

Minutes of meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, Mtek Building, Monaghan on Monday 1st July, 2013 at 10.00 a.m.

Chair: Cllr S. Conlon, Mayor.

Present: Cllrs Bannigan, Bennett, Carthy, Conlon, Connolly, Coyle, Crowe, Maxwell, Keelan, McElvaney, McKenna, McNally, McPhillips, Murray, O’Hanlon, P. Treanor and S. Treanor.

Mr. D. Fallon, County Manager, Mr. P. Clifford and Mr. A. King, Directors of Service, Mr. J. McNally, A/Head of Finance, Mr. J. McGrath, A/Director of Roads, Ms. K. McKenna, Clerical Officer and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

Apology: Cllrs Carville, Gallagher and O’Brien.

In attendance as observers: Catherine Linham, Anna Murray and Noeleen Moen, Monaghan Women’s Group

At the outset Mayor Conlon congratulated the Monaghan Minor and Senior Football Teams on reaching the Ulster Football Final to be held on 21st July, 2013 and he wished the teams every success in both finals.

Notice of Urgent Business:

The Mayor advised the members that he had received a notice of Urgent Business in the names of Cllrs McNally, O’Hanlon and Coyle, as follows:

“That Monaghan County Council calls on all party leaders in Dail Eireann to allow their Oireachtas members a free vote on ‘The Protection of Life during Pregnancy Bill’ legislation currently going through the Houses of the Oireachtas and also calls on the government to re-examine the section of the proposed legislation that will allow the threat of suicide as a grounds for abortion.”

The Mayor put the proposal to deal with urgent business to the members. A recorded vote was called for which resulted as follows:

For: Cllrs Connolly, Coyle, McNally, O’Hanlon and S. Treanor.

For 5

Against: Cllrs Bannigan, Bennett, Carthy, Conlon, Crowe, Keelan, Maxwell, McElvaney, B. McKenna, McPhillips, Murray and P. Treanor.

Against 12

The Mayor declared the proposal to take the Urgent Business defeated in accordance with Standing Orders which requires that one half of the total membership vote in favour of the proposal.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

- (i) *On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting with EirGrid held on 4th June, 2013 be confirmed.*
- (ii) *On the proposal of Cllr S. Treanor, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 4th June, 2013, be confirmed.*
- (iii) *On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Murray it was agreed that the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 17th June, 2013, be confirmed.*

2. Correspondence

The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda:

- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Social Protection regarding the Farm Assist Scheme.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Social Protection regarding the means assessment of rent allowance.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Office of An Taoiseach regarding the Council's resolution in relation to the Regional Quality of Life Report.
- Letter from the Office of An Taoiseach regarding the Council's resolution in relation to the Farm Assist Scheme.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Justice regarding the Council's resolution concerning relations between An Garda Siochana and the Minister for Justice.
- Letter from the Minister for Agriculture regarding the importation of meat products.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government regarding the means assessment of rent allowance.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government regarding funding for Cavan Monaghan Leader Group.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government in connection with building regulations regarding new two storey dwellings.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Finance regarding the Council's resolution in connection with the Disabled Persons Grant Scheme.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation regarding the Council's resolution in relation to the Regional Quality of Life Report.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation regarding job creation by the IDA in Co. Monaghan.
- Letter from the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in response to the Council's resolution regarding persons that leave the scene of a fatal accident.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Health regarding the Council's resolution re the level of sugar in soft drinks.
- Letter from the National Roads Authority advising of the non availability of funding for the realignment of the N53 at Ballinacarry bridge.
- Letter from the Department of Social Protection advising that it is not possible to extend the National Fuel Scheme as requested by the Council.
- Letter from the HSE Cavan/Monaghan giving an update in relation to the Primary Care Unit proposed for Monaghan Town.

- Letter from Aimee McMahon and Megan Kelly thanking the Council for their recent award under the 2012 Awards Scheme.
- Letter from the Town Clerk, Clones enclosing correspondence issued to the Courts Service re Clones Courthouse.
- Letter from Beech Hill College thanking the Council for the allocation of a grant to their Junior Achievement Ireland team.
- Letter from Aldi Stores (Ireland) Ltd confirming its support for fresh product manufacturers in Ireland.
- Letter from the Mayor of Miramichi inviting the Council to attend the Annual Festival from 18th -21st July, 2013.
- Letter from the Mayor of Boston thanking the Council for its expression of sympathy and support following the recent bombing tragedy in the city.
- Resolution from Leitrim County Council in relation to the Assist Suicide Prevention Programme.
- Resolution from Waterford City Council calling for a dignified burial for all human remains after all scientific investigations have been carried out.

The following correspondence was circulated at the meeting:

- Letter from the Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport acknowledging the Council's letter in relation to funding for the re-alignment of Ballinacarry Bridge.
- Letter from the Minister for Finance in relation to Public Interest Directors and their roles.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Agriculture and Food in relation to the Council's resolution regarding the fodder crisis.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Justice and Equality regarding the possible closure of Clones Courthouse.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Housing and Planning regarding the Council's resolution relating to funding for housing grants.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Communications, Energy & Natural Resources regarding the Council's resolution relating to the North-South Interconnector.
- Letter from the Minister for Health regarding medical card entitlements.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Health regarding the Housing Adaptation Grants Scheme.
- Letter from EirGrid Plc clarifying issues raised at a meeting between the Council and EirGrid on 4th June.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Commission for Energy Regulation in relation to the North South Interconnector.
- Letter from the Department for Regional Development N.I. regarding the re-alignment of the N53 Castleblayney – Dundalk Road at Ballinacarry Bridge.
- Resolution from Dundalk Town Council in relation to the implementation of the National Epilepsy Care Programme.
- Resolution from Dundalk Town Council in relation to the expedition of the passage through Dail Eireann of the Poor Relief Ireland (Amendment) Bill 2013.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna it was agreed that the Council request the Minister for Social Protection to re-assess the rent limit thresholds applying to rent supplement recipients in Co. Monaghan.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed that the Council adopt the resolution from Leitrim County Council calling on the Health and Safety Authority to deliver the ASSIST Suicide Prevention Programme as part of the mandatory training programme in the workforce.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed that the Council adopt the resolution from Dundalk Town Council calling on the Government to implement the National Epilepsy Care Programme in full, in particular the critically needed Epilepsy Monitoring Units as a matter of urgency and that this motion be sent as a resolution to other local authorities.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Bannigan it was agreed that this Council calls on the government to reverse the recent changes to the medical card scheme which has resulted in many families being denied a much needed medical card.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that the Council request the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Simon Coveney TD –

- (a) In consultation with the Farm Organisations, Teagasc, etc., put in place a scheme to encourage greater growth of animal winter feed for the year(s) ahead;*
- (b) In consultation with the farm organizations/millers/feed companies and financial institutions to put in place a subsidized interest rate over 3-5 years to repay farm/animal feed bills of 2012/2013, as farm families are continuing to experience serious cash flow problems;*
- (c) That we call on the Minister to seek early payment of the Single Farm Payment to ease cash flow difficulties.*

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr S. Treanor it was agreed that this Council calls on the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, that in view of the fact that the Leader funding programme, which is seen as a model of best practice at European level be kept in place, thereby ensuring that EU money go direct to the Community & Voluntary sector, so that they can be directly involved in improving their communities quality of life.

On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr McNally, it was agreed that this Council calls on the Minister for Agriculture to implement a system that all poultry products imported from outside the EU are checked at the point of entry. That these products go through the same rules and regulations as products produced in Ireland.

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed that this Council write to the Minister for Finance Mr. Michael Noonan, TD., calling on him not to introduce the second increase on carbon tax in Budget 2014. This increase, if introduced, will further burden the poorest in our society in terms of their ability to heat

their homes and will also create a huge differential in the costs of solid fuel sales North and South which will have an impact on jobs in the 26 counties.

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that the Council write to the Minister for Finance requesting that he meet, on a quarterly basis, with public interest directors of the banks covered under the Credit Institution Scheme 2008 to ensure that he is fully briefed in relation to public interest of the banking institutions.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that this Council adopt the resolution from Waterford City Council which supports the families of all the missing and their rights to have their loved ones returned to them. That all human remains be given a dignified burial after all scientific investigations have been carried out and that a web page be established that can be accessed by the public, with particulars of unidentified remains/bodies.

On the proposal of Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that this Council requests the Minister for Health to ensure that families on the bread line, with an income as low as families, on social welfare are automatically entitled to a medical card.

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

(a) Ulster Canal Greenway – Phase 1:

The Members considered the Manager's Report which had been circulated with the agenda.

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna it was agreed that the Council approve the granting of permission for the development of the Ulster Canal Greenway – Phase 1 Scheme for approximately 1.1km in length (Planning Ref: 13/8003) to comply with the County Manager's Report dated 20th June, 2013 and in accordance with Part VIII of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2001.

(b) N2 Monaghan – Emyvale Road Realignment

The Members considered the Manager's Report which had been circulated with the agenda.

Mr. Oliver McGlinchey, Consulting Engineer, Arup Consultants gave a presentation on the proposed development, following which he responded to queries from the members.

Mr. John McGrath, A/Director of Roads then outlined the main details of the Part 8 planning report.

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr S. Conlon it was agreed that the Council approve the granting of permission for the widening, easement, drainage, overlay, improvement of sightline visibility splays, the provision of a right turn lane at

the L5250 Mullaghpeak local road and the provision of traffic calming measures through the village and all ancillary works at Gortmoney and Corracrin, Co. Monaghan (Planning Ref: 13/8004) to comply with the County Manager's Report dated 24th June, 2013 and in accordance with Part VIII of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2001.

A brief discussion took place during which members sought clarification on reports that the current diversion in place due to the re-alignment of the N2 Monaghan-Emyvale road is to be extended for a further period of six weeks. Mr. J. McGrath, A/Director advised that the contractor had requested a further extension of the road closure to enable the completion of the contract and that discussions are ongoing in relation to the matter.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Coyle it was agreed that a meeting of the Clones and North Monaghan elected members would take place as soon as possible to discuss the extension of the road closure and traffic arrangements for the forthcoming Ulster Final in Clones.

4. To receive presentation on Economic Development.

Mr. P. Clifford, Director of Planning and Economic Development gave a detailed presentation to the Members in relation to economic development. In his presentation Mr. Clifford stated that whilst the Council did not have a traditional role in economic development it aims to provide the highest quality integrated infrastructure and level of services at the lowest possible cost which will help to facilitate new development. The Council had recently reviewed the County Development Plan which contains objectives and policies to promote support and encourage economic development in the county. It had adopted a Development Contribution Scheme with substantially reduced charges for commercial developments. The Council has taken over the role of Failte Ireland in relation to the promotion of tourism with Co. Monaghan and a Tourism Strategy has been put in place. In Autumn 2013 the County Enterprise Boards will come under the auspices of the Council and new Local Enterprise Offices will be set up which will provide mentoring, training and management development programmes together with a range of supports to encourage new start ups and to maintain existing businesses.

Following his presentation, Mr. Clifford responded to queries from the Members.

The Mayor thanked him for his presentation.

5. To receive recommendations from Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 25th June, 2013

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Bannigan, it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 25th June, 2013 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Community Development Fund Grants Scheme:

Cllr Keelan requested that the Council would re-consider the refusal of a grant to Dunard Residents Association (92/13). It was agreed that the matter would be referred back to the Corporate Policy Group for consideration.

Draft Intoxicating Liquor Bye Laws 2013:

On the proposal of Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr Bannigan it was agreed that the Council adopt the Draft Monaghan County Council (Regulation and Control of the Consumption and Possession of Intoxicating Liquor in public places) Bye Laws 2013 and that the bye laws be implemented with effect from 1st July, 2013.

Cllr Maxwell requested that Council representatives would meet with the Hollywood Development Association to discuss the introduction of similar bye-laws.

CPG meeting:

It was agreed that the July meeting of the Corporate Policy Group would be held at 10.00 am on Tuesday 9th July 2013.

Muckno Sub-Committee:

It was agreed that a meeting of the Lough Muckno Sub Committee would be held on Thursday 11th July, 2013 at 11.00 am in the Conference Room, The Glen, Monaghan.

6. To receive minutes of meeting with the Minister for Health James Reilly, TD

The Members noted the minutes of the meeting with the Minister for Health Mr. James Reilly, T.D.

7. Proposed Eirgrid 440kv Interconnector

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Murray it was agreed that this Council write to EirGrid, Mr. Pat Rabbitte, Minister for Communications and the Oireachtas Members for Cavan/Monaghan outlining to them the comments made at the Energy Ireland Conference. We ask them all to explain to this Council how their proposal is socially acceptable and what substantial gain will local communities benefit from. That we request our Oireachtas Members to seek a meeting between Minister Rabbitte and a delegation from this Council in order to discuss the comments made by the Minister (i.e. " must be socially acceptable"; "must be substantial gain to local communities".

8. To receive reports from Members attending Conferences:

The Members noted the reports from Cllrs Crowe, Keelan, O'Brien, O'Hanlon, Murray and P. Treanor in relation to their attendance at the following conferences –

- Cork County Mayor's Tourism Conference, Youghal, Co. Cork
- EPA Water Conference, Galway.

- Identifying the Tourism Product, Rosscarberry, Co. Cork
- Funding for Community Programmes, Bunratty, Co. Clare

9. Business submitted by County Manager

Ulster Canal:

The County Manager advised that planning permission had been granted by the Northern Ireland authorities on 7th June for the northern section of the project.

Irish Water:

The County Manager advised that Service Level Agreements, for a period of 12 years, are currently being concluded by Irish Water. These agreements will cover Water Treatment, Water Networks, Waste Water Treatment and Networks, Sampling Testing and the delivery of capital works.

Housing Assistance programme:

The County Manager advised that this programme, which has previously been operated by the Department of Social Protection, is now being transferred to local authorities. Monaghan County Council is one of seven local authorities selected to participate in a pilot scheme which will see the scheme going live on 1st January, 2014. Mr. A. King, Director of Housing gave the members further details in relation to the operation of the programme.

10. Matters arising out of minutes of Council meetings held on 4th and 17th June, 2013

Matters arising out of the minutes of the meetings held on 4th and 17th June, 2013 were responded to by the relevant officials.

11. Questions:

Cllr P. McNally asked:

1. When does this Council expect to be in a position to put in place the safety measures at the various junctions on the N2 in particular, the junction leading to Donaghmoynne GAA grounds, school and church and Aghavilla junction?

Reply: *It is proposed to complete these works in the autumn.*

2. Has this Council received any further correspondence from the NRA regarding additional sign posting for Carrickmacross, Castleblayney and Monaghan on the N1 between Drogheda and Dundalk as is the case on the N4 and N6 where all secondary towns are indicated on a large brown sign?

Reply: *The last response received from the NRA in May 2011 noted that the NRA had no plans to erect additional signage on the M1 and noted that signs are designed in accordance with the Traffic Signs Manual and that it is not possible to*

include all destinations on a sign as it would be come unreadable for road users travelling at motorway speeds.

3. What is this Council's policy in relation to hedge cutting at dangerous junctions on minor roads?

Reply: *Cutting of hedges is normally the responsibility of the owner or occupier of the land concerned. Where the Council are aware that hedges are not being maintained and in particular where road safety is compromised the Council will request the landowner to cut the hedge. If the landowners fails to comply with this request then a notice, pursuant to the Roads Act is served on the landowner/occupier. A landowner failing to comply with a notice may be found guilty of an offence in accordance with the Roads Act. The provisions of the Wild Life Act need to be considered in the maintenance of hedges with respect to the restrictions on the destruction of vegetation during the nesting season.*

Cllr C. Bennett asked:

4. In relation to the Scotstown – Roslea Road, LP020301, LP020302, LP020303 - Can Monaghan County Council confirm when upgrading of this County Road would be carried out.

Reply: *It is proposed to include the LP02032 Selloo to Inishammon in the current roads programme for some repairs on foot of the additional funding notified to the Council from the Department of Transport in June and as agreed by the Clones Road Area Committee.*

Cllr M. Carthy asked:

5. a) How many people have presented as Homeless to Monaghan Local Authorities in 2012 and January-June 2013?

Reply: *In the year 2012 74 adults and 36 child dependents presented themselves as homeless to Monaghan Local Authorities.*

In the year 2013 January to June 2013 14 adults and 2 child dependents presented themselves as homeless to Monaghan Local Authorities.

b) Please indicate the housing solutions offered to each applicant that presented and the numbers of applicants to which each solution was offered

Reply: *In 2012, of the 74 adults who presented as homeless the outcomes are as follows:*

<i>Advice and support given</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>Advice and move to Private Rented Accommodation</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Advice B&B and move on to Private Rented Accommodation</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Advice and return to family home</i>	<i>7</i>

<i>Advice and move to Local Authority Accommodation</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Advice and move to voluntary accommodation</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Advice and move to HSE accommodation</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Advice B&B and return home</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>B&B only</i>	<i>4</i>

In 2013 of the 14 adults that presented as homeless the outcomes are as follows

<i>Advice and support given</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Advice support B&B and move to Private Rented</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Advice and PRA</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>B&B only</i>	<i>2</i>

c) Is there a Homeless Action Team in place in Co. Monaghan, what organisations are represented on it and how many times has it met since January 2012?

Reply: *There is a Homeless Action Team in place in Monaghan. The organizations represented on the team are the HSE, Social Protection and the County Council and the Town Council. There is also a larger grouping that sit once a year and the agencies involved are Tearmann Domestic Violence, The HSE, Social Protection, St Vincent De Paul, the Garda, Castleblayney Trust, Cuan Mhuire, Monaghan County Council, Monaghan Town Council, Clones Town Council, Castleblayney Town Council, Carrickmacross Town Council, The Probation Service, Citizens Advice.*

In 2012 the Homeless Action Team met on 21st Feb, 13th March, 30th April, 21st June, 6th Sept, 11th Oct, and 21st Nov 2012. The larger group met on 6th September 2012.

Clr M. Carthy asked:

6. What date will tenders be invited for the Group Home for women with physical and sensory disabilities at Drummond Otra, Carrickmacross? What was the reason that the tender process was not opened in July as previous indicated. What is the current commencement and completion dates for this important project?

Reply: *The Local Authority has been informed that Respond! intend to issue tenders in August 2013. The resolution on the Fire Safety Certificate took longer than expected and consequently the tender process was not progressed in July. As per the programme previously provided, Respond! anticipate to start the works on site by end of October 2013 and to be completed by October 2014.*

7. How many additional local authority houses in Co. Monaghan will be insulated in 2013 as a result of the local authority energy efficiency scheme announced on June 5th?

Reply: *On the 5th of June 2013 Minister for Planning and Housing, Ms Jan O'Sullivan announced a €50 million three-year energy efficiency investment programme which will target up to 25,000 homes across all local authority areas.*

As part of the programme €10million will be available to upgrade insulation in 5,000 properties nationally in 2013.

It is predicted that an additional €150,000 may be made available in 2013 for the upgrade of insulation in houses owned by Monaghan Local Authorities allowing an additional 75 to 100 properties to be upgraded which will approximately double the number of properties to be targeted in 2013.

In the 2013 phase of the programme all Council owned dwellings built before the year 2000 and Old People's Dwellings are being given priority for the upgrade of insulation. The work will be done to the older dwellings first and will continue in order of year of construction.

Cllr M. Carthy asked:

8. How many people have, thus far in 2013, applied for the Council's Refuse Hardship scheme which has been budgeted by the members to support people who, as a result of financial hardship, are finding it difficult to pay for their waste collection? In how many cases has support been provided? What plans does the Council have to ensure that the budgeted monies will be allocated to those in need of this support?

Reply: *The Council provide for a nominal sum in the Council Budget to assist people who present with difficulties in paying waste collection charges as a result of financial hardship. In 2013 the Council received five applications and these applications have all been allocated funding.*

Cllr S. Conlon asked:

9. In relation to a question I submitted recently regarding the annual scheduled temporary closing of the Castleblayney by-pass for remedial works and litter retrieval, can consideration be given by Council management, particularly Monaghan Sports Partnership and Roads Section, that next year, during the annual road closure, a public recreational event can be staged on the by-pass to be held in partnership with local sports clubs/community groups?

Reply: *Council management could give consideration to such a proposal. However, a number of factors would have to be examined to ensure that the proposed event was compatible with the Council's programme of works and to what degree the event would affect safety.*

Cllr P. Treanor asked:

10. (a) In relation to the hard drinking water, how many households and businesses in the Smithborough area are connected to the public water supply?

Reply: *There are 161 residential water connections, 46 of which have a non-domestic element. There are 18 business only connections.*

(b) Will Monaghan County Council forward the Information leaflet on hard water to each of them? Putting it on the website will not reach all those affected.

Reply: Monaghan County Council will prepare an advice leaflet on hard water. The leaflet will be distributed to consumers in the Smithborough Area.

Cllr P. Treanor asked:

11. When will Monaghan County Council repair the fence along the road at Mulladuff, Smithborough? This fence is between a playground and the very busy and dangerous N54.

Reply: It is intended that the fence along the road at Mulladuff, Smithborough between the playground and the N54 will be replaced as part of the 2013 planned maintenance programme. It is hoped that resources will be available to commence the work in July 2013.

12. Will Monaghan County Council assist the communities of Scotshouse and Threemilehouse to access funding for playgrounds in these villages?

Reply: Yes, where funding opportunities are identified the Council will support these communities.

Cllr A. Murray asked:

13. When is it expected to have the following works carried out - safety measures at the Mullinary/Shercock Rd know as McCartney's Cross?

Reply: It is proposed to carry out these works in the third quarter of the year.

14. When is it expected to have the following works carried out - drainage works to solve the ongoing flooding on the Kednaminsha Rd beside Inniskeen football pitch?

Reply: It is expected that these works will be carried out in the third quarter of the year.

Cllr N. Keelan asked:

15. In relation to additional funding collected through the payment of the Household Charge, the Non-Principal Private Residence Charge, and the Local Property (Home) Tax, given that these charges were sold to the people as local taxes for local services, will the Manager outline what extra services the people of County Monaghan should hope to avail of.

Reply: The implementation of these charges did not result in any additional income for Monaghan County Council and therefore the Council has no additional resources to provide extra services.

16. Given the high energy costs involved in running the public lighting network throughout the county, including our public buildings, will Monaghan County Council engage with our energy provider with a view to installing and/or retro fitting outdated technologies, with low cost (LED) lights, which have a lower energy

consumption, longer lifespan, and will prove to be a revenue saving measure for our hard pressed tax payer into the future?

Reply: *In a recent retrofit of bulbs in the Monaghan swimming pool and County Museum, LED technology was used in some cases.*

Replacing all our street lighting would require a significant upfront capital investment to design a new lighting scheme and to purchase and install the appropriate lighting equipment. Given that much of the street lighting energy supply is unmetered, the realisation of energy savings may require changes to the current tariff system.

Cllr N. Keelan asked:

17. Will the County Manager comment on a recent statement made to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Transport and Communication by the Chairman of the County & City Managers Association, Mr. Michael Walsh, which stated that the current level of funding provided for the maintenance of our regional and county road network is approximately 50% of what is needed to maintain our vital road network.

Reply: *The County Manager is aware of the presentation made by the Chairman of the CCMA, Mr. Michael Walsh, to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Transport and Communications on the 12th June. It was noted that funding nationally has decreased from €700m in 2007 to €450m in the current year. In making the presentation the CCMA acknowledged the fiscal context in which this decrease has occurred.*

18. (a) Under the local electoral area boundary proposed changes, which will come into effect in 2014, will Monaghan County Council publicise the proposed changes in the local press?
(b) Will the Council consider providing a map, including the townlands that will be moving into the different electoral areas under this proposal given that many people are unaware of the changes, will the Council provide this information to the local communities affected, through the community centres, GAA clubs, churches, etc.

Reply: *Monaghan County Council will publicise the electoral changes, members will be supplied with maps detailing the revised electoral areas and a consultation and publicity campaign will be put in place when the proposed changes are enacted.*

12. Notices of Motion:

Cllr P. McNally proposed, Cllr Coyle seconded, and it was agreed

1. *In light of the Government's improved financial situation, that this Council calls on the Minister for Social Protection to increase all Old Age Pensions to match the inflation rate over the last three years.*

It was agreed that the motion would be circulated to all local authorities.

Cllr S. Coyle requested that the following motion be noted by the members. This was agreed.

2. *That Monaghan County Council totally condemns and demands An Taoiseach Enda Kenny T.D., the Minister for Education and Science, Ruairi Quinn T.D. and the Fine Gael/Labour government to immediately reverse their proposal to cut hours of resource teaching for children with special needs - a 25% cut in the lifetime of this government and again targeting the vulnerable i.e. children with disabilities and their families for severe cuts.*

Cllr Carthy proposed, Cllr Crowe seconded

3. *That Monaghan County Council notes the vital role that Special Needs Assistants play in the development of many children's lives. We ascertain that SNA's are a crucial part of our education system.*

That we note with regret that since 2010 Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael governments have been systematically reducing SNA resources to many of those children that need them.

Further we view the announcement on June 19th by the National Council for Special Education (NCSE) of a 25 per cent reduction in teaching time for special needs children compared to 2011 allocations as a scandalous dereliction of duty on the State to provide adequate supports for children with special needs.

Monaghan County Council hereby calls on the government to ensure that this decision is reversed to ensure that Special Needs resources are returned to 2010 levels for all children in need of this support.

In proposing the motion, Cllr Carthy stated that he wished to delete the third paragraph and he asked the members to support the revised motion.

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

Notices of motion 12(4) and 12(5) were deferred to the September meeting.

13. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations.

It was agreed that a vote of sympathy would be extended to Michael Smith, a former member of Cavan County Council and Cootehill Town Council on the death of his brother Joe Smith.

It was agreed that a vote of congratulations would be extended to the following:

- The Monaghan Senior Football Team on reaching the Ulster Senior and Minor Football Championship Finals on July 21st

- Aaron McKenna, Old School Boxing Club, Smithboro on winning gold at the All Ireland Cadet Championships and who will represent Ireland at the European Schoolboy Championships.
- Aughnamullen GFC on winning the U14 Division 2 Championship
- Drumhowan GFC on winning the U14 Division 4 Championship

14. Conferences.

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

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members Selected
BG Seminar	Mental Health & Local Councillors	Kenmare Bay Hotel, Kenmare, Co Kerry.	5 th -7 th July 2013	Cllr P Connolly
The French Connection	The Percy French Festival	Castlecoote House, Roscommon.	10 th - 12 th July 2013	Cllr J Crowe
BG Seminar	The Environmental Impact Assessment Directive	Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny, Co Donegal.	12 th -14 th July 2013	Cllr A Murray
Greystones Town Council	2013 La Touche Legacy Seminar Celebrating 25 Years	Charlesland Golf & Country Club Hotel, Greystones, Co Wicklow.	27 th -29 th September 2013	Cllr S Conlon
LAMA	LAMA Autumn Conference	The Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co Clare.	11 th -12 th October 2013	Cllr N Keelan Cllr H McElvaney Cllr J O' Brien Cllr A Murray

The meeting then concluded.