

Minutes of Council Meeting held in the Mtek Building, Knockaconny, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday 3rd March, 2008 at 10.00 a.m.

Chair: Cllr G Carville, Mayor

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

Mr. D. Nelson, County Manager, Mr. M. Fitzpatrick, Mr P. Clifford, Mr D. Fallon and Mr A King, Directors of Service, Mr John Murray, Head of Finance, Mr Adrian Hughes, Senior Planner, Mr Drew Hurley and Mr Toirleach Gourley, Senior Executive Planner, Mr. Padraig Maguire, Executive Planner, Mr Somhairle MacConghail, Arts Officer, Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator and Ms. A. Mackle, A/Staff Officer.

(1) Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr Keenan, seconded by Cllr Kieran it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 4th February, 2008 be confirmed.

(2) Correspondence

The following correspondence was circulated to the Members:

- Letter from Mr Aidan Corcoran, Manager Transmission Projects, EirGrid in relation to the proposed 400 kV interconnector.
- Letter from Mr Eddie Kiernan, Private Secretary to Minister Gormley, TD in relation to a request from Monaghan County Council to meet with the Minister to discuss the Monaghan hospital situation.
- Letter from Mr Tom Gallagher, Private Secretary to Minister Batt O'Keeffe, TD, Minister for Housing, Urban Renewal and Developing Areas in relation to the Housing Adaptation Schemes for older people and persons with a disability.
- Letter from the DoEHLG in relation to the postponement of the transfer of the Special Housing Aid for the Elderly Scheme from the Health Services Executive to local authorities.
- Letter from the Private Secretary to Mr John Gormley, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government acknowledging receipt of a resolution from the Council in relation to the penalty points system.
- Letter from Mr Seymour Crawford, enclosing copy reply from Mr Paul Flanagan, Private Secretary to Ms Mary Harney, TD, Minister for Health and Children in relation to request for meeting with the Minister.
- Letter from Ms Martina Kearney, Private Secretary to Ms Mary Coughlan, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food regarding the Farm Waste Management Scheme.
- Letter from Ms Bridget Flynn, Private Secretary to Mr Michael Martin, TD, Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment regarding a request from Monaghan County Council Members to meet with the Minister to discuss the Hospital issue.

- Letter from Ms Theresa Laverty, Secretary, Fort Augustus Irish Descendants Group inviting Members of Monaghan County Council to attend their annual Irish Settlers Day, Prince Edward Island.
- Letter from Mr Andrew Mauison, SEUPB Project Officer inviting Members to participate in the Free Ulster-Scots Awareness Training Seminar.
- Letter from Ms Bridget Flynn, Private Secretary to Mr Michael Martin, TD Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment acknowledging receipt of a letter received from Monaghan County Council in relation to Agency Workers.
- Letter from Ms Pamela Arthurs, Chief Executive Officer of the East Border Region in relation to hosting the Association of European Border Regions Annual conference in 2010.
- Resolution from Macroom Town Council in relation to micro chipping and neutering of dogs.
- Letter from South Tipperary Town Council calling on local authorities to support a notice of motion adopted by that Council in relation increasing funding for Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind.
- Letter from Balbriggan Town Council in relation to a resolution calling on the Government to bring legislation to prevent economic migrants and refugees with criminal records from entering Ireland.
- Letter from Positive Ageing Cross Border inviting the Members to participate in a workshop entitled “Older Vulnerable Men in Rural Isolation”.
- Letter from An Garda Síochána, National Crime Prevention Unit in relation to the establishment of a working group to develop a National Crime Reduction and Prevention Strategy and calling on local authorities to make a submission.
- Letter from Ms Teresa McGuirk, A/Town Clerk, Ballybay Town Council in relation to an invite from Burgermeister, Horst Eckl, Osterhofen inviting the Mayor of County Monaghan to participate in an official Twinning visit to Osterhofen.
- Letter of acknowledgement from Mr. Noel Dempsey, TD, Minister for Transport regarding the penalty points system.
- Letter from Ms Margaret Conlon, TD detailing a letter she sent to Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government Mr John Gormley, TD in relation to the Co Monaghan Development Plan.

Proposed 440 kV Interconnector:

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed that this Council express our disappointment and disgust at the replies to our queries on the 440kv Interconnector and that appointment of independent consultants to analyse the project.

That we call on Minister Ryan, T.D., and An Taoiseach to ensure that the Consultants appointed are -

1. *Truly independent of Eirgrid, the Department of Energy and the Electricity Supply Board.*
2. *That the Consultants are acceptable to both Eirgrid and the local communities.*

3. *That the proposed time-scale be extended by at least two months to allow an acceptable independent analysis to take place.*

Housing Aid for Older People Scheme:

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed to write again to the Department of the Environment and Local Government requesting that the transfer of the operation of the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme from the HSE to local authorities be expedited.

“On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Kieran it was agreed that this Council renews its request to the DoELG that regulations be changed to ensure that all new houses built in the future should have a downstairs bedroom and bathroom”

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that the Council write to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Mr. John Gormley, TD, requesting that legislation be introduced to ensure that Part M of the Building Regulations are implemented.

Cllr McElvaney proposed that the Special Housing Aid for the Elderly Scheme be an item on the April Council Agenda. This was agreed.

Meeting with Minister Gormley

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed that the Council writes again to Minister John Gormley, T.D., seeking a new date for the meeting which had been postponed on February 13th.

National Crime Reduction and Prevention Strategy:

Cllr Conlon referred to the letter from the National Crime Prevention Unit in relation to this matter. He proposed that a letter be forwarded to the Chief Superintendent seeking clarification as to when the Joint Policing Committees will be rolled out and who will have overall responsibility in the county.

The County Manager stated that guidelines on the roll out of these committees will issue shortly and that he would seek clarification from the relevant department and would issue a report for the next meeting.

Invitation to Prince Edward Island:

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed to accept the invitation from the Fort Augustus Irish Descendants Group, Prince Edward Island to attend the Annual Irish Settlers Day from 23rd – 26 May, 2008.

It was agreed that the Council would be represented by the Mayor and one member from each political grouping and an official.

Invitation to Osterhofen:

On the proposal of Cllr McNally seconded by Cllr O'Brien it was agreed that the Mayor Gary Carville accept the invitation to participate in an official Twinning Visit to Osterhofen from 10th to 13th April, 2008.

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed that one additional Member from the Castleblayney electoral area be permitted to participate in the official twinning visit to Osterhofen.

Meeting with Minister Martin:

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed to renew the request to Minister Michéal Martin to meet a deputation from the Council to discuss the situation at Monaghan Hospital and Grove Turkeys.

Resolution from Balbriggan Town Council:

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Keenan it was agreed to adopt the resolution from Balbriggan Town Council with a small amendment – the resolution to read as follows:

“That this Council calls on the Government to consider introducing legislation to prevent economic migrants and refugees with criminal records from entering Ireland”

Resolution from South Tipperary County Council:

On the proposal of Cllr Keenan, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed to adopt the resolution from South Tipperary County Council calling on the Government to support the Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind appeal for an increase in funding.

Resolution from Macroom Town Council:

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed to adopt the resolution from Macroom Town Council calling on the Government to introduce a micro chipping and neutering/spaying incentive scheme to curb unwanted dogs.

3. Adoption of the Landscape Character Assessment Report

Mr. David Fallon, Director of Planning stated that the Landscape Character Assessment report had been prepared by ERM Consultants on behalf of Monaghan County Council. The objective of the study was to complete a thorough assessment of the character of Monaghan's landscapes in order to provide the basis for policy formulation and informed decision making regarding landscape management in the county.

Mr. Adrian Hughes, Senior Planner stated that this is not a policy document but an information document. EU law requires that this document is prepared. The report has been considered by the Planning Strategic Policy Committee. It is proposed to put the Landscape Character Assessment document on public display for four week, following which the Manager's report will be prepared (approx. six weeks) and will be brought back to the full Council for adoption.

Following a brief discussion it was agreed to place the Landscape Character Assessment report on public display and invite submissions from the general public.

4. **Proposed Development Contributions Scheme 2008 -2012**

Mr. David Fallon, Director, requested that this item be deferred pending further discussion. This was agreed.

5. **Presentation by An tUas. Seán Ó Cuirreáin, An Coimisinéir, Teanga.**

D'fháiltitgh an Comhl. Gearóid Mac Cearbhaill roimh an Uas. Seán Ó Cuirreáin, An Coimisinéir Teanga, go dtí an cruinniú. Ghabh sé buíochas leis agus lena eagraíocht as a gcabhair do na Comhairlí. Bhuíochasaigh an tUas. Ó Cuirreáin na Baill. Thug sé breac-chuntas orthu seo a leanas:

- Tá an Ghaeilge ann le 2000 bliain anois agus tá líon suntasach Gaeilgeoirí fós in Éirinn an lae inniu.
- San daonáireamh le déanaí mhaígh 40% de mhuintir Mhuineacháin gur féidir leo roinnt Gaeilge a labhairt. Tríd is tríd, gan iad siúd a mhúintear sna scoileanna a chur san áireamh, tá 75,000 duine ag labhairt na teanga go laethúil in Éirinn .
- Tá 6,800 teanga ar fud an domhain ach meastar nach mbeidh ach 700 teanga oifigiúil ann faoi dheireadh an chéid seo romhainn.
- Cuireann Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003 dualgas ar chomhlachtaí poiblí déileáil leo siúd sa phobal ar mian leo a ngnó a dhéanamh as Gaeilge. Tá sé de dhualgas orthu a chinntiú go gcuirtear doiciméid áirithe phoiblí ar fáil go dátheangach agus tacú le cur chun cinn na Gaeilge sa chontae. Ón gcéad lá d'Eanáir 2007 is teanga oifigiúil an Ghaeilge san gComhphobal Eorpach .

Ansin bhronn an tUas. Ó Cuirreáin cóip, faoi chumhdach crua, de “An tOrdú Logainmneacha (Contae Mhuineacháin) 2003 – “The Placenames (Co. Monaghan) Order 2003”.

Ghabh na Baill buíochas leis an Uas. Ó Cuirreáin as a chaint. D'fhreagair sé a gcuid ceisteanna.

Cllr Carville welcomed An tUas Seán Ó Cuirreáin, An Coimisinéir, Teanga to the meeting and thanked him and his organisation for assisting the Councils. An tUas. Seán Ó Cuirreáin thanked the Members and outlined the following:

- The Irish language has existed for the last 2000 years and there are still a significant number of Irish speakers in Ireland today.

- In the recent census 40% of Monaghan people said they could speak some Irish and overall, if you exclude people being taught the language in schools, there are 75,000 people speaking the language on a daily basis in Ireland.
- Throughout the world there exists 6,800 languages but it has been estimated that by the end of the next century there will only be 700 official languages world wide.
- The Official Languages Act 2003 places a duty on public bodies to deal with those members of the public who wish to do their business through the medium of Irish; to ensure certain public documents are produced bilingually and to prepare a ‘Scheme/Plan’ to support the promotion of the Irish language in the county. The Irish language is now an official language of the EU since 1st January 2007.

Mr Ó Cuirreáin then presented the Mayor, Cllr. Carville with a bound copy of “An t-Ordu Logainmneacha (Contae Mhuineachain) - County Monaghan place names register.

The Members thanked Mr. Ó Cuirreáin for his presentation, and raised a number of queries to which he responded.

Urgent Business

The Mayor referred to an item of Urgent Business in the names of:

(1) Cllrs Bannigan, Humphreys, McElvaney, Keenan, Maxwell, P McKenna and Carville.

“That this Council discuss the recent developments in the World Trade Talks and in particular the potential devastation on the agriculture on the agriculture business in Co. Monaghan.”

It was unanimously agreed to deal with the Urgent Business.

Cllr Bannigan outlined the impact of the latest proposals drawn up by the WTO. A number of Members contributed to the debate and reiterated the sentiments expressed by Cllr Bannigan. The Members of Monaghan County Council called on the Irish MEP’s and Oireachtas Members to support this motion.

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Humphreys it was agreed:

“That our Government protects the agriculture industry of County Monaghan and the Country and prevents a WTO sell – out by using our veto to prevent a WTO agreement if any proposal above the mandate given by the Ministers is pursued. The future of our rural economy is at stake”.

6. **To approve recommendations from Corporate Policy Group Meeting:**

Arts Act Recommendations

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed to write to the Arts Council and the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs requesting that funding for the Arts Programmes be increased.

The Council went 'into committee' to consider the CPG's recommendations in relation to the Awards Scheme. Following a debate on this matter, the Council came back into public session.

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed to approve the recommendations from the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on Monday 11th February and Monday 18th February, 2008.

It was agreed that the April Council meeting would commence at 2.00 p.m. on the 7th April, to facilitate the Awards Ceremony later that evening.

Grove Farm

The Mayor advised the Members that he would circulate a report on a meeting with Grove Farm Management on Tuesday 12th February.

7. **Roadworks Programme 2008.**

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed to approve the Roadworks Programme 2008 as considered at Area Meetings.

8. **Extinguishment of Public Right of way – LT 50502.**

On the proposal of Cllr P. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was agreed to approve the Extinguishment of Public Right of Way – LT 50502 (Pt) Cloghernagh Lane, Tydavnet, Co. Monaghan.

9. **Local Improvement Scheme Committee Meeting**

It was agreed that a meeting of the Local Improvement Scheme Committee meeting would be held on March 18th at 9.00 a.m. in the Iontas Centre, Castleblayney.

10. **Disability Act Implementation Plan**

Cllr P McKenna, as Chair of Community and Enterprise Strategic Policy Group welcomed and endorsed the presentation on the Disability Act Implementation Plan. He introduced Ms Bernie O'Rourke, Access Officer who gave a detailed

presentation on the Monaghan Local Authorities - Making Monaghan Accessible Plan, a response to the Disability Act 2005, Implementation Plan.

The Mayor thanked Ms O'Rourke for her presentation and invited questions from the Members to which Ms. O'Rourke responded.

On the proposal of Cllr P. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed that the Disability Act Implementation Plan 2007-2015 be adopted.

16. Business submitted by the County Manager.

Lough Muckno

The County Manager advised that the Lough Muckno case has been listed for hearing in the High Court on July 14th, 2008, in Dundalk.

Re-location of offices

The County Manager informed the Members that the Directorate of Roads and Environment would be relocating to the new Mtek 2 building at Knockaconny, Armagh Road and the Directorate of Community and Enterprise would be relocating to the Council H.Q. at The Glen.

Business submitted by the Mayor:

Field Trip to Brussels

The Mayor advised the Council that he had been examining the possibility of a study trip to Brussels. This study trip will allow the Members to get a better understanding of the European Parliament and its role and would inform the Members of current EU developments and new directives being introduced.

Cllr Carville proposed, Cllr McNally seconded that the Council pursue arrangements for a study trip to Brussels to coincide with the sitting of the European Parliament and that each member of the Council be given the opportunity to participate. The proposed dates to be from May 7th – 9th 2008.

Cllr B McKenna proposed an amendment - that participation be limited to two members from each political grouping on the Council. Cllr Treanor seconded

A vote by show of hands on Cllr McKenna's amendment resulted in 5 for, 13 against. The Mayor declared the amendment defeated.

The original motion was put to the meeting and was carried on a vote of 13 for 5 against.

The Mayor declared the motion carried.

17. Questions

Cllr Padraig McNally asked:

a. In light of the recent incident where a heavy vehicle collided with the old Railway Bridge in Inniskeen, (a) is this Council satisfied that the bridge in question is safe for all road users (b) Who are legally responsible for the structure?

Reply: *The Bridge is privately owned. The Area Roads Office staff contacted the owner of the bridge immediately after the accident and put in place emergency measures to ensure the safety of road users in the short term.*

Cllr Padraig McNally asked:

b. What are the long term plans for the Council owned land at Mucker, Inniskeen?

Reply: *The land is not presently serviced by the village waste-water collection system but is being retained as a land bank for future housing provision by the Council.*

Cllr Padraig McNally asked:

c. Has this Council any plans to purchase land and build local authority houses in the following villages, Lisdoonan, Corduff, Lough Egish, Donaghmoynne, Drumgosset, Carrickasedge, Broomfield in order to accommodate people from these areas.

Reply: *There is currently no housing need identified in the locations listed.*

Cllr Padraig McNally asked:

d. In light of the downturn in housing estate development, particularly the Part 5, dimension can this Council purchase replacement houses on the open market to ease the pressure on our waiting list in all areas.

Reply: *The Council will consider the purchase of houses on the open market to supplement the construction programme, within the limit of the Housing Capital Allocation*

Cllr Gallagher asked:

e. What is the situation regarding the Council taking over estates such as Cathedral Walk from developers?

Reply: *PP 01/855 - construct 164 no. dwellings consisting of 50 no. 2 storey 4 bedroom, 52 no. 2 storey 3 bedroom, 62 no. 2 storey community centre and pumping line for foul sewer at Latlurcan, Monaghan, Co Monaghan by W.J. Dolan. PP 01/957 - construct 34 no. dwellings consisting of 6 no. two storey 4 bedroom, 8 no. two storey 3 bedroom, 20 no. two storey 2 bedroom, pumping station for foul sewer at Latlurcan, Monaghan, Co Monaghan by W.J. Dolan.*

Under Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, a Planning Authority shall take in charge a development at the request of the developer or

by the majority of the qualified electors who are owners or occupiers of the houses involved, where the development has been completed to the satisfaction of the Authority.

Where the Planning Authority receives an application form, prepared by a suitable qualified person, who holds professional indemnity insurance and certificates, which certifies that all roads footpaths, sewers, drains and water mains have been completed, the Authority shall carry out an inspection of the estate. Where the estate is found to be satisfactory in all respects, the taking in charge procedure will commence. No application has been received in respect of the housing development at Cathedral walk.

Cllr Gallagher asked:

f. Does the Council have any plans to provide initiatives to allow and encourage home-owners to connect to the main sewer line as existing costs per individual home are prohibitive?

Reply: *In the event of a newly-laid foul sewer, homeowners can normally avail of a 50% reduction in the connection fee for a connection to the foul sewer within six months of the completion of the laying of the main. All homeowner to whom this applies are normally contacted by letter to advise them of this opportunity in advance of the laying of new foul sewer mains.*

Alternative # 1

A number of householders can set up a Private Group Sewage Scheme and avail of 75% grant aid for approved cost – subject to a limit of €2,031.58 per domestic connection. Balance of the cost to be borne by the Group. Details are included in attached document G.W. 60.

Alternative # 2

In Clar Funded Areas – If 90% or more of householders along a particular road agree to avail of a newly laid foul main, then there may be Clar Funding available – up to a maximum of €16,000.00 per household.

Cllr Gallagher asked:

g. What is the up-to-date position regarding funding for the re-configuration of the junction at Beaghkearns on the Cootehill road?

Reply: *The matter was discussed at the North Monaghan area roads meeting recently. An allocation of €250,856 under the Specific Improvement Grant has been received this year. The preliminary design is completed and a programme of work will be carried out in line with the allocation.*

h. Would the Council consider organising a WEEE collection day in the towns on a quarterly basis considering the success of the recent initiative in Monaghan town?

Reply: *The WEEE Open Days are organised by ERP (European Recycling Platform), at the request of the DoEHLG and are facilitated by Monaghan*

County Council Environmental Awareness Officer and Town Council Staff. ERP propose holding four collection days in Monaghan in 2008, one in each of the four major towns. A further two collection days will take place later in the year in Castleblayney and Clones.

i. What is the position regarding initiatives to take advantage of the current buyers market in relation to social housing?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council is currently considering submissions from developers in relation to possible turnkey purchases in Clones, Monaghan, Carrickmacross and Castleblayney and individual house purchases where required.*

Cllr Carthy asked:

j. Is Monaghan County Council aware of the level of lime-scale that is in the water supply at Foxfield, Carrickmacross? What action will the Council take to resolve this matter as it has caused household appliances to clog up often resulting in huge financial burdens on families who have had to repair or replace showers, washing machines, dish washers, gas boilers etc?

Reply: *Foxfield, in Carrickmacross, is supplied from a private well and is not part of the Carrickmacross Public Water Supply. The operation of the well and provision of the water from this well are the responsibility of the estate developer – McGreevy Construction.*

Quoting from the EPA Handbook on Parameters of Water Quality:

“Hardness is a natural characteristic of water which can enhance its palatability and consumer acceptability for drinking purposes. Health studies in several countries in recent years indicate that mortality rates from heart diseases are lower in areas with hard water”.

Lime-scale or Hardness in drinking water is not a parameter that is regulated under the current Drinking Water Regulations. As Sanitary Authority in County Monaghan, Monaghan County Council only samples and analyses for those parameters detailed in the Drinking Water Regulations.

k. What plans does the Council have to provide 4-bedroom houses in the Carrickmacross area this year considering there are a deserving families who are in urgent need of this type of housing?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council proposes to acquire houses in Carrickmacross in 2008. The house type acquired will be based upon the need identified on the housing waiting list.*

Cllr Coyle asked:

l. Under the Low Cost Safety Improvement Grants Scheme of the 2008 Regional and Local Roads grant allocations, what dangerous road junctions/road crossings will improvement works be carried out on in the Castleblayney Engineering area in the coming year, what type of works will be carried out and when will they commence?

Reply: *Details of the proposed works were discussed at the recent Castleblayney Area Roads Meeting. A total of €71,000 will be spent at eight different locations.*

Cllr Keenan asked:

m. Would this Council consider letting engineers do the full inspection on housing aid application forms without the O.T. having to call out. This is the practice in other counties and it would clear applications quicker.

Reply: *Monaghan County Council seeks to ensure that the works proposed under the Housing Adaptation Grants Scheme will meet the current and future housing needs of the applicants. The Occupational Therapist's inspection enables all the works necessary to be identified at the initial stages of the application. The Council engineering staff then cost these proposals. This system ensures that all works are carried out to the required standards and that additional applications are not required later for works that were not identified initially at application stage. There is no significant delay in processing applications under this scheme.*

Cllr Carville asked:

n. In relation to the completion of works on the Castleblayney By Pass

(i) When will the turning lanes, slipways, lighting and signage issues be addressed at all the dangerous junctions?

(ii) Have the Gardai made any representations to the Council in relation to safety aspects of the road and what action has been taken?

(iii) When will the accommodation works be completed?

(iv) When will the road from Clontibret Village to St Mary's church be completed?

(v) When is it anticipated the Contractor will leave the site?

(vi) When will landowners issues be concluded?

Reply: *The NRA has been informed of the concerns raised with regards to these issues. Our Consultants have been instructed to examine options for addressing both the slip ways and the additional lighting including the additional costs involved. Any changes to junction layout and extra public lighting will require additional funding from the NRA.*

The Gardai have made representations with regard to safety aspects of the scheme. These concerns would be similar to those raised by the members at previous Council meetings and again the NRA have been informed.

The contractor has indicated that accommodation works should be substantially completed by May 2008.

The contractor has indicated that the road from Clontibret Village to St Mary's Church should be complete by mid-March.

It is not possible to give a definitive date for the Contractor to complete the works at this point in time. However, the Council has made the contractor aware that all outstanding works should be completed as soon as possible.

There are a number of issues arising with the Landowners. The accommodation works are ongoing and will be carried out as part of the contractor's programme of works. In terms of negotiating settlements, it is our intention to progress these through the formal process as it has not been possible to conclude agreements in a number of instances.

o. What action does the Council intend to take regarding the derelict Council owned Maisonettes in Bree Housing Estate, Castleblayney?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council propose to replace the apartments with houses in 2008/9 subject to receiving Part 8 permission and DOEHLG approval*

Cllr Carville asked:

p. Is the Council aware of the serious concern which residents have in relation to the design and construction of the Council owned houses at Ard na Lorgan in Castleblayney; that injuries have been caused to residents, including children as a result of poor quality workmanship both inside and outside houses; that there is totally inadequate levels of public and green space attached to each house and generally and would the Council Officials agree that the density of this scheme in terms of house numbers is too high? What measures does the Council propose to address the issues involved?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council is not aware of any injuries caused to residents at Ard na Lorgan. A play area and passive open space has been provided and the development is located adjacent to community sports, arts and recreation facilities.*

19. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations:

The Council agreed to extend a vote of sympathy to John & Elizabeth Prunty and family, Cabra, Threemilehouse on the death of Dominic Prunty.

The Council agreed to extend a vote of congratulations to Kim O'Dowd on winning the coveted Deirdre Clancy medal for achieving the higher mark in Ireland in the Leaving Certificate History Examination.

20. Conferences

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr P McKenna it was agreed that the Council be represented at the following conferences by the Members listed.

| Promoting Authority | Subject/Theme | Venue | Dates | Members Selected |
|------------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| LAMA | <i>Annual Spring Conference</i> | <i>Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim</i> | <i>27th & 28th March 2008</i> | Benny Kieran Seamus Coyle Robbie Gallagher Gary Carville Hugh McElvaney David Maxwell Heather Humphreys Pat McKenna Vincent P Martin |
| Chambers of Commerce Ireland | <i>All Ireland Vision Conference</i> | <i>Cavan Crystal Hotel</i> | <i>31st March 2008</i> | Pat Treanor Brian McKenna |
| Irish Planning Institute | <i>National Planning Conference 2008</i> | <i>Castlecourt Hotel & Westport Plaza, Westport, Co. Mayo</i> | <i>3rd & 4th April 2008</i> | Jackie Crowe |
| Wexford Borough Council | Better Local Government – Is It Working | Talbot Hotel, Wexford | 3 rd , 4 th & 5 th April 2008 | John O’Brien Robbie Gallagher Matt Carthy Pat McKenna John Keenan |
| TJK Conferences Ltd | Planning Seminar | <i>Patrick Punch Hotel, Limerick</i> | <i>4th & 5th April 2008</i> | Benny Kieran Noel Keelan |
| Rattoo Heritage Centre | <i>The 16th Annual Kerry Environmental Recognition Conference</i> | <i>The Golf Hotel, Ballybunion, Co. Kerry</i> | <i>2nd – 6th April 2008</i> | Seamus Coyle Padraig McNally Vincent P Martin Gary Carville Hugh McElvaney David Maxwell Owen Bannigan |

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr P McKenna it was agreed, with effect from the April Council meeting, that where a conference fee exceeds €500 that the Council will not be represented at that conference.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____

Meara

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____