

**Minutes of meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Mtek Building,
Armagh Road, Monaghan on Tuesday 7th June 2011 at 10.00 a.m.**

Chair: Cllr J. Crowe, Mayor.

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

Mr. D. Fallon, A/County Manager, Mr. P. Clifford, Mr. D. Treanor, Directors of Service, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Ms. N. Woods, SEO Housing, Ms. S. Deery, A.O. Housing and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

(i) Minutes of Council Meeting held on 3rd May, 2011

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 3rd May, 2011 be confirmed.

(ii) Minutes of Special Council meeting held on 23rd May, 2011

On the proposal of Cllr Murray, seconded by Cllr Conlon, it was agreed that the minutes of the Special Council meeting held on 23rd May, 2011, be confirmed.

2. Correspondence:

The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda:-

- Letter from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government conveying approval of the tender documents for the DBO contract of the Carrickmacross Water Supply Scheme.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Office of the Taoiseach in relation to the Universal Social Charge.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Office of the Taoiseach in relation to the Council's resolution regarding a 'nuclear free state'.
- Emails from Deputy S. Conlan and Deputy H. Humphreys in relation to meeting with the Minister for Health.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Transport in relation to the re-allocation of funding from NP and NS roads to regional and local roads.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Innovation in relation to the closure of the Ballybay Agricultural Office.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Innovation in relation to unfinished housing developments.

- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government in relation to unfinished housing developments.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Social Protection in relation to the Universal Social Charge.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Training and Skills in relation to school transport

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed that the Council refers the letter from the National Roads Authority in relation to signage for Monaghan on the M1 to the CDB Implementation Committee.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed that the Council write again to the Minister for Education and Skills, referring to the significant costs that will be imposed on third level students as a result of the changes announced to the mileage limit for the award of the non adjacent rate of higher education grant.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Keelan it was agreed that the Council makes a positive submission to the Review of the Operation of Part IV (Architectural Heritage) of the Planning & Development Act 2000.

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Connolly it was agreed that the Council write to the National Roads Authority enquiring what is the difference in signage policy between the M4 Dublin Galway and the M1 Dublin Belfast routes.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Carthy, it was agreed that the Council requests An Taoiseach to endorse the recent announcement by the German Government whereby Germany is to close all of its nuclear power plants by 2022 and for this Government to maximise the use of our country's own natural resources for energy production.

On the proposal of Cllr O'Brien, seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was agreed that the Council writes again to the Minister for Agriculture requesting that he meet with a deputation from the Council to discuss the closure of the Ballybay Agricultural office.

Cllr B. McKenna proposed, Cllr McElvaney seconded that the Mayor and one from each of the three political parties attend the meeting with the Minister for Health.

Cllr Connolly proposed, Cllr S. Treanor seconded that the Mayor and one from each of the three groupings including the Independents attend the meeting with the Minister for Health.

A recorded vote on Cllr B. McKenna's proposal resulted, as follows:

For: *Cllrs Bannigan, Carthy, Carville, Conlon, Coyle, Crowe, Gallagher, Keelan, Maxwell, B. McKenna, S. McKenna, McElvaney, McPhillips, McNally, Murray, O'Brien, O'Hanlon and P. Treanor.* **Total 18**

Against: *Cllrs Connolly and S. Treanor* **Total 2**

The Mayor declared that Cllr B. McKenna's proposal had been carried. As a result, Cllr Connolly's proposal was not put to the meeting.

The Mayor referred to letters received by the Members of the Council from Mr. Sean Gallagher, Senator David Norris and Ms. Mary Davis, in relation to the decision by them to contest the forthcoming Presidential election.

It was agreed on a show of hands vote (13 for, 5 against, 2 abstentions) that the Council would allocate time at the July Council meeting to allow the three candidates address the full Council.

3. To receive Draft Annual Financial Statement 2010 and approve over-expenditures and transfers to Capital Account

The Members noted the Draft Annual Financial Statement 2010 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 2010) and to approve over-expenditures as per Note 17 AFS 2010 and transfers to Capital Account per Note 15 AFS 2010, as per schedules submitted to the Members, as follows:

Transfer to Capital Account

	Transfer Amount	Budget Provision	Net Position
Loan Repayment Reserve	1,074,323	804,711	-269,612
Local Elections	63,464	20,000	-43,464
Members Gratuity Scheme	47,810	20,000	-27,810
Division C Adjustments Prior Years	1,819	0	-1,819
Machinery and Stores Surplus	248,760	0	-248,760
	361,853	40,000	-321,853

Division	Expenditure	Income	Net Position
	(Over)/Under	Over/(Under)	
	Budget	Budget	
	2010	2010	2010
	€	€	€
Road Transportation and Safety	-2,428,238	2,573,936	145,698
Development Management	-1,391,334	1,153,671	-237,663
Environmental Services	-43,232	407,084	363,852
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	-616,465	658,097	41,632
Miscellaneous Services	-113,140	-135,112	-248,252
	-4,592,409	4,657,676	65,267

4. To adopt the Social Housing Allocations Scheme:

Cllr M. Carthy, Chair of the Housing SPC outlined the terms of the Social Housing Allocations Scheme which had been circulated to the Members. The Scheme is prepared under Section 22 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 and replaces the Scheme of Letting Priorities approved by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government on 22nd December, 2008.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr O’Hanlon it was agreed that the Council adopt the Social Housing Allocations Scheme 2011, as circulated, in accordance with Section 22 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009.

5. To consider taking in charge housing development at Highfield, Carrickmacross under S.180 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000

The Members considered the recommendation from the Planning Section in relation to the taking in charge of the housing development at Highfield, Carrickmacross.

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that the Council approve the taking in charge of the development known as Highfield, Carrickmacross, in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

6. To receive report on Economic Activity and Council Projects January to May 2011

The Members noted the ‘Overview of Economic Activity in Monaghan County Council’ for the period January to May 2011, which had been circulated with the agenda.

7. Implementation of County Monaghan Economic Strategy 2010-2014

Cllr G. Carville, Chair of the County Development Board referred to the Interim Report on the Implementation of the County Monaghan Economic Strategy 2010-2014, copy of which had been circulated to the Members. The Report contained a progress report from each of the six Business Leaders Fora Champions detailing their progress to date and outlining their future plans.

The Members commended all involved with the preparation of the Interim Report.

Ms. D. Condra, Economic Development Officer and Mr. K. McNally, Business Leaders Facilitator responded to queries from the Members. Mr. McNally called on the members to bring details of the Rural Broadband Scheme to the attention of their constituents and advised that information on the scheme could be accessed on the Council and Department websites.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna it was agreed that in an effort to stimulate economic development by way of facilitating job creation initiatives, that Monaghan County Council, through the Business Leaders Fora, engage with the relevant local and national agencies with a view to establishing an enterprise centre on the site of the former Revenue Commissioners building at Coolshannagh, Monaghan.

8. To formally adopt the proposed additional Roads Restoration Improvement Programme under the additional grant allocation received from the Department of Transport in May 2011 as agreed by the four Road Area Committees

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr McPhillips it was agreed that the Council adopt the additional Roads Restoration Improvement Programme under the additional grant allocation received from the Department of Transport in May 2011 as agreed by the four Road Area Committees.

9. To fix date for the following meetings

(i) Corporate Policy Group meeting:

It was agreed that a meeting of the Corporate Policy Group would be held on Monday 20th June, 2011 at 9.00 a.m. in the Mtek Building, prior to the Annual meeting of the Council.

(ii) Development Contributions Allocations sub-committee meeting:

It was agreed that this item be placed on the agenda for the July meeting.

10. To receive reports from Members attending Conferences:

The Members noted the reports from Cllrs Carthy, Carville, Conlon, Connolly, Coyle, Gallagher, Keelan, McElvaney, B. McKenna, McNally, McPhillips, Murray, O'Brien and O'Hanlon in relation to their attendance at the following conferences –

- The Future of Irish Politics, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork
- BMW Regional Assembly Annual Conference, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.
- LAMA Spring Seminar, Dundalk, Co. Louth.
- RJK Energy Symposium, Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim.
- May-day Conference, Drogheda, Co. Louth.
- AMAI Spring Seminar, Bantry, Co. Cork.
- Carlow Tourism Conference, Carlow Town.
- ACCC Conference, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.
- Rattoo Heritage Society Annual Conference, Tralee, Co. Kerry

11. Proposed Eirgrid 440kv Interconnector

Cllr Bannigan referred to a letter from Eirgrid Plc confirming that officials would make a presentation to the Council on June 20th. Cllr Bannigan stated that he was disappointed that neither the Chief Executive nor the Chairperson of the Board of Eirgrid would not be present at that meeting.

Cllr Bannigan referred to the public consultation process which Eirgrid had commenced recently and called on the Council to make a submission to Eirgrid.

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Keelan, it was agreed that the Council write to An Taoiseach and the Ministers for Health, Environment, and Energy referring to the statement published recently by the World Health Organisation on magnetic fields and exposure to them in relation to mobile phones (now raised to a 'class two' category as possible cancer causing) and the similarities in emissions from high-voltage powerlines. Monaghan County Council wishes to enquire from An Taoiseach and the Ministers if they have concerns at the 100 micro tesla limits that apply in this country and if they will now put in place a limit of 0.4 micro tesla as already exists in other European countries.

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Keelan it was agreed that this Council requests the Planning SPC to commence the process to vary the Monaghan County Development Plan taking into consideration the findings of the WHO and the possible health effects associated with electro magnetic fields.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Bannigan it was agreed that this Council write to the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Mr. Pat Rabbitte, T.D., the Minister for State, Mr. Fergus O'Dowd and An Taoiseach Enda Kenny T.D., seeking an update on the implementation

of the Fine Gael pre-election promise that they would, in government, legislate for the reimbursement of costs arising from third party participation in the original Board Pleanála oral hearings into the EirGrid 400kv interconnector and that we also request that they outline in full the current government position relating to this project.

12. Business submitted by County Manager:

Peace III – Mr. D. Fallon, A/County Manager advised that the Peace III Programme had been concluded. €3.6m had been allocated and spent under the initiative. He thanked all staff involved with the administration of the project.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed that the Library Service would examine the possibility of providing a dedicated section in the library outlining work/initiatives undertaken under the Peace III Programme.

Lough Muckno: Mr. Fallon indicated that the recently formed ‘Lough Muckno Community Partnership’ had met with Castleblayney Town Council and had expressed a wish to become involved in the operation of the Lough Muckno facility. He stated that the group had made a presentation to the Town Council at its last meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that the Council write to Castleblayney Town Council stating that if any group wish to discuss Lough Muckno that they should be referred to Monaghan County Council.

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed that the Lough Muckno Community Partnership would be invited to make a presentation to the Council at a future meeting, similar to that made to Castleblayney Town Council recently.

Hope Castle: Mr. Fallon advised the Members that the court case which had been scheduled for 8th June had been put back until October due to the transfer, to another court, of the judge who heard the case initially – the case will now have to be heard in full by a new judge.

Clones Sports Project: Mr. Fallon informed the Members that the Council would have to re-tender for the Clones Sports Project as the preferred tenderer was not in a position to proceed with the contract. Mr. Fallon stated that whilst there would be a delay of approximately six months as a result, funding for the project was secure.

13. Matters arising out of minutes of Council meetings held on 3rd May and 23rd May, 2011

Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meetings held on 3rd and 23rd May, 2011 were responded to by the appropriate officials.

14. To receive presentation on Co. Monaghan Age Friendly Initiative:

The Mayor welcomed Ms. Catherine McGuigan, Regional Programme Manager Age Friendly Initiative - Louth/Dublin North East, and invited her to address the Council.

Ms. McGuigan thanked the Members for the opportunity to address them.

In her presentation Ms McGuigan outlined the importance of establishing an Older People's Alliance for County Monaghan to ensure that future services for the county's more senior population are delivered more cohesively by the relevant agencies and in response to the priorities set out by older people themselves.

Ms. McGuigan stated that her role as Regional Programme Manager is to roll out the 'Age Friendly Initiative'. The Initiative is about getting the public services to join together to deliver services more coherently. She outlined how the programme has been rolled out in Co. Louth since the strategy was adopted. The programme to be developed in Co. Monaghan would take account of the views of the older people which will be sought through a public consultation process that will take place later in the year. She identified the key policy areas as transport, security, access to services and information, housing and catering for the concerns which older people had in relation to illness, loneliness, rural isolation and depression. The process would be led by the Community & Enterprise section of the Council.

The Mayor thanked Ms. McGuigan for a very informative presentation. A number of Members also complimented the presentation and voiced their support for the roll out of the Age Friendly Initiative in the county.

15. Questions:

Cllr J. O'Brien asked:

1. (a) What progress has been made in following up the people responsible for the completion of the road-ways, footpaths and green areas in Wylie's Hill?
(b) Is there any funding available for Monaghan County Council to complete the above works?

Reply: *This development is the subject on ongoing enforcement action and is currently with the Councils solicitor for pursuit through court action.*

Monaghan County Council has applied to the DoEC&LG for funding under the Unfinished Housing Developments and Public Safety Initiative to deal with immediate safety issues within this development

Cllr J. O'Brien asked:

2. What is the current situation on the Clones Road junction in Ballybay and what has been the delay in getting the work started? How long will the work take when it starts?

Reply: *The contract has been awarded. It is envisaged that the contractor will be on site in June.*

3. Can this Council look at the Ballybay–Cootehill Road/Ballybay–Shercock Road junction with a view to carrying out some safety measures, as the junction is placed at a sharp bend on the Ballybay/Cootehill Road.

Reply: *The Council will examine this junction regarding safety measures and consider whether an application for funding under the Low Cost Accident Scheme Measures in 2012 would be appropriate.*

4. What is the current situation regarding the Market House in Castleblayney? What steps are being taken to restore the building to its former glory and what are the future plans for the building?

Reply: *As stated by the A/County Manager at the May Council meeting, funding is being pursued for a proposal to re-roof the Market House Building in Castleblayney.*

Cllr S. Conlon asked:

5. What amount of money has been applied for by Monaghan County Council from the Government's specific funding provision to deal with immediate safety issues in unfinished housing developments? Which estates/developments will benefit from this allocation?

Reply: *The Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government launched an Unfinished Housing Developments and Public Safety Initiative on the 7th March 2011. This initiative provided €5m nationally to deal with immediate safety issues within the most dangerous unfinished housing developments. Monaghan County Council has two developments which fall within this category of development. Applications for a total of €294,367.28 have been submitted to the Department for developments at Wylies Hill, Ballybay and Chapel Court, Carrickroe.*

6. Since introduction of the community, civic and recreational development levies, what number of telecommunication masts and utility towers have been approved for planning? Have each one of these been liable for contribution towards this levy and what sum has been realised as a result of levies on this infrastructural development? Will the Executive facilitate the setting of a date

for the development levy committee, to be agreed upon at the June monthly meeting?

Reply: Monaghan County Council has granted planning permission for 21 No telecommunication masts / antennae applications since the introduction of the community, civic and recreational levies in December 2008.

Planning conditions were attached to all of these applications requiring the payment of a contribution for community, civic and recreational infrastructure in accordance with Section 13 of the scheme. To date Monaghan County Council has received €304,040 in respect of these applications.

Matters relating to the Development Contributions Allocations sub-committee will be dealt with under item 9(ii) of the agenda

Cllr P. Connolly asked:

7. (a) In relation to the recent efforts by Monaghan County Council to establish quality and levels of broadband coverage throughout the county of Monaghan, how many homes responded indicating that their quality of broadband coverage is poor or non-existent?

Reply: The Council had received 68 responses by the end of May 2011.

- (b) What ongoing plans are in place to improve broadband coverage in our towns and in rural areas?

Reply: The Rural Broadband Scheme has been established to enable a basic broadband service to be provided to individual rural premises which are not capable of obtaining a broadband service from existing internet service providers.

8. What costs have been incurred by Monaghan County Council as a result of the recent fires on the Sliabh Beagh mountain?

Reply: The cost of gorse fires in Bragan, North Co. Monaghan from the period 01/05/11 to 04/05/11 was €28,607.78. During this period all stations within Co. Monaghan were involved at various stages.

9. Will Monaghan County Council give an update in relation to the proposed new pumping station which will alleviate flooding problems at the shopping centre and traffic lights and improve the town sewerage network?

Reply: The extent of work proposed at the Old Cross Square pumping station site, and along the Dublin Road is intensive involving:

- **A 10m deep basement excavation at the pump station into dense permeable gravels.**

- *The excavation of deep trenches and manholes up to 7.0m deep in the carriageway.*
- *Excavations in soft ground along a gravity sewer and across the Shambles culvert.*

Over the past three months IGSL Ltd. has completed a supplemental site investigation to finalise the detailed design and minimise the risk to Monaghan County Council at tender / construction stage.

A Prior Indicative Notice will be published next week on e-tenders / OJEU. Tender documents are at an advanced stage and Monaghan County Council expect to be 'out to tender' in September 2011.

Cllr P. Connolly asked:

- 10.** (a) How many County Council houses are unoccupied and available to the public for rent?

Reply: *Currently we have 17 vacant properties 2 of which are available for re-letting. An additional 3 properties will become available for re-letting within the next week following the completion of snagging works. A further 3 properties will have re-letting works completed within a 3 week period. 2 properties are currently undergoing major refurbishment works. 7 properties have only recently become vacant and are currently being assessed for pre-letting works.*

(b) What level of refusal is there in relation to offers of housing made by Monaghan County Council by prospective tenants?

Reply: *The level of refusal in Monaghan County Council is very low (only 1 refusal this year).*

Cllr S. McKenna asked:

- 11.** In anticipation of the country's most important competitive cycling event of the year, the Irish National Road Race Cycling Championship, travelling through North Monaghan on the weekend of June 26th, can assurances be given that road works will be completed over the coming weeks in the villages of Tydavnet and Scotstown that will ensure optimum conditions for Ireland's top cyclists.

Reply: *Monaghan County Council have met with the organisers and discussed the areas requiring action. Works have commenced on these areas and plans are in place to have all works completed prior to the event.*

Cllr N. Keelan asked:

12. Given the number of large trees that have fallen from private property onto the public road network during the recent stormy weather:
- (a) What responsibility is on the landowner to ensure that this does not happen?
 - (b) Who is responsible for the cost of the clean up?
 - (c) Who is responsible should a member of the public be injured?
 - (d) Has Monaghan County Council a policy of inspecting our road network for dangerous trees, if yes, what is the course of action taken should a risk to the public be discovered?

Reply: *Trees and other structures on private property along the road side are the responsibility of the property owner.*

13. Given that our housing development project at Cloughvalley in Carrickmacross is progressing well, when is it hoped to have this development completed and ready for occupation; for the information of the general public, what is the breakdown of the housing units?

Reply: *The target completion date was 29 September 2011 however, there have been some delays due to bad weather and other technical complications. It is expected that the project will still be completed before the end of 2011.*

There are twenty two houses proposed, the six house types referred to are as follows:

- A. 1no 2bedroom single storey 3person accessible house for specific family with disabled family member***
- B. 10no 2bedroom single storey 2or3person house OPD type***
- C. 4no 1bedroom two storey 1or2person house***
- D. 4no 2bedroom two storey 4person house***
- E. 2no 3bedroom two storey 5person house***
- F. 1no 3bedroom single storey accessible house for family with disabled***

14. In relation to the many roadways around the town of Carrickmacross damaged by the ongoing water and sewerage works, is Monaghan County Council confident that these roads will be reinstated by the end of this year?

Reply: *Permanent reinstatement will be completed before the year end.*

15. As a follow-on from my question at the May meeting of the Council in relation to the granting of an extension of time for one-off rural housing, could the executive explain why our neighbouring county of Louth is granting an extension of time for rural housing when a reasonable case is made i.e. cannot secure a mortgage, loss of employment etc., and Monaghan County Council are not granting any extension of time?

Reply: *Section 42 of the Planning and Development Act 2010 prohibits the granting of an extension of the appropriate period, where to do so would be inconsistent with the development plan, regional planning guidelines, or guidelines issued by the Minister. Having consulted with the Department, the planning authority is confident that it is applying the provisions of this part of the Act in the correct manner.*

Cllr. P.J. O’Hanlon asked:

16. Will the former residents of the OPD’s in Cloughvalley be given the opportunity to move back to Cloughvalley when the new houses are built?

Reply: *Yes the former tenants of the OPD’s in Cloughvalley will be given the opportunity to transfer back to Cloughvalley when the houses are built.*

16. Conferences:

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, 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
Housing Practitioners Conference 2011	Social Housing Reform New Direction	Mullingar Park Hotel Mullingar Co Westmeath	16th – 17th June 2011	Cllr Gary Carville Cllr Aidan Murray Cllr David Maxwell Cllr Robbie Gallagher Cllr P.J.O’Hanlon Cllr Noel Keelan
Peace III Conference	Building Bridges	City Hotel Derry	24th June 2011	Cllr John O’Brien Cllr Pat Treanor
17 th Byrne/Perry Summer School	Sport in Irish History And Society	Byrne/Perry Summer School Gorey, Co Wexford	24th-26th June 2011	Cllr Gary Carville Cllr David Maxwell Cllr Hugh McElvaney Cllr Padraig McNally Cllr Seamus Coyle Cllr Jackie Crowe
T.G.R. Seminars	Performance Management for Councillors	Castlecourt Hotel, Westport Co Mayo	24th – 26th June 2011	Cllr Aidan Murray Cllr Owen Bannigan Cllr P.J. O’Hanlon Cllr Robbie Gallagher Cllr Matt Carthy Cllr Paudge Connolly

17. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations:

It was agreed that the sympathy of the Council be extended to the following:-

- The family of the late Gavin O'Connor, Ballynaclose, Kilmainhamwood, Co. Meath who died tragically near Carrickmacross RIP.
- The wife and family of the late Liam McCleary, Tirkeenan, Monaghan RIP.
- Carol Lambe, Community & Enterprise Section on the death of her mother, Nora Lambe, Latlurcan, Monaghan RIP.
- Paul Clarke, Building Control, on the death of his mother Maureen, Glebe, Milltown, Kilkierley, Dundalk, RIP.
- The Mayor of Castleblayney, Cllr David Funcheon on the death of his mother, Rose, Beech Drive, Castleblayney. RIP
- The family of the late Edward Markey, Ballygreaney, Clontibret, former Council member of the Council's outdoor staff.

It was agreed that the Council congratulate the following:

- Carrickmacross Festival Committee on an excellent programme and a well organised festival from the 3rd to 6th June and to the organisers of the "*Twins Parade*" event at the festival.
- Carrickmacross Town Council and Monaghan County Council staff for assisting with arrangements for the recent festival held in Carrickmacross.
- The organisers of the Flat Lake Festival, the Monaghan County Council Arts Office and all those involved in the organisation of this festival at Hilton House, Scotshouse.
- Tullycorbett U-14 Music Group – Finbarr Brennan, Colm McMahan, Stephen McMahan, Owen McKearney, Thomasina McGinnity and Conor Quinn, on coming first in the All Ireland Community Games Group Music Competition.
- Latnamard N.S. on celebrating 25 years since it opened in 1986.
- Blackwater Voice Choir on winning Gold in the All Ireland Community Games Choir Competition.
- Errigal Truagh Special Needs Group on celebrating 10 years of providing services to persons with a disability.
- Monaghan Town F.C. on winning the Ulster Cup recently.
- Brendan Ó Dufaigh, Joe Gallagher and the Board of Management of Gaeil Scoil Ultain on celebrating 25 years since its foundation.
- Monaghan Ladies GFC on beating Armagh and qualifying for the Ulster Semi- Final.
- Tullycorbett Community Centre on celebrating its Golden Jubilee recently.
- Rev. John McDowell, on his recent appointment as Church of Ireland Bishop of Clogher.

Notice of Urgent Business:

The Mayor advised the Members that he had received a notice of urgent business in the names of the Sinn Fein Members.

A recorded vote was taken on whether or not the Council would discuss the urgent business. The vote resulted as follows:

For: Cllrs Carthy, Conlon, Connolly, Crowe, Keelan, B. McKenna, S. McKenna, McNally, Murray, O'Hanlon and P. Treanor. **Total 11**

Against: Cllrs Bannigan, Carville, Coyle, Gallagher, Maxwell, McElvaney, McPhillips, O'Brien, S. Treanor. **Total 9**

As more than half of the Council had voted in favour of taking the notice of urgent business, the Mayor declared the proposal carried.

Cllr Carthy proposed, Cllr Keelan seconded,

That Monaghan County Council notes that billions of Euro of Irish taxpayers' money, and further billions borrowed to be burdened on the Irish people, has been placed into banks in order to bail-out those banks and those multi-national organisations which invested in them.

That we note with concern that there is no bail-out for Irish families or Irish businesses who have found themselves in financial difficulty.

That we are especially concerned to see that those banks who have been bailed out are now actually forcing viable Irish businesses to close through lack of credit provision or through refusal to renegotiate existing loan arrangements in a realistic and compassionate manner.

That we are concerned at the developments at Cloughvalley Stores, Carrickmacross, a local family-run business which employs 55 people, in recent weeks and months.

Cloughvalley Stores is a popular and viable business which requires a positive engagement with its lender, Allied Irish Banks, in order to ensure the survival of the business and the protection of the vital employment it provides. Instead the company has received little other than hostility and barriers from the bank and its appointed receiver.

That this Council agrees:

- To write to AIB calling on the bank to engage positively with the owners of Cloughvalley Stores with a view to developing a plan which will protect the business and save the jobs at the store.*
- To write to the Minister for Finance calling on him to intervene directly with AIB in this matter to ensure that the bank, in majority public ownership, acts in the best interests of the local economy in Carrickmacross by resolving a plan with the owners of Cloughvalley Stores.*
- To write to the Taoiseach calling on the government to introduce a scheme to protect viable Irish businesses who are under threat as a result of the actions of the banks.*

Cllr McPhillips proposed that the motion be amended by the deletion of bullet points one and two. Cllr Murray seconded the amendment.

The Mayor put the amendment to a show of hands vote which resulted in 5 for 13 against and 1 abstention. The Mayor declared the amendment lost.

The original motion was put to the meeting and resulted in 13 for 4 against and 2 abstentions. The Mayor declared the motion carried.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Meara Meetings Administrator

Date: _____