

**Minutes of Council Meeting held in the Mtek Building, Knockaconny, Monaghan on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2007 10.00 a.m.**

**Chair:** Cllr P McNally, Mayor

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

Mr. D. Nelson, County Manager, Mr. P. Clifford, Mr. A. King, Mr. D. Fallon, Directors of Service, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, D. McKernan, D. McElwain, Senior Executive Engineer, Ms. Rosemary McManus, Senior Executive Officer, Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator and Ms. A. Mackle, A/Staff Officer.

**Apologies** Cllrs Humphreys.

*On the proposal of Cllr B McKenna, seconded by Cllr Treanor it was agreed that the Council welcome the setting up of the new Northern Ireland Regional Assembly.*

A number of members spoke in favour of Cllr McKenna's motion. The Mayor stated that it was a momentous occasion in the history of Northern Ireland. He referred to the leadership shown by An Taoiseach Bertie Ahern and Prime Minister Tony Blair and by other leaders over the years.

*On the proposal of Cllr Treanor, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed that Monaghan, as a border county, should benefit from the Agreement and that a letter be sent to Minister for Culture, Arts & Leisure and the Minister for Rural Development in Northern Ireland requesting that plans are put in place immediately to secure the opening of the Ulster Canal.*

*On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Treanor it was agreed to adjourn the Council meeting for half an hour to allow the Members join formally with the Nurses demonstration being held at Monaghan General Hospital.*

*Cllr Conlon proposed writing to the new Regional Assembly Minister for Health requesting that any future strategy in health would take provide for the development of health services on a cross border basis.*

**1. Minutes:**

**(a) Minutes of Council meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2007**

Cllr McElvaney stated that he had voted against the decision to proceed with new Council offices and that he had not been recorded as doing so. He requested the Manager to make a clear statement as to the exact position relating to the provision of new Council offices.

The County Manager stated that the Council had passed the following resolution, on a vote of 16 for, 2 against, at the meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2007

*Cllr Kieran proposed, Cllr Maxwell seconded that the proposed new Council Offices be located on the O'Neill's Farm site on the bypass.*

The County Manager stated that this matter had been dealt with at the March meeting, the minutes of the February meeting had been amended to state that Cllr McElvaney had voted against the proposal.

Cllr McElvaney stated that he wished to propose a motion in relation to the Local Sports Partnership. The Mayor ruled that unless it referred to the accuracy of the minutes it would be dealt with under matters arising..

***“On the proposal of Cllr Treanor, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2007 be confirmed ”***

**(b) Minutes of Adjourned Council Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2007**

***“On the proposal of Cllr O'Brien, seconded by Cllr B McKenna it was agreed that the minutes of the adjourned Council meeting held on Monday April 17<sup>th</sup> be confirmed”.***

**2. Correspondence**

- Letter from County Monaghan Partnership regarding nomination of a Director to the board of the partnership.
- Letter from John McKay, Mayor of Miramichi inviting a delegation from Monaghan County Council to attend the Miramichi annual Irish Festival
- Letter from Cathy Bruton, Private Secretary to Mr Dick Roche, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in relation to funding for non-national roads affected by works on the Castleblayney Bypass
- Letter from Paul Mooney, Private Secretary to Mr Brian Cowen, TD, Minister for Finance acknowledging receipt of a letter in connection with the level of funding approved for Monaghan County Council by the National Roads Authority.
- Letter from Mr Noel Dempsey, T.D., regarding the provision of a public lighting network.
- Letter from Mr David Feeney, private secretary to An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, TD regarding the resolution adopted by Monaghan County Council in relation to the nurse's dispute.
- Letter from the Psychiatric Nurses Association of Ireland regarding a resolution by Monaghan County Council on PNA/INO Nurses Work to Rule.
- Letter from Ms Tracy de Bertaut, secretary to Professor Brendan Drumm, CEO, regarding the INO/PNA Work to rule.
- Letter from Paul Flanagan, Private Secretary to the Minister for Health and Children, Mary Harney concerning the INO/PNA Nurses dispute.

- Letter from Seamus Murphy, Industrial Relations Officer regarding a Resolution on PNA/INO Nurses Work to Rule from Monaghan County Council.
- Letter from Mr Joe Allen, regarding Circular LG 10/07 Guidelines on the Governance of Integrated Local Development Companies and Urban Based Partnership
- Letter from Castleblayney Arts & Community Resource Centre regarding request for financial assistance.
- Letter from Geraldine Kane, Manager of Primary Care Out of Hours Service of the Health Service Executive regarding the Doc on call Out of Hours Service.

### **Non National Road Allocation**

*On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed to write again to both the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Department of Transport asking that they reconsider the allocation of funding for non-national roads in the Monaghan area in light of the damage caused by the construction of the Castleblayney Bypass.*

### **Public Lighting Network**

*On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr O'Brien, it was agreed to invite ESB officials to a future meeting of the Council to discuss unresolved issues in relation to the provision and maintenance of the public lighting network and that a copy of the letter be forwarded to Minister Dempsey for his information.*

In response to issues raised by the Members in relation to the Public Lighting Network, Mr. David Fallon, Director of Services said there were still some requests outstanding since 2004. The County Manager would be contacting the ESB at regional level to outline difficulties being experienced in the county.

### **Co Monaghan Partnership**

*On the proposal Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr Coyle it was agreed that Cllr Kieran be re-nominated to the board of the County Monaghan Partnership until the current programme finishes.”*

### **Castleblayney Iontas Centre**

*Cllr O'Brien proposed, Cllr Coyle seconded that the request for financial support from the Castleblayney Arts & Community Resource Centre be forwarded to the Corporate Policy Group for consideration. This was agreed.*

### **Meeting with N.R.A.**

*On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr O'Brien it was agreed to write to the National Roads Authority requesting that the meeting requested by the Council be expedited.*

### **Health Services Executive**

Cllr McElvaney asked that the letter from Professor Drumm, CEO be marked “Read”.

### **Miramichi Invitation**

The Members agreed that the Mayor and one Member from each political party and an official represent the Council at the Miramichi Annual Irish Festival in Canada in mid July 2007.

### **3. Part VIII – Local Government (Planning & Development) Regulations 2001:**

#### **(i) Ref No: 07/8001**

*N2/R181 Link Road in the townland of Derrycreevy/Drumillard Big, Castleblayney. The scheme is approximately 1 km in length and links the current N2 (Dublin – Derry road) to the R181 Keady Road, adjacent to Derrycreevy Bridge.*

Ms. Susan Joyce and Mr. Michael Mongan from RPS Consulting Engineers gave a detailed presentation to the Council on the proposed link road from the N2 to the Keady Road.

Mr. Mongan said the provision of this road was a priority project as set out in the Development Plan. It was 1 km in length and would have three junctions. Under the Part 8 consultation process six submissions had been received and three were received outside this period. He outlined each submission and how the local authority would approach it and concluded by saying the next step in the process was land acquisition.

The Members raised a number of queries to which Michael Mongan gave answers.

*On the proposal of Cllr Crowe, seconded by, Cllr O'Brien it was agreed to approve the proposed development (Ref 07/8001) as per Director's report dated 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2007*

**(ii) Ref No. 07/8002** – Demolition of existing single storey O P D's and all ancillary out offices and boundary fences (Nos. 98 to 116 Cloughvalley, Carrickmacross inclusive and No. 1 An Gleann, Carrickmacross and the construction of 22 houses including boundary walls, fences, associated sewage and surface water connections and all associated works.

*On the proposal of Mayor McNally, seconded by Cllr Keenan it was agreed to approve the proposed development as per Director's report, dated 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2007.*

**(iii) Ref No. 06/80012** - Report on the proposed renovation of existing gatehouse and conversion to public toilets and canteen/store at Cornamucklaglass, Ballybay, Co. Monaghan.

*On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Coyle it was agreed to approve the proposed development as per Director's report, dated 27th April 2007.*

4. **To approve Overdraft Accommodation in the sum of €8 million:**

*On the proposal of Cllr Treanor, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed to approve Overdraft Accommodation in the sum of €8 million for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2007 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007.*

5. **To receive Report on Schedule of Uncollected Rates:**

The Members noted the report from Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance on the Schedule of Uncollected Rates which had been circulated with the agenda.

The Members commended the Revenue Collectors on the collection rate of 94% in respect of 2006.

6. **To adopt draft Annual Report 2006:**

*On the proposal of B McKenna, seconded by Cllr P Treanor it was agreed to adopt the Draft Annual Report 2006.*

7. **To consider Recommendations for Corporate Policy Group**

*On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Keenan it was agreed to approve the recommendations from the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2007.*

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

- (i) It was agreed to hold the Annual Meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> June 2007 at 10.00 a.m. in the Mtek Building.
- (ii) It was agreed to fix a date for a Clar Committee meeting at the June meeting
- (iii) It was agreed to hold a meeting to discuss Rural Housing Guidelines on the afternoon of June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007

9. **Peace III Programme**

The County Manager stated that the consultation process for Peace III and Territorial Co-operation programmes would close on the 30<sup>th</sup> April next. The five INTERREG partnerships are progressing a joint submission. In addition the County Managers from the Border counties are preparing a document which will be submitted to SEUPB in advance of the closing date. The draft proposals provide for some changes to the existing arrangements including for example that there will be no intermediate funding agencies, with SEUPB having a more direct involvement. He stated that the Cross Border Partnerships will still have a vital role to play in the administration of the funds and this was reflected in the document being prepared by the County Managers. In response to queries from members the Manager indicated that he would circulate the draft document to the members for their information.

## 10. Cohesion Process

The County Manager referred to the documentation circulated with the agenda in regard to the integration of the County Monaghan Partnership and the Cavan/Monaghan Leader company. He stated that the membership of the new board will mirror the existing County Development Board and that it will have access to substantial funding which is expected to exceed €500 million per annum. He stated that it was important that agreement was reached locally as quickly as possible to ensure that there would be no loss of grant aid to the County caused by delays in the process. He acknowledged that there were major policy issues including, staffing, legal issues, contracts to be resolved in the first instance. He advised the members that the Department required that the Leader Company and the Partnership were required to have submitted their proposals to the Minister by the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2007.

## 13. Matters Arising out of Minutes held on April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2007

### **Local Authority Prevention Demonstration Programme (LAPD)**

Cllr Treanor enquired if the Members could receive a regular update on the Local Authority Prevention Demonstration Programme.

Mr. David Fallon agreed to provide a quarterly report on the progress being made under this programme.

### **FAI Recruitment of Development Officer**

Mayor McNally requested that a report on the decision of the Local Sports Partnership in relation to this item be placed on the June Council meeting agenda.

Following a discussion on the Local Sports Partnership, Cllr McElvaney proposed, Cllr Bannigan seconded

*“That this Council seek clarification from John Tracey (ISC), as to whether he was prepared to fund the new Local Sports Partnership under the arrangement that the V.E.C. and County Council has unanimously adopted which was that the V.E.C. and the County Council agrees to proceed with and participate in the Local sports Partnership as set out in 2003 application to the I.S.C. with V.E.C. and Co. Co. to co-sign/agree payments. As part of this resolution it is recommended that an independent Chairperson (already by Co.Co. and V.E.C.) be appointed for a minimum of 12 month period thereafter the L.S.P. to decide on its own chairing arrangements ”*

A roll call vote on Cllr McElvaney’s motion resulted, as follows,

**For-** Cllr Bannigan, McElvaney and P McKenna **Total 3**

**Against** – Cllr Carthy, Conlon, Coyle, Crowe, Gallagher, Keelan, Keenan, Martin, Maxwell, McAnespie, B McKenna, P McNally, O’Brien and Treanor. **Total 14**  
**Absent** – Cllr Carville, Humphreys and Kieran

The Mayor declared the motion defeated.

### **National Roads Authority/Roads Matters**

Cllr McElvaney asked that traffic calming bollards be included in the agenda for the meeting with the NRA - this was agreed.

### **Bus Eireann Bus Route**

*Cllr Maxwell propose, Cllr Carthy seconded, that the Council write to the Local Manager of Bus Eireann and to Bus Eireanns central office in relation to the failure of Ulster Bus to allow passengers disembark in Monaghan*

Cllr B McKenna said this was a licence issue and not a responsibility of Bus Eireann. He suggested that the Members write to Minister for Transport, Mr Martin Cullen, T.D. instead, and that a letter be sent to Ulsterbus Headquarters as well, this was agreed.

*“On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed to write to the Department of Social Community and Family Affairs requesting that applications for the All Ireland bus travel pass be processed at an office in Co. Monaghan, as currently senior citizens must travel to Dundalk and 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”.*

### **Irish Officer**

The County Manager said a part time Irish Officer will commence employment in the next few weeks.

### **Matters arising out of Planning Meetings:**

Cllr McElvaney stated that he wished to refer to a comment made by Cllr Martin at a Planning meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2007 whereby Cllr Martin referred to ‘scurrilous and wreckless remarks’ made by Cllr McElvaney during a debate on Submission DPA 124y. He asked Cllr Martin to withdraw these remarks. Cllr Martin stated that he would not be withdrawing the comments made – he was defending the members of the Council’s staff who were entitled, as members of the public, to make submissions under the development plan process.

### **Urgent Business**

The Mayor, Pdraig McNally said the Fine Gael Party had submitted an item of Urgent Business, in the names of Cllrs Maxwell, P McKenna, Bannigan, McElvaney and Keenan.

***“That this Council discuss the recent water quality issues that exist in County Monaghan”***

The Members agreed to deal with this item.

In response to queries from the Members, Mr. Paul Clifford, Director of Water Services replied as follows -

Under article 9 of the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations 2007, the Council had issued instructions to the Glaslough/Tyholland GWS to cease the consumption of the water for drinking or food preparation. The Group Water Scheme is owned and managed by its members and they contracted Veolia Water to operate the treatment plant. Monaghan County Council's role is set out in the regulations. The Council issued a notice under article 10 of the Regulations to the Group Water scheme on the 18<sup>th</sup> April and the GWS has 60 days to provide details of a works programme that restores the supply so that it complies with the standards set out in the Drinking Water Regulations. Monaghan County Council has a legal role under the regulations, as supervisory authority; the water scheme is privately owned and it's their responsibility to ensure that the water complies with the EU Drinking Water Standards.

The Council provided an alternative raw water supply to the GWS as a temporary measure. Bottled water was distributed by the group scheme to those at risk/unable to avail of the alternative supply. He paid tribute to the work of the group scheme in allaying the fears/concerns of its consumers. A protocol has been agreed with the HSE in relation to the lifting of the notice. He stressed that the problem with the supply had absolutely nothing to do with the cryptosporidium bacteria.

The Members said they were disappointed with Veolia's response to the problem, the people in Cavan knew of the problem with the water a fortnight before the people of Glaslough.

## **17. Questions:**

**Cllr Pdraig McNally asked**

- a. (i) Has this Council received a formal application from Woodvale Housing Estate, Kingscourt Road, Carrickmacross for the taking over of their sewerage system.
  - (ii) If so when is it expected that this might happen?

**Reply - P00/1150 Birdy Development Ltd was granted Planning Permission to build 42 houses at Mullanary Carrickmacross on 30 March 2002. The**



**development commenced on 18 March 2003. An application to take the estate in charge was received on the 24 April 2006.**

**Complaints have been received regarding subsidence at Woodvale and details were sent to the developers, McGreevy Construction Ltd, for their attention. They have requested a meeting with planning, water and roads services personnel in relation to the outstanding matters that need to be addressed on this development. The Bond submitted in respect of this development expires on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010.**

- b. What is the projected time scale for the upgrading of the new sewerage system in Inniskeen?

**Reply - Construction work on the upgrading of Inniskeen Wastewater Treatment Plant is scheduled for completion in July 2007. Fencing and landscaping will then be completed, as contractors are available and weather permits.**

- c. When does this Council expect to have a Contractor in place and work commenced in Dun Ard, Inniskeen?

**Reply – Monaghan County Council has received tenders for the proposed works within the Dun Ard Estate - replacing the footpaths, renewing the surface within the estate, providing six extra car parking spaces and improving the radius of kerbing in the central green area to allow bigger vehicles to manoeuvre .**

**It is anticipated that the successful contractor will be on site within the next month.**

- d. What is the latest position regarding the new Civic Amenity Centre in Carrickmacross i.e. when will it go to tender and when is work expected to commence?

**Reply –The design had been completed and contract documents are currently being prepared. It is envisaged that contractors will be on site in August.**

**Cllr Matt Carthy asked**

- e. When does the council expect to be in a position to erect fencing around the perimeter of the play-park at Cloughvalley, Carrickmacross?

**Reply - The Council are seeking quotations for the provision of fencing at the playground at present.**

- f. Considering that one of the stated housing objectives of Monaghan County Council is the provision of private sites where possible:

i) How many such sites have been provided in the past 5 years?

ii) What are the plans for the future provision of such sites?

Reply - The Council sold two sites in Ballybay in 2001. In view of the fact that the Council had very little housing land available it is unlikely to be in a position to provide sites for some time.

g. Regarding public water treatment plants in County Monaghan under the management of the local authority and/ or group water schemes -

(i) How many include equipment specifically designed to address the threat from cryptosporidium thereby ensuring a safe supply for all dependent consumers?

(ii) Are there plans to install such equipment at all plants?

**Reply - Monaghan County Council is currently reviewing its risk assessment of all public water supply schemes in the county. Following completion of this review, proposals to minimize risks will be identified and actions identified which may include measures to protect drinking water sources and provide higher levels of treatment. At present none of the Council's schemes include equipment installed specifically to remove all strains of cryptosporidium during the treatment process. Monaghan County Council has recently requested funding to upgrade and refurbish Kilkitt Water Treatment Plant, which serves Lough Egish Regional Water Supply Scheme.**

**Monaghan County Council does not have direct responsibility for the management of group water supply schemes, although the Council is carrying out a preliminary risk assessment analysis on each G.W.S. source.**

#### **15. Presentation by Ms Breda McKenna, Coordinator of County Monaghan Childcare Committee**

The Mayor welcomed Ms Breda McKenna, Coordinator of County Monaghan Childcare Committee and invited her to address the meeting.

Ms. McKenna thanked the Council for their invitation. She outlined the background to the establishment of the Childcare Committee and outlined the following

- There are 33 City and County Childcare Committees set up by the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform from 2001 – 2006
- The Committee is funded by the office of the Minister for Children under the New childcare investment programme NCIP 2006 – 2010
- The Monaghan County Childcare Committee has 19 members represented by service and voluntary groups
- There aims are to develop quality childcare services, improve the quality of existing childcare services, development of school care services close to

primary schools, develop full day care services in all the main town and encourage childminders to engage in training.

- To ensure a co-ordinated approach to the delivery of services
- In 2007 they provided 1470 childcare places
- Childcare is offered through Childminders, Drop in centres, Full day care, Seasonal pre-school and School Age Childcare.
- 21 percent of County Monaghan's population is under the age of 14

Ms McKenna responded to queries raised by the Members.

The Mayor then thanked Ms. McKenna for the informative presentation.

## **19. Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations**

### **The Members agreed to extend a vote of congratulations to**

- Larry Fryers on winning the All-Ireland Amateur Boxing Championship.
- Lisa Bogue on winning the Ulster Girls Handball title.
- Mark Connolly on being selected for Republic of Ireland U-16 Soccer Team.
- Sarah Fullerton on being crowned the Monaghan Rose of Tralee.
- Killeevan Gymnastics Club on their tremendous performance in the National Tumbling finals.
- Jack Deery on being selected to represent Ireland in the British Tumbling Championships.
- Orla McKenna on being selected to represent Ireland in the British Tumbling Championships.
- Catriona Mullen on winning the National Trampoline title.
- Shane Maguire on winning the 800m National Indoor title.
- James Treanor on winning a medal in the National Indoor Walk.
- Aoibheann Gissane on winning a medal in the National Indoor Walk.
- Kevin Loughran on winning bronze in the National Indoor 600m.
- Desmond Keenan and Enda Sherry on winning the Monaghan Stages Rally 2007.

### **The Members agreed to extend a vote of sympathy to**

- John McAnespie on the death of his brother Michael McAnespie, former Mayor of Omagh District Council

## **20. Conferences**

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr P McKenna it was agreed that the following Members would attend the following conferences.

### CONFERENCES May 2007

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Approx. Cost Per member	Members Selected
Ards Borough Council (in association with Greystones Town Council)	ECO TOURISM Getting the Balance	Aquarium & Seal Sanctuary, Portaferry, Co Down	8 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2007	€650	Seamus Coyle Robbie Gallagher Padraig Mc Nally David Maxwell Owen Bannigan Hugh Mc Elvaney Jackie Crowe
Border, Midland & Western Regional Assembly	Annual Conference – Renewable Energy – A Role for the Regions	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co Louth	13 <sup>th</sup> June 2007	€260	Benny Kieran John O'Brien Padraig Mc Nally David Maxwell John Keenan Pat Mc Kenna Brian Mc Kenna

The meeting then concluded.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Meara**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Meetings Administrator**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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