

Minutes of meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Mtek Building, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday 7th January, 2013 at 2.00 p.m.

Chair: Cllr N. Keelan, Deputy Mayor.

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

Mr. D. Fallon, A/County Manager, Mr. P. Clifford and Mr. D. Treanor, Directors of Service, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner, Mr. T. Gourley, Senior Executive Planner, Ms. N. Woods, Senior Executive Officer, Mr. D. Hurley, Senior Executive Planner and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

Apologies: Cllrs Coyle and McElvaney.

At the outset the Deputy Mayor apologised for the absence of the Mayor who was unable to attend the meeting due to a family bereavement.

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Murray it was agreed that the sympathy of the Council be extended to the Mayor, Cllr Hugh McElvaney, on the death of his wife's nephew, Alan Toal, RIP.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

- (i) *On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Bannigan it was agreed that the minutes of the meeting in relation to the Draft County Monaghan Development Plan, held on 5th November, 2012, be confirmed.*
- (ii) *On the proposal of Cllr J. Crowe, seconded by Cllr Connolly it was agreed that the minutes of the meeting in relation to the Draft County Monaghan Development Plan, held on 19th November, 2012, be approved be confirmed.*
- (iii) Cllr Crowe requested that his name be removed from the apologies for the Special Planning meeting held on 3rd December, 2012 as he was present at the meeting. This was agreed.

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Bannigan it was agreed that the minutes of the meeting in relation to the Draft County Monaghan Development Plan, held on 3rd December, 2012, as amended, be confirmed.

- (iv) *On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr Murray it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 3rd December, 2012, be confirmed*
- (v) Mr. P. Clifford, Director of Services advised the members that the minutes of the Statutory Budget meeting required an amendment as the result of the vote

taken in relation to the proposal dealing with the conference budget had been omitted. The amended proposal should read as follows....

On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr Keelan, it was agreed following a vote by show of hands, resulting in 11 for, 7 against, that the budgeted figure of €94,000 for attendance of members at conferences be allocated pro-rata between the 20 elected members.

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr McPhillips, it was agreed that the minutes of the Statutory Budget meeting held on 19th December, 2012, as amended above, be confirmed.

Conferences Budget:

Following a query from Cllr Maxwell in relation to ring-fencing a sum of money from the Conferences Budget for the payment of expenses for attendance at cross border meetings, it was agreed that the matter be referred to the Corporate Policy Group for consideration.

Urgent Business:

At this point, the Mayor advised the Members that he had received two notices of urgent business as follows:

(i) Notice in the names of Cllrs Connolly and S. Treanor:

That Monaghan County Council calls on the Government and the Minister for Finance to reverse the cut to the Respite Care Grant announced in the Budget on 5th December, 2012.

The Deputy Mayor advised that there was already a notice of motion on the agenda in relation to this matter and that it was not in order to move a notice of urgent business.

Cllr Connolly stated that he did not wish to withdraw the motion.

The Deputy Mayor put the proposal to deal with urgent business to the meeting. A vote by show of hands resulted in 2 for. As the motion had not received the support of at least one half of the members of the Council the Deputy Mayor declared that it could not be dealt with.

(ii) Notice in the names of Cllrs Bennett, Carthy, Conlon, Crowe, Keelan, McKenna and P. Treanor.

That Monaghan County Council asserts that this local authority will not pass on the cost of the Property Tax to its tenants.

The Acting County Manager advised the members that from the guidance the Council has received from the Local Government Management Agency, local authority housing and social housing will not be exempt from the local property tax unless the

housing is being provided to people with special housing needs such as the elderly or people with disabilities. Liability for payment will rest with the local authority or social housing organisation as owner.

Whilst the full financial implications of this matter in relation to local authority are not fully developed, tenants in social housing would not appear to have a direct liability for payment of the tax. Mr. Fallon stated that he would seek further clarification from the Department in relation to this matter.

The Deputy Mayor stated that he was putting the proposal to deal with urgent business to the meeting. A roll call vote was called for which resulted as follows:

For: Cllrs Bennett, Carthy, Conlon, Connolly, Crowe, Keelan, McKenna, P. Treanor and S. Treanor Total 9

Against: Cllrs Bannigan, Carville, Gallagher, Maxwell, McNally, McPhillips, Murray, O'Brien and O'Hanlon Total 9

In accordance with Standing Order 14.2, the motion required at least one-half of the total membership of the Council (i.e. 10 members) voting in favour of it. The Deputy Mayor declared the motion has been lost.

2. Correspondence:

The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda:

- Letter from the Minister for Agriculture in relation to country of origin labelling of chicken products.
- Letter from the Minister for Education and Skills in relation to a capital asset test to determine eligibility under the Higher Education Grants Scheme.
- Letter from the Minister for Agriculture to Deputy Heather Humphreys in relation to the treatment of farm assets under the new capital assets test for third level grants.
- Resolution from North Tipperary County Council regarding Special Areas of Conservation
- Resolution from Limerick County Council regarding the reform of pension arrangements for Oireachtas Members and Senior Civil Servants.
- Resolution from Galway City Council in relation to the property tax.
- Resolution from Waterford City Council regarding the amalgamation of City and County Councils.
- Resolution from Clones Town Council in relation to the engagement of unemployed persons to carry out duties on polling day at future elections.
- Resolution from Monaghan Town Council in relation to the assault or threatening of frontline emergency staff.
- Resolution from Monaghan Town Council in relation to limiting the height of overly tall boundary trees.
- Annual Declaration form in accordance with Ethics and Political Donations legislation.

- Letter from the Department of the Environment advising of changes to the Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations and Expenditure) Act 1999 – with effect from January 1st 2013.
- Letter from the Monaghan Sports Partnership Co-ordinator seeking an opportunity to make a presentation to the Council at a future meeting.
- Resolution from Laois County Council regarding correspondence from the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr McKenna it was agreed that the Council adopt the resolution from Galway City Council rejecting the imposition of a property tax on local authority houses and houses provided by voluntary bodies.

On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr Gallagher, it was agreed that this Council calls on the Minister for Health to immediately put pressure on the EU Council to address the serious situation in relation to country of origin labelling of chicken products and have proper labelling implemented immediately.

On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that this Council adopt the resolution from Limerick County Council calling on the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform to reform the present pensions and expenses arrangements of Oireachtas Members, Senior Civil Servants, Judges, and Semi-State Senior Executives including former office holders, in the interest of fairness.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr McKenna it was agreed that the Council adopt the resolution from Clones Town Council calling on the Minister for the Environment Community and Local Government to instruct all County Registrars, in future elections to take unemployed people off the dole on election day to carry out the duties required in polling stations, as there are many young people with the skills to do the work, and would be grateful for a few extra euro, also saving the state on welfare for the day. The practice of using people who are already in employment, and retired civil servants with good pensions, is wrong when so many of our people are on the breadline.”

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr O'Brien it was agreed to invite the Sports Partnership Coordinator to a future meeting of the Council to update the members in relation to the work of the Sports Partnership.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Bannigan it was agreed that this Council write to the Minister for Health seeking clarity on how he is implementing the EU Food Labelling legislation and how many inspectors are involved in this work.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was agreed that this Council write to the Minister for Agriculture and Food urging him to establish a Poultry Council and Ombudsman, to ensure a fair price for poultry farmers.

Cllr Gallagher proposed, Cllr S. Treanor seconded that the Council adopt the resolution from Monaghan Town Council calling for a minimum jail term for anyone

convicted of assaulting or threatening the life of a frontline emergency worker such as an on-duty garda, fireman, ambulance worker or nurse.

A vote by show of hands resulted in 16 for 1 against. The Mayor declared the motion carried.

Cllr Gallagher proposed, Cllr S. Treanor seconded that the Council adopt the resolution from Monaghan Town Council calling for legislation to limit the height of overly tall boundary trees (such as leylandii) which affects a neighbours 'right of light' by casting excessive shade over another persons property.

A vote by show of hands resulted in 16 for 0 against 1 abstention. The Mayor declared the motion carried.

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that the Council welcome the grant scheme for the upgrade of septic tanks and that information in relation to the scheme is widely publicised.

3. Part VIII Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2001

- (i) To consider granting permission for the construction of a single storey six bedroom home for individuals with physical disabilities, associated site development work, car parking and relocation of existing footpath at Convent Lands, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan. (Ref 12/8011).

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon, it was agreed that the Council approve the construction of a single storey six bedroom home for individuals with physical disabilities, associated site development work, car parking and relocation of existing footpath at Convent Lands, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan. (Ref 12/8011) to comply with the Director's Report dated 20th December, 2012 and in accordance with Part VIII of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2001.

4. To consider Section 183 Notice in relation to disposal of site at McCurtain Street, Clones:

The members considered the Section 183 notice advising of the intention to dispose of .0077 hectares of land at McCurtain Street, in the townland of Largy, Clones to Clones Town Council for the purposes of housing development.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr McPhillips, it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal of .0077 hectares of land at McCurtain Street, in the townland of Largy, Clones to Clones Town Council in accordance with the terms of notice dated 20th December, 2012 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

5. Review of Local Electoral Areas – Request for submissions:

The Members noted the correspondence from the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee inviting submissions in relation to the review of local electoral areas which is being undertaken in accordance with the Action Programme for Effective Local Government published in October 2012.

Mr. D. Fallon, A/County Manager stated that it was important from a political point of view that the elected members would make a submission to the Boundary Committee. He stated that the guidelines appeared to indicate that there would be either two or three municipal districts established in the county and he thought that the members should make their views known on this.

On the proposal of Cllr McNally seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was agreed that this Council write to Mr. Phil Hogan, T.D. Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government asking him to explain, line by line, how he intends to achieve the promised savings of €420 arising out of the proposed reform of local government.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed that a sub-committee be established to examine the issues regarding representation in County Monaghan going forward and to consider whether or not to make a submission to the Boundary Committee.

It was further agreed that the make up of the sub-Committee would comprise the Mayor, two members from each political grouping and one Independent.

The following members were nominated to the Committee – Cllrs McElvaney, Carthy, P. Treanor, Bannigan, Murray, Gallagher, O'Brien and S. Treanor.

It was agreed that the sub-Committee would meet at 4pm on 15th January, 2013 in the Council Chamber, Mtek Building.

6. Meeting with Enterprise Ireland:

It was agreed that the following members attend the meeting with officials from Enterprise Ireland and the IDA to be held on 15th January at 2.30 pm –

Cllrs McElvaney, Bannigan, Murray, Carthy, P. Treanor, Gallagher, O'Brien and S. Treanor.

Cllr Conlon requested that the former Revenue Building at Coolshannagh and the IDA lands at Knockaconny be included on the agenda for this meeting. This was agreed.

7. To receive minutes of meeting with HSE officials held on 14th November 2012 in relation to primary care units.

The members noted the minutes of the meeting with HSE officials held on 14th November, 2012 in relation to primary care units. It was agreed that a further meeting with HSE officials be requested later in the year.

8. Proposed meeting with Armagh City Council re Memorandum of Understanding:

The Deputy County Manager advised the Council that a meeting has been scheduled with Armagh City Council with a view to progressing a Memorandum of Understanding between Armagh and Monaghan Councils. The meeting will take place on 31st January, 2013.

It was agreed that the Council would be represented at the meeting with Armagh City Council by the following – Mayor McElvaney, Cllrs Maxwell, Connolly, McNally and P. Treanor.

9. Proposed EirGrid 440kv Interconnector:

Cllr Bannigan advised the meeting that the County Monaghan Anti-Pylon Committee are planning a public meeting in the near future to update the general public in relation to this project.

10. Business submitted by County Manager:

Ulster Canal:

The Deputy County Manager circulated an update to the Members in relation to the planning process for this project. The Members noted that a new planning application had been lodged by Waterways Ireland with Clones Town Council on 21 December 2012. A public consultation process is required and the DoE Planning NI has agreed to commence the required public consultation process immediately upon receipt of the planning application. In relation to the planning application submitted to Monaghan County Council a request for additional information was issued to Waterways Ireland in November 2012 and the Planning Authority is currently awaiting a response to this request.

11. Matters arising out of the Minutes:

Matters arising out of the minutes of the meetings held on 5th and 19th November and the 3rd and 19th December were responded to by the relevant officials.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr McKenna it was agreed that the Council write to NAMA imploring it to immediately address outstanding remedial works as per the recently published report by Denis Williams (Consultant at the Knockroe Glen development). And that the Council further calls on NAMA to

streamline its procedures to eliminate undue delays in undertaking remedial works at all NAMA sites.

12. Questions:

Cllr C. Bennett asked:

1. Given the problems associated with the water supply to Scotstown and Ballinode villages in relation to the hardness of the water and the additional cost that this is causing to consumers, what steps does the Council propose to take to relieve the consumers of this additional cost; is it possible to source an alternative water supply which would reduce the hardness of the current water supply?

Reply: *Water in Monaghan PWS comes from two sources – groundwater wells (hard water), treated at Crosses WTP and surface water lakes (soft water) treated at Togan WTP. Water from both plants is sent to Gortakeegan Towers where it is mixed and distributed to Monaghan Town and surrounding areas.*

The water in Ballinode and Scotstown comes directly from the Crosses WTP and consequently is not mixed with the Togan water. Therefore, it is harder than the water in Monaghan Town.

The highest Hardness level measured in the past four years, expressed as Calcium Carbonate [CaCO₃], in the Scotstown Area was 340mg/l.

Ranges for hardness in mg/l CaCO₃ are:

Soft – Less than 75

Moderately Hard - 75 to 150

Hard – 150 to 300

Very Hard – Greater than 300.

There is no set limit on hardness under the Drinking Water Regulations which transposed the EU Drinking Water Directive [80/778/EEC] into Irish law. Rather, there is a minimum set if an attempt is made to soften water, as hardness it is deemed good for human health.

The following is extracted from the World Health Organisation reference manual

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Guidelines for drinking-water quality, third edition, incorporating first and second addenda

Hardness

Hardness caused by calcium and magnesium is usually indicated by precipitation of soap scum and the need for excess use of soap to achieve cleaning. Public acceptability of the degree of hardness of water may vary considerably from one community to another, depending on local conditions. In particular, consumers are likely to notice changes in hardness.

The taste threshold for the calcium ion is in the range of 100–300 mg/litre, depending on the associated anion, and the taste threshold for magnesium is probably lower than

that for calcium. In some instances, consumers tolerate water hardness in excess of 500 mg/litre.

Depending on the interaction of other factors, such as pH and alkalinity, water with a hardness above approximately 200 mg/litre may cause scale deposition in the treatment works, distribution system and pipework and tanks within buildings. It will also result in excessive soap consumption and subsequent "scum" formation. On heating, hard waters form deposits of calcium carbonate scale. Soft water, with a hardness of less than 100 mg/litre, may, on the other hand, have a low buffering capacity and so be more corrosive for water pipes.

As the current PWS complies with all standards there is no proposal to source an alternative supply.

2. In relation to the proposed sewerage extension from Scotstown village to Urbleshanny, when is it proposed that these works would commence; what is the current situation and can the Council outline the different stages of the process to having the extension completed and the timescale for same?

Reply: MCC have agreed in principle with landowners a site location for the proposed pumping station. Water Services are currently preparing Part 8 planning drawings and it is programmed to present these at April meeting. In parallel an application for funding in 2013 will also be made to Department of Environment under the Rural Water Programme. If successful the Council will advance the project to tender stage. Construction work on this project is estimated to take 3 months.

Cllr J. O'Brien asked:

3.
 - (a) What was the outcome of the court sitting in relation to Hope Castle?
 - (b) What is our legal opinion on the matter going forward?
 - (c) Can the Council please provide a detailed costing of all costs associated to the dealing with Hope Castle and Lough Muckno from the time of trying to get this property back in the full ownership of Monaghan County Council? In the costing can MCC please provide estimated costs currently outstanding if any.

Reply: Monaghan County Council's appeal against the decision by Castleblayney Circuit Court to permit Mr. Chris Haren proceed with a claim under section 8 of the Malicious Injuries Act 1981 was heard at Dundalk High Court on 7 December 2012. Proceedings were adjourned pending the receipt of further submissions from both parties.

It is not proposed to comment further pending the outcome of the hearing, when the matter will be referred to the sub-committee appointed by the Council.

Costs incurred by the Council since 2008, in relation to the recovery of Lough Muckno property, currently exceed €400,000.

Cllr R. Gallagher asked:

4. In relation to the new proposed property tax legislation, what effects if any will this have on local authority tenants?

Reply: *From the guidance that we have received from the Local Government Management Agency, local authority housing and social housing will not be exempt from the local property tax unless the housing is being provided to people with special housing needs such as the elderly or people with disabilities. Liability for payment will rest with the local authority or social housing organisation as owner.*

Whilst the full financial implications of this matter in relation to local authority are not fully developed, tenants in social housing would not appear to have a direct liability for payment of the tax.

The anticipated reforms of the differential rents system are expected in 2013 and are likely to address the issue in more detail.

5. Will the Council outline the grants available for the upgrading of septic tanks and who qualifies for same?

Reply: *The Minister has announced that provision is being made in the Rural Water Programme 2013 for a grant scheme to provide financial assistance to those households whose domestic waste water treatment systems are deemed, following inspection under the Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012, to require remediation or upgrading. The Minister has stated “It will be a condition for eligibility for financial assistance under the scheme that householders comply with the legal requirement to register their system by 1 February 2013 on www.ProtectOurWater.ie.”*

The level of grant available will be dependent on the income of the household, as per the table below.

<i>Household Income</i>	<i>% Costs Available</i>	<i>Maximum Grant</i>
<i>Up to €50,000</i>	<i>80%</i>	<i>€4,000</i>
<i>€50,001 - €75,000</i>	<i>50%</i>	<i>€2,500</i>

6. Could the Council liaise with the Courts Service with regard to best use of community service programme for litter picking, clean ups etc?

Reply: *The Litter Management Plan 2010 – 2012 sets out the objectives to prevent and control litter. One of the objectives is to develop new partnerships with various voluntary, public and commercial bodies with the view to creating joint anti-litter initiatives and to examine the potential of using the probationary services to undertake various clean-ups of litter black –spots.*

Monaghan County Council’s Environment is encouraging local Tidy Towns groups through the County Monaghan Tidy Towns network to avail of the

probationary services to assist them with their work. There are currently a number of groups availing of this help.

7. Has the Council made any progress with regard to seeking sponsorship for the upkeep and development of roundabouts from local businesses?

Reply: *The Monaghan Town by-pass and roundabouts were maintained by Monaghan County Council in 2012. Monaghan County Council and Monaghan Town Council are investigating options to improve the landscaping of the roundabouts. It is proposed to determine the preferred landscape option before approaching businesses for sponsorship.*

Cllr M. Carthy asked:

8. Will Monaghan County Council, in conjunction with Carrickmacross Town Council, examine the road surfaces at Derryolam Court and Derryolam Park, Carrickmacross, with a view to carrying out improvement works?

Reply: *This matter can be discussed at the next Carrickmacross Road Area Meeting.*

9. 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 2012?

Reply: *The number of new applicants for social housing in 2012 was as follows:*

*Monaghan County Council – 106 applications.
Monaghan Town Council – 136 applications
Clones Town Council- 35 applicants
Castleblayney Town Council – 79
Carrickmacross Town Council - 83*

- (b) How many applicants, per electoral area, were housed in Council owned dwellings by Monaghan Local Authorities during 2012?

Reply: *The number of applicants who were housed in 2012 was as follows:*

*County Council Areas
Castleblayney – 19 Clones – 17 Carrickmacross – 33 Monaghan – 11*

*Monaghan Town Council – 8
Clones Town Council - 3
Castleblayney Town Council – 5
Carrickmacross Town Council – 3*

- (c) How many applicants are currently on the Housing lists of Monaghan Local Authorities, per electoral area?

Reply: *Carrickmacross Town Council 340
Castleblayney Town Council 174*

<i>Clones Town Council</i>	<i>91</i>
<i>Monaghan County Council</i>	<i>433</i>
<i>Monaghan Town Council</i>	<i>312</i>

10. How many planning applications were received by Monaghan County Council in 2012? Of these:
- How many in total were refused, withdrawn, granted (in numbers and percentage)?
 - How many per electoral area were received and of these how many were refused, withdrawn or granted?
 - How many decisions were subsequently appealed to An Bord Pleanála and of these how many appeals were upheld?

Reply: *There were 394 planning applications received in 2012. 330 planning permissions were granted in 2012, 13 were withdrawn and 13 refused (3%). There were 10 appeals to An Bord Pleanála in 2012, of which 3 decisions were upheld, 1 appeal was withdrawn and 6 remain undecided. Planning records are not maintained on an electoral area basis.*

Cllr M. Carthy asked:

11. 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, including an expected timeframe for completion of process.

Reply: *There are currently fourteen applications for development to be taken in charge lodged with Monaghan County Council. There are a further nine applications lodged with the four Town Councils (one in Carrickmacross, eight in Monaghan). The timeframe for completion of the process cannot be estimated.*

The developments currently being assessed by Monaghan County Council are:

Development	Date of Application	Current Status
Inver Park Carrickmacross	12 Nov 2007	Direction issued to developer regarding compliance with planning conditions.
Clairmont Rise Rockcorry	14 Dec 2007	Direction issued to developer regarding compliance with planning conditions. Enforcement proceedings initiated, developer liaising with this office to address outstanding issues in relation to Water Services.
Glenowen Ballinode	19 March 2009	Direction issued to developer regarding compliance with planning conditions (Water Services)
Ascail Dubh Carrickmacross	6 March 2009	Direction issued to developer regarding compliance with planning conditions (Water Services)

Sliabh Dubh Corduff	23 June 2010	Direction issued to developer regarding compliance with planning conditions. Bond extended.
Gola Crest Scotstown	24 June 2010	Warning Letter issued to developer in relation to outstanding issues
Old Coach Manor Castleblayney	21 July 2010	Direction issued to Agent regarding compliance with water services conditions.
Drumbear Wood Monaghan	14 Dec 2010	Notice of intention to take in charge published on 31 May 2012. Currently awaiting response from developer in respect of outstanding issues identified during public consultation process. Bond extended.
Hillcrest Manor Clontibret	24 Nov 2011	Currently undergoing a technical assessment by the Council – Planning Dept
Thorndale, Bree Castleblayney	23 Jan 2012	Direction issued to developer regarding outstanding road and landscaping issues.
Scarna Court Emyvale	14 Feb 2012	Notice in published in Northern Standard dated 6 Dec 2012. Submission period expires 30 Jan 2013.
The Meadows Smithboro	16 Feb 2012	Liaison with developer regarding outstanding issues on water services.
Ferndale Heights Emyvale	1 Oct 2012	Currently undergoing a technical assessment by the Council – Water Services Dept
Maple Grove, Smithboro	13 Nov 2012	Currently undergoing a technical assessment by the Council – Water Services Dept.

Cllr P. Connolly asked:

12. In relation to the Multi Annual Roads Restoration Programme in the North Monaghan area which roads have been agreed and are due for repair in the coming year 2013?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council were requested by the Department of Transport and Tourism to prepare and submit their proposed Multi Annual Roads Restoration Programme for the years 2013 to 2016. This proposed programme was agreed with each of the electoral areas and was submitted in December 2012. The final programme for 2013 will be determined on the basis of the grant allocation for 2013 to be notified to the Council in the coming weeks by the Department of Transport and Tourism.*

Cllr P. Treanor asked:

13. (a) What arrangements are being put in place to establish the Local Enterprise Office which will replace the County Enterprise Board?

(b) What services and supports for job retention and job creation will be available at this office?

Reply: *Negotiations with staff from County Enterprise Boards are being held at a national level in relation to the transfer of functions to the Local Enterprise Offices in each local authority.*

Local Enterprise Offices will become the first-stop shop where all information on state supports for micro and small businesses can be accessed and companies with high growth potential can be fast-tracked for support from Enterprise Ireland. The LEOs will provide Business Information and an Advisory Service to micro-entrepreneurs and Enterprise Support and a Development Service.

In addition the LEOs will provide direct information and advice on the infrastructural and environmental needs of small businesses. The LEOs will assist local businesses in accessing new procurement processes, provide marketing and promotion of the county to attract investment and advice and support on energy efficiency, sustainable development and alternative renewable energy sources. Support for female entrepreneurship, development of clusters and local networks will also be a focus for the LEO in Monaghan.

Cllr N. Keelan asked:

14. In relation to the Dundalk road (R178) junction with the Inniskeen road at Kelly's of Essexford, will the Council upgrade and enhance the signs and lines at this junction to ensure that the one-way system is obeyed in the interest of road safety.

Reply: *The Council will examine this location and consider what additional road markings or signage would be appropriate to improve road safety.*

15. In welcoming the funding of approx. €70,000 through the good offices of the East Border Region for the provision of energy efficient windows to be fitted to the County Council headquarters at the Glen, which will result in an annual energy saving of over €3,000, when is it hoped that this work will be put out to tender; is there a mechanism in place to ensure, where possible, that a local contractor would be chosen for such works.

Reply: *This project is managed, on behalf of the ten participating local authorities, by Down District Council which is in the process of procuring all energy-efficient works through a single contract in accordance with EU procurement procedures, advertised through the national press and etenders.*

It is noted that all works must be completed by the end of 2013 as required by Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) so they are likely to be conducted concurrently by the successful contractor in order to adhere with the aforementioned deadline. The process of procuring architectural services for the overseeing of all the energy-efficient works has been completed recently, again in line with EU procurement procedures.

13. Notices of Motion:

Cllr Carthy proposed, Cllr Bennett seconded

3. That Monaghan County Council joins the growing number of local authorities that supports the right of all couples to marry, regardless of their sexual orientation.

In proposing the motion Cllr Carthy asked that the members support the motion on the grounds that people with a different orientation should be allowed the same rights as those of the majority of the Irish public. He stated that the motion is not about supporting marriage for gay people but about accepting that we do not have the right to tell other people how to live their lives. The motion would allow people outside of the church to have the same legal safeguards, rights and supports that came with marriage and would facilitate the expressing of love between two persons regardless of their gender. Cllr Bennett seconded the motion.

Cllr P. Treanor and Crowe also spoke in support of the motion.

Cllr Carville stated that he was opposed to the motion as it was devoid of any recognition of the core truths that hold our society together and because it undermines the truths governing our understanding of the institution of marriage.

Cllrs Connolly, Murray and O'Hanlon also expressed their opposition to the motion.

The Deputy Mayor put the motion to the meeting. A roll call vote was requested which resulted as follows:

For	Cllr Bennett, Carthy, Conlon, Crowe, Keelan, McKenna, and P. Treanor	Total 7
Against	Cllrs Bannigan, Carville, Connolly, Maxwell, McNally, Murray, O'Brien, O'Hanlon, and S. Treanor	Total 9

The Deputy Mayor declared the motion defeated.

Cllr Carthy proposed, Cllr B. McKenna seconded

4. That Monaghan County Council calls on the Government to instigate a full review of the policy of depositing fluoride in public water supplies with a view to ending the practice over a stated period of time.

Prior to the motion being moved, the Deputy County Manager advised the Council that the local authority is obliged to provide for the fluoridation of water.

In proposing the motion Cllr Carthy stated that he is aware of the legal position in relation to water fluoridation but that he is calling for a review of policy in relation to this matter. He referred to a number of countries that had ceased the policy of water fluoridation and stated that the public should have a choice as to whether they have fluoride in their water supply. Cllr B. McKenna seconded this motion.

Cllr Connolly stated that a grant should be introduced to encourage water harvesting for domestic use.

Cllr Bannigan proposed an amendment – that the words ‘with a view to ending the practice over a stated period of time’ be deleted from the motion. Cllr Murray seconded the amendment.

The Deputy Mayor put the amendment to a vote by show of hands which resulted in 7 for 8 against. The amendment was declared lost. The original motion was put to a vote by show of hands and resulted in 13 for, 1 against, 2 abstentions. The motion was declared carried.

5. Cllr Conlon stated that he wished to amend his motion to read as follows:

In an effort to assist the organisers of events that are registered to ‘The Gathering 2013’ and require use of Rossmore Park, - the first of those scheduled being the “Irisharod” scheduled in March 2013 - that Monaghan County Council seek from Coillte their co-operation and goodwill in allowing unhindered access, waiving the entrance fee, for these organisations during specified event times.

The amended motion was agreed by the Council.

In proposing the motion, Cllr Conlon called on Coillte to waive the entrance fee for events being held in Rossmore Park in conjunction with The Gathering 2013 festival. Cllr B. McKenna seconded the motion.

The motion was put to the meeting and agreed unanimously

6. It was noted that this Notice of Motion (regarding changes to Bus Route 177) had already been dealt with.

Notice of Motions 13(7) and 13(8) had been dealt with under correspondence.

In the absence of Cllr Coyle and Cllr McPhillips, it was agreed that consideration of Notice of Motion 13(9), and Notice of Motion 13(1) and 13(2) be deferred until the next meeting.

Cllr S. Treanor proposed, Cllr B. McKenna seconded:

10. That this Council write to the Minister of Environment, Phil Hogan, following his announcement that more funds are to be made available to small sewage schemes. We, as a Council, believe the Rafeenan area of Ballinode should be included in the allocation of this funding.

In proposing the motion, Cllr Treanor welcomed the funding announced by the Minister and requested that the Scotstown Road, Monaghan should also be included in any application for funding. Cllr B. McKenna seconded Cllr Treanor’s motion.

The motion was put to the meeting and agreed unanimously.

Cllr Maxwell requested that the Milltown area would also be included.

Cllr Bannigan welcomed the funding for small sewerage schemes and extensions requested that the Council should include all areas of towns/villages not currently served by the public schemes.

14. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations:

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

- The wife and family of the late Shane McEntee RIP, former Dail Deputy and Minister of State for Food, Horticulture and Food Safety.
- The wife and family of the late William Dickson, Carrickanure, Annyalla.
- The parents and brothers of the late Jason McGovern RIP, Knocknagrave, Tydavnet.
- The family of the late Philip Smyth, Ballybay, RIP, former member of Ballybay Town Council.
- Helen Martin, Council staff on the death of her father, Patrick McCabe, Donaghmoyne RIP.
- Talbot Duffy, Ballybay (former member of Ballybay Town Council) on the death of his brother Eugene RIP
- Bernie O’Flaherty, Council staff on the death of her mother Margaret O’Flaherty, RIP late of Sallins, Co. Kildare.

15. Conferences:

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed that the Council be represented at the following conferences by the members listed:

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members
TJK Conferences Ltd	Disputes between Neighbours and Law: Training Seminar for Councillors	Patrick Punch Hotel, Limerick	25th-27th January, 2013	Cllr Owen Bannigan Cllr Gary Carville Cllr Robbie Gallagher Cllr John O’Brien Cllr David Maxwell Cllr Hughie McElvaney Cllr Noel Keelan Cllr Padraig McNally

TGR Seminars	Domestic Water Meters for Ireland	Bunratty Castle, Bunratty, Co Clare	01st – 03rd February 2013	Cllr Gary Carville Cllr Aidan Murray Cllr Robbie Gallagher Cllr John O’Brien Cllr Hughie McElvaney Cllr PJ O’Hanlon Cllr Pdraig McNally Cllr Paudge Connolly Cllr David Maxwell
ICLRD Eighth Annual Conference	Cooperating Across Boundaries: Resilience, Imagination, Vision & information.	Canal Court, Newry, Co Down.	7th February 2013	Cllr Sean Conlon

The meeting then concluded.