

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Mtek Building, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday 5th July, 2010 at 10.00 a.m.

Chair: Cllr J. Crowe, Mayor.

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

Mr. D. Nelson, County Manager, Mr. A. King, Mr. D. Fallon, Directors of Service, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr. J. McNally, F. M. Accountant, Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner, Ms. B. Bradley, CEDO and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

Apology: Cllr H. Humphreys

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

The Meetings Administrator advised the Members of two corrections to the minutes of the meeting of 8th June, as follows -

Page 7 – Under the heading - (iv) Update on Lough Muckno

Amendment 1 – that Cllr McElvaney should be recorded as seconding the resolution in relation to the High Court Appeal against the Circuit Court decision.

Amendment 2 – that the following resolution should be included -

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr S. McKenna, it was agreed that the Muckno Sub Committee meet with the Council's Solicitor in Castleblayney and that the committee visit the property immediately following the meeting.

The Members agreed with the amendments as detailed above.

(i) *On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that the minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday 8th June, 2010, as amended, be confirmed.*

(ii) *On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Carville, it was agreed that the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Monday 21 June, 2010, be confirmed.*

2. Correspondence

The following correspondence was circulated to the Members:

- Letter of acknowledgement from Minister John Gormley, T.D., regarding the River Basin Management Plans.

- Letters from the SIPTU, SIPTU (LAPO) and IMPACT Unions in relation to the termination of the industrial action following the ratification of the Public Service Agreement on Pay and Reform.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Office of an Taoiseach in relation to the Council's resolution regarding costs for the Eirgrid Public Hearing
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in relation to the Council's resolution regarding costs for the Eirgrid Public Hearing
- Letter from Dr. Martin Mansergh, T.D., regarding a presentation to the Council on flood risk management.
- Letter from the Joint Committee on Health and Children in relation to the Councils request for permission to visit the St. Patrick's Accommodation Centre.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Children in relation to the Council's resolution regarding the setting up of the 116000 EU hotline number for missing children.
- Email from Cavan County Council regarding consultation meeting on 22nd July, 2010 relating to an Interreg disability access funding application.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

In relation to the letter from the Joint Committee on Health and Children regarding visit to St. Patrick's Accommodation Centre it was agreed that clarification be sought as to whether four members might be permitted to partake in the joint visit to this centre. If not acceptable it was agreed that three members of the Council would participate in the visit.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Coyle it was agreed that the Council accept the presentation from the Office of Public Works in relation to flood risk management and that the presentation take place at the September Council meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed that this Council write to An Bord Pleanála, Eirgrid, An Taoiseach, the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and all party leaders in the State outlining the Council's great concerns with the planning process in relation to the North South Interconnector, in particular:

- *The flaw in the legislation, specifically Section 182 of the Local Government Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended by Section 4 of the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006) – i.e. there is no right of reimbursement of expenses to third parties;*
- *The disadvantage that third parties now find themselves in;*
- *The timescale involved in the Northern Ireland section of this project;*

and that this Council seek an urgent meeting with all concerned.

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon it was agreed that this Council write to Mr. Eamon Ryan, T.D., Minister for Communications seeking the suspension of Eirgrid personnel - who made the application to An Bord Pleanala, and which has now been withdrawn as a result of there being many flaws – pending an investigation into the way public funds have been spent.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed that the Council congratulate Cllr Bannigan for the introduction of new information at the Eirgrid Oral Hearing which subsequently resulted in the Eirgrid planning application being withdrawn.

On the proposal of Cllr O'Brien, seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was agreed that the Council congratulate all third parties who participated in the Eirgrid oral hearing recently.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Keelan it was agreed that the Council write to the Oireachtas members asking them to state whether or not they are for or against the local communities, and ensure that the power-lines associated with the North South Interconnector are placed underground.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Crowe, it was agreed that the Council write to Coillte enquiring what strategy they have in place with regard to future planting in Co. Monaghan.

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

Ref 10/8004 - permission for the construction of 1285m² sports building; 8 lane athletics track; 3G all-weather multipurpose pitch; relocation of existing GAA pitch; flood lighting to all pitches and track; car parking, roads, footpaths and general site lighting; regarding of the site to suit the playing surfaces; new entrance, boundary walls and fencing; entrance and building signage; landscape planting and all associated site works and services at Liseggerton, Clones, Co Monaghan.

Ms. A. Hughes, Senior Planner referred to the report of the Director of Planning Services dated 25 June 2010 which had been circulated to the Members. The report recommended that the Council proceed with the development in accordance with the plans and documentation submitted on 30th April, 2010 and the conditions specified in the report.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Coyle it was agreed to approve the proposed development as per Director's report dated 25 June, 2010 ”

Mr. K. McNally, Senior Executive Engineer outlined the details of the proposed sports complex to the Council.

Mr. A. King, Director of Services advised the Members that the Council is taking the lead role in this project. This is in accordance with the requirements of the SEUPB that this role be held by a government agency. He stated that he

anticipated that the construction period could commence as early as December 2010 and should be completed by early 2012. The complex should be fully operational by Autumn 2012.

4. To consider Section 183 Notices, as follows:

(i) Disposal of land at Beechgrove (townland of Largy), Clones,

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr McElvaney, it was agreed that the Council dispose of .0725 acres of land at Beechgrove (townland of Largy), Clones in accordance with notice dated 22nd June, 2010 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

(ii) Disposal of land at Cornacrieve, Emyvale

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Gallagher, it was agreed that the Council dispose of 1,840 square metres of land at Cornacrieve, Emyvale in accordance with notice dated 22nd June, 2010 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

5. To receive Draft Annual Financial Statement 2009 and approve over-expenditures and transfers to Capital Account and Capital Account debit balances

The Members noted the Draft Annual Financial Statement 2009 which had been circulated with the agenda.

On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr Crowe, it was agreed to approve the Draft Annual Financial Statement (AFS 2009) and to approve over-expenditures as per Note 17 AFS 2009 and transfers to Capital Account per Note 15 AFS 200, as per schedules submitted to the Members, as follows:

Transfer to Capital Account			
Loan Repayment Reserve	€80,977		
Other Transfers Provided in Budget 2009	€1,298,467		
Machinery Yard Surplus	€103,079		
Technical Salaries	€31,542		
	€1,914,065		

Over - Expenditures:	Expenditure	Income	
	(Over)/Under	Over/(Under)	
	Estimates	Estimates	Net Position
Division	2009	2009	2009
	€	€	€
Water Services	-1,722,669	920,549	-802,120
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	-1,168,205	859,562	-308,643
Miscellaneous Services	-359,839	277,372	-82,467

6. N2 Clontibret - Northern Border - Briefing by Grontmij Consultants

The Mayor welcomed Demitrios Paraskevakis, Technical Manager, Grontmij Consultants to the meeting. Also present were John McGrath, Senior Engineer, Con McCrossan, Senior Executive Engineer and Marie Smyth Administrative Officer (Council Roads Section).

Mr. Paraskevakis advised the Council that the Consultants had completed the feasibility study on the proposed N2 Clontibret to the Northern Border which had taken into account relevant archaeological and environmental issues. The objectives of the scheme are to improved road safety and decrease travel time. He stated that thirty three potential feasible options had been identified and that they are now down to three primary routes with crossovers which left eleven routes or corridors to be discussed with the public during the latest public consultation phase. He stated that the views of the public would play an important part in the determination of the final route. Following this consultation a single route will be identified and a report on the final preferred route corridor will be brought back to the Council later in the year.

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

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon, it was agreed that the Council communicate with Donegal County Council and the relevant District Councils in Northern Ireland in order to lobby together the National Roads Authority, the Department of Transport and the Roads Service of Northern Ireland to ensure that the construction of the new N2 road from Clontibret, Co. Monaghan to Donegal is fast-tracked and that the full project is completed at the same time.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed that the Council write to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, the Minister for Transport and Minister Eamon Ryan T.D., seeking their endorsement for the inclusion of a cycle path to parallel the proposed N2 Clontibret to the Northern Ireland Border road re-alignment scheme.

7. To consider recommendations from Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 22nd June, 2010.

(i) Community Development Fund 2010 – grant allocations

The Members considered the recommendations from Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 22nd June 2010 in relation to grant allocations from the Community Development Fund 2010.

Cllr B. McKenna stated that new information had been given to him in relation to the application from Scoil Rince Ui Bhrogan. He proposed that Scoil Rince Ui Bhrogan be now allocated funding under this scheme. Cllr Connolly seconded the proposal.

It was agreed that the CPG members would meet over the lunch break to discuss this proposal and make a recommendation to the Council. After discussing this matter, the CPG recommended that €500 be allocated to Scoil Rince Ui Bhrógan.

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that the Council adopt the recommendations from the CPG, as amended above, in relation to grant allocations from the Community Development Fund 2010.

(ii) To adopt minutes of CPG meeting held on 22 June

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr Keelan it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting, as amended above, be adopted.

8. To receive minutes of the following meetings:

The Members noted the minutes of the Local Traveller Accommodation Committee held on 18th February 2010.

9. To receive reports from Members attending Conferences:

The Members noted the reports from Cllrs Carville, Connolly, Coyle, Crowe, Humphreys, Maxwell, McElvaney, Murray and O'Brien in relation to their attendance at the following conferences.

- LAMA Spring Conference, Sligo
- Exploring Arts & Culture through Town Twinning, Listowel, Co. Kerry
- ACCC Annual Conference, Limerick Junction, Co. Tipperary
- Tipperary Peace Convention, Limerick Junction, Co. Tipperary
- The Integration of Joint Policing Committees, Roscarberry, Co. Cork
- Being Positive in a Negative Climate, Westport, Co. Mayo
- The Law of Defamation Conference, Limerick
- A Taste for Tourism, Portaferry, Co. Antrim
- Business Improvement Development Scheme Conference, Ballymascanlon, Dundalk

10. Business submitted by County Manager

The County Manager advised the members that the Muckno sub committee had met on 17th June and had inspected the grounds of the Muckno estate. They had also inspected the Hope Castle building. Whilst Mr. Haren had accompanied the group on the inspection no discussion had taken place with him. The Council is proceeding with the appeal against the Circuit Court decision in relation to the terms of the lease of the property.

In relation to the two gate lodges at the entrance to the property the County Manager stated that he had requested the National Building Agency to prepare a feasibility study advising on such areas as possible uses, costs of refurbishment etc. The Manager also stated that he had requested the Area Engineer to upgrade the roads and public lighting within the estate and to maintain the grassed areas.

At this point the Council went 'into committee' to discuss issues pertaining to a court case taken against the Council by A. O'Gorman & Co. Ltd. Carrickmacross against Carrickmacross Town Council and others. The Manager outlined the background to the case and gave details of the Judge's decision. On conclusion of the discussion, the meeting came back into public session.

11. Matters arising out of minutes of Council meetings held on 8 and 21 June

Matters arising out of the minutes of meetings held on 8th and 21st June 2010 were responded to by the appropriate officials.

12. Proposed Eirgrid Interconnector

This item was dealt with under correspondence.

13. Questions

Cllr J. O'Brien asked:

1. (a) Has Monaghan County Council been successful in securing extra funding for the roads allocation in the Mid Monaghan Area and extra roads will be tarred if funding is secured?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council have secured funding of €625,750 from the NRA for the following areas*

- 1. Main Street, Castleblayney*
- 2. R938 York Street, Castleblayney*
- 3. LS07422 Priests Road*
- 4. LP03400 Cloghan Road*

(b) When will Monaghan County Council tar the main street of Castleblayney town?

Reply: *Late September 2010 early October.*

Cllr J. O'Brien asked:

(c) Will York Street and Muckno Street be tarred as well?

Reply: Yes.

(d) Can Monaghan County Council look at replacing the footpaths on the main street in conjunction with tarring the main street as it will cause more disturbance to traders at a later date?

Reply: *It is planned to upgrade the footpaths from the traffic lights to the roundabout. This work will commence in late July early August.*

2. (a) What stage is the Clones Road junction in Ballybay at now?

Reply: *The detailed design and final site investigations re ongoing and expected to be completed before the end of July.*

(b) When is the work expected to start and when does the engineer expect the project to be completed?

Reply: *The work is expected to start at the end of September early October.*

3. Can Monaghan County Council look at demolishing the 4 Council apartments in Bree, and turning it into a green area until funding is made available for rebuilding.

Reply: *With the recent agreement of the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government the Council will shortly be advertising for tender the demolition of the 4 apartments and the construction of 3 houses at Bree.*

Cllr M. Carthy asked:

4. Has Monaghan County Council sought a meeting with the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government regarding the proposed Group Home in Carrickmacross for women with physical and sensory disabilities? When does the council expect movement on this issue?

Reply: *A submission has been made to the Department in respect of the proposal to construct a group home in Carrickmacross for persons with a physical disability on lands owned by Monaghan County Council. Options for a second group home for persons with an intellectual disability are being considered at present.*

Cllr M. Carthy asked:

5. How much has been collected by Monaghan County Council in development levies for community use since a new scheme was introduced last year? How much remains outstanding by developers?

Reply: *A total of €358,626.65 has been collected in development contributions for the provision of community, recreational and amenity infrastructure since the scheme was introduced. The amount outstanding from developers is extremely limited as this development contribution was introduced on 7 July 2008 and applies only to permissions that were granted after that date and have commenced construction.*

Cllr M. Carthy asked:

6. When is it expected that Main Street, Carrickmacross and other streets and roads in the town, which have been damaged as a result of the sewerage collection network works will be resurfaced?

Reply: *Permanent reinstatement of road surfaces affected by the ongoing pipe-laying contract will be completed by the end of 2010. Approximately 60% of permanent reinstatement is complete at this time. Full width reinstatement of the Cloughvalley and Rockdaniel Road area commences on the 12th July. Reinstatement of Main Street will be undertaken as soon as is reasonably practicable following the completion of all pipe-laying works on same, September / October 2010.*

7. How many landowners who were subject to the Carrickmacross By-pass CPO have requested the option of having a portion of their lands returned to them? What is the reason for the apparent refusal of Monaghan County Council to reply to queries from an elected member on this issue?

Reply: *Eleven landowners have requested the option of having a portion of their lands returned to them. Monaghan County Council is not aware that they have refused to answer a query from an elected member on this issue.*

8. When is expected that road safety markings will be put in place at the entrance to the Foxfield Housing estate, Carrickmacross?

Reply: *It is anticipated that these markings will be put in place during the summer.*

Cllr P. McNally asked:

9. Has this Council ever examined the possibility of constructing local authority housing in Corduff, Killanny, Donaghmoynne and Lough Egish?

Reply: *The Council have no demand at present for local authority housing at any of the locations listed. Government policy at present is to utilise private rented accommodation either through the Rental Accommodation Scheme or Long Term Leasing. Funding for direct provision of local authority housing will be limited in future.*

Cllr P. McNally asked:

10. Has this Council chosen an operator for the new civic amenity site in Carrickmacross and when will it be opened?

Reply: *Process of appointment will be complete by early July. It is planned have the centre opened by the end of July.*

11. When will the additional lights be installed on Rockdaniel Road, Carrickmacross?

Reply: *These lights will be installed during the summer.*

12. What stage is Monaghan County Council at with the proposed new water storage reservoir at Nafferty, Carrickmacross?

Reply: *Carrickmacross Water Supply Scheme – Water Treatment Plant is included in the Water Services Investment Programme 2010 – 2012. Monaghan County Council currently awaits DEHLG approval of the DBO Contract Documents. The scheme can proceed to tender stage following approval of same.*

Cllr P. Connolly asked:

13. In relation to provisions introduced under the Finance Act 2010 and the fact that it is up to each local authority whether or not to pass on the VAT charges, ranging from 13,5% to 21%, to customer:

(a) How does Monaghan County Council propose to deal with these new VAT charges?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council is currently reviewing all their services to ascertain if a liability to Vat arises. The majority of services provided by the Council are statutorily based and are exempt or outside the scope of the legislation.*

(b) Which County Council services are likely to be affected cost wise by these Vat increases?

Reply: *Vat will apply at 13.5% on the Landfill gate fee plus levy. The sale of property which is new for VAT purposes (generally less than 5 years old) is liable to VAT at 13.5% from 1 July 2010. Specific rules apply to occupation for 24 months.*

Cllr P. Connolly asked (contd):

14. In relation to the cross border bridges at Knockaginny and Annaroe, Glaslough and the resurfacing of the approach roads to both bridges when is it hoped to have the bridges open to traffic?

Reply: It is hoped have the Cross Border bridges open to traffic by the end of September 2010.

15. What impact in terms of cost is the recent introduction of carbon taxes having on Monaghan County Council?

Reply: A new carbon tax of €15 Euro per tonne was announced in the 2010 Budget. The tax applies to petrol and diesel purchased from 10 December 2009. The carbon tax was applied from 1 May 2010 to kerosene, marked gas oil, liquid petroleum gas (LPG), fuel oil and natural gas. VAT will also be charged on the carbon tax. The main areas where this tax will impact will be on the cost of operating the Council's vehicle fleet and on the energy costs for Council buildings. It is anticipated that this will result in increased costs of between 6-8% per annum.

16. What plans are there to improve road signs to indicate areas and places of interest particularly in rural areas and whether any contacts with neighbouring counties have been made in this regard?

Reply: There are no plans at present.

17. In view of the fact that several counties have reported that there water supplies have become severely depleted following a number of weeks of unusually low rainfall:

(a) Are there any plans to restrict the usage of water?

Reply: There are no problems regarding water supplies at present and therefore there are no plans to restrict the usage of water. Monaghan County Council will continue to monitor the situation and advise the consumers accordingly.

(b) In the event of shortages what plans are in place to ensure water supplies?

In the event of shortages, Monaghan County Council would issue a media release advising consumers that water sources in Monaghan are at very low levels and to appeal to the public for assistance in minimising disruptions to supply by limiting water usage to essential needs only. Council would request householders, landowners and owners of commercial premises in all parts of County Monaghan to take all possible measures to conserve water and to avoid unnecessary usage over the summer months. To avoid unnecessary demand on the water supply network, consumers would be requested to refrain from using hosepipes for watering gardens, washing cars, power washing buildings, filling pools or irrigating or spraying crops.

If water supplies continue to remain low following appeal to conserve water, Monaghan County Council would introduce cut off periods where supplies would be shutdown from 8.00pm to 8.00am the following morning in order to retain reservoir levels.

Cllr P. Treanor asked:

18. Following our meeting with 3 Ireland, what preparations have Monaghan County Council made to co-ordinate a County-wide application to the Department, for the next round of the National Broadband Scheme, to ensure that all households and businesses have a reliable, affordable and high standard access to Broadband?

Reply: *As part of the roll out of the new County Economic Strategy a number of Business Leaders Forum (BLF) have been established. These include an Information Technology BLF. This Group has as its priority the securing of a countywide quality Broadband service which will have an optimum uptake by both the private users and commercial business alike.*

19. What assistance can Monaghan County Council give to the extension of the Monaghan Way - walking trail - from Monaghan to Clones along the banks of the Ulster Canal?

Reply: *In relation to the re-opening of the Ulster Canal to Clones, plans are at an advanced stage to develop this amenity. It is understood that a walkway/cycle path along the towpath would be part of this development. Similarly, if the canal is further opened as far as Monaghan, the council would endeavour to promote the idea of an associated walkway.*

20. What plans have Monaghan County Council in place to install traffic calming measures at Aibhinne an Chaisleán, Newbliss, to alleviate the danger to parents and children crossing the road?

Reply: *The County Council has no plans at present to install traffic calming measures along the front of Aibhinne an Chaisleán, Newbliss. Monaghan County Council will review this issue of traffic speeding and pedestrian safety. This issue will be forwarded to the next Collision Prevention Programme meeting with the Gardai.*

Cllr S. Coyle asked:

21. Will Monaghan County Council examine the possibility of the installation of a 'zebra crossing' on the road at Latton village, adjacent to Scoil Mhuire National School and the Family Resource Centre and O'Rahilly GAA Club facilities, as very large numbers of children etc cross the road on a daily basis using the facilities? The installation of this road crossing would greatly improve safety in the area.

Reply: *Monaghan County Council will review this issue of pedestrian safety at this location in Latton Village. This issue will also be forwarded to the next Collision Prevention Programme Meeting with the Gardai.*

Cllr N. Keelan asked:

22. Given that work is almost complete on the new recycling centre in Carrickmacross:
(a) How many tenders have been received for the running of this centre?

Reply: *Six*

Cllr N. Keelan asked:

- (b) When is it hoped to have the assessment of the tenders complete?

Reply: *Early July*

- (c) When is it hoped to have the centre opened to the public, in order to encourage people to recycle?

Reply: *End of July*

- (d) Will the recycling aspect of the centre be free?

Reply: *The entire centre is recycling based. Commercial charges will apply depending on size and volume of recyclables delivered. Minimal charge approximately €2 per vehicle will apply.*

- (d) Are there any items that the centre will not take?

Reply: *Table 1 indicates what's acceptable*

Clean Cardboard
Clean Newspapers/Magazines
Clean Mixed Paper
Clean Plastic
Clean Plastic Bottles
Clean Clothes & Footwear
Clean Food Tins
Clean Beverage Cans
Clean Beverage Cartons
Clean Glass: Container Glass
Building Rubble (Constituents: Concrete, Bricks, Mortar, Earth, Aggregates/Stones, and Glass.
Green Waste: Waste arising from gardening / landscaping activities. No Agricultural Waste
Clean Timber
Batteries
Fluorescent tubes: Whole unbroken fluorescent tubes only. Broken tubes will not be accepted for recycling
Scrap Metal
Domestic White Goods
Domestic Electric Goods
Domestic Fridges

23. Given that work has been completed on the footpath out to the magnificent Inniskeen Grattan Grounds at Kednaminsha:

- (a) Has the Council a costing for the provision of public lighting out to the GAA grounds?
- (b) When is it hoped to put this public lighting in place given the greatly reduced budget we have to deliver on such projects?

Reply: *The matter is on the agenda for next Area Meeting.*

Cllr N. Keelan asked (contd):

24. (a) In relation to the Carrickmacross Bypass accommodation works what progress has been made in relation to the provision of an extra public light at the bridge on the Donaghmoyne Road in the interest of public safety.
- (b) What progress has been made in relation to the provision of proper planting adjacent to Finnegan's Bus Hire Company?
- (c) What progress has been made in relation to the portion of land at Lisanisk? Will this land be levelled and reseeded in such a way that it can be easily maintained by local residents in the interest of enhancing the area?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council has referred these matters to our Consultants for the scheme for discussion with the contractor in advance of the closure of the scheme.*

25. In relation to the area around Essexford, adjacent to the County Louth Border, will the Council resurface, sign and re-line, and give this area a general tidy up?

Reply: *Only minor maintenance will take place in 2010 as no funding available.*

26. In relation to the residents at Coolreagh, Killanny, will the executive give a full report to the elected members as to why those residents can no longer avail of the water supply from Monaghan County Council well? And also if it was the intention of the Council to change this water supply why were residents not informed 1-2 years ago and not a day or two before work commenced?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council was advised of a bacteriological failure on two drinking water samples taken from the Coolreagh Well supply. As a precaution, Monaghan County Council advised all consumers on this Public Water Scheme to boil the water prior to consumption. Following consultation with the HSE, it was decided to decommission the Coolreagh Well and supply the 12 dwellings from the Killanny/Reaghstown GWS. The Council responded as soon as they were aware of the bacteriological failure and informed each household why it was necessary to change over to the group water supply.*

Cllr B. McKenna asked:

27. Can the Manager advise, please, what the implications are for this Council in light of the new Finance Act brought into law in the Dáil recently? What additional cost will it impose on the Council? What, if any, benefits will accrue to the Council as a result of its introduction?

Reply: *In summary, any function/service which the County Council provides or sells, which may also be provided by the private sector, is vat-able under the new Finance Act, with the exception of functions/services which are statutorily based. The majority of services provided by Monaghan County Council are statutorily based and are exempt or outside the scope of the legislation. The additional costs*

will relate primarily to staff costs associated with amending the Finance and IT systems to reflect the changes in receipting, invoicing and +completing Vat returns.

The Council will be in a position to claim back Vat incurred on expenditure, which is charged directly to the provision of the service, which is vat-able under the new legislation.

Cllr O. Bannigan asked:

28. What is the up to date position with the Clones Road junction in Ballybay town which was first approved for funding in February 2009.

(a) When will the project drawings be finalised?

Reply: *The project drawings will be completed by the end of July.*

(b) When will discussions regarding the final design take place with the third party?

Reply: *The discussions with the adjoining property will take place before the end of July.*

(c) When will the project go to tender?

Reply: *Mid August after builders' holidays.*

(d) When will demolition work commence?

Reply: *The work is expected to start at the end of September early October.*

(e) When will the project be completed?

Reply: *The project will be complete by the end of December.*

16. Conferences:

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

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members
MacGill Summer School	Reforming the Republic - issues of politics, economics and accountability	Glenties, Co. Donegal	18 th - 23 rd July, 2010	Brian McKenna Robbie Gallagher Padraig McNally David Maxwell Heather Humphreys Owen Bannigan Paudge Connolly

16. Conferences (contd):

John Hewitt Society	Back to Uncertainty: Considering Other Possibilities	Marketplace Theatre & Arts Centre Armagh	26 th – 30 th July, 2010	P.J. O’Hanlon Robbie Gallagher Hugh McElvaney David Maxwell Heather Humphreys
William Carleton Summer School	Should Historians still read Carleton?	Corick House Hotel, Clogher	2 nd – 5 th August, 2010	John O’Brien Seamus Coyle Gary Carville Hugh McElvaney Owen Bannigan
Humbert Summer School	Catholic Church Reform/Can the EU survive the Euro crisis	Ballina/ Killala, Co. Mayo	19 – 22 nd August, 2010	Gary Carville Aidan Murray Owen Bannigan Padraig McNally Robbie Gallagher

Suspension of Standing Orders

Cllr Bannigan proposed, Cllr McElvaney seconded

“ That this Council suspend standing orders to discuss the recent development in the Department of Agriculture Office in Ballybay – that is the decision to close the office on 15th December, 2010 ”

A vote by show of hands on the proposal to suspend standing orders resulted in 14 for 5 against. The Mayor ruled that, in accordance with Standing Order 25.1, the necessary three quarters majority had been achieved (there being 19 members present).

Cllr Bannigan proposed, Cllr Murray seconded and it was agreed

“ That this Council request an urgent meeting with the Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Brendan Smith, T.D., to discuss the decision to close the Department of Agriculture offices in Ballybay in December 2010.

That representatives from Ballybay Town Council and Ballybay Economic Forum be included in the deputation.

Urgent Business:

The Mayor advised that he had received two notices of Urgent Business in accordance with Standing Order 14.2, as follows:

- (i) *Notice of urgent business in the names of Cllrs Connolly and S. Treanor relating to the transfer of ambulance services from Monaghan General Hospital*
- (ii) *Notice of urgent business in the names of the Fine Gael Members and relating to the RISE 'Rural Ireland Says Enough' Campaign.*

It was agreed to deal with both notices.

Motion (1) Cllr Connolly proposed, Cllr S. Treanor seconded and it was agreed

“ That Monaghan County Council calls on the HSE NE to continue to provide a staffed rapid recovery vehicle from Monaghan General Hospital on an ongoing basis ”

Cllr Connolly expressed his concern that the transfer of this ambulance would put the health and safety of all persons in the North Monaghan area at risk. The Council understands that this vehicle will also be covering parts of north County Louth where there is a bigger population and a bigger demand and the Members fear that the service will not be there when called upon by people in the north Monaghan area.

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher seconded by Cllr Connolly it was agreed that the Council write to the Minister for Health expressing its frustration at the removal of a rapid recovery vehicle from Monaghan General Hospital and calling for the situation to be reversed immediately.

Motion (ii) Cllr McElvaney proposed, Cllr S. McKenna seconded and it was agreed,

“ That this Council endorses the aims and objectives of the RISE 'Rural Ireland Says Enough' Campaign. This Council notes the increasing level of popular support being expressed for the campaign and shares the concerns it is highlighting over several pieces of legislation currently being proposed by the Minister for the Environment, heritage and Local Government, John Gormley, T.D. The Council calls on the Minister to listen to the concerns being expressed, involve stakeholders in full consultation and to respond appropriately ”

Presentation from Monaghan Chamber of Commerce:

The Mayor welcomed Gordon Fleming, Riona Carroll, Frank McEneaney, Charles McGuinness and Dermot McNally from Monaghan Chamber of Commerce and invited them to address the meeting.

On behalf of the Chamber, Riona Carroll gave a detailed and informative presentation to the Council. She highlighted the fact that Monaghan is already home to many important businesses which are key players in the international market place, as well as many

smaller enterprises which have been the traditional source of employment and the lifeblood of the local economy. The Chamber sees inward investment as a key element in the further development of the area and its economic and social future. She referred to Monaghan's strategic location and its infrastructural advantages and that the county is ideally placed to access cross-border supports and initiatives and can rely on the proven work ethic and entrepreneurial flair of its people. She referred to the county's educational advantages and the resource it possessed of highly educated young people. She stated that statistics quoted with regard to the county's participation in third level education failed to take account of the large number of young people from the county who received further education at centres outside the State in Northern Ireland or further afield, and therefore give a false impression of the extent of third level participation in the county. Moving forward, the Chamber is planning to create 3,500 jobs over the next seven years and it seeks the support of the local authorities in achieving this target.

The Mayor thanked Ms. Carroll and the members of the Chamber for the presentation and pledged the support of the Council for its action plan. A number of Members contributed to the debate which followed the presentation and suggested that the Council should meet with the Chamber on a regular basis in the future.

The County Manager acknowledged the role of the Chamber of Commerce over the last few years. He stated that he wanted to put on record his thanks for the co-operation received from the businesses in the town in relation to the current work being undertaken in the town centre. He referred to the Economic Development Strategy for the county which was presented to the County Development Board last week and will be considered by the Council at its next meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr O'Brien it was agreed that the Council write to the Department of Education and Science enquiring why students from Monaghan who attend third level colleges in Northern Ireland are not included in educational statistics.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Meara Meetings Administrator

Date: _____