

Minutes of Annual Council Meeting held in the Mtek Building, Knockaconny, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday 20th June, 2011 at 10.00 a.m.

Chair: Cllr J. Crowe, Mayor (Outgoing Mayor).

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

Mr. D. Fallon, A/County Manager, Mr. P. Clifford, Mr. A. King, Directors of Service, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

The outgoing Mayor, Cllr Crowe referred to the some of the highlights of his year in office. He thanked the Members of the Council for their co-operation and assistance during the year. He also thanked the A/County Manager, the Management Team, the staff of Corporate Affairs and the Media.

In conclusion, he paid tribute to the Deputy Mayor, Cllr P.J. O'Hanlon, who had acted as Mayor on a number of occasions, and had undertaken the role very effectively.

All Members paid tribute to Cllr Crowe for the professional and dignified way in which he had undertaken the duties of Mayor over the past twelve months.

Mr. D. Fallon, A/County Manager joined in the sentiments expressed to the outgoing Mayor. He acknowledged the significant contribution that Cllr Crowe had made while in the office of Mayor.

1. Election of Mayor:

Cllr Crowe sought nominations for the position of Mayor.

Cllr McNally proposed Cllr O'Brien seconded that Cllr Seamus Coyle be nominated for the position of Mayor of County Monaghan.

As there were no other nominations, Cllr Coyle was declared elected as Mayor.

Cllr Coyle then assumed the position of Mayor. He thanked his proposer and seconder and the members for supporting him in his election to the position of Mayor. He paid tribute to the outgoing Mayor and Deputy Mayor for their dedication and commitment during the past year. He outlined his objectives for the coming year.

All members congratulated Cllr Coyle on his election as Mayor and wished him success during his term of office.

2. Election of Deputy Mayor:

The Mayor sought nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor.

Cllr McElvaney proposed, Cllr Bannigan seconded that Cllr Aidan Murray be nominated for the position of Deputy Mayor.

As there was no other nomination for this position the Mayor declared Cllr Murray elected as Deputy Mayor and congratulated him on his election.

Cllr Murray thanked his proposer and seconder and the members for electing him to the position of Deputy Mayor. He said he looked forward to working with the Mayor Coyle and assured him of his support through out the year. He also paid tribute to the outgoing Mayor and Deputy Mayor for their hard work during the year.

All members congratulated Cllr Murray on his election as Deputy Mayor.

The County Manager joined in the congratulations to Mayor Coyle and Deputy Mayor Murray and wished them both success in the year ahead.

3. Election of Chairperson of Monaghan County Development Board:

Cllr B. McKenna proposed, Cllr Carthy seconded that Cllr Pat Treanor be elected Chairperson of Monaghan County Development Board.

As there was no other nomination for this position the Mayor declared Cllr Treanor elected as Chairperson of Monaghan County Development Board and congratulated him on his election.

Cllr Treanor thanked his proposer and seconder and the other members for supporting his election to this position.

The Members congratulated Cllr Treanor on his election.

This concluded the business of the annual meeting.

Presentation by EirGrid to Members of Monaghan County Council on Monday 20th June, 2011, following the Annual Meeting of the Council.

The Mayor welcomed the following officials from EirGrid Plc to the meeting - Andrew Cooke, Director of Grid Development, Aidan Geoghegan, Project Manager, Des Cox, Planner, Shane Brennan, Project Engineer, Bernard O'Reilly, Consultant and David Martin, Communications Officer.

He also welcomed Deputy Caoimhghin Ó Caoláin and Deputy Sean Conlan, Mr. Philip Connolly, Mr. Nigel Hillis and Ms. Margaret Marron to the meeting as observers.

Mr. Andrew Cooke and Mr. Aidan Geoghegan, EirGrid Plc., then made a presentation to the Council, during which they outlined the following –

- The Purpose of the Re-evaluation Process
- The Structure of the Preliminary Re-evaluation Report
- The Public and Stakeholder Consultation being undertaken by Eirgrid.

Following the presentation, a number of members outlined their concerns to the Eirgrid officials. The main concerns highlighted were as follows:

- Eirgrid had failed to take on board the concerns of people on the ground.
- The undergrounding of the cabling for this project must be pursued.
- EirGrid had ignored letters from 109 landowners stating that they did not wish to engage directly with them
- Public health concerns in relation to potential health effects of the electro magnetic fields surrounding high density powerlines.
- The apparent lack of communication between Government Ministers North and South.
- The fact that the Northern Ireland section of the project is to be the subject of a public enquiry – if it doesn't happen in the North, it can't happen in the South.
- EirGrid is continuing to engage in public consultation when it was Government policy to put in place an international commission to examine all aspects of the north-south interconnector project.

M/s Cooke, Geoghegan and Cox responded to the comments from the Council members.

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Keelan, it was agreed that Deputies Ó Caolain and Conlan be allowed two minutes each to address the meeting.

Deputy Ó Caolain stated that he did not accept that there had been a re-evaluation of under-grounding as a real alternative. He enquired if EirGrid would compensate all those who had been forced to participate in the oral hearing process. Deputy Conlon stated that EirGrid had not engaged fully with local landowners and as a result they

were distrustful of the company. He stated that the legal process will drag on for years if the over-grounding option is pursued. He also referred to the health implications surrounding electro magnetic fields.

The Mayor requested EirGrid to respond in writing to the questions asked by the Members at the meeting. He thanked them for attending the meeting and for their presentation.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Meara

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____
