

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Civic Offices, Carrickmacross on Monday 5th December, 2016 at 10.00 a.m.

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

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

Mr. E. O’Sullivan, Chief Executive, Mr. P. Clifford and Mr. A. King, Directors of Services, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner, Ms. B. Bradley, CEDO and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

(i) Minutes of Council meeting held on 7th November 2016

On the proposal of Cllr D. Maxwell seconded by Cllr B. McKenna, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 7th November, 2016, be confirmed.

(ii) Minutes of Statutory Budget meeting held on 23rd November, 2016

On the proposal of Cllr D. Maxwell seconded by Cllr B. McKenna, it was agreed that the minutes of the Statutory Budget meeting held on the 23rd November, 2016, be confirmed.

2. Correspondence.

The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda for the meeting:

- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Justice in relation to the Council’s resolution regarding the awarding of a posthumous Scott medal to the late Garda Michael Clerkin.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Office of the Garda Commissioner in relation to the Council’s resolution regarding the awarding of a posthumous Scott medal to the late Garda Michael Clerkin.
- Letter from the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation in response to the Council’s resolution calling for councillor representation on the Evaluations and Approvals Committees of the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs).
- Email from Deputy Brendan Smith enclosing reply to Parliamentary Question by the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation in relation to meeting a deputation from the Council to discuss the vacant BOSE facility and other matters.
- Email from Deputy Niamh Smyth enclosing copy letters from TII and Minister Shane Ross in relation to the N2 realignment from Corracrin to Emyvale and copy of a letter from TII in relation to the N2 between Monaghan and Carrickmacross.

The following additional correspondence was circulated at the meeting:

- Email from Deputy Niamh Smyth enclosing copy letter from TII in relation to the N2 realignment from Corracrin to Emyvale.
- Email from Irish Water regarding hard water in the Carrickmacross, Ballinode, Scotstown and Smithboro area.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that Monaghan County Council writes again to Irish Water asking them to change the source of the water supply that is distributed to Scotstown, Ballinode, Smithboro and Carrickmacross areas. That Irish Water works with the Monaghan Chief Executive to come up with a solution to this ongoing situation, as there are other water sources available that could be distributed therefore preventing the hardness issue that is currently a major issue.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr S. Treanor it was agreed that the Council writes to Irish Water, referring to their email dated 23rd November, 2016 and requesting further information in relation to the reference to 'not currently offering allowances' and to ask what type of allowances are being referred to.

3. To consider Material Contravention to the County Development Plan 2013-2019 for the construction of a replacement dwelling at Tullyhirm, on lands zoned for Industry, Enterprise and Employment use (Zoning Objective E).

Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner referred to the report dated 25th November, 2016 which had been circulated with the Agenda for the meeting. The application for planning permission is for the construction of a replacement dwelling at Tullyhirm, is contrary to the following objective of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019:

Zoning objective E: Industry, Enterprise and Employment:

"To provide for new industrial, enterprise and employment development and to facilitate the expansion of existing industrial and employment enterprises"

Mr. Hughes confirmed that the Council had published a notice in the Irish Times and the Northern Standard on 13th October 2016 indicating that the Council intended to consider granting planning permission for the development and inviting submissions from the public. No submissions had been received.

Mr. Hughes stated that the report recommended the granting of planning permission for the proposed development, subject to seven conditions. He further stated that, in order to grant the permission, three-quarters of the membership of the Council must vote in favour of the proposal, ie 14 members.

Cllr Aughey proposed, Cllr Maxwell seconded

That the Council approve a Material Contravention of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019 to grant planning permission, subject to the conditions specified, to Martin and Pauline McVicar, Tullyhirm, Armagh Road, Monaghan (Ref 16/349).

Cllr Aughey's proposal was put to the meeting and it was agreed unanimously.

4. To consider Part VIII application for the construction of 8 dwellings at Bree, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan (Ref 16/8002).

The members considered the report from the Senior Planner which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting in relation to the construction of eight local authority dwellings at Bree, Castleblayney.

On the proposal of Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr Campbell it was agreed that the Council approve the granting of permission for the construction of a eight local authority dwellings at Bree, Castleblayney (Ref16/8002), to comply with report from the Senior Planner in accordance with Part VIII of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2001.

A number of members complimented the work undertaken by the staff of the Housing Section.

5. To receive update on Monaghan's Age Friendly Initiative –

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Bernie Bradley, CEDO, to the meeting and invited her to give an update to the members on Monaghan's Age Friendly Initiative.

Ms. Bradley thanked the members for the opportunity to speak on the Age Friendly Initiative. She stated that Monaghan has achieved its goal of becoming the first Age friendly business county in the country. Businesses in each of the five towns in the county have signed up to the programme. Being an age friendly business involves making small changes to how you do business, making it easier for older people to access the services on offer. The business community in county Monaghan have embraced the Age Friendly Business programme with great enthusiasm. Almost one hundred and thirty business right across the county are now committed to being more age friendly and supporting older customers in our communities. The response to the programme demonstrates the huge respect within the business community for the older population of county Monaghan. Monaghan has been highlighted by Age Friendly Ireland as a model of good practice at national and international level.

Following her report, Ms. Bradley responded to queries from the elected members.

6. To receive Management Report – November, 2016

The members noted the contents of the Management Report for November, which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting. The Chief Executive responded to queries from the elected members.

7. To approve Minutes and recommendations from CPG meeting held on 23rd November 2016.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed that the minutes of the CPG meeting held on the 23rd November, 2016 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

8. To receive Minutes and recommendation from Twinning Committee meeting held on 23rd November, 2016.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr S. Treanor, it was agreed that the minutes of the Twinning Committee meeting held on the 23rd November, 2016 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

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

The members noted the reports from Cllrs Carthy, Conlon, McPhillips and P. Treanor in relation to their attendance at the following conferences/training events:

- AILG Training (Emergency Planning) Sligo.
- Irish Council for Social Housing, Dublin.
- Waterways Ireland Conference, Clonakilty, Co. Cork.
- Revitalising local towns on the Island of Ireland, Monaghan Town.

10. Business submitted by Chief Executive.

Mr. E. O'Sullivan, Chief Executive informed the members that the Cathaoirleach and himself, along with other representatives from Donegal County Council, Derry City and Strabane, Mid Ulster and Fermanagh/Omagh Councils had met with the Joint Committee for the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement in Dublin on 1st December. A strong case had been made to the Committee outlining the importance of the development of the A5/N2 road, particularly in view of the forthcoming 'Brexit'. The presentation also stressed the importance of the route corridor selection in Co. Monaghan and the allocation of funding of circa €1.6m for this purpose.

Mr. O'Sullivan responded to queries from the elected members in relation to the matter.

It was agreed that the N2/A5 road would be a standing item on the CPG agenda for the foreseeable future.

11. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meetings held on 7th & 23rd November, 2016.

Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 7th and 23rd November, 2016 were responded to by the relevant officials.

12. To receive update on North South Interconnector project.

Cllr N. Keelan updated the members in relation to the current status of the planning application for the North/South Interconnector. It was noted that the decision on this application is awaited.

13. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project.

Cllr Treanor stated that planning permission had been obtained for the section from Derrykerrib, near Newtownbutler, to Clones, unlike the situation with the A5/N2. He stated that it is necessary to ensure that there is the same focus on completing this project in advance of the Brexit, as there is on the A5/N2.

14. Questions:

Cllr R. Aughey asked:

1. Can the Council outline how many applications there have been for:

- Mobility Aid Grant
- Housing Adaptation Grant
- Housing Aid for Older People Grant

over the last three years, the number of grants approved and work completed and whether there are any people on a waiting list for these grants?

Reply: There are no persons on the waiting list for these grants. All completed applications have been processed.

Year	Adaptation Grant for people with a disability	Mobility Aids Grant	Housing Aid for Older People
2013	44	52	81
2014	70	67	76
2015	48	53	84

2. How many applications were made under the recent CLÁR programme for school safety measures, local access roads and community playgrounds?

Reply: Monaghan County Council has this week received an allocation in respect of the 2016 CLAR programme - 21 for school safety measures; 4 for playgrounds and 4 for local access roads.

3. Would the Council consider expanding the Science and Technology initiative by organising a county science fair for primary and post primary schools?

Reply: Cavan Monaghan Science Festival, was funded by Science Foundation Ireland on a pilot basis. Due to its success, the Council is giving consideration to delivering a similar initiative in 2017. Details of the programme and availability of funding have yet to be established.

4. What plans has the Council with regard to developing a digital strategy for the county particularly with respect to the stated LECP goal to grow the ICT Sector in the county by developing and marketing the availability of serviced high quality workspace serviced directly by fibre in Monaghan and Carrickmacross and by targeting graduate retention initiatives to improve graduate placement in local enterprises?

Reply: Monaghan County Council together with Enterprising Monaghan completed the CTEK building in Carrickmacross in 2015; plans are currently being prepared to develop a second unit at this site as all 18 units are occupied. There is some capacity in MTEK 1 at present, but Monaghan County Council is planning to develop further units in Monaghan subject to finance.

Cllr. C. Carthy asked:

5. Will Monaghan County Council consider making contact with major banks with a view to purchasing vacant and unfinished houses they have on their books?

Reply: In an initiative which commenced in 2015, the Housing Agency has contacted the banks directly on behalf of all Local Authorities and, with the cooperation of Local Authorities, is negotiating the bulk purchase of properties from the banks. This is seen as an efficient cost effective means of dealing with significant numbers of properties in various loan portfolios. In 2015 Monaghan County Council purchased two houses directly from Receivers dealing with investment properties that were being disposed of by the banks. An arrangement has been put in place whereby the Housing Agency contacts Monaghan County Council regarding any properties being disposed of by Receivers in County Monaghan. If the properties are deemed to be suitable, the Housing Agency is authorised to negotiate the purchase on behalf of the Local Authority and following a comprehensive due diligence process, the property is transferred to the Local Authority at an agreed price not exceeding open market value. In 2016 one suitable property was identified for purchase directly from Receivers acting on behalf of the banks. Monaghan County Council will consider the purchase of any suitable property directly from Receivers and banks.

6. Can Monaghan County Council confirm where housing units have been purchased by the Housing Section throughout the county (with a Municipal District & townland breakdown) since the 2014 local elections?

Reply: The numbers of properties that have been purchased in 2014/2015 or are in the process of being purchased in 2016, are denoted per location as follows:

<u>Ballybay/Clones Municipal District</u>	15
Clones Town	3
Clones Rural	1
Smithborough	4
Newbliss	2
Ballybay Town	2
Rockcorry	1
Threemilehouse	1
Corcaghan	1

<u>Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District</u>	24
Carrickmacross Town	11
Carrickmacross Rural	1
Castleblayney Town	11
Inniskeen	1

Monaghan Municipal District 20

Monaghan Town	14
Tyholland	2
Emyvale	2
Glaslough	1
Ballinode	1

Cllr. C. Carthy asked:

7. Can Monaghan County Council, in their review of road salting in 2017, include rural local roads that service schools?

Reply: Monaghan County Council will consider the locations of rural schools in its 2017 review of the Winter Service Plan.

8. What is the up-to-date position on the 2 unfinished housing estates in Carrickmacross:
- In relation to selecting Approved Housing Bodies/Associations – has that procedure been completed?
 - In relation to a completion timeline?

Reply: The two Approved Housing Bodies involved in the acquisition of social housing in Lough na Glack and Magheross, Ardee Road, Carrickmacross are, respectively, North and East Housing Association, and Tuath Housing. It is intended that 39 dwellings will be brought into use at Lough na Glack in late 2017 and 33 dwellings will be brought into use at Magheross in mid to late 2017.

9. During the review of housing estates throughout the county in 2016 and the addition of speed limit signage, did this Council encounter any estates that require additional safety measures (i.e. Ramps, extra signage etc)?

Reply: Monaghan County Council has recently commenced speed monitoring in a number of estates where speed limits have been reduced to 30km/hr to determine the effectiveness of the new limits. Any estates that do not achieve an 85% percentile speed of 30Km/h will be subject to a further review to identify suitable additional measures in accordance with the Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits.

Cllr. S. Conlon asked:

10. Have additional staffing resources been put in place in the relevant housing, planning, technical and design sections of Monaghan County Council to ensure maximum efficiencies in providing overdue Council housing?

Reply: The Housing Department regularly reviews its current staff resources to ensure that the needs of the department are met. This continues throughout the year and in the last review a requirement for an additional Assistant Engineer and Administration Officer was identified and both posts have been approved by the Chief Executive.

Cllr. S. Conlon asked:

- 11.** Further to assurances provided by Minister Damien English TD, at the meeting of October 7th that state agencies in ownership of land banks would co-operate with local authorities in the provision of sites for social housing, what progress has been made between Monaghan County Council and relevant stakeholders in at securing lands at St. Davnet's, for much needed housing for the Monaghan Town area?

Reply: The Local Authority has linked with the main relevant stakeholder (HSE) to discuss the development of lands for housing at St. Davnet's. These matters remain under discussion as the HSE wish to determine and announce their own priorities in respect of the usage of lands under their own control in the St. Davnet's complex.

- 12.** Considering the role Approved Housing Bodies such as Respond, Cluid, Oaklee etc have in working in a partnership approach in the provision of social housing throughout the county, what progress, naming specific sites and locations, has been achieved to date that will see tenant allocations during 2017/18?

Reply: Monaghan County Council has worked closely with Approved Housing Bodies towards the provision of additional social housing at locations throughout County Monaghan. The projects that will be occupied in 2017/2018 are as follows:

- **Carrickmacross Group Home:- Respond:- 6 units (2017)**
- **Drumillard Group Home Castleblayney:- Castleblayney Care Housing Association:- 8 units (2017)**
- **Lurgans Group Home Carrickmacross:- Respond & Steadfast partnership:- 3 units (2017)**
- **Liseggerton Clones CAS & CALF projects:- Oaklee Housing Trust:- 28 houses (2017/2018)**
- **Lough na Glack Carrickmacross:- North & East Housing Association:- 39 houses (2017)**
- **Magheross Ardee Road Carrickmacross:- Tuath Housing:- 33 dwellings (2017)**

In addition to the above, further potential social housing projects in conjunction with Approved Housing Bodies are being progressed. In Monaghan town potential is being explored for an additional 28 social houses to be provided by 2018 (subject to Planning Permission and funding approval) and in Castleblayney there is potential for an additional 32 social houses to be provided by 2018 (subject to funding approval). If the additional potential social housing projects are approved and progressed within a reasonable timeframe, there will be a total of 177 social houses to be provided in conjunction with Approved Housing Bodies in 2017/2018.

Cllr. N. Keelan asked:

- 13.** What is the total cost of operating and maintaining the public lighting network across the county per annum?

Reply: The budget allocation in 2016 for public lighting management is €786,860. The key cost elements for managing and maintaining the public lighting stock is; energy costs, maintenance contract and asset management of the lighting stock. The public lighting

stock has increased in 2016 with the "Taking in Charge" of lights in housing estates and with a full inventory review of the lighting stock.

Public lighting is the Council's single biggest energy user and a major focus of efforts to reduce the Council energy usage to achieve the 2020 targets. The Council has been successful in securing funding from TII for the upgrade of lights on the National Route to LED, as well as undertaking LED upgrades on Non National roads and housing estates. The Council will be actively seeking further funding in 2017 for lighting upgrades.

Cllr. N. Keelan asked:

14. How much is this Council, including the MDs, spending per annum on rented accommodation offices/ buildings etc.?

Reply: The total rental cost for buildings in 2016 is €360,000. This includes; office space, storage, Council chamber and library facilities.

15. What is the up to date position in relation to the upgrading of the Dundalk to Cavan regional road, via Carrickmacross and Shercock town. Will the executive agree that this very important road link is in a poor state of repair, especially the section from Carrickmacross to Shercock.

Reply: The Dundalk to Cavan section of the East/West Dundalk to Sligo Project has been completed to preliminary design stage. There is currently no funding available to progress the scheme through the remaining stages of Detailed Design, Statutory Procedures/Land Acquisition, Procurement/Tender Award and Construction.

16. As discussed on a number of occasions will the Council consider making housing staff available at least one day per week in the civic office in Carrickmacross in order to deal with the huge numbers of people in difficulty in relation to housing provision.

Reply: The Local Authority is available to deal with applicant and tenant inquiries either by telephone or by appointments to discuss individual cases, or by visiting the Local Authority. The existing staff in Carrickmacross is available to speak with any member of the public calling in with general housing enquiries and any written correspondence by tenants/applicants can be handed into the Carrickmacross office and staff there will pass it on to the Housing department. Meetings can be arranged, where deemed necessary in the Municipal District offices, including the Clones-Ballybay offices as well as the Castleblayney-Carrickmacross Civic Offices. As the current service addresses the level and form of inquiries being made, staff will not be relocated to the Carrickmacross office in the interests of efficiency and the effective use of staff resources.

Cllr. P. Mc Nally asked:

17. In light of the large number of county roads in a poor condition across County Monaghan, does this Council expect to get increased funding for 2017.

Reply: Monaghan County Council has no indication of additional funding for 2017; the annual roads works programme is being prepared on the basis of receiving a similar allocation to 2016.

Cllr. P. Mc Nally asked:

18. What is the current status of the East West Road i.e. Sligo/Dundalk, in particular Shercock to Carrickmacross and onto Dundalk as understood by this Council.

Reply: The Dundalk to Cavan section of the East/West Dundalk to Sligo Project has been completed to preliminary design stage. There is currently no funding available to progress the scheme through the remaining stages of Detailed Design, Statutory Procedures/Land Acquisition, Procurement/Tender Award and Construction.

14. **Notices of Motion:**

Cllr Carthy proposed, Cllr Conlon seconded

1. *Monaghan County Council supports the campaign of 'Donegal Families for Justice' in their quest for answers surrounding the disappearance of Mary Boyle in 1977:*
- *We call on the Coroner to carry out an immediate inquest*
 - *We ask that this inquest should be followed by a commission of inquiry/investigation into the case*
 - *We call on the Minister for Justice, Frances Fitzgerald TD, and the Minister for Children Katherine Zappone TD, to use all mechanisms of the state to bring this case to an end and give closure to Mary's family as we enter the 40th anniversary of her disappearance and*
 - *We ask that this motion be sent to all other County and City Councils throughout the state for their support.*

Following a debate on the motion, the Cathaoirleach put it to the meeting and it was agreed unanimously. It was also agreed that the motion would be circulated to all local authorities.

Cllr. S. Coyle proposed, Cllr McNally seconded

2. *That Monaghan County Council calls on An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny T.D., the Minister for Health, Simon Harris T.D., the H.S.E. and the government, to immediately address the scandalous crisis of public hospital waiting lists, which currently stands at 540,000 people awaiting appointments, with 440,000 awaiting outpatient appointments, an increase of 27,000 since last May, as totally unacceptable waiting lists and waiting times for necessary hospital procedures and treatments.*

Following a debate on the motion, the Cathaoirleach put it to the meeting and it was agreed. Cllr McElvaney requested that he be recorded as abstaining. It was agreed that the motion be circulated to all local authorities.

Cllr. S. Coyle proposed, Cllr McNally seconded

3. *That Monaghan County Council calls on An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny T.D. and the government to immediately deliver an enhanced range of services through the Post Office network, to ensure a sustainable and viable future for Post Offices across Ireland, particularly for rural Post Offices.*

During a debate on the motion, Cllr McElvaney proposed an addendum, as follows:

“ That postmasters/postmistresses get an additional payment for the running of the post offices to ensure the survival of rural post offices”.

Cllr Coyle accepted the addendum as proposed by Cllr McElvaney.

Following a debate on the amended motion, the Cathaoirleach put it to the meeting and it was agreed unanimously. It was further agreed that the motion be circulated to all local authorities.

Cllr. P. Connolly proposed, Cllr Gilliland seconded

4. *That Monaghan County Council calls on the Government to progress the Coroners Bill as a matter of urgency, and that the Coroners Bill/Act will provide for an automatic inquest into every maternal death in this state.*

Following a debate on the motion, the Cathaoirleach put it to the meeting and it was agreed unanimously. It was also agreed that the motion would be circulated to all local authorities.

15. Votes of sympathy/congratulations.

It was agreed that a vote of sympathy be extended to the Cathal O’Friel, former Ballybay Town Councillor and the O’Friel family on the death of Alice O’Friel, RIP, late of Ballybay.

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

- Latton O’Rahilly Ladies team on winning the 2016 Ulster Junior Club Championship and their Ulster All-Star winners, Shauna Coyle and Katie Duffy.
- Ballybay Pearse Brothers GFC on winning the 2016 Owen Ward Cup, Senior Football League.
- Donaghmoynne Ladies GFC, Captain Amanda Casey and Manager Francis Coleman on winning the All Ireland Ladies Senior Club Championship for the fifth time and back to back titles in 2015 and 2016.
- Killanny Geraldines GFC on winning the 2016 Monaghan Electrical Intermediate Football League and on gaining promotion to Senior Football in 2017.
- Toome GFC on winning the 2016 Eurotech Junior Football League Dr. Ward Cup, the first time since 1958.
- Michelle Duffy of Gaeil Triucha on being awarded the ‘Juvenile Official of the Year’ at the recent Co. Monaghan GAA Convention.
- Michael Owen McMahon, Scotstown on being appointed Chairperson of Monaghan GAA County Board and to all his fellow officers appointed for 2017.
- Pdraig Sherry, Outgoing Chairman, Anita Finnegan, outgoing Secretary and Marian Donnelly outgoing Treasurer for their service to Monaghan GAA County Board over the past number of years.
- Leona Goodman from Carrickmacross on receiving the Comfort Keeper’s National Carer of the Year Award for 2016.

16. Conferences/Training

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Conlon, 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	Regional Assemblies & their role with Local Authorities & The Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2016	The Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway	24 th November 2016	Cllr. S. Coyle Cllr. J. Crowe
Sport Ireland Governance Seminar	Governance for all Funded Bodies including NGBs & Local Sports Partnerships	Crowne Plaza, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15	8 th November 2016	Cllr. S. Conlon
North Western Regional Assembly	One Region One Vision	The Model Hotel, Sligo	8 th December 2016	Cllr. B. McKenna

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____
