

Minutes of meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, Mtek Building, Monaghan on Tuesday 4th June, 2013 at 2.30 p.m.

Chair: Cllr N. Keelan, Deputy Mayor.

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

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

Apology: Cllr McElvaney.

In attendance as observer – Fergal McKenna, Smithboro.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 7th May, 2013 be confirmed.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed that the minutes of the adjourned May Council meeting held on 20th May, 2013, be confirmed.

2. Correspondence

The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda –

- Letter from the Minister for Justice in relation to the Council's resolution calling for the introduction of legislation to deal with persons who leave the scene of a fatal motor accident.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Transport in relation to the Council's resolution calling for the introduction of legislation to deal with persons who leave the scene of a fatal motor accident.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Agriculture in relation to the Council's resolution regarding the fodder crisis.
- Letter from Deputy Brendan Smith, enclosing reply from the Minister for Agriculture in relation to the fodder crisis.
- Letter from the Minister for Transport in relation to the provision of additional funding for regional and local roads.
- Letter from the National Roads Authority in relation to the provision of additional funding for regional and local roads.
- Letter of acknowledgement in relation to the Council's resolution regarding relations between the Minister for Justice and An Garda Síochána.
- Letter of acknowledgement in relation to the Council's resolution regarding the Mobility Allowance and Motorised Transport Grant schemes.

- Letter from the Minister for Social Protection in relation to the Free Fuel Allowance scheme.
- Letter from the Minister for Health in relation to the Council's letter regarding the Mobility Allowance and Motorised Transport Grant Schemes.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Housing and Planning in relation to the Council's resolution regarding the 2013 Disabled Persons Grant allocation.
- Letter from Ballybay Town Council requesting permission for a delegation to meet with the Council at the October meeting to discuss rates in Ballybay Town.
- Letter from the Rehab Group seeking nominations for the 39th People of the Year Awards 2013.
- Resolution from Louth County Council calling on the Minister for the Environment to empower and resource local authorities to effectively assess persons on a case by case basis who have left what was the family home.
- Resolution from Limerick County Council calling on the Minister for Finance and the Government to reimburse the Irish Credit unions who lost investments as a result of the recent liquidation of IBRC.
- Letter from Fintan Slye, Chief Executive, EirGrid in relation to the North South Interconnector.
- Email from Deputy Ó Caolain enclosing copy of letter issued by him to the Minister for Agriculture in relation to the fodder crisis.
- Resolution from Monaghan Town Council in relation to persons of 65 years of age having to sign at the dole office for one year in order to obtain their state pension.
- Resolution from Monaghan Town Council regarding the criteria for assessing applicants wishing to enter the State to ensure they do not have a criminal record in their country of origin or any other country.
- Extract from the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee Report outlining the proposed changes to the electoral areas in County Monaghan.
- Copy of the Programme of events for the proposed visit of a delegation from Geel in Belgium.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

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

- (a) give greater assistance to farmers in terrible hardship*
- (b) in consultation with farm organization Teagasc, etc, put in place a scheme to encourage greater growth of animal winter feed for the year(s) ahead*
- (c) In consultation with the farm organizations/millers/feed companies and financial institutions to put in place a subsidized interest over 3-5 years to re-pay farm/ animal feed bills of 2012/13*

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr S. Treanor it was agreed that further to Minister Shatter's Parliamentary Question response to Deputy Padraig MacLochlainn dated 25th May, that Monaghan County Council welcomes the Minister's agreement to examine the findings of the jury at the inquest into the death of Shane O'Farrell and encourage the Government to implement those findings and review the legislation dealing with the failure to stop and remain at the scene of an accident.

On the proposal of Cllr O'Brien, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed that a delegation from Ballybay Town Council be invited to attend the September meeting of the Corporate Policy Group to express their concerns over rates.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr S. Treanor it was agreed that in view of the cold weather experienced in the months of April and early May that Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Social Protection to extend the free fuel allowance by four weeks.

3. To receive Draft Annual Financial Statement 2012 and approve over-expenditure and transfers from Revenue Account

The Members noted the Draft Annual Financial Statement 2012 which had been circulated with the agenda. Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance responded to a number of queries from the Members in relation to the Draft AFS for 2012.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr McElvaney, it was agreed to approve the Draft Annual Financial Statement (AFS 2012) and to approve over-expenditures as per Note 17 AFS 2012 and transfers to Capital Account per Note 15 AFS 2012, as per schedules submitted to the Members, as follows:

Transfer to Capital Account

	Transfer Amount	Budget Provision	Difference
Loan Repayment Reserve	723,245.96	723,245.96	0.00
Flexi Time System	15,000.00	0.00	-15,000.00
Disability Initiatives	10,000.00	0.00	-10,000.00
Landfill Income Surplus	48,013.00	0.00	-48,013.00
Ballybay Town Council	19,125.00	0.00	-19,125.00
Provisions for Transfer to Capital (included in Budget 2011)			
Co. Development Fund	75,000.00	75,000.00	0.00
Cross Border Matching Funding	15,000.00	15,000.00	0.00
Village Enhancement Projects	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00
OPW Own Resources	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00
Landfill Leachate EIS	50,000.00	50,000.00	0.00
Local Elections	30,000.00	30,000.00	0.00
Members Gratuity Scheme	30,000.00	30,000.00	0.00
Fire Service Gratuities	50,000.00	50,000.00	0.00
Forge In	12,000.00	12,000.00	0.00
Civil Defence	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
Dog Warden Van	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00
Libraries - Provision for Capital Balances	53,955.63	53,956.00	0.37
Computing - Provision for Capital Balance	100,000.00	100,000.00	0.00
	1,293,339.59	1,201,201.96	-92,137.63

Over Expenditure:

Division		Expenditure	Income	Net
		Over	Over	Position
		Estimates	Estimates	2012
		2012	2012	2012
		€	€	€
A	Housing and Building	-503,181	723,637	220,456
B	Road Transportation and Safety	-1,414,960	865,037	-549,923
C	Water Services	-219,266	771,014	551,748
E	Environmental Services	-163,157	302,283	139,126
	Agriculture, Education, Health &			
G	Welfare	-431,746	730,316	298,570
H	Miscellaneous Services	-222,994	-142,136	-365,130
		-2,452,123	2,526,514	74,391

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that Monaghan County Council demand from Central Government, full compensation for the implementation of the Local Government reform proposals and implications (financial) of Putting People First.

Cllr O'Hanlon proposed, Cllr Gallagher seconded, that this Council continues with the policy of a zero % increase in rates, in light of the changes that will occur with the disbandment of Town Councils.

A vote by show of hands resulted in 5 for, 2 against, 5 abstentions. The Deputy Mayor declared the proposal carried.

On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed that the Management Team make a presentation to the Council at a future meeting on plans for the re-alignment of services and finances of Town Councils with county structure and a vision on how the rates will be affected over the short to medium term.

4. To receive recommendations from CPG meeting held on 20th May, 2013**(i) To consider recommendation from Housing SPC re Tenancy Deposit Scheme**

Cllr M. Carthy, Chair of the Housing SPC explained the background to the proposed changes to the Tenancy Deposit Scheme. He stated that the revised deposit scheme will apply to new tenancy agreements entered into from the June 2014. The following conditions will apply -

- At the time of signing of the contract the tenants will initially deposit €100 (€50 in the case of Older Persons Dwellings) with the Council.
- In addition the tenant will be required to add a €2/week to add to the initial deposit made

- Thereafter €2 of the differential rent paid to the council will be directed as match funding to the tenants additional €2 payment
- The requisite deposit amount for each house type will be as follows
 - €200 Older Persons Dwellings
 - €300 1 bedroomed property
 - €300 2 bedroomed property
 - €400 3 bedroomed property
 - €500 4 bedroomed property
- Once figure reaches a deposit level related to the house type then the deposit is retained and additional tenant payments stopped. The matching amount taken out of the rent is also stopped being redirected into the deposit account.
- Upon achieving the deposit level the tenant will be written to and informed that this amount is being retained as a deposit and subject to the maintenance of the property and , in the event of the property being returned to the council, in a good condition will be refunded the full amount at termination of the tenancy.
- In the event of the termination of a tenancy the tenant will be required to
 - Give four weeks notice
 - Leave the property in good condition
 - Clear the property of all furniture, goods and items

If there is

- damage to the property, above normal wear and tear, and repairs which were the responsibility of the tenant
- missing items from the property
- cleaning required to be undertaken to bring it up to a lettable standard
- unpaid rent

then these amounts will be deducted from the tenancy deposit.

- In the event of a dispute in relation to the deposit, an appeal can be submitted to the local authority by the tenant and an external independent mediator shall be appointed to determine the case.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon, it was agreed that the Council approve the recommendation of the Housing SPC, which was endorsed by the Corporate Policy Group, in relation to the revised Tenancy Deposit Scheme and that the scheme be implemented with effect from June 2014.

(ii) To approve contribution to Concra Wood Golf Club

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed that the Council allocate a contribution of €5,000 in sponsorship of the Golf Tournament being organised by Concra Wood Golf Club.

(iii) To approve recommendation re presentations to Environment SPC

The Council approved the recommendation from the CPG that presentations from the IFA Poultry Committee and Love Ireland Food be made to the Environment SPC.

(iv) To adopt minutes of CPG meeting

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Bannigan it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 20th May, 2013, be approved.

5. To fix date for Special Meeting to consider the Draft Development Contribution Scheme and the Manager's Report on Submissions received.

It was agreed that a special meeting would be held following the Annual meeting of the Council to consider the Draft Development Contribution Scheme and the Manager's Report on submissions received.

6. To fix date for Annual Meeting of the Council.

It was agreed that the Annual Meeting of the Council would be held on Monday 17th June at 10.00 am

7. Proposed Eirgrid 440kv Interconnector

There was no discussion on this item as the Council had met with EirGrid officials earlier that day.

8. To receive reports from Members attending Conferences

The Members noted the reports from Cllrs Bennett, Conlon, Connolly, Coyle, Crowe, McNally, O'Hanlon and P. Treanor in relation to their attendance at the following conferences –

- LAMA Annual Conference, Gorey, Co. Wexford.
- National Tourism Conference, Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow.
- Identifying the Tourism Product, Rosscarberry, Co. Cork
- Local Tourism and the Councillor, Wexford.
- Domestic Water and Fluoridation Conference, Cork
- Local Government and the Consumer, Bundoran, Co. Donegal
- Sustainable Tourism, Dundalk, Co. Louth.
- 5th Annual Laurentic Conference, Bunrana, Co. Donegal.
- ICLRD Planning Conference, Newry, Co. Down.

9. Business submitted by County Manager:

Castleblayney Courthouse: The County Manager advised the Council that he had received an estimate of the cost of structural repairs to Castleblayney Courthouse. It was agreed that a meeting of the sub-Committee would be held in Castleblayney on 28th June, 2013 at 2pm to discuss the matter.

10. Matters arising out of minutes of Council meetings held on 7th and 20th May, 2013

Cllr Bennett produced a sample of water from the Scotstown water supply and asked that the County Manager would have the supply tested independently. She also sought confirmation from the Manager that the sample complied with the hardness level recommended by the World Health Organisation.

Cllr McNally also handed the Manager a sample of water for testing.

The County Manager stated that two thirds of the country's water supply is classified as hard water. He will arrange to have the sample tested and to have an advice note for consumers placed on the Council's web-site, giving advice on how to deal with hard water. He confirmed that all tests are undertaken by independent accredited laboratories.

11. Questions

Cllr B. McKenna asked:

1. When will the repair of the wooden fence from Clontibret Chapel to Clontibret village be completed as sections of this fence have been down since December 2012 and possibly earlier; will the Council consult with the NRA in relation to the planting of a hedge along this route as the wooden fence will be in need of constant repair?

Reply: *The Area Engineers Office has carried out an inspection of the fence and it appears that repairs have been carried out to the wooden fence by the local community. The Council will consult with the NRA regarding the planting of a hedge.*

2. How many litter fines have been issued from January 2013 to April 2013; have there been any prosecutions in 2013 for litter offences?

Reply: *There were 80 litter fines issued from Jan – May 2013. 40 fines have been paid and 7 files have been referred to Council solicitor for prosecution.*

Cllr S. Conlon asked:

3. In reference to the Council's administration of the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) and representations I have made, and specifically regarding the transition process from a constituent in receipt of rent allowance in excess of 18 months to

becoming included in the RAS, what is the average timescale for this transition? Is 12 months considered typical?

Reply: *The Rental Accommodation Scheme caters for the accommodation needs of persons who are in receipt of rent supplement, normally for more than 18 months. Monaghan County Council enters into a contractual arrangement with the landlord of either the rent supplement recipients existing accommodation, or where this is not suitable, alternative accommodation. However this is subject to the landlord being willing to enter into the RAS contract, the landlord being tax compliant, the property meeting the minimum standards for private rental accommodation and the landlord having registered or agreeing to register the tenancy with the Private Rented Tenancies Board (PRTB). The process is ongoing and the timescale for each application may vary pending available resources and subject to the reasons outlined.*

Cllr S. Conlon asked:

4. Can assurances be given by the Executive that an International Schoolboys Boxing Event, being promoted as a tourism related sponsored “Gathering Event” and held in Tyholland over the May 25th weekend, will have their budgetary requirements met through either the Irish Public Bodies Flagship Events Fund or the Council’s “The Gathering” fund as per previous commitments and assurances given that the costs of this event would be met through “The Gathering” related funding streams.

Reply: *The ABAI applied for funding to IPB for the European Schoolboy Championships in November 2012. However the event did not proceed and so the approved grant assistance was withdrawn by IPB. The maximum financial support under the Local Gathering Fund was provided by Monaghan County Council, out of its own resources, for a Schoolboys Boxing Event v Scotland Schoolboys, held on 25/26 May 2013 in Tyholland.*

5. Regarding the proposed junction safety improvement works at Oriel Way and Clones Rd. as agreed at the February Roads Area Meeting, and considering regular traffic delays on the Clones Rd. during school term, will these works be undertaken during the summer months?

Reply: *The proposed works consist of additional road markings and signage at the junction of Oriel Way and the N54 Clones Road to improve awareness of the junction, it is envisaged that this work will be completed in early autumn.*

6. Following the recent publication of an independent report that advocates enhanced tourism opportunities and initiatives at Rossmore Park, to what extent are negotiations advancing between Monaghan County Council and Coillte regarding potential leasing arrangements of the Park by the Council?

Reply: *Negotiations are at an early stage. Two meetings have been held and Coillte has been most positive towards the Council’s proposals. However Coillte has indicated that it has existing contractual commitments in respect of works to Rossmore Park in 2013, so no agreement can be implemented until next year at the earliest.*

Cllr C. McPhillips asked:

7. As you enter Scotshouse village, along the Cavan road, you will note a sign indicating the village name. This sign has recently been vandalised and has an obscenity graffitied across it. Can Monaghan County Council please remove the graffiti and notify the Garda Síochána of this incident?

Reply: Monaghan County Council has removed the sign in question and ordered a replacement.

8. As you leave Newbliss village along the Ballybay road, there is a local road to the left immediately after the beginning of the 80 km limit. Visibility from this road, when trying to come out on the main road is extremely poor. Has Monaghan County Council any plans to improve visibility at this junction?

Reply: Monaghan County Council applied for funding to carryout minor improvements to the junction as part of a Low Cost Safety Improvement scheme for the R183. The council were unsuccessful in receiving an allocation in 2013 and intend reapplying for funding in 2014.

9. Can Monaghan County Council please advise what works it intends to carry out at the junction of the Corcaghan road in Threemilehouse village to improve safety and visibility? When are these works likely to commence? Is any road closures or disruption to local residents anticipated?

Reply: Monaghan County Council are in the process of designing a scheme for the junction concerned and it will consist of a central island and improved road markings. The project is due for commencement in August and at this stage road closures are not envisaged.

10. Can Monaghan County Council, please advise whether a student who currently obtains their college maintenance grant from the local authority, and who in September 2013 intends to progress from a Level 6 course to a Level 7 course or likewise from a Level 7 course to a Level 8 course, should renew their application with the local authority or make a new application with SUSI? Does it make any difference whether their course always had the option of an additional year to complete the higher level?

Reply: Monaghan County Council deals with courses at Level 8 only. County Monaghan VEC deals with courses at Level 7, 6 and 5.

The new central online application system for student grants went live in the 2012/13 academic year. Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) accept all new student grant applications, including applications from existing students changing their courses or progressing to new courses (be they add-on courses or otherwise) from the 2012/13 academic year onwards. The existing grant awarding authorities will continue to process renewal applications for students to whom they have already awarded grants until such time as those students have completed their current courses.

In relation to grant applicants who have deferred a year of their course and are applying for a student grant in the 2012/13 academic year, the position is that if the student was in receipt of a grant from a grant awarding authority in respect of any year of their current course then this constitutes a renewal application. The renewal application should be submitted to the grant awarding authority which had awarded them a grant initially. However, where a student deferred but was never actually in receipt of a grant for any year of their current course, this application would be considered a new application and the student should apply on-line to SUSI.

Cllr S. Coyle asked:

11. There have been numerous accidents on the R189 (Threemilehouse Village - Monaghan) at Kilnaclay, Threemilehouse, in particular on the road between the end of the village footpath to the 50km speed limit signs on the Monaghan side of Threemilehouse village. What action does Monaghan County Council propose to make this road safe in order to prevent more potentially serious road accidents?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council had previously extended the speed limit on the Monaghan Road approaching Threemilehouse in order to reduce vehicular speeds entering and exiting the corner concerned. Clones Area office are currently investigating the most recent traffic incidents to determine their cause and what further measures could be applied to the area.*

12. Can Monaghan County Council outline the following in relation to Septic Tank inspections/remediation or upgrading works:
a) What is the application process for grants for upgrading works on Septic tanks under the Rural Water Programme 2013 & where can application be made for grant assistance?

Reply: *Any householder who has had their septic tank inspected and have been issued with a failed advisory note can apply for a grant. It should be noted that grant assistance will only be available to householders that registered their septic tank by the 1st Feb. 2013. Also an income limit of €75,000 per household will apply. Applications will be made through the Local Authority.*

b) Who can carry out upgrading/remediation works on septic tanks and is there a registration process for contractors for certification/approval to carry out such works?

Reply: *At present it is not proposed to have a registration process for contractors to carry out remedial works.*

c) Can residents apply to Monaghan County Council to have their septic tank/domestic water treatment system inspected to allow them to have works carried out and qualify for grant assistance?

Reply: *No. Inspections will be carried out on a risk priority basis.*

13. Will Monaghan County Council carry out immediate works on the surface of the Swann's Cross roundabout (junction R183-188)? The road surface is currently in poor condition.

Reply: Monaghan County Council has received an allocation of €70,000 in 2013 to carryout resurfacing works on the Rockcorry approach to the roundabout and on the roundabout itself. It is hoped that works will commence in early August.

Clr C. Bennett asked:

14. In the interest of the community alert scheme being started in the North Monaghan Area, it is required that road numbers are in place on the roads, to facilitate a clear understanding of locations. There is a lack of road number signs on the Scotstown – Tydavnet road. Could Monaghan County Council ensure that road number signs are placed on this road, and other roads without number signs.

Reply: Monaghan County Council received funding in 2008 and 2009 to improve signage on the regional road network in the County. Road numbers for local roads were provided at the locations where those local roads formed a junction with the regional network only. The scheme did not extend to the local road network.

15. In the interest of public safety and in order to prevent damage to cars, could Monaghan County Council ensure the people of St. Dympna's Terrace, Scotstown, that the square and other commons areas will be resurfaced in the near future in the estate. The common areas in St. Dympna's Terrace have become a health hazard and is in a very bad state of disrepair. It is very dangerous and unsafe for all the residents of the estate.

Reply: Monaghan County Council have currently no plans to carry out resurfacing works at St Dympna's Terrace in Scotstown, as there is no funding allocation available to carry out resurfacing at that location.

16. In relation to the hardness of the drinking water in the Ballinode, Scotstown and Knockatallon areas -
(a) "Why should the people Ballinode, Scotstown and Knockatallon be subjected to these additional costs that other areas are not subjected to?"
(b) "Would anyone in Monaghan County Council like to drink this water?"

Reply: All Natural Waters (i.e. water from lakes, rivers, springs, wells and boreholes) contain dissolved minerals, one of the commonest being Calcium (often called "Lime") which causes hardness in the water. The more calcium present, the "harder" the water. Water with a low level of Calcium is said to be "soft". The original source of Calcium hardness is limestone, which is the natural bedrock in large areas of County Monaghan.

Hardness in water has a number of different effects, some obvious, and some not so obvious:

- 1. Hard water is generally regarded by consumers as being more palatable than soft water.**
- 2. Soft water can corrode pipes and fittings; hard water will not.**
- 3. When hard water is heated, a white Calcium deposit known as "lime scale" will form.**
- 4. Higher levels of hardness in Drinking Water are statistically**

associated with slightly lower levels of heart disease and cancer (about 15 to 20%, according to studies carried out in the USA, in Britain, and elsewhere in Europe).

Knockatallon is not serviced by water from Monaghan County Council. The Knockatallon area is serviced by Aughnashalvey & Tydavnet Group Water Schemes. Monaghan County Council service the Ballinode, Scotstown, and Monaghan area. Water in Monaghan PWS comes from two sources – groundwater wells (hard water), treated at Crosses WTP and surface water lakes (soft water) treated at Togan WTP. Water from both plants is sent to Gortakeegan Towers where it is mixed and distributed to Monaghan Town and surrounding areas.

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

There is no set limit on hardness under the Drinking Water Regulations which transposed the EU Drinking Water Directive [80/778/EEC] into Irish law.

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

Cllr C. Bennett asked:

17. As a matter of urgency I would like to ask Monaghan County Council if they have examined the feasibility of extending the pathway from Scotstown Village to The Ferns housing estate on the Roslea road, on the left hand side. This is an extremely dangerous part of the road, for pedestrians and motorists. Young families live in both estates on this road and the road is clearly unsafe. The people of Scotstown, would appreciate your time in examining this urgently, as a fatal accident is certain to occur.

Reply: *Monaghan County Council will examine the feasibility of extending the footpath in this location and will discuss the matter at the next Road Area Committee Meeting to determine a possible source of funding.*

Cllr R. Gallagher asked:

18. (a) Could the Council outline the position in relation to the NPPR (2nd Home Tax) in the light of the newly introduced Local Property Tax Who is liable to pay?

Reply: *As set out in the Local Government (Charges) Act 2009, as amended, liability to pay the charge is determined on the basis of ownership of the property in question on a single day each year. If you own property and it is not your only or main residence on the liability date in any year, you must pay the charge of €200. The charge applies to all residential property you own except your main home. The onus is on the homeowner, to come forward and pay the charge to the local authority in which the property is located.*

- *The NPPR continues to apply for the year 2013 and should be paid to the local authority as in previous years. You also have to pay the new Local Property Tax (LPT) on the property in 2013 and future years.*
- *The NPPR will no longer be charged for the years after 2013, but outstanding liabilities and payments will still be collected.*
- *The Household Charge was payable on the property for the year 2012 in addition to the NPPR.*

Cllr R. Gallagher asked:

(b) What are the relevant dates for payment?

Reply: *This date, which is called the "liability date", is 31st July for 2009 and is 31st March in 2010 and subsequent years. The charge must be paid within three months of the liability date (31st October in 2009 and 30th June for 2010 and subsequent years) in order to avoid late payment fees.*

(c) How much does the county collect per annum from this tax?

Reply: *The NPPR charge is collected by the LGMA on behalf of the Local Authorities. The latest data available from the LGMA indicates the following amounts have been collected in respect of properties in County Monaghan*

<i>2009</i>	<i>€574,880</i>
<i>2010</i>	<i>€572,740</i>
<i>2011</i>	<i>€543,900</i>
<i>2012</i>	<i>€534,380</i>

These amounts are split between the County and Town Councils as follows 33.99% in respect of County Council and 66.01% in respect of Town Councils.

19. In relation to the 'Kerry Lee" Junction in Ballinode Village could the Council erect signage (Stop Signs/Yield Signs) at this busy junction in the interest of road safety?

Reply: *At this junction, there are currently two roads which already have yield signs and yield road markings. The Council will examine this location to see if further safety measure could be incorporated under the Low Cost Safety Improvement Scheme.*

20. Could the Council investigate the large volume of rubbish dumped along the road side in the townland of Kilfahavon, Emyvale Co Monaghan?

Reply: *The Area Engineer has confirmed that the Area staff have cleaned up this site in question under the Spring Clean programme*

Cllr M. Carthy asked:

21. When does the Council intend to carry out restoration works at Annahean Lane as agreed in the Annual Roads Programme 2013?

Reply: *It is planned to carry out drainage and resurfacing works over the summer months.*

22. When will resurfacing works take place at Derryolam Court, Carrickmacross?

Reply: *It is planned to carry out resurfacing works over the summer months in this estate.*

23. Is the Council satisfied that tender documents relating to the proposed Group Home for women with physical/sensory disabilities at Drummond Otra, Carrickmacross will be issued in July as previously advised?

Reply:

- *Respond, an approved housing body, are in the process of progressing the detailed design for the project. Respond has advised Monaghan County Council that it is envisaged that tender documents will be issued in August 2013 (the issuing of tender documentation was previously advised to occur in July 2013).*
 - *Respond also note that completed tenders will be returned by end of August 2013. Subject to approval of the Department it is envisaged that works will commence on site in October 2013. Construction programme is expected to be 12 months. Works will therefore be completed by October 2014.*
24. Will the Council ensure that necessary works are carried out on the playing field at Cloughvalley Park to ensure that it is available for ball games during the Summer Holiday months?

Reply: *Some drainage works have been carried out and it is proposed to complete works in coming weeks.*

12. Notices of Motion:

Cllr P. Connolly proposed, Cllr Carthy seconded

1. *That in view of current difficulties being experienced by the farming community and the serious decline in staffing levels at Teagasc that Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Agriculture Mr. Simon Coveney, T.D., to ensure that adequate staffing levels are provided and maintained at Teagasc in County Monaghan.*

It was agreed that Notice of Motion 12(7) would be taken at this time.

Cllr Carthy proposed, Cllr Connolly seconded

- 7. That this Council calls on the Minister for Agriculture & Food to take immediate action in relation to the serious decline in staffing levels at the Teagasc office in Monaghan which will ultimately lead to a totally unsatisfactory level of service to the farming community at a time when they most need assistance.*

The Mayor put both motions to the meeting and they were agreed unanimously.

Cllr Connolly proposed, Cllr S. Treanor seconded

- 2. That Monaghan County Council write to the National Roads Authority requesting an update on our request to have 'Monaghan' signposted from the M1 at Junction 14 – similar to signage on the N4 and N6 indicating other intermediate towns.*

The motion was put to the meeting and agreed unanimously.

Cllr S. Coyle proposed, Cllr McPhillips seconded

- 3. That Monaghan County Council urges the Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence, Alan Shatter T.D. and the Courts Service Board not to accept the recommendation of the Court Services Building Committee to close Clones District Court at their Board meeting on June 27th 2013. That Monaghan County Council make a full and detailed submission to the Courts Services Board by June 13th 2013 supporting the continuation of Clones District Court sittings and the enhancement of Court Services in Clones.*

The motion was put to the meeting and agreed unanimously. It was agreed that a submission would be made to the Courts Service by June 13th.

Cllr Coyle proposed, Cllr Murray seconded

- 4. That Monaghan County Council requests the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government Phil Hogan T.D. to immediately reverse the 18% cut in funding to Cavan-Monaghan Leader, under the Rural Development Programme 2007-2013, under the revised allocation of €9,923,866 from the indicative allocation of €12,035,118, a cut of €2,111,252 from the commencement of the programme to counties Cavan and Monaghan*

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

Cllr PJ O'Hanlon proposed, Cllr O'Brien seconded

- 5. That Monaghan County Council calls on the Government to negotiate with the Soft Drinks Industry to reduce the level of sugar in minerals rather than increasing the taxation on soft drinks.*

The motion was put to the meeting. A vote by show of hands resulted in 11 for, 1 against and 1 abstention. The Deputy Mayor declared the motion carried.

Cllr R. Gallagher indicated that he wished to withdraw the following motion.

6. *That this Council calls on the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, to immediately inform applicants to the AEOS 111 Scheme whether their submissions were accepted or not.*

Cllr M. Carthy proposed, Cllr Conlon seconded

7. *That Monaghan County Council notes the publication of the Regional Quality of Life report from the Central Statistics office last month. We further note that this report highlights in stark terms the neglect of the Border Region which includes Monaghan. The report shows that this region has the highest rates of unemployment, empty homes, medical card holders, voter apathy and emigration and lower rates of investment than anywhere else in this state. This is further evidence of the negative impact of partition, conflict and the neglect of successive governments on this region.*

That Monaghan County Council hereby calls for:

- *A specific targeted job creation strategy for the Border Region.*
- *The full development of all-Ireland economic policies including the planning for the harmonisation of tax rates, currency and financial services.*
- *Investment in vital infrastructural projects within the border region and on a cross-border basis.*

That, if passed, we forward a copy of this motion to An Taoiseach and to the Minister's for Finance and Enterprise, Trade & Employment. That we also forward to each County Council in the Border Region.

The motion was put to the meeting and agreed unanimously.

13. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations.

It was agreed to extend a vote of sympathy to the following:

- Paul McGeown, a member of Monaghan Town Council on the death of his mother.
- The family of the late Bill McLoughlin, RIP, Teehill, Clones, a former member of Clones Town Council

It was agreed to extend a vote of congratulations to the following:

- Ramanus Ramanauskas on winning the U17 Singles All Ireland 40x20 Handball Title.
- Eoghan McGinnity, Tyholland on winning the U12 Ulster Handball Championship
- Eleanor McQuaid, Coolartragh, Clontibret on qualifying for the Rose of Tralee finals in Tralee.
- Glaslough Development Association and Tidy Towns Committee for their efforts in securing Glaslough onto the "long list" of the top 45 of Irelands Top Tourism Towns and extend best wishes for success in the finals in November.

14. Conferences.

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

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members Selected
Social Farming Cross Borders	Living an Ordinary Life	Landmark Hotel. Carrick on Shannon Co. Leitrim	12th June 2013	Cllr Seamus Coyle Cllr Pat Treanor
European Union ERD Fund	East Border Region Conference	Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim, Co Meath.	13th June 2013	Cllr Sean Conlon
TGR Seminars	Information Seminar for Councillors	Bunratty Castle Hotel, Bunratty, Co. Clare.	14th-15th June 2013	Cllr Seamus Coyle
Border, Midland & Western Regional Assembly	“Contribution of Cohesion & Urban Policy to Economic Recovery”	Royal Hospital. Kilmainham Dublin	19th June 2013	Cllr Jackie Crowe Cllr Gary Carville Cllr Aidan Murray Cllr Seamus Coyle
European Union ERD Fund	East Border Region Members Forum Meeting	Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle, Co. Down.	27th June 2013	Cllr Aidan Murray
Synge Summer School	Synge Summer School	Rathdrum. Co Wicklow	27th – 30th June 2013	Cllr R Gallagher
Celtic Conferences	European Movement Ireland	Celtic Ross Hotel. Rosscarbery, Co Cork.	28th – 30th June 2013	Cllr Seamus Coyle Cllr PJ O’Hanlon

The meeting then concluded.