

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Meeting Room, Mtek 1, Monaghan on Monday 3rd October, 2016 at 10.00 a.m.

Chair: Cllr P.J. O'Hanlon, Cathaoirleach.

Present: Cllrs. Aughey, Bennett, Campbell, Carthy, Conlon, Connolly, Crowe, Gilliland, Keelan, Maxwell, McElvaney, McNally, McPhillips, P. Treanor and S. Treanor.

Mr. E. O'Sullivan, Chief Executive, Mr. P. Clifford, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr. J. McKernan, A/Senior Engineer, Ms. N Woods and Mr. D. Hurley SEO Housing Mr. J. McEntegart, Head of LEO and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

Apologies: Cllrs. S. Coyle, B. McKenna and Mr. A. King, Director of Service.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Campbell, it was agreed that the sympathy of the Council be extended to former Councillor, Packie Jones and his family, on the sudden death of his wife Anna RIP.

The Cathaoirleach adjourned the meeting for a few minutes as a mark of respect.

On resumption, the Cathaoirleach informed the members that he had received three notices of Urgent Business, as follows:

(1) Notice in the names of Cllrs Bennett, Carthy, Conlon, Crowe, Keelan, McKenna and P. Treanor.

"That Monaghan County Council calls on Enterprise Ireland and the Department of Agriculture to immediately engage with Monaghan Mushroom producers, for the purpose of providing essential supports aimed at addressing the severe financial losses in that sector due to currency fluctuations resulting in Brexit".

(2) Notice in the names of Cllrs Gilliland, Maxwell, Mc Phillips and Campbell.

"That Monaghan County Council write to the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, to impress upon them both the need to extend the slurry spreading season for the farming community due to the inclement weather during the summer, and to assist farmers with slurry management".

(3) Notice in the name of Cllr Connolly.

"That Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Health, to engage with the Northern Ireland Minister for Health/ Department, with a view to ensuring that emergency cover is provided to patients presenting at hospitals in Northern Ireland from the Republic of Ireland, in the event of needing emergency treatment, where the Northern Ireland hospital is the closest and most accessible hospital and that this service/ treatment is provided on the same basis as if the patient was presenting to a hospital in the Republic of Ireland".

It was agreed that all three motions of urgent business would be taken at the end of the meeting.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

(i) Minutes of Council meeting held on 5th September, 2016

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor seconded by Cllr Gilliland, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 5th September, 2016, be confirmed.

2. Correspondence.

- Letter of acknowledgement from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in relation to hedge cutting along public roads.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in relation to financial assistance towards farmers.
- Letter of acknowledgement from Office of the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, in relation to FDI investment companies and promotion of County Monaghan.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in relation to speed limits – through roads.

The following correspondence was circulated at the meeting:

- Letter of acknowledgement from Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade in relation to motion to ask the Minister to defend the 'Remain' vote in Northern Ireland.
- Email from Border Communities against Brexit requesting Monaghan County Council support their campaign.
- Letter from Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport stating that there are no plans to discontinue the Sports Capital Programme.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Conlon, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council support the motion included with correspondence from the Border Communities against Brexit, as follows:

That this Council notes that

- *A majority of voters in the North of Ireland voted to remain in the European Union in the Brexit referendum which took place on the 23rd June.*
- *The uncertainty caused by the Brexit referendum result is already damaging trade and investment and causing currency fluctuations which are impacting on cross-Border business.*
- *A new EU frontier stretching from Dundalk to Derry would create real hardship for people in this region particularly those who cross the border on a daily basis who would face potential customs checkpoints, traffic delays and the closure of local border roads.*
- *That the current economic uncertainty will be overshadowed by the situation that would arise should a hard border result in the imposition of tariffs and the restriction of the free movement of goods, services and people on this island.*

- *The end of EU economic support for peace building and border communities will hit many vital community projects who have over the past decade received over £1 billion in EU support.*
- *With the end of EU subsidies farmers in the North will suffer a dramatic loss of income as CAP accounts for approximately 80% of farm incomes in the north and that this will be a severe blow to the local economy in rural areas north and south of the border.*
- *Noting the advances that have been made in the Peace Process, opening border roads, and integrating communities separated from their natural hinterlands during the years of conflict, the imposition of new barriers and a hard border would be an enormous backward step.*

*Welcomes the initiative of those from the business sector, the community sector, farmers and individuals who have come together to form **Border Communities Against Brexit** to demand that the Irish and British Governments respect the North's remain vote.*

*Recognising that it makes absolutely no sense to have one part of Ireland operating within the EU and another outside , this Council will actively support the campaign by **Border Communities Against Brexit** for the North's remain vote to be respected.*

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Gilliland, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council writes to the Cavan/Monaghan Oireachtas members to impress upon Minister Shane Ross TD to have a decision made on the Sports Capital Grant Scheme for 2016/2017.

3. To consider Section 183 Notice relating to disposal of former Town Council Offices, West St. Castleblayney.

The members noted the report that had been circulated with the agenda recommending the disposal of the former Town Council offices in Castleblayney.

On the proposal of Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr Campbell, it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal of the former Town Council Offices located at West Street, Castleblayney in accordance with notice dated 15th September, 2016 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

4. To consider Housing Presentation 'Rebuilding Ireland – Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness' from Nuala Woods, SEO, Housing.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Nuala Woods and Drew Hurley, Housing Section to the meeting and invited them to address the members.

Mr. Hurley then gave a presentation to the members during which he outlined

- Current Housing Needs in County Monaghan (971 on waiting list net of RAS/HAP)
- New Housing Projects being provided
 - Direct Housing provision by Local Authority
 - Social Housing Units being provided by Approved Housing Bodies
- Mullaghmatt Renewal Works Scheme – Phase 4 expected to commence in early 2017.

| Projects | Units provided | Funding provision |
|--|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Bree | 8 | 1,498,846 |
| Turnkey projects – (to be provided in Ballybay-Clones and Monaghan M.D.s | 55 | 10,976,718 |
| CALF and CAS Projects (22 units in Clones and 72 in Carrickmacross) | 94 | 14,000,000 |
| Single Acquisitions | 36 | 4,500,000 |

Following the presentation both Ms. Woods and Mr. Hurley responded to a number of queries from the elected members.

The Cathaoirleach complimented the Housing staff on the excellent work being done in the delivery of the various projects.

The Chief Executive also paid tribute to the work being done by Council staff and he also acknowledged the work of the Department for Housing, Planning and Local Government and of the input from Minister Heather Humphreys, T.D.

5. To consider update on Economic Development and LEO from John Mc Entegart, LEO.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed John McEntegart, Head of LEO to the meeting and invited him to address the members. Mr. McEntegart explained that the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) is the 'First Stop Shop' for anyone seeking information and support on starting or growing a business in Ireland. The office provides a wide range of advice and counselling to develop business proposals and also gives advice on the availability of funding for projects. He then outlined the various types of grant available and gave examples of the non-financial types of support available to existing and prospective clients.

He explained that the LEO has a number of key strategic objectives to deliver as part of the Local Economic and Community Plan, namely –

- Supporting Enterprise & Job Creation
- Marketing Monaghan as a centre for excellence for Industry & Entrepreneurship
- Promote and support Agri-food industry as a economic driver
- Grow ICT sector in the county
- Attract and retain inward investment
- Match skills of workforce needs to industry
- Foster culture of entrepreneurship in the county
- Promote development in town and village centres

Following his presentation Mr. McEntegart responded to queries from the elected members.

On the proposal of Cllr McNally seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon it was agreed that Monaghan County Council calls on the Government to amend the legislation governing the LEO structure to allow elected representatives sit on the Evaluation Committee.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. McEntegart for his presentation.

6. To fix date for Statutory Budget meeting to consider the Budget for 2017.

It was agreed that the Statutory Budget meeting to consider the Draft Budget for 2017 would be held on Wednesday 23rd November, 2016 from 10.00 am to 3pm.

7. To approve overdraft accommodation in the sum of €10 million for the period 1/1/2017 – 31/12/2017.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that the Council approve overdraft accommodation in the sum of €10 million for the period from 1 January 2017 to 31 December, 2017.

8. To receive Management Report – September, 2016.

The members considered the Management Report for September 2016. Queries raised by the elected members were responded to by the Chief Executive and appropriate officials.

9. To approve minutes and recommendations from CPG meeting held on 26th September 2016.

The members considered the minutes of the CPG meeting held on 26th September, 2016.

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that the minutes of the CPG meeting held on 26th September, 2016 together with the recommendations contained therein, be approved.

10. To receive reports from Members attending Conferences/Training events.

The members noted the reports from Cllrs Bennett, Carthy, Conlon, Coyle, Keelan, O'Hanlon and McNally in relation to their attendance at the following conferences/training events:

- AILG Training (Planning), Dundalk.
- AILG Training (Housing), Galway
- AILG Training (Planning), Virginia, Co. Cavan.

11. Business submitted by Chief Executive.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the Minister of State for Housing, Damien English TD had confirmed that he would meet with the Council on Friday 7th October, 2016 at 11.45 a.m. to discuss the Housing Action Plan.

12. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 5th September 2016.

Matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 5th September were responded to by the appropriate officials.

It was agreed that a meeting of the Twinning Sub Committee would be held on 26th October, 2016 at 2pm to discuss the 25th anniversary of the twinning with Geel.

13. To receive update on North South Interconnector project.

The members noted the letter from Eirgrid replying that the company did not intend to withdraw the planning application to An Bord Pleanála for the North-South 400Kv interconnector from Turleenan, Co. Tyrone to Woodland, Co. Meath, through Counties Monaghan and Cavan.

Members also queried whether the decision of the UK to leave the EU would impact on the delivery of the North South Interconnector project.

14. To receive update on the Ulster Canal Project.

Cllr P. Treanor updated the meeting in relation to the recently established Ulster Canal Forum, comprising representatives from the Department, Cavan and Monaghan Councils and Fermanagh and Omagh Council had met on 23rd September and will continue to meet on a regular basis. He confirmed that dredging work had been undertaken on the first phase of the canal and that tenders were being sought for bridge repair work at Derrykerrib.

15. Questions:

Cllr Colm Carthy asked:

1. Can Monaghan County Council's housing section apply for grant aid through the Older Persons Grant, Housing Adaptation Grant and the Mobility Grant on behalf of its Local Authority Tenants and if so, what is the procedure?

Reply: The Council can apply for grant funding. Tenants fill out an application for Adaptation works to facilitate improved mobility/disability accessible accommodation. The application form requires name, address, general description of works required. The form must be accompanied by a doctor's certificate which includes nature and degree of disability. An Occupational Therapist will thereafter visit to specify works and make a recommendations having regard to the medical condition of the individual. In conjunction with this, an Engineer will visit the house to determine if the works can be carried out i.e. the feasibility/ suitability of location. Following successful determination of the application, Monaghan County Council sourced a contractor to quote for the works. In the case of a Housing Adaptation Grant (HGD), the requirement is usually 3 quotes, and for smaller works a contractor will be taken from Monaghan County Council Housing Frame Work document to carry out the necessary works.

2. In light of the recent 'rough sleeper' numbers in Dublin released by the Simon Community, can you confirm if there have been any instances in the last 12 months where anyone had to sleep rough in Co. Monaghan?

Reply: Monaghan County Council conduct an annual rough sleepers count in November and at the time of the count in 2015 there was no rough sleepers on that night. This formal count is carried out once a year. It has to be acknowledged therefore that the Local Authority wouldn't necessarily know if anyone was rough sleeping on dates other than the date of the rough sleepers count. In the last year however, it has not been brought to the Social Workers attention that anyone is sleeping rough in County Monaghan.

Cllr Colm Carthy asked:

3. Can the Council confirm if it still has a budget provision known as a 'hardship fund' and if so, what is the procedure/requirements to apply for it?

Reply: There is a budget provision of €10,000 for Refuse Charges Hardship Fund. Monaghan County Council provide the Hardship Fund to help towards the cost of waste disposal. This Fund is available to people who are experiencing severe personal and financial hardship i.e. recent diagnosis of a life-threatening illness, following a bereavement etc. It is not available to everyone in the County who has a low income and it is not intended as an Ongoing Support. Application forms are available from the Environment Section.

4. Through the new Rebuilding Ireland Housing plan, will Monaghan County Council be making contact with owners of vacant housing units with a view to encouraging them to rent their houses/apartments to the Local Authority under the HAP scheme?

Under the terms of the HAP scheme, housing applicants who are seeking accommodation should contact landlords directly to rent vacant homes.

5. In the last 2 years, how many people/families on the Council housing waiting list were taken off it due to the fact that:
 - a. They didn't report a change in address?
 - b. They didn't respond to a letter issued to them by the Council?

Reply: The number of applications that were removed from the social housing list due to non-response to correspondence during the two year period up to September 2016 was 32. Monaghan County Council is currently in conducting the Housing Needs Assessment as required by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, in accordance with the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2009. When complete the results will be brought to the Councillors.

Cllr P. Connolly asked

6. In relation to unfinished housing developments to ask Monaghan County Council;
 - a. For an update in relation to the number of unfinished developments.
 - b. How many of the unfinished developments have site resolution plans in situ within a given timeframe.
 - c. Are formal enforcement proceedings being taken in relation to any of these unfinished developments.
 - d. An update in relation to bonds for these developments.

Reply: The Planning Authority can confirm as follows:

The number of unfinished residential developments within the County total 11. This is a reduction from 38 in 2012 and 18 at the end of 2014.

Four unfinished residential developments have site resolution plans in place; namely Lough na Glack at Carrickmacross, Knockcarrick at Annyalla, Sruth an Iuir at Oram and Ard Na Gaoithe at Knockatallan.

The Planning Authority is in the process of enforcement action where practicable against unfinished residential developments.

In respect of bonds relating to the unfinished residential developments, bonds are in place/secured for a total of six sites.

Cllr P. Connolly asked

7. In relation to non co-operation from developers of unfinished developments what plans have Monaghan County Council.

Reply: In respect of situations where there is non co-operation from developers, the Planning Authority has been utilising bond funds where applicable, serving derelict site notices against relevant stake-holders, and engaging with relevant financial institutions to put in place site resolution plans to address outstanding infrastructure and public safety issues.

Cllr. R. Aughey asked:

8. Could the Council assist local festival organisers to “green” more of our festivals to ensure that litter and damage to the local environment is minimised.

Reply: Monaghan County Council’s Litter Management Plan 2014-2016 has an objective on events. Objective 8.17 says “All events including those organised by Monaghan Local authority will be arranged and conducted so as to not create any litter”.

The Environment Section encourages “green events” through the National Waste Prevention Programme website “www.greenyourfestival.ie”. In 2016, the Taste of Monaghan will receive direct support from the Environment Section to ensure litter is controlled at the festival site. In previous years Carrickmacross Festival, Tydavnet Show, and Blackwater 10K amongst others, have received direct support from the Environment Section in terms of litter control and greening their festival. If any festival would like advice on litter control or making the festival more sustainable they should contact Nial O’Connor in the Environment Section and he will be happy to assist.

9. Can the Council give an update on the REDZ scheme, what has been learned so far and how it might proceed beyond pilot phase in the county.

Reply: The Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Heather Humphreys, T.D., announced details of a new phase of the REDZ initiative to stimulate economic development in rural towns and their hinterlands, on Wednesday, 21 September 2016.

A total of €5 million will be made available under the 2016 Rural Economic Development Zones (REDZ) initiative, building on the success of a 2015 pilot scheme which saw €3.8 million being provided to projects across Ireland. The 2016 REDZ scheme will provide up to 80% financial support for proposed projects, with the balance of costs to be provided from other sources (e.g. Local Authorities, business interests or community-based funding). It is intended to apply for funding in respect of Clones, Newbliss and Scotshouse under the REDZ initiative for 2016.

Cllr. R. Aughey asked:

10. Can the Council initiate a scheme similar to that devised by Gorey MD and Waterford County Council's IT Department, whereby the public can now report those who park illegally (i.e. without displaying a valid blue badge) in disabled bays via a free text service.

Reply: The Municipal District of Monaghan office will investigate this initiative and report back to the next Municipal District meeting.

11. What is the position regarding the number of Council staff, both indoor and outdoor, trained in First Aid and does the Council have a policy on the matter?

Reply: It is the Council's policy to provide training to staff in First Aid. Monaghan County Council has provided training for 23 outdoor, and 11 indoor staff in Occupational First Aid.

Cllr. N. Keelan asked:

12. In the interest of road safety, what is the up-to-date position in relation to the upgrading of the signs & lines and other improvement works at the Tullyvaragh – Castleross junction, on the N2.

Reply: The TII carried out a survey of the junction and engaged consultants to complete a new design at this location. Once the design is in place the TII will arrange a contractor to carry out the necessary works.

13. In the event of a bad winter, is this Council well prepared in terms of salt supplies - will the salting programme be carried out as in other years, and in the towns & villages across the county including housing estates as in other years.

Reply: There is a sufficient supply of salt in stock and the same salting programme as applied in 2015/16 will continue to apply in the winter of 2016/17.

14. In relation to Inniskeen village, what plans has this Council to extend the Sewerage collection network out to Ednamo, in order to service the homes including the church in that area.

Reply: Awaiting reply from Local Representative Support Desk in Irish Water.

15. How many houses has this Council constructed or purchased in the last 3 years, and where are they located. How much funding is available to this Council to build or buy houses in the time ahead.

Reply: Including house purchases in progress, Monaghan County Council purchased/constructed 64 houses in the last 3 years.

In 2014, the Council entered into negotiations to purchase 4 no. houses in Co. Monaghan:

- 1 in Ballybay
- 1 in Monaghan Town
- 1 in Clones
- 1 in Corcaghan

In 2015, the construction of 9 houses in McCurtain St., Clones was finalised and the Council purchased 13 units in various locations:

- 3 no. units in Carrickmacross
- 4 no. units in Castleblayney
- 2 no. units in Monaghan
- 2 no. units in Ballybay
- 1 no. unit in Ballinode
- 1 no. unit in Scotshouse

In 2016, under the *“Rebuilding Ireland – Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness”*, Monaghan County Council has agreed purchase prices for 38 no. of units to date, in various locations and several of these will be allocated in the coming weeks:

- 6 no. units in Carrickmacross
- 10 no. units in Castleblayney
(41.7% of the social housing demand is in the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District and the 16 houses above represent 42% of the 38.)
- 3 no. units in Clones
- 2 no. units in Smithboro
- 2 no. units in Newbliss
(19.3% of the social housing demand is in the Clones-Ballybay Municipal District and the 7 houses above represent 20% of the 38.)
- 9 no. units in Monaghan
- 2 no. units in Tyholland
- 2 no. units in Emyvale
- 1 no. units in Glaslough (39% of the social housing demand is in the Monaghan Municipal District and the 14 houses above represent 39% of the 38.)

Funding in the amount of €10,976,718 has been provided for the construction of 55 new homes in four separate turnkey development projects. Three of the four projects are located in Monaghan Town and one in Smithborough. In addition, funding in the amount of €1,498,846 has been secured to construct 8 new homes in Bree, Castleblayney.

Separate funding was also secured so far in 2016 for Monaghan County Council to purchase and upgrade 36 houses throughout the County, at a cost of approximately €4.5million (it is envisaged that the final number of houses purchases agreed in 2016 will be 38). This totals 99 additional Local Authority houses and funding of €16,975,564 to date (including 36 house purchases, 55 houses under turnkey arrangements and 8 to be constructed by Monaghan County Council at Bree).

Cllr. N. Keelan asked:

16. What plans has this Council to purchase land banks across the county for the purpose of social & affordable housing.

Reply: Over the last two years Monaghan County made offers on several parcels of land with the intention of acquisition for the purpose of building social housing. Unfortunately, private developers outbid the Council on the land in question and another site has been subject to delays due to legal issues. In April 2016, Monaghan County Council advertised for land and houses. Following the advert the Council made offers on two significant parcels of land that have potential for housing, however in one case another party made a higher offer that the Council was not in a position to go beyond and in the other case the owner of the land is seeking an exceptionally high price for the land. In relation to house purchases there was a good response to the advert and it has resulted in the Council being in a position to agree the purchase of 36 houses or more in 2016.

As the Council was unsuccessful in purchasing land directly for housing construction the step has been taken to proceed with the acquisition of houses to be constructed by Developers on privately owned land. So far this has resulted in the approval of funding in the amount of €10,976,718 for the construction of 55 new homes in four separate turnkey development projects. Three of the four projects are located in Monaghan Town and one in Smithborough. In addition, funding in the amount of €1,498,846 has been secured to construct 8 new homes in Bree, Castleblayney on land owned by Monaghan County Council.

Cllr. Aidan Campbell asked:

17. With regard to the house at the back entrance to the Hope Castle estate on Church St. which is in the ownership of Monaghan County Council, what plans are in place to restore this heritage building?

Reply: The house locally known as St Brigid's at No. 2 Church Street, Castleblayney, was constructed in 1877 and is a protected structure. The house in question was leased to a local voluntary housing body for approximately 20 years to provide accommodation for homeless people and during that time it was split into two small inadequately sized apartments. Circa 2011 the house was ransacked and hot water cylinders were stolen resulting in significant water damage.

A new programme for returning vacant derelict social housing to use was announced in 2015 and Monaghan County Council applied to the Department for €110,000 in funding to restore the house in question to its original configuration to make it into a more usable family home. In July 2016 the Department approved €65,000 in funding, which results in a shortfall of €45,000 compared to the estimated cost. Monaghan County Council intends to go ahead with the procurement of the professional services required to undertake a detailed structural and conservation survey of the house, and to prepare tender documents, cost estimates and a planning application under Part 8 which is required as the house is a protected structure. Given the nature of the project the services of a Conservation Architect, Structural Engineer, Services Engineer, BER Assessor and Quantity Surveyor will be required. Following the production of detailed surveys and associated reports, a more accurate cost estimate will be prepared and at that stage a decision can be made regarding the funding of the restoration of the house.

16. Notices of Motion:

CLLrs Bennett proposed, Cllr P. Treanor seconded, and it was agreed,

1. That Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government, Deputy Simon Coveney TD, to allow all Council tenants to purchase their homes. Presently people living in 'Part 5' social housing (houses that were built as part of private developments), do not have the option to purchase their home under the tenant purchase scheme.

Cllr. Conlon proposed, Cllr Carthy seconded, and it was agreed,

2. Considering the severe societal impact resulting from drug abuse throughout the region, especially from heroin and synthetic cannabinoids, that this Council seek of Minister Frances Fitzgerald TD, and the Department of Justice, the re-establishment of the Cavan Monaghan Garda Divisional Drugs Unit.

CLLrs P. Treanor proposed, Keelan seconded, and it was agreed,

3. That this Council asks the Minister for Health to request the H.S.E. to include the Medical Report, required by a person over 70 applying for a driving licence for a car, to be included in the Medical Card services.

Currently, if you're under 70 the fee for a 10 year licence is €55. It is free for over 70's, but a Medical Report is required. This can cost €40 - €60 for a visit to your G.P.

If the person over 70 has an illness that limits their licence to 1 year, that means a visit to the G.P. each year for 10 years, costing nearly 10 times the fee to an under 70's person.

That if passed, this motion be circulated to all Local Authorities and local Oireachtas Members, seeking their support.

17. Votes of sympathy:

It was agreed that the sympathy of the Council be extended to Brian MacDomhnaill and family on the sad passing of his wife Deirdre, RIP, late of Rockcorry.

It was agreed that a vote of congratulations be extended to the following:

- Eabha Campbell, Carrickroe Co. Monaghan on being awarded, for the second year in a row, "National Champion Junior Baker" at the National Ploughing Championships held in Tullamore.
- Scotstown Senior Football team on winning the Monaghan Senior Football Club Championship Final.
- Corduff Gaels on winning the Division 1 Minor Football Club Championship.

- Leslie Crawford and the Monaghan Phoenix Athletic Club on the successful staging of the Marathon Festival that took hundreds of runners through Monaghan Town and Rossmore Park.

18. Conferences/Training:

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Carthy, it was agreed that the Council be represented at the following conferences by the members listed:

| Promoting Authority | Subject/Theme | Venue | Dates | Members Selected |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| AILG | Local Authority Housing | Galway | 6 th September 2016 | Cllr P.J. O'Hanlon |
| AILG | Autumn Seminar | Amber Springs Hotel, Wexford Road, Gorey, Co. Wexford | 13-14 th October 2016 | Cllr. P. McNally Cllr. P. Connolly Cllr. J. Crowe Cllr. C. Carthy Cllr. N. Keelan Cllr. S. Conlon Cllr. P. Treanor Cllr. B. McKenna Cllr. D. Maxwell Cllr. S. Gilliland Cllr. PJ O'Hanlon Cllr. S. Coyle |
| AILG | TBC | Sligo | 22 nd October 2016 | Cllr. P. McNally Cllr. S. Conlon Cllr. C. Bennett Cllr. C. Carthy Cllr. B. Mc Kenna Cllr. P. Treanor Cllr. N. Keelan Cllr. J. Crowe Cllr. D. Maxwell Cllr. PJ O'Hanlon Cllr. P. Connolly Cllr. S. Coyle |
| ICLRD | Revitalising Small Towns across the island of Ireland: The role of Local Government | Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan | 27 th October 2016 | Cllr. P. Treanor Cllr. N. Keelan Cllr. J. Crowe |
| Celtic Conferences | Waterways Ireland | The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Cork | 11-13 th November 2016 | Cllr. A. Campbell Cllr. C. Mc Phillips Cllr. D. Maxwell Cllr. S. Gilliland |

Urgent Business:

(1) Cllr Conlon proposed, Cllr P. Treanor seconded,

"That Monaghan County Council calls on Enterprise Ireland and the Department of Agriculture to immediately engage with Monaghan Mushroom producers, for the purpose of providing essential supports aimed at addressing the severe financial losses in that sector due to currency fluctuations resulting in Brexit".

Following a debate by the members the Cathaoirleach put the motion to the meeting and it was agreed unanimously.

(2) Cllr Gilliland proposed, Cllr Maxwell seconded,

"That Monaghan County Council write to the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, to impress upon them both the need to extend the slurry spreading season for the farming community due to the inclement weather during the summer, and to assist farmers with slurry management".

Following a debate by the members the Cathaoirleach put the motion to the meeting and it was agreed unanimously.

(3) Cllr Connolly proposed, Cllr S. Treanor seconded,

"That Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Health, to engage with the Northern Ireland Minister for Health/Department, with a view to ensuring that emergency cover is provided to patients presenting at hospitals in Northern Ireland from the Republic of Ireland, in the event of needing emergency treatment, where the Northern Ireland hospital is the closest and most accessible hospital and that this service/treatment is provided on the same basis as if the patient was presenting to a hospital in the Republic of Ireland".

Following a debate by the members the Cathaoirleach put the motion to the meeting and it was agreed unanimously.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed _____
Cathaoirleach

Date _____

Signed _____
Meetings Administrator

Date _____