

**Minutes of Special Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Mtek Building, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2011 at 10.00 a.m.**

**Chair:** Cllr J. Crowe, Mayor.

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

Mr. D. Fallon, A/County Manager, Mr. P. Clifford, D. Treanor, Directors of Service and Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance.

**Apology:** Cllr Coyle.

At the outset the Mayor stated that he wished to propose an item of urgent business to discuss the imminent closure of the Ballybay Agricultural office. It was agreed to take the item of urgent business immediately after item 1 on the agenda.

**1. To fill casual vacancy on the Council:**

The Mayor referred to Section 19(3)(2) of the Local Government Act 2001 in relation to the filling of the casual vacancy.

Cllr McElvaney thanked the members and staff for facilitating the special meeting to fill the casual vacancy on the Council arising from the election to Dail Eireann of Heather Humphreys.

Cllr McElvaney proposed that Ciara McPhillips, Liscumiskey, Smithboro, be co-opted to fill the casual vacancy on Monaghan County Council. Cllr Maxwell seconded the proposal.

Cllr Crowe confirmed that Ms. McPhillips had consented, in writing, to the nomination by the Fine Gael party.

Cllr McElvaney's proposal was agreed unanimously.

Cllr McElvaney then introduced Cllr Ciara McPhillips to the members and staff.

Cllr McPhillips thanked her proposer and seconder and all the members for co-opting her onto the Council. She then addressed the Council.

All members joined in congratulating Cllr McPhillips on her co-option as did the County Manager on behalf of the staff.

### **Urgent business:**

The Mayor informed the Members that the Ballybay Agricultural office is scheduled to close on 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2011. He proposed *that the Council write to the Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Simon Coveney, T.D., seeking an immediate meeting to save jobs and keep the Department office in Ballybay.* This was agreed.

During the debate which took place the following proposals were agreed –

*On the proposal of Cllr O'Brien, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that the Council call on the Minister for Agriculture to postpone or reverse the decision to close the Ballybay Agricultural office.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Mayor Crowe it was agreed that the Council also write to the Minister for Enterprise Richard Bruton, T.D., regarding the potential loss of 50 jobs and its impact on the local economy of Ballybay.*

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr McElvaney, it was agreed that the Council involve the local T.D.'s in its challenge to the decision to close this office.*

Cllr Bannigan proposed that the five T.D.'s for the constituency be invited to the meeting with the Minister for Agriculture. This was agreed.

*On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan seconded by Cllr Murray it was agreed that the Council seek the Terms of Reference used by the Minister in the re-configuration of services in the Department of Agriculture and Food local offices.*

The following members were selected to represent the Council if a meeting with the Minister for Agriculture is confirmed –

Cllrs J. Crowe, Mayor, B. McKenna, P. Treanor, O. Bannigan, A. Murray, J. O'Brien, P. McNally, and S. Treanor.

### **Conference – change of Member:**

Cllr Murray requested that Cllr Bannigan attend the Association of City and County Councils' Annual Conference as he (Cllr Murray) is unable to attend. This was agreed.

### **Vote of sympathy:**

It was agreed that the sympathy of the Council be extended to Cllr Coyle on the death of his cousin, Marie Coyle, Drogheda, Co. Louth RIP. The vote of sympathy was passed in silence, all present standing.

This concluded the business of the meeting.