

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Mtek Building, Knockaconny, Monaghan on Tuesday 2nd June, 2009 at 11.00 a.m.

Chair: Cllr M. Carthy, Mayor

Present: Cllrs Bannigan, Carville, Conlon, Coyle, Crowe, Gallagher, Humphreys, Keelan, Keenan, Kieran, Martin, Maxwell, McAnespie, McElvaney, McNally, O'Brien, P. McKenna and Treanor.

Mr. D. Nelson, County Manager, Mr. M. Fitzpatrick, Mr. P. Clifford, Mr. D. Fallon, Mr. A. King, Directors of Service, Mr. A. Hall, Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. M. Murray, Senior Engineer, Ms. M. Kelly, Environmental Education Officer, Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator and Ms. L. Brannigan, A/Staff Officer.

Apology: Cllr B. McKenna.

1. Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 5th May, 2009, be confirmed.

2. Correspondence:

The following correspondence was circulated to Members:

- Letter from the Office of the Taoiseach in relation to Monaghan General Hospital.
- Letter from the Office of the Taoiseach in relation to the North South interconnector.
- Letter from Margaret Conlon, T.D., in relation to Monaghan General Hospital
- Letter from the Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources in relation to the proposed North-South Interconnector
- Letter from the Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources in relation to the roll-out of the National Broadband Scheme in Co. Monaghan
- Letter from the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government in relation to a meeting request
- Letter from the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in relation to CLAR LIS funding for 2009
- Letter of thanks from SIPTU in relation to Civic Reception hosted on Tuesday 5th May 2009
- Letter from IDA Ireland in relation to IDA investment in County Monaghan
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Transport in relation to a meeting request regarding upgrading the N2 between Clontibret and the Border
- Letter from the Department of Transport in relation to a meeting request regarding Emyvale Bypass.
- Letter from the Department of Transport in relation to a meeting request regarding roads damage and construction of the Castleblayney Bypass

- Letter from the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government in relation to Donaghmoynne Group Water Scheme
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in relation to second on-farm inspectorate
- Letter from the Department of the Communications, Energy and Natural Resources in relation to the North-South Interconnector
- Letter from the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government in relation to the members resolution on Nitrates inspections
- Letter from the Department of Transport in relation to the National Car Test
- Letter from Armagh City & District Council in relation to proposed meeting with Health Protection Agency on June 18th regarding the Tyrone-Cavan Interconnector

The following resolutions arose out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr McAnespie, it was agreed that a deputation of Councillors from the Carrickmacross and Castleblayney areas (one from each political party) attend the meeting scheduled for June 18th hosted by Armagh City & District Council together with Tyrone Borough Council and the Health Protection Agency in relation to the proposed North South Interconnector.

On the proposal of Cllr Treanor, seconded by Cllr McAnespie, it was agreed that the Council writes again to the IDA pointing out that the resolution passed at the April meeting regarding the purchase of lands refers to all towns in the county not just Monaghan town.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr P. McKenna, it was agreed that the Council write again to the Minister for Transport to expedite works on the N2 road to bring it up to a safe standard.

On the proposal of Cllr Humphreys, seconded by Cllr Crowe, it was agreed that the Council accept the proposal for a meeting with senior officials from the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources and a deputation from Monaghan County Council in relation to the roll-out of the National Broadband Scheme in County Monaghan.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr McElvaney, it was agreed that the Council write to Minister Ryan to renew its request to meet with him in relation to the proposed North South Interconnector.

3. To approve Section 183 Notice – Disposal of land at Avalreagh, Clontibret, Co. Monaghan

On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr Crowe, it was agreed that the Council dispose of 0.7644 hectares in the townland of Avalreagh, Castleblayney to Isaac Leathem, Avalreagh, Clontibret, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan in accordance with the terms of Notice dated 21st May, 2009 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

4. To adopt Draft Road Traffic (Temporary special speed limits) (Inniskeen) Bye-Laws 2009

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed to adopt the Draft Road Traffic (Temporary Special Speed Limits) (Inniskeen) Bye-Laws 2009.

5. To consider recommendations from Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 18th May 2009

- (i) On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Carville, it was agreed to approve the recommendations from the Corporate Policy Group in relation to grant allocations under the Environment & Recreation Fund 2009 and also that grants of €800 each be allocated to the Scotstown and Scotshouse Tidy Towns Committees and Threemilehouse Residents Association.*
- (ii) The members agreed to refer the request for funding from CDA Trust Ltd. to the North East Drugs Task Force*
- (iii) On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr Treanor, it was agreed that Monaghan County Museum Strategic Management Plan 2009-2013 and Implementation Plan 2009 be adopted.*

6. Proposed 440kv Eirgrid Interconnector

The Members commended the work of the North East Pylon Pressure Group and the County Monaghan Anti Pylon Committee for their efforts and for the support and advice given to local people in the areas affected by the proposed 440kv Eirgrid interconnector.

7. To receive reports from Members attending Conferences:

The Members noted the reports from Cllrs Carville, Coyle, Kieran, Martin, Maxwell and P. McKenna in respect of their attendance at the following conferences:

Rural Dwellers: A Threatened Species – Killarney, Co. Kerry
Ireland at the Crossroads – Kingsley Hotel, Cork
Planning for a Sustainable Economic Future – Whites Hotel, Wexford
LAMA Annual Conference – Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise
Maximising Your Vote 2009 Elections – Red Cow Moran’s Hotel, Dublin
Ireland’s Water – Adare, Co. Limerick
4th Annual Conference ICLRD – Letterkenny, Co. Donegal
Environmental Recognition Conference – Ballybunion, Co. Kerry
Annual Conference – Ormonde Hotel, Kilkenny

8. **Business submitted by County Manager**

The County Manager advised the members that he required the consent of the Council to issue polling cards for the forthcoming local elections to 'L' voters.

On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr Treanor it was agreed that the Council issue polling cards for the forthcoming local elections to those electors designated with an 'L' on the Register of Electors and Supplement to the Register 2009-2010.

In response to queries from Members in relation to the supplement to the electoral register Mr. Paul Clifford, Director of Services, circulated a handout outlining the process involve in the compilation of the Supplement. He indicated that all persons who completed an application for addition to the Supplement to the Register were required to have their form stamped in a Garda Station by a member of An Garda Siochana.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Carville, that we write to the County Registrar to ensure that proof of identity is sought from voters on June 5th.

A vote by show of hands resulted in 6 for; 8 against – the Mayor declared the motion defeated.

On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed that we write to the Department of the Environment to urgently assess the process used in compiling the Electoral Register and that the use of PPS numbers would form the basis by which people are included in future registers.

9. **Matters arising out of the minutes of Council Meeting held on 5th May, 2009.**

Matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 5th May were responded to by the relevant Director of Service.

10. **Questions:**

Cllr Conlon asked:

- 1) Is there provision of funding available for remedial works on the LT16301, Ballyalbany to Milltown Road, which has been pothole repaired over many years but due to poor drainage is regularly in a state of disrepair? What is the earliest opportunity this road will receive attention?

Reply: *This road is not on the current road works programme. However pothole repairs were carried out recently.*

- 2) In the interest of determining to what extent Monaghan County Council are abiding by employment guidelines as contained within the Disability Act 2005; under the specific categories of Physical, Sensory, Intellectual and Mental disability, what are the numbers employed by Monaghan County Council that are

considered as having a disability? Does this meet the 3% minimum as stated in Part 5 Section 47, Subsection 4 the Disability Act?

Reply: *At 31 December, 2008 we had 497 people employed. 19 of these were identified as people with a disability. This represents 3.82% of the workforce.*

Cllr Conlon asked:

- 3) What progress has the Environmental Section made to date regarding a query forwarded by Monaghan Town Council in relation to determining the origins of an offensive odour that is occasionally present in the Montfort/Coolshannagh/Ballyalbany area and is causing considerable annoyance to nearby residential communities?

Reply: *This relates to a question raised at a meeting of Monaghan Town Council and this matter is being dealt with by that authority.*

Cllr Crowe asked:

- 4) What safety measures does Monaghan Co. Council plan for the entrance from the N2 to Clontibret village such as a left turning lane?

Reply: *The Council has no plan at this point in relation to safety measures for the entrance from N2 to Clontibret village.*

- 5) Will Monaghan Co. Council look into safety aspects at the Clontibret roundabout in regards to pedestrians crossing from the footpath along the N2?

Reply: *Pedestrians are facilitated with the provision of an underpass and there are no proposals to provide additional facilities.*

- 6) What is the update on the ongoing campaign to seek Interreg infrastructural funding for the re-alignment of Ballinacarry Bridge on the N53?

Reply: *The allocation from the NRA of €25,000 in respect of the N53 Ballinacarry Bridge in 2009 was provided in order to complete Project Appraisal deliverables for the scheme and this is now complete.*

The appraisal, carried out by Kerry National Road Design Office, indicates that this project will have positive benefit/costs - albeit on the lower end of the scale.

In light of the competing demands for funding and the scarcity of funding in the coming years it is not envisaged that this project will make any significant progress in the near future.

- 7) What progress is being made in regards to the roll out of Broadband for the Mid-Monaghan rural areas?

Reply:

- *Monaghan County Council has completed the construction of Metropolitan Area Networks (MANs) in Clones and Castleblayney. These works were co funded by the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources and the relevant local authorities involved.*

- *Alternative backhaul was provided to the Monaghan MAN resulting from completion of the Armagh Monaghan Digital corridor. Monaghan County provided financial and technical assistance to this project which was led by Monaghan County Enterprise Board.*

- *Monaghan Council is currently working with 3G, which has recently been appointed by the Government to implement the National Broadband Scheme. This project will provide broadband access to those sections of County that currently do not have broadband service. It is envisaged that construction of this network will commence in 2010.*
- *Monaghan County Council is currently liaising with Hibernian Atlantic, which was recently been appointed by the Government to implement Project Kelvin. Project Kelvin is a joint €30 million initiative between DETI and DCENR and is partly funded through the EC INTERREG IVA programme. The new cable will link Armagh, Ballymena, Belfast, Coleraine, Londonderry, Omagh, Portadown and Strabane to Europe and North America. In addition, the cable will also provide links to Letterkenny, Castleblayney, Dundalk, Drogheda and Monaghan. The Council is seeking to have links provided to Carrickmacross.*

Cllr Carville asked:

- 8) When is it proposed to commence restoration and repair works on the Monaghan Road to Main Street section of the old N2 in Castleblayney?

Reply: *The survey and draft design is being examined at the minute but it is envisaged that work will commence some time in July or August.*

Cllr Bannigan asked:

- 9) In the interest of children's safety will Monaghan Co. Council erect a "Children at Play" sign in Culbrannan Park, Ballybay?

and

- 10) Will Monaghan Co. Council erect speed ramps in Culbrannan Park, Ballybay?

Reply to Q. 9 & 10: *Monaghan County Council will erect a "Children at Play" sign in Culbrannan Park, Ballybay, but will not erect speed ramps.*

- 11) What action will Monaghan Co. Council take to ensure that the roadways in Wylies Hill, Ballybay are tarmacadamed as per conditions of planning?

Reply: *Planning permission was granted under planning permission 01/838 for the erection of erect 116 units on revised site layout to comply with general requirements of An Bord Pleanala Order PL18123149 to include the orientation of houses around open space & omission of 1st house on each side of site access road at entrance. The permission was subject to 15 conditions.*

Following complaints received, officers of the Council have carried out investigations and site inspections. As a result enforcement proceedings are being initiated in respect of the site and the development thereon.

Cllr Keelan asked:

- 12) When can the people of the Carrickmacross area expect to see works commence on the recycling centre at the Convent lands. When is it hoped to have the centre operational. What materials will be accepted at the centre when it is opened?
Reply: Works will commence in June 2009. The construction period is 9 months. The type of material accepted will primarily depend of the operator appointed but will be similar to that which is accepted in Scotchcorner.
- 13) What plans have Monaghan County Council to reinstate the roads and grass verges that have been badly damaged as a result of the ongoing laying of sewerage lines in all the approach roads to Carrickmacross town?
Reply: Any roads and verges damaged by the laying of new sewerage lines will be reinstated.
- 14) When is hoped to have the play park in Inniskeen complete?
Reply: It is planned to complete the remaining ground work during the summer when the weather is more favourable.
- 15) How many people are currently on the housing waiting list for Carrickmacross town? What plans have the Council to deal with the ever increasing housing waiting list?
Reply: There are 186 households on the Carrickmacross housing waiting list. Monaghan County Council propose the demolition of 21 units and the construction of 22 new units at Cloughvalley as soon as the necessary finance becomes available.

Cllr Coyle asked:

- 16) When will Monaghan County Council have the connection and works completed on the public lighting on the Threemilehouse Road (Station House Road) in Newbliss?
Reply: The County Council are waiting for the ESB to connect these lights to the power supply network as all other works are complete.
- 17) What plans have Monaghan County Council for the erection of public lighting in the following areas of Newbliss:
(a) Ballybay Road
(b) Castle Avenue
(c) Magherarney Road (L21521) to St. Laoblin's Church
as local residents on these roads are concerned for the safety of pedestrians and motorists particularly on dark winter evenings?
Reply: There are no plans at present to install public lighting at any of these locations.
- 18) Will Monaghan County Council include in their public lighting plans, the erection of additional public lighting at Holy Trinity Church, Rockcorry?
Reply: There are no plans at present to install public lighting at this location.

Cllr Coyle asked:

- 19) When will works be completed under the Low Cost Safety Improvement Grants Scheme at the junction of the R190 – LP03000, known locally as the Fivecrosses, Latton, as this junction is particularly dangerous for traffic entering and exiting the very busy junction and for school children on bus transport?

Reply: *This Low Cost Scheme is for the Junction of the R190 and LP03000 (Veldons Cross Road to Cootehill Road) and not the Five Crosses. It is envisaged that the scheme will commence in August.*

11. Notices of Motion:

- (a) **Cllr P. McKenna proposed, Cllr McElvaney seconded**

and it was resolved,

“That this Council send a delegation to meet the Minister for Finance in relation to the increasing flow of shoppers out of this area to the North of Ireland because of the present economic policies including the high VAT rate imposed by this Government”.

- (b) **Cllr Coyle proposed, Cllr McElvaney seconded,**

and it was resolved,

“That Monaghan County Council call on the Minister for Environment, Heritage & Local Government to amend the Planning Act to extend the period of all existing planning permissions by 2 years, i.e. full planning permissions and permissions consequent, current period of 5 years to 7 years, and outline planning permission be extended from the current period of 3 years to 5 years, this to be applied retrospectively to all existing permissions and to all future permissions in view of the current economic and construction industry circumstances”.

12. Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations

The Council agreed to extend votes of sympathy to the following:

- *Arlene Lyster on the tragic death of her husband David, Corvally, Braddox, Co. Monaghan.*

Tributes:

The Mayor referred to the decision by Cllr B. McAnespie not to contest the forthcoming local elections on June 5th. As this was the last meeting before the elections he wished to pay tribute to Cllr McAnespie who had given 10 years

service to the Council and the people of the North Monaghan area. He wished Cllr McAnespie every success and good health for the future.

The Party Whips and a number of members paid tribute to Cllr McAnespie for her service over the years and her tireless campaign for Monaghan General Hospital. They wished her good health and success in the future.

Cllr McAnespie responded to the tributes paid to her. She wished the other members contesting the elections good luck. She also extended thanks to her family for their support over the ten years.

Tributes were paid to Mayor Carthy on the professional way he had undertaken the duties of Mayor of County Monaghan over the past year. The Party Whips also expressed their good wishes to Cllr Brian McKenna and wished him a speedy recovery to good health.

Joining in the tributes, the County Manager acknowledged the contributions made by Cllr McAnespie during her term on the Council. He acknowledged the dedication and commitment of all the members. He then commended the media for their coverage, co-operation, assistance and fairness over the years. He concluded by wishing the members success in the forthcoming elections.

The Mayor then thanked his fellow members, particularly Cllr P. McKenna as Deputy Mayor, officials from Monaghan County Council and members of the press for their assistance to him during his term as Mayor. In particular, he paid tribute to Peter Hughes, Northern Standard, for his accuracy in his minute taking and described him as 'one of the best journalists in the country'. He joined with the other members in wishing Cllr B. McKenna a speedy return to good health. He stated that he wanted to record his appreciation to his family and the families of all the members for their dedicated support. He then wished all those contesting the elections good luck on June 5th.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Meara Meetings Administrator

Date: _____