the prescribed dates ie 28th February 2007 (Ethics) and 31st January 2007 (Political Donations).

3. To fill vacancy on Co. Monaghan V.E.C.:

Cllr Bannigan wished on behalf of Fine Gael party to congratulate Cllr McElvaney on his 32 years of service on the Vocational Education Committee. He concurred with the sentiments expressed in the letter from Mr. Larry McCluskey, Chief Executive Officer, Co. Monaghan VEC. Cllr McElvaney had been an effective and active County Council representative with an independent and intelligent view.

Cllr Bannigan proposed, Cllr Humphreys seconded that Cllr P McKenna be nominated to fill the Casual Vacancy on County Monaghan Vocational Education Committee arising from the resignation of Cllr Hugh McElvaney.

Cllr Martin said that he too wished to be associated with the remarks. He had no doubt that Cllr P McKenna would make a superb Member of the VEC but he was not supporting his nomination as he held the view that the Committee was

top loaded with politicians and that the Clergy should have been allocated two seats which they had held on the previous committee.

Cllr B McKenna congratulated Cllr McElvaney on his long service to the VEC. He said that although they might not always agree Cllr McElvaney always spoke his mind. He said that the filling of a Casual Vacancy is enshrined in legislation and was disappointed by Cllr Martins negative approach, which failed to recognise that he as an Independent Member had always been treated fairly by the other parties. When positions were allocated after the 2004 Election, Cllr Martin had been accommodated fairly. He wished for it to be noted that the current Chair of the VEC has no political affiliation and is an independent; this position is rotated to ensure fairness. He said that he and his party were supporting Cllr P McKenna nomination onto the committee.

A number of Members concurred with the tributes to Cllr McElvaney on his role as Council representative in the VEC.

As there had been no other nomination the Mayor declared Cllr P McKenna elected as the new representative for the VEC. He said that he like everyone else was taken by surprise by Cllr McElvaney's resignation from the VEC, he said the VEC would be a poorer place for all but he respected Cllr McElvaney's wishes to resign from the committee.

Cllr P McKenna thanked Cllr Bannigan and Humphreys for nominating him and congratulated Cllr McElvaney on his excellent work over the past 32 years.

Cllr McElvaney congratulated Cllr P McKenna on his new position and thanked the Members for their comments.

4. Report on Urban/Village Renewal Scheme

David Fallon, Director of Services that gave a summary of the Urban/Village Renewal Scheme Programme 2006/2007, circulated a report among the Members. He advised that funding which had been initially allocated for a project in Carrickmacross had been transferred to Monaghan Town and this would be replaced at a later date.

A lengthy debate followed during which the Members complimented all those involved with the implementation of this scheme and referred to the excellent work that had been carried out in the towns and villages throughout the county over the past number of years.

Mr. D. Fallon, Director of Services, acknowledged the tributes paid by the Members and responded to queries raised by them.

The County Manager acknowledged the sheer volume of work currently being undertaken by the Area Offices. He stated that there were two issues which were impacting on the roadworks programme.

Staffing - The Manager stated that some projects of the Council were delayed due to a lack of design staff. The Council had lost a number of staff to the bypass projects in recent years and as these are short term contracts it is difficult to find suitably qualified replacements. However, given that the current phase of the bypasses are almost complete it is hoped that this problem will ease in 2007.

Health & Safety – Health & Safety has become a major issue in recent years. A Health & Safety Statement must be prepared for each project and signed off by the Area Engineer. The Manager stated that the Council will have to review the Road Works Programme for 2007 in an effort to reduce a number of work sites on which works are being carried out. If the Council were to reduce the number of work sites it would also lead to greater efficiencies and better prices from private sector contractors. Many contractors are not interested in small jobs.

Speaking in committee the Manager referred to the lack of competition in the private sector with regard to engaging civil works contractors. Often times the Council had difficulty in securing contractors, particularly where small scale projects were involved. He felt the Council would get much better value for money and complete jobs in a more efficient way if the Council concentrated on larger schemes rather than a multiplicity of small ones.

The County Manager stated that the County & City Managers Association had engaged Senior Council to advise on aspects of the Health & Safety at Work Act in regard to road works. Proceedings had already been served on a number of Council's for alleged breaches of the Health & Safety legislation.

In response to a query from the members the Manager stated that the operational programmes for the Peace III Programme had yet to be published. Draft proposals will be published initially for public consultation. It is expected that the local authorities will have a major role in relation to Cross Border Road Projects.

5. Adoption of Environmental Policy Statement relating to ISO14001:

David Fallon, Director of Services referred to his report dated 19th December 2006 which had been circulated with the agenda. He stated that the Environmental Policy Statement relating to ISO 14001 as part of the STEM Project was a matter of good practice aimed at minimising pollution and complying with legal requirements.

On the proposal of Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr B Kieran it was agreed to adopt the Environmental Policy Statement relation to ISO 14001 as part of the STEM project.

6. Report on Market House, Ballybay:

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Coyle it was agreed to discuss the Market House in Ballybay (Courthouse) in-committee.

The County Manager then gave a detailed report on the building and the options available to the Council and responded to queries raised by the Members.

It was agreed that the Manager would write to the Chief Executive of the Courts Service enquiring as to their future plans for the continuation of court sittings in Ballybay and if they would be interested in acquiring the building.

7. To receive minutes of Committee meetings:

Cllr McElvaney proposed, Cllr Kieran seconded that the Council vigorously pursue the provision of land for the Traveller Accommodation Programme in Mid and South Monaghan.

Cllr Conlon said he had requested an inventory of all Council lands be compiled to see if there was land suitable for Traveller Accommodation during the Development Plan meetings.

The Mayor suggested writing to other Local Authorities to enquire how they secured land for Traveller Accommodation.

8. To fix dates for Meetings, etc.:

- (i) It was agreed that a meeting of the Standing Orders & Procedures Committee would be held January 15th 2007 at 10.00a.m.
- (ii) It was agreed that a Civic Reception for Killylough Tug of War Team and Donaghmoyne Ladies Football Club would be held on Monday, 5th February, 2007 at 7.30 p.m.
- (iii) It was agreed that a Speed Limits Committee Meeting would be held January 15th 2007 at 2.00 p.m.
- (iv) It was agreed that a meeting of the Corporate Policy Group would be held on January 15th 2007 at 9.15 a.m.
- (v) It was agreed that an Adjourned Council Meeting to be held on January 15th 2007 at 11.00 a.m.

The Members agreed to hold the February Council meeting at 2.00p.m. on Monday 5th February 2007 to facilitate the Civic Reception for Killylough Tug of War Team and Donaghmoyne Ladies Football Club.

9. To agree nominations to the CLAR sub-committee:

The following Members were elected on to the reconstituted Clar sub-committee

The Mayor and Cllrs Bannigan, Keenan, Treanor, Keelan, Coyle, Kieran and Martin.

The Members agreed to hold the first meeting of the Committee at 12.00 noon on Monday 5th February 2007 in the Mtek building.

11. Matters arising out of the Minutes of 4th December 2006

Register of Electors

In response to a query from Cllr Crowe in relation to the timeframe for entry onto the Supplementary Register Ms C. Thornton advised that, should an election be called, there would be a prescribed period during which application could be made by persons who had been omitted from the live Register.

Road Matters

Cllr McElvaney requested that the audit of all Traffic Island Sites in each electoral area be placed as an item on the February agenda.

Cllr B McKenna said that the response from the Taoiseachs Office was unsatisfactory. He asked why the matter had been forwarded to Minister Cullen's office when it had been the Taoiseach who had made the speech regarding the N2 Monaghan To Emyvale Road Realignment Scheme at the Fianna Fail Ard Fheis.

Cllr B McKenna proposed, Cllr Conlon seconded writing to An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern as the person who had made the comment at the Fianna Fail Ard Fheis to clarify if he had stated that the N2 Monaghan to Emyvale Road Realignment Scheme would be progressed in the near future.

The Mayor suggested waiting until they received a response from Minister Martin Cullen, TD.

Cllr B McKenna agreed to wait for the response, however if it was unsatisfactory he suggested writing again to An Taoiseach.

Material Contravention to Monaghan County Development Plan 1999.

Cllr McElvaney said the motion put forward at the December Council meeting to contravene the Development Plan in relation to footpaths and public lighting was out of order as it was not yet adopted as a policy. He said that this issue had arisen out of a debate during the draft Development Plan meeting.

Mr. Paul Clifford, Director of Planning said a condition was inserted by the Members and adopted. The Members had passed a motion in relation to this.

Local Sports Partnership

In response to a query from Cllr McElvaney, the County Manager stated that the original application to the Sports Council for the establishment of a Sports Partnership was a joint application between the VEC and Monaghan County Development Board. He also stated that he would check out the signatories on the agreement for the establishment of the Sports Partnership and he would advise the members of this at the next meeting. He also stated that the Development Officer was employed by Monaghan County Council and seconded to the Partnership. This was a convenient mechanism for dealing with Income tax, PRSI etc.

In relation to the issue of a letter to the V.E.C. seeking a representative from that body to sit on the Sports Partnership, Cllr Humphreys said she would bring this issue to the Sports Partnership when they met during the month of January.

Illegal Dumping of Diesel Wash in County Monaghan

Cllr McElvaney referred to the report at the last meeting that a report on this item had been discussed on Northern Sound radio before it had been debated by the Council. He said he had spoken to a member of Staff from Northern Sound who was emphatic that no Council Member had forwarded this information on to them.

Coiste Logainmneacha

Cllr McElvaney referred to an item in the Minutes of Coiste Logainmneacha held in Monaghan Town Council on Friday 19th May, 2006, under A.O.B. in which a discussion took place on the use of the name Jubilee Road Clones for 98 Avenue and it was suggested that where Planning Applications were submitted with Jubilee Road as address that these applications should be invalidated on the basis of incorrect address. Cllr McElvaney said that he was opposed to this and proposed leaving the names as they were.

Provision of Play Area - Billy Fox Memorial Park

The Members agreed to place the provision of a play area at the Billy Fox Memorial Park as an item on the agenda for the February Council meeting.

12. Debate on proposed new Council offices:

It was agreed that a debate on the proposed new Council offices would be held 'in Committee' but that any decision as to whether the Council would proceed with this project would be taken by the full Council in public session.

During the course of the debate the County Manager outlined the following issues which needed to be considered by the members.

1. The location of new offices.
2. The cost and the Council's ability to meet loan repayments
3. Should the Motor Taxation office be included in the project, or not?
4. Should the Machinery Yard be re-located – It was noted that C.I.E. had agreed to dispose of the freehold of the Machinery Yard site to the Council.
5. What design process should be used – traditional route –v- Design & Build option.

There was a lengthy debate on the issues outlined above. During the debate there was general indication from the Members that new offices were needed. However, there were differences in opinion as to whether the location should be town centre or located on the O'Neill's farm site adjacent to the new Monaghan bypass. A number of Members expressed their concerns at the significant cost of such a project and the impact on the ratepayers and on other services which the Council has to provide. Members expressed the view that if a decision was taken to progress the project that any future expansion should be adequately provided for. There was also a suggestion that the Council should consider the option of decentralising some of its services to other towns in the county.

The County Manager stated that he would take on board the comments expressed by the Members. In relation to the proposal to decentralise services, he felt that Monaghan was too small a county for this, some other counties were now trying to reverse the decision to decentralise as the service was not working satisfactorily. He stated that he would explore the possibility of extending the range of services which the local authority provides in its Area Offices/Town Councils.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Conlon, it was agreed that the Council accept the offer from C.I.E. for the disposal of the freehold interest in the Machinery Yard site.

The Mayor asked for a decision of the Members in relation to the need for new Council offices. A vote by show of hands resulted in 18 for, 1 against, 0 abstentions.

The Mayor sought an indication from the Members, which would not be binding, as to whether they would favour a Town Centre location or the O'Neill's farm site as the location for new offices. The Members indicated as follows – 7 in favour of the O'Neill's farm site and 10 in favour of a town centre site.

It was agreed that the County Manager would circulate a copy of the feasibility study prepared by the National Building Agency in relation to the Machinery Yard site and that a further discussion would take place at the adjourned February meeting scheduled for Monday 15th January, 2007.

13. Questions:

Cllr Sean Conlon asked:

Apart from the provision of a stop sign to replace existing yield sign, what other road safety measures can be put in place at the Brandrum/White Bridge on the Clones Road (approx 1 mile from Monaghan) to curb the increasing number of accidents occurring at this junction?

Reply - A new sign to warn drivers of the stop sign will be erected on the local road, approximately 50 metres back from the junction.

(a) What progress has been made regarding the commissioning of the defibrillators purchased for the new Monaghan Leisure Facility?

Reply - The defibrillators have been ordered, but their delivery has been delayed as new protocols for their use have been introduced. The supplier of the defibrillator units currently in storage is organising training for his own staff in the use of these defibrillator units prior to commencing training customers who purchased the units. The Council hopes to have the defibrillators installed early in the New Year.

Cllr John O'Brien asked

(c) In the interest of safety for residents at the junction at the Oram – Keady Rd outside Castleblayney, can Monaghan County Council extend a much needed footpath and lighting from the existing footpath to Central School?

Reply - There are no current proposals to construct this footpath. There is a proposal to construct a link road from the R181 to the N2 in this area. The pedestrian needs can be considered further once this is completed.

(d) Can Monaghan County Council look at the possibility of implementing a speed limit at the very dangerous junction at Scotch Corner. Since the construction of the Castleblayney By-pass the junction has got increasingly dangerous.

Reply - The provision of speed limits in this area will be considered and a proposal will be brought to the next Speed Limit Committee.

Cllr Gary Carville asked

(e) How is Monaghan Co Council preparing to maximise the benefits to the County from the new round European Structural Funds 2007-2013 and what local impact will the proposed changes have in terms of

- (i) Local Delivery of the Peace III Fund and Interreg IV
- (ii) the inclusion of Scotland in the cross-territorial packages
- (iii) the reduction of funding that will be available as a result in the change of status of the Border, Midland and Western region from Objective 1 priority;

(iv) the role of the community sector.

Reply - Under the new round of Structural funding 2007 -2013 both the Peace Programme and Interreg programme will be subsumed into a new programme called Territorial Co-operation. The amounts of money available for the new programme will be substantially less than in former programmes, in the case of Peace Programme for instance – the 200 million available for the 7 years equates only to one third of the funding available to the various programmes heretofore. While full details for the new programmes are not yet available the Border Local Authorities have been negotiating with the relevant parties in relation to their potential involvement in both programmes, in this regard the six Border Task Forces have been jointly involved in a study which reviewed the contribution and impact of the Task Forces to Peace Development in their respective counties. The Outputs and Recommendations of this study together with a joint position paper setting out the potential role of Task Forces in the new programme have been publicised and circulated to all key organisations and agencies. In addition these have been followed up by direct meetings with key personnel from each of the organisations particularly the SEUPB, Dept of Finance and Dept of Environment

The reduction in funding for the Peace Programme is likely to result in greater emphasis in the Peace and Reconciliation aspect of the programme and particularly projects directly involving the identified target groups. This is likely to mean that there will be less funding available for community infrastructure. Peace projects will still continue to be funded at the 100 % rate while some Interreg funded projects will attract only 50% grant aid.

The inclusion of parts of the west coast of Scotland as eligible to participate in the Interreg programme will not significantly alter the programme. While there will be a necessity to have Cross Border partnership, projects will not be required to have participation from each of the three geographical areas i.e. Border Counties, Northern Ireland and Scotland. It is anticipated that in the order of 10-15% of the available funding will be drawn down in Scotland

Cllr Robbie Gallagher asked

(f) Would the Council consider improving signage on the roads exiting Glaslough village, particularly for the road to Emyvale?

Reply - The existing signage arrangement for this road will be examined and if additional signs are required they will be provided.

(g) (i) Would the Council consider widening the road from the crossroads at Knockatallon up to the school as two vehicles cannot currently pass each other on that particular stretch and this is currently presenting a danger to pedestrians and other road users?

Reply – There is no funding for widening county roads, however we will examine this road to see if it is possible to do anything out of our maintenance budget.

(ii) Would the council consider the development of a footpath and lighting from the new housing development at Knockatallon to the village centre?

Reply - We have no funding at present for this project. We will investigate if funding can be got from the urban & village renewal scheme.

(h) What plans has Monaghan County Council to provide lights and footpath from St Patrick's Accommodation Centre to Ballyalbany in the interest of safety of those seeking leave to stay in this country?

Reply – This project would require a footpath and public lighting of over 1.5km from St Patrick's accommodation centre to Ballyalbany and a footbridge over the Blackwater River at Ballyalbany. It would also require land acquisition of development land, agricultural land and frontages of private gardens. The estimated cost excluding land acquisition is approximately €420,000. Monaghan County Council does not have sufficient funding at present from within its own resources to carry out this project.

(i) Would the Council, conscious of the proposed development of the Dundalk/Newry and Derry/Letterkenny cross border partnerships and the promotion of counties such as Meath, Wicklow and those associated with the "Go West" campaign and in light of the ongoing and welcome development of improved infrastructure in Monaghan in terms of roads and communications, particularly the excellent work done by the County Enterprise Board on the Armagh/Monaghan digital corridor consider investigating the development of a strategy for the promotion of Monaghan as an attractive place to live, work and invest.

Reply - Monaghan County Enterprise Board is currently preparing a promotional brochure on the development potential of each of the towns in County Monaghan. It is suggested that the Planning, Economic Development and Water Services SPC of the council meet with the Board to discuss this proposal.

Cllr V. P. Martin asked

- (j) Regarding the proposed N54 (Riverside) Inner Relief Road
- (i) Has RPS Consultants carried out a flood studies technical report and if so has this report been made available to the elected members to consider?
- (ii) Since the Office of Public Works has a regulatory responsibility with regard to flood control, has Monaghan County Council received written approval from the O.P.W to proceed with advancing the aforementioned inner relief road proposal?

Reply – The Office of Public Works has indicated that it has no objection in principle to the scheme presented by RPS but will consider conditions.

- (iii) Has the North East Fisheries and/or any other body approved/signed off on this aforementioned proposal?

Reply – The NE Fisheries Board has no objection to the proposal subject to conditions.

15. Votes of Congratulations:

The Members agreed to extend a vote of congratulations to Mr. Martin Shannon, Northern Sound Radio on his appointment as News Editor with the station.

16. Conferences:

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr P McKenna the Members agreed to be represented at the following conferences by the Members indicated.

| Promoting Authority | <u>Subject/Theme</u> | <u>Venue</u> | <u>Dates</u> | <u>Approx. cost Per member</u> | <u>Members Selected</u> |
|-----------------------------|---|--|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| Antrim Borough Council | <u>Northern Tourism Conference</u> | <u>Dunadry Hotel & County Club, Muckamore, Dunadry, Antrim</u> | 2 nd & 3 rd February | € 480 | Hugh Mc Elvaney Owen Bannigan Robbie Gallagher Pat Treanor |
| AMAI | <u>AMAI Spring Seminar 2007</u> | <u>Brandon Hotel, Tralee</u> | 9 th & 10 th February 2007 | € 770 | Heather Humphreys Patrick Mc Kenna Hugh Mc Elvaney Owen Bannigan John O’ Brien Seamus Coyle Benny Kieran Matt Carthy |
| Mid-West Regional Authority | <u>13th Annual Conference “Implementing the NDP 2007 – 2-13 – The Role of the Regions”</u> | <u>Woodlands House Hotel, Adare, Co Limerick</u> | 15 th & 16 th February 2007 | € 630 | John Keenan David Maxwell Patrick Mc Kenna Owen Bannigan John O’ Brien Seamus Coyle Robbie Gallagher Benny Kieran Brian Mc Kenna Vincent P. Martin |

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Meara **Meetings Administrator**

Date: _____