

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Meeting Room, Mtek 1, Monaghan on Monday 7th November, 2016 at 10.00 a.m.

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

Present: Cllrs. Aughey, Bennett, Carthy, Conlon, Connolly, Gilliland, Keelan, Maxwell, McElvaney, McKenna, McNally, McPhillips, 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, Ms. M. Murphy Sports Partnership Co-ordinator and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

Apologies: Cllrs. Campbell, Coyle and Crowe.

Urgent Business

At the outset, the Cathaoirleach stated that he had received a notice of urgent business in the names of Cllrs P. McNally, P. Connolly and D. Maxwell (on behalf of Fianna Fail, Non Party and Fine Gael groupings respectively,) as follows:

" In view of the fact that the circumstances surrounding the death on duty of Garda Michael Augustine Clerkin, 18189G, meet the criterion for the award of a Scott Medal that Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Justice and Equality Francis Fitzgerald TD and An Garda Commissioner to initiate a procedure to ensure that Garda Michael Clerkin is posthumously awarded a Scott Medal for his actions in the line of duty that led to his untimely death at Garryhinch, Portarlinton, Co. Laois on 16th October 1976".

Cllr B. McKenna requested that his name be included in the motion, on behalf of the Sinn Fein grouping. This was agreed.

It was agreed that the urgent business would be discussed at the end of the meeting.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

- (i) Minutes of Council meeting held on 3rd October 2016

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor seconded by Cllr S. Treanor, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 3rd October, 2016, be confirmed.

2. Correspondence.

The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda:

- Letter from Simon Coveney TD, Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government regarding the Council's resolution relating to the exclusion of Part V houses from the Tenant Purchase Scheme 2016.

- Letter from the Water Policy Section of the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government in response to the Council's motion relating to hard water and requesting grant aid to address the problem.
- Letter from the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government regarding the use of ion exchange filtration systems.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in relation to Council's resolution regarding the introduction of a levy on the disposal of coffee/tea cups.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Health in relation to the Council's resolution regarding expenses arising from the medical report required by a person over 70 applying for a driving licence being covered under the Medical Card services.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Health in relation to the Council's resolution regarding emergency cover being provided to patients from the Republic presenting at hospitals in Northern Ireland.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Social Protection in relation to the Council's resolution regarding payment of the Christmas Bonus for 2016.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Justice and Equality in relation to the Council's resolution regarding drug abuse especially from the use of synthetic cannabinoids.
- Letter from the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise confirming that the Minister will continue to encourage mobile FDI investments to consider locating in Monaghan.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Office of An Taoiseach in relation to the Council's motion regarding Local Enterprise Offices.
- Letter from Brendan Smith TD enclosing response to Dail Parliamentary Question regarding the need to secure a placement industry following the closure of the BOSE facility.
- Letter from Deputy Ó Caoláin regarding his follow up on items arising out of the meeting with Oireachtas members on 26 September, specifically relating to the BOSE facility and the N2/A5 road scheme.
- Email from Senator Robbie Gallagher regarding meeting with the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation regarding a meeting to discuss the vacant BOSE facility.
- Letter received by Deputy Niamh Smyth TD from Senior Vice President eBay Inc confirming that eBay is not looking at the vacant BOSE facility or at any alternative venues to relocate its Dundalk facility to.
- Resolution from South Dublin County Council regarding verifiable threats to bees globally and calling on the Government to ensure that banned neonics are not offered for sale in Ireland.
- Resolution from South Dublin County Council calling on the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government to amend the relevant legislation to provide for a system for funding local government that is based on the provision of local services, on site value not property value and linked on ability to pay.
- Letter from Fr. Kevin Malcolmson thanking the Council for its letter of congratulations on the occasion of his recent ordination to the priesthood.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Keelan it was agreed that this Council adopts the motion from Tralee M.D in relation to Government support for the post Office Networks.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr Bennett it was agreed that Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Communications, Climate Change and the Environment to provide grant aid to houses affected by hard water supplies thus ensuring that domestic appliances will be protected from the impact of hard water.

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Aughey it was agreed that Monaghan County Council writes to the IDA to establish how many (FDI) clients have being brought to County Monaghan in the last two years, in line with the response from Jobs Minister's Private Secretary Therese Walsh and in particular how many interested parties have they brought to see the BOSE plant in Carrickmacross.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr McKenna, it was agreed that further to the acknowledgement from the office of Tanaiste & Minister for Justice and Equality regarding last month's motion seeking the re-establishment of the Cavan/Monaghan Drugs Unit, that this Council returns correspondence to this Department, as well as the Garda Commissioners Noreen O'Sullivan, imploring on them the necessity of setting up this unit at Divisional Headquarters at Monaghan and that a Sergeant is appointed to head up this unit to ensure optimum operational efficiency.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Gilliland it was agreed that this Council invites Dermot Monaghan and Cathal Hand to address Monaghan County Council on Development relating to Monaghan primary care centre and Oriel House on the grounds of St. Davnet's Hospital.

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Aughey, it was agreed that this Council investigates the costs and technicalities of installing a lime filter at the Carrickmacross water plant and any other plants in need of same across the county.

On the proposal of Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that Monaghan County Council Investigate the possibility of changing the water source that supplies Ballinode and Scotstown and Smithboro. This water is presently sourced from a very hard supply and an easy solution would be to change the source.

On the proposal of Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that Monaghan County Council writes to Minister Damian English T.D, and asks him for an update on the issue of Part V – houses not being included in the Tenants Purchase Scheme. Part V tenants should have the opportunity to purchase their homes under the tenant purchase scheme.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Conlon, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council calls on the Government to ensure that banned neonics are neither offered for sale in Ireland nor used in any form and we propose that Bayer's "Flupradifurone" insecticide is banned from Ireland. The issue of depleted numbers of Bees globally is urgent and this Council concurs with the South Dublin County Councils. Motion is in November 2016 agenda.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllrs Treanor and McElvaney it was agreed that in to the proposed meeting with H.S.E officials Cathal Hand and Dermot Monaghan that they give the Council information relating to cross border access to A&E services in the event of emergencies.

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Bennett, it was agreed that the Council write again to the Department of Communications, Climate Change and Environment, in relation to Council's resolution from the October meeting regarding the introduction of a levy on the disposal of coffee/tea cups.

3. To consider Section 183 Notice relating to disposal of land at Onomy, Castleblayney:

Mr. P. Clifford, Director, referred to the Section 183 notice which had issued to members in relation to the disposal of land at Onomy to Castleblayney Faughs. He confirmed that a professional valuation had been sought and received for the disposal.

In response to a discussion which took place on the disposal of small portions of land to local groups in advance of a formal Masterplan for the Muckno estate being prepared, the Chief Executive stated that three local groups are under active consideration for small portions of land. He was satisfied that these disposals don't impact on the remainder of the estate in terms of the future plans. The proposals to dispose of these plots had been agreed in principle some time ago.

He confirmed that a structural report on Hope Castle will be available shortly. When this report is available he would convene a meeting of the Muckno Committee.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Connolly it was agreed that the Council dispose of 2.76 hectares of land at Onomy, Castleblayney to Castleblayney Faughs GFC in accordance with the terms of notice dated 28th October, 2016 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

4. To adopt the Monaghan County Council Scheme of Letting Priorities 2016:

The members noted the amended Scheme of Letting Priorities which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting.

Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance and Director of Housing informed the members that the Social Housing Strategy and Rebuilding Ireland – Action Plan on Housing and Homelessness requires local authorities to progress Choice based letting as an allocation method across housing authorities. Circular 40/2016 requires this to be incorporated by local authorities by 31st December, 2016 through amending the Scheme of Letting Priorities.

On the proposal of Cllr McPhillips, seconded by Cllr Carthy, it was agreed that the Council adopt the amended Scheme of Letting Priorities for Monaghan County Council, as circulated.

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Aughey it was agreed that this Council seeks to put a policy in place that will avoid applicants being removed from our housing waiting list on the basis of income limits despite them only being in temporary employment. A suggested time of 3 years continuous employment should be adhered to before they are taken off list.

5. To receive update on Monaghan Sports Partnership:

Ms. Michelle Murphy, Sports Partnership Co-ordinator, informed the meeting that Monaghan Sports Partnership operates under the auspices of Sport Ireland (formerly the Irish Sports Council) within the governance and oversight infrastructure of Monaghan County Council.

The Sports Partnership aims to increase participation in sport and physical activity – especially among those who do not participate or are excluded from participating due to age, gender, race, disability or social & economic circumstances. The Partnership plays a role in ensuring that the people of Monaghan are given equal opportunity to participate in activities which contribute to their social engagement and which contribute to a healthier society. The Sports Partnership membership is made up of representation from statutory bodies, target population groups and the sports sector.

The launch of the National Physical Activity Plan (NPAP) by Government is a cross departmental document which will be the guiding action plan for Sports Partnerships and National Governing Bodies of Sport in the future as they seek to work collaboratively towards a cohesive approach for the improvement of the physical/mental health and wellbeing of our nation's people. Monaghan Sports Partnership will act as one of the mechanisms locally by which to deliver on actions contained within the NPAP and the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP). It aims to target local communities, provide inclusive sport for people with a disability, support sports clubs and leisure facilities, provide education and training to sports club volunteers/students and create opportunities that see more people, more active, more often.

Aside from its annual budget allocation from Sport Ireland and Monaghan County Council, the Sports Partnership has leveraged funding from various other sources eg. Department of Tourism, Transport and Sport (National Bikeweek), Dept of Children and Youth Affairs (National Play Day/National Recreation Week) Go for Life (activities for older people), IPB (Community Engagement Fund – for people with a disability) and has secured funding towards the development of a Community Sports Hub in North Monaghan in 2017 which will provide a neutral space for sports / community development - within which local sports opportunities and developments will grow and be nurtured for the benefit of the whole community .

The Sports Partnership welcomes communications from elected members and seeks that the County Council continues to consider opportunities for investment and planning in sport/ recreational infrastructure in the future which provide the platform on which participation is built.

Following her presentation, Ms. Murphy responded to queries from the elected members.

The Cathaoirleach thanked her for a very informative presentation and wished the Sports Partnership continued success.

6. To receive Management Report – October, 2016

On the proposal of Cllr Aughey, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that this Council examines the possibility that Monaghan County Council, in conjunction with Monaghan/Cavan ETB, hosting annual Science Technology fair in County Monaghan.

7. Meeting Reports:

(i) To note Report from meeting with Oireachtas Members held on 26th September 2016

It was agreed that the report from the meeting with the Oireachtas members held on 26th September, 2016 be noted.

(ii) To note Report from meeting with Minister Damien English TD, held on 7th October, 2016

It was agreed that the report from the meeting with Minister Damien English held on 7th October, 2016 be noted.

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

The members noted the reports from Cllrs Bennett, Campbell, Carthy, Conlon, Connolly, Coyle, Crowe, Gilliland, Keelan, Maxwell, B. McKenna, McNally, McPhillips, O'Hanlon and P. Treanor in relation to their attendance at the following conferences/training events:

- LAMA Autumn Seminar, Bantry, Co. Cork
- LAMA Seminar, Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo.
- AILG Annual Conference, Bunrana, Co. Donegal.
- AILG Autumn Seminar, Gorey, Co. Wexford.
- AILG Training (Emergency Planning) Sligo.
- AILG Training (Housing), Galway
- AILG Training (Planning), Virginia, Co. Cavan.

9. Business submitted by Chief Executive.

Public Wi-Fi

The Chief Executive informed the members that the Council had signed a contract for the installation of public Wi-Fi in the towns of Monaghan and Carrickmacross with the aim of having free Wi-Fi available in both towns before the end of 2016. He confirmed that WI-FI would be available in the towns of Clones, Castleblayney and Ballybay in 2017.

10. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meetings held on 4th October, 2016.

Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 4th October, 2016 were responded to by the relevant officials

11. To receive update on North South Interconnector project.

Cllr N. Keelan updated the members in relation to this project. It was noted that the decision on the planning application for the North/South Interconnector was not expected until late December.

12. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project.

There was no discussion on this item.

13. To receive presentation from Children's Hospital Group (Eilish Hardiman, CEO) and National Paediatric Hospital Development Board (Phelim Devine).

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Eilish Hardiman CEO Children's Hospital Group and Phelim Devine, Design Director, National Paediatric Hospital Development Board and invited them to make a presentation to the meeting.

Ms. Hardiman and Mr. Devine then made a presentation to the Council where they outlined the following:

- The current situation in relation to paediatric services and neonatology – 20 locations across Ireland
- What is best for children - Saving children's lives: The sickest children and young people have better clinical outcomes if treated in a hospital that has scale & critical mass:
 - scale means a high caseload.
- Why co-location with St. James's Hospital - St James's Hospital has greatest number of clinical specialities/national services in the adult hospitals and widest range of adult sub-specialities to support paediatric services, ensuring children with conditions whose prevalence does not warrant paediatric-only consultant get the best support. 25% consultants in paediatrics have adult commitment.
 - Joint management of children and adults provides better quality of clinical care. Examples include cardiac surgery, plastic surgery, oncology, haematology, burns, Interventional Radiology, genetics, immunology & maxillofacial surgery.
 - The NCH and SJH have matching levels of service complexity delivered by highly specialist staff. To bring Connolly Hospital up to a comparable level would require very significant investment (capital and HR) & reconfiguration.
 - Economies of scale: access to highly specialised equipment that it would not otherwise have access to. Radiation oncology on campus.
 - A model for transition to adult services for children and young people with chronic conditions better served from co-location with SJH.
- A timeframe for the project – estimated completion date Q4 2020.
- Further details in relation to site capacity and expansion plan, access and car parking information.

Following the presentation they responded to queries from the elected members.

The Cathaoirleach and the Chief Executive thanked Ms. Hardiman and Mr. Devine for a very comprehensive presentation and wished them every success with the project.

14. Questions:

Cllr P. Mc Nally asked:

1. Has Monaghan County Council Roads Design Office, finalised detailed drawings for the link between the Castleblayney By pass, and the Dundalk road as promised for the third quarter of 2015.

Reply: A preliminary alignment for the proposed road was carried out by D.K.I.T. in collaboration with Monaghan County Council. The Council will progress development of the project with the TII.

2. Can this Council give an update on the upgrading of the junction at Tullyvara Lower, Carrickmacross, the TII had promised to have this work complete by late September.

Reply: A TII Lining contractor commenced work on installing a ghost island at this location on 19th October.

3. When is it expected to have speed limits, 50 kph and 80 kph, extended on the old Castleblayney road, Carrickmacross as discussed in 2015.

Reply: These proposals will be taken into consideration in the overall review of speed limits currently underway. It is hoped to progress proposals to a meeting of the Speed Limit Committee within a few weeks.

4. In light of the increased funding for Local Authority Houses as well as affordable housing, will this Council look again at the possibility of providing same in the following areas :-Lisdoonan, Corduff, Magheracloone, Killanny, Inniskeen, Donaghmoynne, Broomfield and Lough Egish. (It is worth noting that Monaghan County Council appear to have no demand for houses in most of these areas, that is only due to the fact that these locations are not all listed on our application forms).

Reply: Monaghan County Council will consider the possibility of providing houses in the locations mentioned, in response to specific housing needs, and in every other part of the County where specific housing needs are identified subject to funding availability.

Cllr S. Coyle asked:

5. Can Monaghan County Council give a detailed breakdown of the numbers currently on the waiting lists for social housing in the following categories:-

Reply: The number of housing applicants who are not in receipt of any form of social housing support is 515.

The number of the above applicants per waiting list for each MD is as follows:

Monaghan MD	187
Ballybay - Clones MD	90
Castleblayney – Carrickmacross MD	238

The number of above applicants per waiting list for the five main towns is as follows:

Ballybay	31
Carrickmacross	137
Castleblayney	93
Clones	39
Monaghan	151

The number of above applicants on the remaining waiting lists is as follows:

Monaghan MD		Ballybay-Clones MD		Cmx - Cbly MD	
Annyalla	6	Bawn	1	Inniskeen	5
Ballinode	3	Doohamlet	2	Magheracloone	1
Carrickroe	0	Knockatallon	2	Oram	2
Clontibret	2	Latton	1		
Emyvale	17	Newbliss	6		
Glaslough	7	Rockcorry	0		
Tyholland	1	Scotshouse	2		
		Scotstown	2		
		Smithborough	2		
		Threemilehouse	2		

The above figures are based on the first preference area of choice per applicant.

CLlr S. Coyle asked:

6. (a) How many planning applications in total have been lodged to Monaghan County Council in the current year to date in 2016?
- (b) What is the breakdown of planning applications for 2016, in the following categories-
- Single housing?
 - Multi housing developments?
 - Agricultural buildings?
 - Poultry units?
 - Industrial units?
 - Other developments?

Reply: The Council have so far this year received 483 planning applications.

The breakdown of application type received to date is:

• Single housing	190	Poultry units	51
• Multi housing developments	11	Industrial units	19
• Agricultural buildings	68	Other developments	144

7. How immediate are Monaghan County Council's plans in consultation with the T.I.I. to address the flooding on the N54 approaching Clones on the Monaghan Road, in the area of the filling stations on the Monaghan Rd., which has seen the N54 closed and impassable to traffic on a number of occasions in recent years, with the N54, carrying huge traffic and a major link to huge employment, emergency services, particularly for

north Monaghan residences accessing, hospital services at Cavan General Hospital and causes a major loss of business to Clones town during a period of closure due to flooding. Will this Council prioritise flooding alleviation works at this location?

Reply: A consultant has been appointed to develop a flood model and to carry out a Flood Risk Assessment at this location. Any follow-on work will be subject to funding availability.

Cllr S. Coyle asked:

8. Will Monaghan County Council outline the responsibilities of land owners to trim and cut hedges along roads, where they are causing danger to road users. Can the Council outline their powers of enforcement on landowners, who fail to maintain roadside hedges in a safe and responsible manner?

Reply: Owners and occupiers of any structure or land must take all reasonable steps to ensure that a tree, hedge shrub or other vegetation on their land does not present a hazard to persons using a public road, and that it does not interfere with the safe use or maintenance of a public road. Under the Roads Act 1993, the Local Authority can serve a 14 day notice and prosecute for failure to comply. If the hazard is posing an immediate danger, the Council can take whatever action is deemed necessary to eliminate the hazard to road users and recover the costs from the landowner/occupier of the lands.

Cllr. C. Carthy asked:

9. Can Monaghan County Council confirm how many applications it received for Housing Loans and how many it accepted in the last 3 years?

Reply: There were 12 applications and 6 have been approved.

10. Will the Housing Section consider, in 2017, adding provisions for upgrade works to be carried out in the Drummond Etra Housing Estate in Carrickmacross, including the cutting down and trimming of some trees, tidying the green space that joins both upper and lower parts of the estate and the resurfacing of rear entry ways to houses?

Reply: Any proposed maintenance and upgrade works to green spaces, roads & footpaths within an estate, would be assessed & co-ordinated by Carrickmacross Municipal District. Each Municipal District has a specific budget for the maintenance of green spaces in estates in 2017.

11. Can this Council confirm when is the expected completion date for the Group Home for persons with Physical and Sensory Difficulties in Carrickmacross?

Reply: Respond Housing Association has advised that the expected completion date for Carrickmacross Group Home is the end of January 2017.

12. To date, how many applications have been made to Monaghan County Council to purchase units under the Tenant Purchase Scheme (2016) and out of these applications, how many have been successful?

Reply: There are 51 applications in total. Of these:

- (1) 12 Refusals (Income not meeting requirements).**
- (2) 18 applications require further information.**
- (3) 21 applications have been sent for valuation. Of the 21, 1 is pending, 4 offers are in the post and letters of offers have been sent to 16 people.**

Currently 3 applications are currently with the solicitors and 7 applications have applied to Monaghan County Council for a loan and have been forward to the Housing Agency for credit checks.

Cllr. C. Carthy asked:

13. Does the executive envisage any increase in 2017 on budgets for each Municipal District and if so, where will these increases be given?

Reply: The final CPG Budget meeting takes place on 4th November. Final budgets for any cost centre will not be clear until this meeting has concluded and will be subject to adoption by the full Council.

Cllr R. Aughey asked:

14. The surface of Emyvale Main Street is in poor condition. When is the road likely to be re-surfaced?

Reply: A tender has been accepted and works are due to commence in the next week or two.

15. What progress has been made regarding a previous motion from then Cllr Robbie Gallagher on the promotion of organ donation by the Council?

Reply: Staff have been informed of the various ways which they can apply for organ donor cards i.e. by applying for an organ donor card online/hard copy or by selecting the option on the driving licence renewal form where they can indicate their wish to become an organ donor. A supply of organ donor cards will be available at all Council offices this week. We will engage with the Co-ordinators of the PPN and the Sports Partnership with a view to highlighting the importance of organ donation amongst local community groups.

16. What policy does the Council have regarding the spraying of weeds and what progress has been made regarding Japanese Knotweed?

Reply from Roads Dept: A program for the control of Japanese Knotweed has been established. The TII in association with Monaghan County Council has highlighted areas of Japanese Knotweed along National Roads, and Monaghan County Council has sprayed all sections identified. In addition the Municipal Districts have identified a number of locations along the non national roads and public areas. Spraying of the areas identified was carried out to eradicate the infestation.

Cllr R. Aughey asked:

17. Can the Council clarify its policy with regard to indiscriminate fly posting by visiting entertainment groups such as circuses, wrestling tournaments etc and what can be done to eliminate the practice?

Reply: Advertising for some specified local events may be exempted development, where it falls within the provisions of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). Indiscriminate fly posting, which does not comply with the provisions of the Regulations, can be most expeditious when pursued under the provisions of the Litter Act.

Cllr. S. Conlon asked:

18. To ensure the optimum standards of road user safety and layouts prevail at the Tyholland chapel junction on the N12, will the Roads Section seek from Transport Infrastructure Ireland a Road Safety Assessment at this busy junction.

Reply: The Road Design Section will carry out a road safety assessment of this junction in the coming weeks.

19. What progress has been made to date regarding the 'taking in charge' process at Knockcarrick, Annyalla? With the successful drawing down of the €200,000 development bond, what effect has this amount been applied in remediating works, and has consideration been given to applying to the Department of Environment for additional funding?

Reply: The Council is nearing the completion of remedial works to the services, roads and footpaths within this development, funded by the development bond. Proposed remedial works to the open space remains to be completed, due to an ongoing third party dispute. Following the completion of the remedial works the Planning Section shall progress the taking in charge application.

Cllr. P. Connolly asked:

20. What plans have Monaghan County Council to create an awareness campaign regarding the damage caused to our public road network by water draining off lands onto public roads?

Reply: The Council placed an advertisement in the Northern Standard and on the Council's website at the beginning of September 2016, advising landowners of their responsibilities in regard to drainage from their lands adjacent to public roads.

21. Have Monaghan County Council taken any precautions to date under the 1993 Roads Act in relation to water flowing from farmlands onto public roads?

Reply: The issue of water flowing from farmland is dealt with in the initial stages by the Municipal District who directly contact the landowner/occupier. In the event that initial discussions are unsuccessful a notice would issue from Roads Section. No prosecutions issued in recent years.

15. Notices of Motion:

Cllr P. Mc Nally proposed, Cllr Aughey seconded:

1. *That Monaghan County Council puts a policy in place that will ensure that we only purchase or develop a minimum of two bedroom accommodation, regardless of the type of accommodation in question.*

Following a debate on the motion, the Cathaoirleach put it to the meeting. A vote by show of hands resulted in 8 for 5 against. The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

Cllr McNally requested that the resolution be forwarded to the Housing SPC to draw up safeguards to protect an individual from being unfairly discriminated against. This was agreed.

Cllr. P. Connolly proposed, Cllr S. Treanor seconded:

2. *That we the members of Monaghan County Council call on the Minister for the Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, Simon Coveney TD, to introduce a European Affairs SPC in all local authorities business from early 2017.*

The Chief Executive explained that following the local elections in 2014, the Council published a Scheme for the establishment of Strategic Policy Committees. Under the scheme four SPC's were established. The process would have to be recommenced if a new SPC were to be set up. He suggested that this work might be added to the work programme of the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC in the interim.

The Cathaoirleach put the motion to the meeting. A vote by show of hands resulted in 11 for 1 against. The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

16. Votes of Congratulations.

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

- Monaghan United U17 soccer team who recently won the Costa Brava Cup in Spain against stiff opposition from all across Europe.
- Conor McKenna, Gaeil Triúcha Hurling Club on being selected on the Nicky Rackard All-Stars representing County Monaghan.
- Dermot Sherry, Monaghan on receiving the Most Efficient Farmer Award in the Liquid/Winter Milk category at the recent Bord Bia Origin Green Sustainable Producer Awards held in Portlaoise.
- Catriona Balfe, originally from Tydavnet, on winning a BAFTA Scottish Award for her role in the Starz Tv series 'Outlander'.
- The Margaret Skinnider Appreciation Society for all their hard work and commitment towards raising the profile and significance of Margaret Skinnider during the Centenary Year.
- Urbleshanny National School on winning the All Ireland Mangahigh Maths Challenge.

Cllr P. Treanor proposed, Cllr B. McKenna seconded that the Council organise a Civic Reception in honour of County Monaghan Ladies Football Team on winning the Ulster Final 2016.

Cllr S. Conlon proposed, Cllr B. McKenna seconded that the Council organize a Civic Reception for the Monaghan United U17 Soccer team for winning the Costa Brava Cup in Spain recently.

The Cathaoirleach ruled that in accordance with the Civic Honours Policy, both proposals would be referred to the Corporate Policy Group for consideration.

17. Conferences/Training.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that the Council be represented at the following conferences/training events 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 - A Briefing for Elected Members	The Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway	24 th November 2016	Cllr. C. Carthy Cllr. N. Keelan Cllr. B. McKenna Cllr. C. Bennett Cllr. PJ O’Hanlon Cllr. D. Maxwell Cllr. P. Connolly Cllr. P. McNally
Celtic Conferences	First Time Home Buyer Mortgage-getting on the Property Ladder	The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	25 th to 27 th November 2016	Cllr. PJ O’Hanlon Cllr. P. McNally Cllr. P. Connolly
AILG	Regional Assemblies & their role with Local Authorities & The Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2016 - A Briefing for Elected Members	The Red Cow Moran’s Hotel, Dublin	19 th November 2016	Cllr. S. Conlon
Irish Council for Social Housing	ICSH Seminar-Partnership Working for Local Authority Elected Members & Housing Associations	Ashling Hotel, Dublin 8	16 th November 2016	Cllr. S. Conlon

Urgent Business:

Cllrs Connolly and McNally proposed, Cllr Maxwell seconded

In view of the fact that the circumstances surrounding the death on duty of Garda Michael Augustine Clerkin, 18189G, meet the criterion for the award of a Scott Medal that Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Justice and Equality Francis Fitzgerald TD and An Garda Commissioner to initiate a procedure to ensure that Garda Michael Clerkin is posthumously awarded a Scott Medal for his actions in the line of duty that led to his untimely death at Garryhinch, Portarlinton, Co. Laois on 16th October 1976”.

Following a debate on the motion to which a number of members contributed, the Cathaoirleach put it to the meeting and it was agreed unanimously.

Cllr McNally requested that the resolution be circulated to all local authorities. This was agreed.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____
