

Minutes of Council Meeting held in the Mtek Building, Knockaconny, Monaghan on Tuesday 5th June, 2007 10.00 a.m.

Chair: Cllr P McNally, Mayor

Present: Cllrs Bannigan, Carthy, Coyle, Crowe, Gallagher, Humphreys, Keelan, Keenan, Kieran, Maxwell, McAnespie, McElvaney, O'Brien, P. McKenna, B. McKenna, and Treanor.

Mr. D. Nelson, County Manager, Mr. P. Clifford, Mr M Fitzpatrick, Mr. A. King, Mr. D. Fallon, Directors of Service, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr A Hughes, Senior Planner, Mr Drew Hurley, Senior Executive Planner, Mr Padraig Maguire, Executive Planner, Ms Shirley Clerkin, Heritage Officer, Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator and Ms. A. Mackle, A/Staff Officer.

Apologies Cllr Martin.

At the outset, the Mayor stated that he wished to congratulate all the successful candidates in the recent General election and to commiserate with the unsuccessful candidates. He conveyed an apology from Cllr Martin who was unable to be present at the meeting and stated that Cllr Martin had wished to extend his thanks to Ms Josephine Duffy, Co Registrar for the excellent way in which she conducted the count. Cllr B McKenna and Cllr McElvaney said they too wished to concur with the Mayor's sentiments regarding both successful and unsuccessful election candidates. The County Manager associated himself with the congratulations on behalf of the staff of the Council.

Mayor McNally requested the consent of the Council to holding the Annual Meeting in the Respond Centre on the Convent Lands in Carrickmacross on the 18th June. This was agreed.

1. Minutes:

(a) Minutes of Council meeting held on 8th May, 2007

Cllr McElvaney stated that in relation to the proposal put forward by himself and seconded by Cllr Maxwell in relation to the All Ireland bus travel pass, the following should have been included **“that in Northern Ireland the partner of a senior citizen be allowed free travel when accompanying the senior citizen, as this was already occurring through out the rest of Ireland”**. This amendment was agreed.

“On the proposal of Cllr P Treanor, seconded by Cllr D Maxwell, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 8th May, 2007 be confirmed ”

2. Correspondence

- Letter from Armagh City and District Council from John Briggs, Clerk and Chief Executive regarding the location of Royal Irish Fusiliers Museum at Armagh
- Letter from Sorcha De Bruch, secretary to Minister O'Cuiv, Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs regarding the Ulster Canal.

- Letter from Cathy Bruton, Private Secretary to Minister Dick Roche, TD, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government regarding Dog Control Legislation.
- Letter from Martin McDonald, National Director of Human Resources of the HSE regarding the INO/PNA Nurses Work-to-Rule
- Joint Southern Border County Council's Submission on the Interreg IV Programme Consultation Document
- Letter from Doreen Murray, Programme Division of the NRA regarding a proposed meeting between Monaghan County Council and the National Roads Authority
- Letter from Dionne Newell, Correspondence Clerk from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development regarding the Re-opening of the Ulster Canal

Ulster Canal

On the proposal of Cllr P Treanor, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that a letter be sent to the Chair of the Statutory Committee, the Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure regarding the Re-opening of the Ulster Canal and that the Social Economic Study on this issue be included.

Register of Electors

A debate took place on this item during which a number of the Members gave examples of complaints they had received during the recent General Election process from electors who had been disenfranchised as a result of their names being omitted from the current Register of Electors. Concerns were again raised at the methods which had been used in the compilation of the register. Reference was made to the fact that the Revenue Collectors who had been responsible for the compilation of previous Registers did not have a role in relation to the current register. The Members requested that problems encountered be addressed before the next Local Elections.

Mr. M. Fitzpatrick, Director of Services acknowledged the comments made by Members in the relation to the Register of Electors. He stated that the timeframe for the process was too short and the methodology specified by the Department of the Environment was not satisfactory. The Council had engaged 34 people to undertake the fieldwork. All but three of the Revenue Collectors had opted out of the process. He agreed that there was a need to have a unique identifier going forward.

The following resolutions were passed by the Council.

On the proposal of Cllr Keenan seconded by Cllr Humphreys it was agreed that the Council expresses its concern at the serious inaccuracies in the Register of Electors and calls on the Minister to change the law to allow the use of the PPS numbers in the compilation of the Register as a way of identifying each elector and allowing them to be registered automatically when they reach the age of eighteen years ”

Cllr McAnespie proposed Cllr B. McKenna seconded and it was agreed that the Council write to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government requesting that students attending college in Northern Ireland and England be

permitted to vote by post as currently these students are denied this facility and also to people who have booked a foreign holiday in advance of an election being called.

Cllr Bannigan proposed, Cllr Keenan seconded and it was that the Council write to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government requesting that the option of a postal vote be available to anyone who wants it.

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr P Treanor it was agreed that in any future elections in the county that all polling stations are fully accessible to persons with a disability.

Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator requested that the Members submit details of any polling station where difficulties were encountered in relation to accessibility and she would forward them to Ms. J. Duffy, Returning Officer. She also requested that where the Members were aware of people who had been omitted from the Register that details be forwarded to the Corporate Affairs Section for follow up.

Dog Control

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed to invite the MSPCA to attend a meeting the Council to give a presentation on their work in the county and their views on the banning of dangerous dog breeds.

Meeting between Monaghan County Council and the National Roads Authority

The Members welcomed the response from the National Roads Authority confirming that it would meet a delegation from the Council on either the 14th or 22nd June. It was agreed to accept the date of 22nd June and that the delegation would comprise two Members of each Political Party along with Mayor and officials.

Royal Irish Fusiliers Museum at Armagh

The Members agreed to send a letter to Armagh District Council confirming support for the retention of the Royal Irish Fusiliers Museum at its present location in Armagh. Cllr McElvaney said he was not in favour of this proposal.

Interreg IV Programme:

Mr. D. Nelson, County Manager stated that he wished to draw the members attention to the Joint Southern Border County Council's submission on the Interreg IV Programme Consultation document which was circulated with the correspondence. The submission stated that the Southern Border County Councils believe that there is an important role for the existing Cross Border corridor groups to support local authorities north and south of the border and in Scotland engage with the programme. The Councils also believe that certain elements of the Programme can best be implemented by the existing Border Corridor Groups because of their knowledge of governmental and non-governmental organisations and systems on both sides of the border and their familiarity with personnel and working practices on each side of the border. The Southern Border County Councils are committed to optimising the role and supports

offered by the cross border corridor groups in building this organisational capacity, in the sharing of experience and in supporting generally the implementation of the new INTERREG IV programme.

3. Section 183 – Disposal of land at Drummond Otra, Carrickmacross:

On the proposal of Cllr Keenan, seconded by Cllr McNally the Members approved the disposal of .43 hectares of land (Industrial Site No. 8) at the Convent Lands, Drummond Otra, Carrickmacross, Co Monaghan to Mr. Brendan Larney, Solicitor, in trust for M/s Owen Finnegan and Breen Jackson in accordance with the terms of notice dated 21st May 2007 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

4. Proposed variation to County Development Plan 2007 – 2013 to incorporate the Housing Strategy

Cllr Carthy proposed, Cllr McElvaney seconded that the draft Housing Strategy be referred to the Housing/Corporate Affairs Strategic Policy Committee for discussion before consideration by the full Council.

Mr. P. Clifford, Director of Services Planning, said it was a requirement under Section 94 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 that a Housing Strategy be adopted with a new County Development Plan. If the strategy is not adopted, Monaghan County Council cannot apply the provisions of Part V to any new housing development planning applications. He had delayed the completion of the revised Housing Strategy until after 29th March 2007, the date for publication of Census 2006 figures relating to demographic statistics. If the Council were to adopt the current Housing Strategy into the new Development Plan the Strategy for the period 2007-2013 would be based on demographic figures from Census 2002. Mr. Sean O’Riordain from Environmental Resources Management Ireland Ltd. had been engaged by the Council to prepare the Strategy.

The Mayor invited Mr. O’Riordain to address the Members.

Mr. O’Riordain then gave a presentation to the Council on the Housing Strategy. In his presentation he outlined the background to the Strategy which had been compiled using data from the 2006 Census and the ERSI. The Strategy identifies a growth in population and the need to provide housing units to meet this capacity. He added that approx. 3,780 housing units will be required over the period of the development plan and that it is an objective of the Council to develop 20% of residentially zoned land for social and affordable housing under Part V of the Planning & Development Act 2000.

The Mayor thanked Mr. O’Riordain for his presentation.

Cllr Bannigan proposed, Cllr Humphreys seconded that the Council agree to vary the Monaghan County Development Plan 2007-2013, to incorporate the Monaghan Housing Strategy, in accordance with the provisions of Section 13(4) of the Planning & Development Act 2000.

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

It was further agreed to refer the Housing Strategy to the Housing/Corporate Affairs SPC for consideration.

Mr. M. Fitzpatrick stated that there was no problem in discussing the implementation of the Housing Strategy at SPC level. He agreed to prepare a report for the Members on housing acquisitions under Part V.

Urgent Business

The Mayor stated that he had received two items of Urgent Business, as follows:

Notice 1 - in the names of Cllrs Bannigan, McElvaney, Maxwell, P McKenna and Keenan.

“That this Council condemns the recent lack of Government Investment in Co Monaghan and in particular the refusal to grant aid the proposed cheese plant at Lough Egish and the proposed Theatre in Monaghan Town”

Notice 2 - in the names of Cllrs Gallagher, McElvaney and McKenna

“It is proposed that Monaghan County Council revisit at the next Council meeting, The Retail Park on the Clones Road, with a view to a variation of the Development Plan on the basis of it being an existing Retail Park. In order for Monaghan Town to attract much sought after Multi National Retailers.

The Members agreed to defer discussion on both these item until the adjourned meeting.

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

(i) Ref No: 06/80012(a)

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was agreed to approve the demolition, removal and replacement of Tullynanure Bridge on the main Monaghan to Armagh road (Ref 06/80012a) as per Director’s report dated 25th May, 2007”

(ii) Ref No. 06/80012(b)

On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr Crowe the Members agreed to the demolition, removal and replacement of Corleadargan Bridge on the main Monaghan to Castleblayney road (Ref 06/80012b) as per Director’s report dated 25th May, 2007.

6. To approve the raising of a loan for new Library Van:

On the proposal of Cllr P Treanor, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed to approve the raising of a loan of €108,868 for the purchase and fit out of a new Schools Mobile Library Van.

7. Conservation Grant Scheme 2007:

The Members considered the Report dated 23rd May 2007 from Ms. Shirley Clerkin, Heritage Officer in relation to the allocation of funding under the Conservation Grants Scheme 2007. Ms. Clerkin advised that 15 applications were received under the scheme. Architectural Recording and Research, acting as Conservation Consultants, recommend that 13 applicants receive grant aid with a total grant value of €120,000 in accordance with the Council's scheme of priorities for the conservation of protected structures.

On the proposal of Cllr Kieran, seconded by Cllr B McKenna it was agreed approve the allocation of the following grants under the Conservation Grant Scheme for Protected Structures 2007.

| Ref | Structure | Amount of Grant |
|------------|---|------------------------|
| CG02/07 | St. Macartan's Church, Rockcorry | €12,700 |
| CG04/07 | Cahans Church, Ballybay | €12,700 |
| CG05/07 | Farmeehaul House, Monaghan | €4,000 |
| CG06/07 | Creevagh Presbyterian Church, Ballybay | €12,700 |
| CG07/07 | Castle Leslie, Glaslough | €12,700 |
| CG08/07 | St. Louis School, Monaghan | €12,700 |
| CG09/07 | Our Lady of Knock RC Church, Ballintra, Ballybay. | €6,800 |
| CG10/07 | Christ Church, Ballybay | €7,750 |
| CG11/07 | Patrick Kavanagh Centre, Inniskeen | €6,100 |
| CG12/07 | Hilton Park | €10,000 |
| CG13/07 | Frankford Presbyterian Church, Castleblayney | €6,000 |
| CG14/07 | St.Maudains Church, Errigal Truagh | €3,150 |
| CG15/07 | Maghernacloy Castle, Carrickmacross | €12,700 |
| | Total | €120,000 |

It was further agreed that should additional funding become available in 2007 that the two projects which were not recommended for funding i.e. Dawson's Column, and the Lady Anne Dawson Temple, Dartrey would be considered for this funding.

8. To approve nomination of representative to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee:

On the proposal of Cllr Kieran, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed to approve the nomination of Barney Power as Traveller Representative to the Local Traveller accommodation Consultative Committee.

9. **Policy on disposal of land** – it was agreed to defer this item to the adjourned meeting.

10 **Scheme to Improve the Clones Road Junction in Ballybay:**

Cllr Bannigan referred to a meeting of the mid Monaghan Members in relation to the dangerous junction at the Clones Road/Main Street, Ballybay and he urged the Council to carry out improvements to make the junction safer. The County Manager stated that a draft report had been submitted to him. The Members were recommending the purchase of two buildings to allow the widening of the junction which would alleviate the problem being experienced by heavy goods vehicles. Whilst he was in favour of the proposal no funding package was in place and there was no funding available within the existing roads budget. He stated that EU co-financed funding may be available for the project as both roads were regional roads.

The Mid Monaghan Members agreed to hold a further meeting to discuss this matter and bring their findings to the adjourned Council meeting.

Items 11, 12, and 13 were deferred to the Adjourned Council meeting.

14. **To fix dates for meetings:**

The following meetings were arranged -

- (i) **Roads and Environment SPC** – Tuesday 12th June at 3.00 p.m. in the Town Chamber, Monaghan Town Council.
- (ii) **CPG** – Monday 11th June at 2.00 p.m. in the Conference Room, The Glen, Monaghan
- (iii) **Offices Working Group Meeting** – Monday 11th June at 3.00 in the Conference Room, The Glen, Monaghan
- (iv) **Clar Subcommittee** – June 18th at 3.30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Carrickmacross Town Council, Shercock Road, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan.

20. **Questions:**

(a) **Cllrs Brenda McAnespie and Brian Mc Kenna asked**

- (i) Will this Council consider the installation of traffic calming measures on the Mullan road leading from Emyvale village?

Reply - Monaghan County Council have a proposal to provide a table-top ramp on the Mullan Road on the approach to the N2 Dublin – Derry National Road Junction. The table top ramp will slow traffic in the vicinity of the junction and will also facilitate pedestrian movements across the mouth of the junction.

- (ii) In view of the hazard currently presented to pedestrians, would the Council in consultation with the N.R.A. and the local residents, re-examine the provision of pedestrian operated traffic lights at Main St Emyvale?

Reply - The National Roads Authority Road Safety Engineer visited the site on the 7th November 2006 following representations made about the existing zebra crossing. He determined there were no visibility issues with the crossing and was satisfied with the operation of the zebra crossing. Monaghan County Council will request the location is re-assessed by the Road Safety Engineer in the context of providing a pelican crossing (pedestrian operated traffic lights).

22. Votes of Congratulations:

The Members agreed to extend a vote of congratulations to

- Truagh Community Games on winning 3 All Ireland gold medals at the Community Games finals in Mosney.

23. Conferences

Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator advised the Members that there was approx. €23,000 remaining in the conferences budget – this did not include an amount of €10,000 which had been set aside for LAMA/General Council conferences to be held later in 2007.

On a vote by show of hands the Members agreed not to attend the Irish Business Post/Iquest 4th National Healthcare summit 2007 – “Building a better health service” in Croke Park Convention Centre, Dublin

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr O’Brien it was agreed that the Council would be represented at the following conferences by the Members listed below.

| Promoting Authority | Subject/Theme | Venue | Dates | Approx cost Per member | Members Selected |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|-------------------------------|---|
| Sunday Business Post/IQuest | 4 th National Healthcare Summit 2007/ Building a better health service | Croke Park Convention Centre, Dublin | 12 th & 13 th June 2007 | €1,250.00 | ----- |
| Confederation of European Councillors | Summer Seminar 2007/ Tackling Poverty & Social Need in Ireland, North & South | Killyhevlin Hotel, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh | 29 th June 2007 | €280.00 | Seamus Coyle Gary Carville John Keenan Owen Bannigan |

Conferences (contd):

| | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|----------------|--|
| Leitrim County Development Board/ Leitrim County Council | Your Place or Mine Conference/ Place the link to investment | Croke Park Convention Centre, Dublin | 21 st June 2007 | €390.00 | Padraig McNally Own Bannigan Hugh McElvaney Pat McKenna Jackie Crowe John O'Brien Robbie Gallagher |
| Brian Perry Summer School/ In Association with Wexford County Council, History Ireland | 13 th Brian/ Perry Summer School Theme: "1916- 1923 War, Civil War, Fallout" | Byrne Perry Summer School, Gorey, Co.Wexford | 29 th June 1 st July 2007 | €340.00 | Heather Humphreys Pat McKenna Hugh McElvaney Padraig McNally Pat Treanor VP Martin John O'Brien Benny Kieran |

Signed:

Meara_____
Meeting Administrator

Date
