

**Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Meeting Room, Mtek 1, Monaghan on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 at 2.00 p.m.**

**Chair:** Cllr Noel Keelan, Cathaoirleach

**Present:** Cllrs. Bennett, Campbell, Connolly, Coyle, Crowe, Gilliland, Maxwell, McElvaney, B. McKenna, McNally, McPhillips, O'Hanlon P. Treanor and S. Treanor.

Mr. E. O'Sullivan, Chief Executive, Mr. P. Clifford, Director of Service, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr. J. McKernan, A/Senior Engineer, Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner, Mr. D. McKernan, Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. Somhairle MacConghail Arts Officer, Ms. C. Elliott, A/County Librarian and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

**Apology:** Cllrs Carthy and Gallagher and Mr. A. King, Director of Services.

At the outset, the Cathaoirleach proposed a vote of sympathy to Cllr Colm Carthy and his wife Denise on the sad loss of their baby girl. He also extended the sympathy of the Council to the wider Carthy and Connolly families. The vote was seconded by Cllr B. McKenna and agreed unanimously. All members joined in the vote of sympathy as did the Chief Executive on behalf of the management and staff of the Council.

A minute's silence was observed and the Cathaoirleach adjourned the meeting for five minutes as a mark of respect.

On resumption, the Cathaoirleach proceeded with the business of the agenda.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes**

**(i) Minutes of Council meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2016**

Cllr Coyle pointed out that Cllr McPhillips had been recorded twice in the vote on page 2 of the minutes and that he had not been recorded as voting for the proposal to take urgent business. It was agreed that the minutes be amended to reflect this.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2016, as amended, be confirmed.

**(ii) Minutes of Special Council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2016**

*Cllr Maxwell proposed, Cllr Connolly seconded that the minutes of the Special Council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 be adopted.*

Cllr B. McKenna stated that he was unhappy with the minutes of this meeting as circulated and requested that the minutes be amended to reflect comments which he made regarding the Council's management of the Materials Recovery Facility at Scotch Corner. He submitted to the Meetings Administrator the wording that he wished to have recorded in the minutes of that meeting.

The Meetings Administrator stated that minutes were a record of decisions taken at a meeting and did not reflect all comments and contributions made during the meeting.

Mr. E. O'Sullivan, Chief Executive stated that if the minutes were to be amended to include Cllr McKenna's comments then he wanted the comments that he made at the Special meeting included in order to give a balanced account.

A debate followed to which both members and officials contributed.

Cllr McElvaney withdrew from meeting during this debate.

The Cathaoirleach put the proposal to amend the minutes to the members. A vote by show of hands resulted in 5 for, 9 against. The Cathaoirleach declared the proposal defeated

The Cathaoirleach then put Cllr Maxwell's proposal to the meeting. A vote by show of hands resulted in 9 for 5 against. The Cathaoirleach declared the minutes of the Special Council meeting adopted, as circulated.

Cllr McElvaney returned to the meeting.

## **2. Correspondence.**

The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda:

- Letter from the Chief Officer of the Health Service Executive outlining the position regarding the provision of respite service in the county.
- Letter from the Department of Justice and Equality regarding the lack of Garda presence in the Cavan/Monaghan division.
- Email from the Monaghan Association, Beds & Herts (Luton) inviting two representatives to attend the annual dinner dance of the Association to be held in Luton on 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2016.

*On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that this Council seeks on behalf of the residents of County Monaghan a commitment, to be honoured from all Oireachtas representatives for Cavan/Monaghan of significant increase in "home help hours" and significantly "improved home care packages", to assist in the care of the people in their own homes in the programme of government on the formation of government.*

*It was agreed that the resolution would be circulated to all the Oireachtas members for Cavan/Monaghan.*

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was agreed that this Council replies to Theresa Villier's letter and includes the information supplied by the "Justice for the Forgotten" campaign.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr McKenna, it was agreed that the Council accept the invitation from the Monaghan Association Beds & Herts (Luton) by the Cathaoirleach and an official.*

### **Urgent Business:**

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that he had received three notices of urgent business, as follows:

### **Notice in the name of Cllr P. Connolly**

*“That Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Health to reverse the decision to locate the national Children’s Hospital at St James’s Hospital and instead to locate the New Children’s Hospital for all the children of Ireland at Connolly Hospital in Blanchardstown.”*

### **Notice in the names of Cllrs P. McNally, Cllr S. Coyle, Cllr P.J. O’Hanlon, Cllr R. Gallagher.**

*In light of the very severe crisis in the dairy sector, that Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Agriculture, Simon Coveney T.D and the European Agriculture Commissioner, Phil Hogan, to immediately intervene to have the outstanding €48m super levy bill owed by farmers in this County and across Ireland, postponed indefinitely or if legally possible, abolished altogether as these farmers are not in a financial position to pay this money.*

*On the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015, a figure of €72m was deemed owed by way of a fine for Ireland being over its Milk Quota, this despite Milk Quotas being abolished the next day, the 1<sup>st</sup> of April, 2015. €24 of this was paid by farmers in the summer of 2015 with the balance to be paid over the summer of 2016 and 2017. However milk prices have fallen dramatically from a high of 39c a litre in 2013/2014 to its present level of only 25c which doesn’t cover the cost of production.*

### **Notice in the names of Cllr. McPhillips, Cllr. S. Coyle, Cllr. C. Bennett, Cllr. H. McElvaney, Cllr. P. Treanor and Cllr. S. Gilliland**

*Cllr McPhillips proposed, Cllr P. Treanor seconded, that Monaghan County Council calls on the Roads Department, in conjunction with the MD engineers to devise a strategy to deal with roads which have sections in two or more MD areas.*

It was unanimously agreed to take all three Urgent Business motions. The Cathaoirleach stated that he would deal with these before the end of the meeting.

### **3. To consider Material Contravention to the County Monaghan Development Plan 2013-2019**

Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner referred to the report which had been circulated with the agenda regarding the planning application (Ref; 15/494) by Arthur Mallon Foods seeking permission to extend the existing food production facility at Mullaghduin, Monaghan. He stated that the proposed development was contrary to four aspects of the County Development Plan –

- Zoning Objective C – proposed residential lands
- Zoning Objective I – landscape protection/conservation
- Objective for the protection of natural heritage
- Objective for the protection of built industrial heritage

Mr. Hughes stated that the Council had published a notice in the Irish Independent and the Northern Standard indicating that it intended to consider granting planning permission for the development and inviting submissions from the public. No submissions or observations had been received.

Mr. Hughes stated that the report recommended the granting of planning permission for the proposed development, subject to 12 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.

*On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Connolly it was unanimously agreed 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 Arthur Mallon Foods (Ref 15/494) to extend the existing food production facility at Mullaghduin, Monaghan.*

*On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed to congratulate Mallon Foods on the proposed expansion and the company's contribution to job creation in the county.*

**4. To consider Section 183 Notice - Disposal of land at Drummond Etra, Carrickmacross**

The members considered the Section 183 Notice and report which had been circulated to each member in advance of the meeting and also circulated with the Agenda for the meeting.

*On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr Campbell, it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal 5m<sup>2</sup> at Drummond Etra, Shercock Road, Carrickmacross to ESB Networks in accordance with the terms of Section 183 Notice dated 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.*

**5. To adopt the Draft Arts Development Plan 2016-2020.**

Mr. S. MacConghail, Arts Officer stated that the draft Arts Development Plan had been prepared in accordance with Section 6 of the Arts Act 2003. It was informed by the aims set out in the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht 'Culture 2025' policy discussion document and the Arts Council's 'Making Great Art Work' Strategy 2016-2015. The plan provides a strategic framework designed to align available resources with the priorities identified through the consultation process, and to build capacity within the arts sector. He also outlined the process involved in consulting with interested individuals and groups in relation to the preparation of the draft plan. He explained that over 90 submissions had been received (online) and a total of 66 people attended the 4 consultation meetings throughout the county in January.

In order to give focus and drive to arts development in County Monaghan over the period 2016-2020 and arising from the consultation process, two policy themes had been identified –

- Theme 1** Investing in Creativity
- Theme 2** Engaging citizens with the artistic life of the county

Under these two main policy themes, the policy identifies six strategic goals that set out broad statements of intent that will define the work of the Monaghan Arts Service over the period of the plan.

Mr. MacConghail responded to queries from the members.

*On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr Campbell it was agreed that the Council adopt the draft Arts Development Plan 2016 – 2020, be adopted.*

*On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that a special meeting takes place with the Arts and Roads section in Co. Monaghan. After that a meeting with the Department of Transport in relation to seeking for funding for the roads around the Patrick Kavanagh Centre and roads around all Arts related facilities in the county.*

**6. To consider recommendations in relation to the Arts Partners Grants Scheme 2016**

*On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr McPhillips, it was agreed that the Council approve the allocation of grants under the Arts Partners Grants Scheme 2016, as follows:*

	<b>Recommended for 2016</b>	<b>Amount</b>
1.	The Garage Theatre	€17,000
2.	Clones Film Festival	€8,000
3.	Castleblayney Iontas Arts Centre	€16,000
4.	Patrick Kavanagh Weekend	€9,000
5.	Castleblayney Drama Festival	€3,000
6.	Féile Patrick Byrne	€2,500
7.	Scoil Cheoil na Botha	€2,000
8.	Muckno Mania Festival	€1,000
9.	Carrickmacross Arts Festival	€2,500

**7. To receive Management Report – March 2016**

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

*On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr S. Treanor, it was agreed that the Council ask the Minister for Justice to re-examine the law that does not allow people who are convicted of littering and cannot be named by a way of publication on local authority websites or in notice in local press.*

*On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Coyle it was agreed That this Council calls on Minister Alan Kelly TD to re-examine the recently announced LA House purchase scheme with a view to relaxing the qualification criteria to allow persons solely on social welfare to purchase their own home. Even in cases where the applicants are OAPs or physically disabled, in many of these cases these people have the necessary funding in place to purchase their homes.*

**8. To adopt the Draft Annual Report for year ended 31 December, 2015.**

*On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed that the Draft Annual Report for 2015, as circulated, be adopted.*

**9. To approve recommendations and minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2016**

The members considered the recommendations from the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2016.

**Macalla Concert funding:**

The Cathaoirleach referred to the recommendation from the Corporate Policy Group that €3,000 be allocated to Comhaltas for the Macalla Concert hosted in The Garage Theatre on 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2016.

A number of members expressed opposition to the recommendation on the grounds that the application had been in the name of the Garage Theatre and it had already been turned down by the Ireland 2016 Committee as it hadn't met the criteria for funding under that grant scheme. Members also expressed the view that if this event were to be allocated funding by the Council it would open the floodgates for other groups that were also refused funding under the Ireland 2016 grant scheme to re-apply. It was also noted that this event was a commercial venture that was being hosted in a number of venues around the country and that both nights had sold out at the Monaghan venue.

*Cllr B. McKenna proposed that Comhaltas be asked to provide information as to the profitability of the Macalla concert and that the matter be referred back to the CPG for further consideration before the May Council meeting. Cllr P. Treanor seconded the proposal*

*Cllr Maxwell proposed, Cllr Gilliland seconded that the Council do not fund the Comhaltas Macalla Concert.*

The Chief Executive advised that the matter had already been considered by the CPG and that there was a recommendation before the meeting which required a decision.

The Cathaoirleach put the recommendation to allocate funding of €3,000 to Comhaltas to the meeting.

A vote by show of hands resulted in 4 for, 10 against. The Cathaoirleach declared the proposal defeated.

**National Council for the Blind of Ireland (NCBI):**

The Council considered the recommendation from the CPG that €2,000 be allocated to the NCBI as a contribution towards the running costs of the national Braille Library.

*On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that the recommendation of the CPG be approved and that €2,000 be allocated to the National Council for the Blind of Ireland.*

Cllr McNally requested that all letters seeking funding should be circulated to each member of the Council.

The Chief Executive stated that the members of the CPG were elected by the Council to deal with financial matters on behalf of their respective parties. The primary responsibility for consultation on budgetary matters rests with the CPG.

*On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2016, be adopted.*

**10. To receive Presentation from Catherine Elliott, A/County Librarian in relation Library Service developments.**

Ms. Catherine Elliott, A/County Librarian gave a comprehensive presentation to the elected members outlining the various activities being delivered by the library service from the County Library HQ and the five branch libraries in the county. In accordance with national strategy, Ireland's public libraries promote community cohesion and well-being, economic growth, stability and cultural identity. They will enhance self-worth and confidence. Ireland's public libraries will enable learning, deliver information and skills and animate culture, both in the community and online, with a skilled workforce working with citizens and partners, locally and nationally. She also referred to the key events and projects being delivered by the library service this year. Following her presentation she responded to queries from the elected members.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Ms. Elliott for her presentation.

**11. Ireland 2016 – Official Commemoration event – 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2016**

The members noted the report circulated with the agenda which outlined the programme of events being held on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2016, as part of the Council's commemoration of the 1916 Rising.

Cllr P. McNally, Chair of the Ireland 2016 Committee encouraged the public to participate in the commemoration event. He complimented the Museum Curator and his team on the organisation of a very exciting programme for the day. Cllr McPhillips acknowledged the work of the Steering Committee and the various departments within the Council in contributing to the commemoration programme. She also welcomed the funding allocated by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and IPB which amounted to €120,000.

**12. To receive reports from Members attending Conferences/Training events**

The members noted the reports from Cllr Conlon, in respect of his attendance at the URBACT III Information day at NUI Maynooth, Co. Kildare.

**13. Business submitted by Chief Executive.**

There was no business dealt with under this item.

**14. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meetings held on 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2016**

Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meetings held on 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 were responded to by the relevant officials.

**15. To receive update on North South Interconnector project.**

Members referred to the ongoing Oral Hearing into the planning application for the North South Interconnector and described it as farcical and a complete charade. They were critical

of the process which allowed EirGrid introduce new information to their submissions and which had resulted in representatives of the North East Pylon Protection Campaign and the County Monaghan Anti Pylon Committee withdrawing from the hearing in protest. The Members also acknowledged the staff of the Council for their contributions to date.

*On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr McNally, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council demands from An Taoiseach Enda Kenny T.D. Fianna Fail Leader, Michéal Martin T.D. and all Cavan/Monaghan Oireachtas members, a commitment in the programme for the formation of a new Government to direct Eirgrid, to withdraw the current proposals/plans for the over-grounding of the 400kv North/South Interconnector, and to underground the project, giving equality of treatment to the residences, landowners and communities of Monaghan, Cavan, and Meath, as to those on the Grid link and Grid west routes.*

**It was agreed that the resolution would be also be forwarded to the Cavan/Monaghan Oireachtas members and Cavan and Meath County Councils.**

#### **16. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project**

There was no new information discussed under this item.

Cllr P. Treanor requested that Ministers Humphreys and Minister Ni Chuilin be contacted in relation to the extension of the Inter Agency Forum to include the adjoining local authorities.

#### **17. Questions:**

##### **Cllr Colm Carthy asked:**

1. Can this Council confirm how many applications for funding were made to the Ireland 1916/2016 Steering Committee in 2016 and how many of these applications were successful?

**Reply: A total of 53 applications were received in 2016. A total of 35 applications were successful in being allocated funding.**

2. Can this Council confirm if all Council tenants that are eligible for the Tenant Purchase Scheme have been contacted/informed about the scheme?

**Reply: Letters including application form and information pack was issued to eligible tenants on 11th March. This information will also be placed on the Council's website this week.**

3. What plans have this Council in place for 2016 to reduce vehicle speed in housing estates throughout the county?

**Reply: In line with the Department of Transport Guidelines, Monaghan County Council is in the process of reviewing all speed limits in the county including housing estates. The target as set by the Department is to have byelaws in place by April 2017.**

4. When does this Council envisage the completion of houses to the Lough na Glack Housing estate in Carrickmacross that were recently taken over by a housing association?

**Reply: The Council does not have an exact timeline for the completion of the houses in Lough na Glack. However, it is envisaged that the houses will be ready for occupation in the second half of 2017. All proposed tenants will come from Monaghan County Council's housing list.**

5. Are there any reimbursement schemes available to individuals, families, community groups or businesses who are financially affected (repairing or replacing heating systems, kettles, showers etc) by the high levels of lime content in Co. Monaghan's water supply?

**Reply: Irish Water completely understands concerns with regard to hard water; however, water hardness is not classified as a priority at this time. Water hardness is caused by dissolving minerals in the water, predominantly Calcium and Magnesium (not to be confused with Manganese). It is usually associated with limestone areas where the water filters through the rock and the minerals become dissolved in the water.**

**Irish Water is required to comply with the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2014. There are no limits specified for hardness in these regulations. Hard water is generally not a health risk. It is perfectly safe to drink and studies indicate that hard water can be an important source of essential minerals. When hard water is heated calcium deposits can form as limescale. This can affect household appliance such as kettles, showers, dishwashers, washing machines and some older direct heating systems.**

**With regard to softening at source, hard water can be softened by chemically removing the calcium by a process called ion exchange. This is where the calcium is replaced with sodium chloride or potassium chloride, commonly referred to as salt. Chemically softened water is not suitable for everyone to drink, particularly infants and some risk category adults, such as people with blood pressure issues. This is the main reason why it is not recommended to soften the entire water supply.**

**It is possible to install individual household water softeners, and there are many systems available. However, care must be taken in the design and installation of such a system to prevent the occurrence of excessive chemicals in the softened water. For this reason, it is recommended that only the water for domestic hot water system should be softened, and the cold water system, and especially the cold supply to the kitchen sink, should be excluded from the softened process.**

**Irish Water has to prioritise its investment programme to ensure all water meets Drinking Water Standards. Hardness is not a criteria to meet the Drinking Water standards. Irish Water is not preparing an upgrade programme for this scheme at this time.**

**The Commission for Energy Regulation (CER) published three Response and Decision Papers, and a summary Decision Paper relating to the Water Charges Plan for the period 01 October 2014 - 31 December 2016. These papers address the responses received to the CER Water Charges Plan Consultation (CER/14/366), and detail the decisions made by the CER following a review of same.**

**The decision paper (CER/14/746 states: "The CER has noted that a significant number of respondents raised the issue of hard water as one that should qualify for discounts, the**

**CER notes that hard water does not render the water supply unfit for human consumption and as such it will not qualify for the discount”.**

**CLlr Jackie Crowe asked:**

6. “In regards to the proposed road from the N2 Tullyvin Roundabout to the N53 Castleblayney to Dundalk road. Have Monaghan County Council received any information from Dundalk College of Technology who carried out a survey of the route or routes. What options did their study come to and what are the next steps.”

**Reply: Monaghan County Council has received preliminary route options for the proposed N2/N53 link road. However, further design work will be required to determine the preferred route corridor.**

7. a) How many people are on the County Council housing list for the Castleblayney area.  
b) How many on the Castleblayney list have been re housed by the Council over the past five years.  
c) How many social houses have been provided by the Council over the last five years in the Castleblayney area.

**Reply: Due to the dissolution of the Town Councils and the introduction of the Municipal Districts, it is not possible to extract exact details specific to the questions above. However, the following is a best estimate in relation to the questions asked:**

- (a) 217 are on the waiting list for the Castleblayney area  
(b) 79 Social Housing and 13 HAP, 20 RAS re-housed by the Council over the past five years.  
(c) 6 houses purchased directly. Also significant input into provision of 10 Independent units and 8 bed group home under the ownership of Castleblayney Care.

**CLlr Brian Mc Kenna asked:**

8. Following the decision to withdraw the tender for the operation and management of the Scotch Corner Recycling Centre, have new terms and conditions for this site and the Carrickmacross Recycling Centre been finalised yet; will the new terms and conditions for this tender be made available to the elected members before they are advertised again?

**Reply: The Request for Tender document is currently being updated with a view to advertising the tender as soon as possible. As the Council is obliged when tendering to adhere to the EU Core Principle of Equal Treatment and Non-Discrimination, access to the tender documents must be given to all candidates at the same time, i.e. upon publication on e-tenders. The revised document can be made available to members when it is published on e-tenders.**

9. Can I request that a copy of Monaghan County Councils Fixed Assets Disposal Procedures as contained within the Council's Procurement Procedures is made available to this Councillor and others as requested?

## **Reply: Fixed Assets Disposal procedures**

**Local Authority staff involved in the disposal of assets must;**

- **Obtain from the appropriate authority prior approval for disposal. Refer to Appendix V Schedule 15 Local Government Act 2001 regarding completion of Managers order before land may be disposed.**
- **Fully document the reasons for disposal e.g. asset no longer required by Local Authority, surplus to current and future requirements, asset is unserviceable or beyond economic repair, the technology is obsolete or inefficient.**
- **Record the estimated value of the asset being disposed and document basis for estimate. Engage specific expertise where appropriate in particular where property (Land/Buildings) is being disposed of. The disposal or letting of property should be dealt with by competitive tendering or by auction. This approach provides a disposal mechanism which is both transparent and is likely to achieve a fair price.**
- **For assets with an estimated value greater than €50,000, bids should be sought by public advertisement/tendering process/auction.**
- **For assets with an estimated value less than €50,000 a minimum of three competitive bids based on a detailed description of the asset should be secured.**
- **Once a successful bidder has been identified, formal disposal approval from the appropriate authority should be sought.**

**The Finance Department must be notified of disposals occurring during the year by forwarding completed copy of Asset Control sheet to the Finance Department so that the Fixed assets register can be amended and financial records updated.**

## **18. Notices of Motion**

Consideration of Notices of Motion 18(1) – 18 (8) was deferred to the next meeting.

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

It was agreed that the sympathy of the Council be extended to the Ambassador Philippe Roland, Belgian Ambassador to Ireland, the Belgian people and all those bereaved and injured in the Brussels bombing and condemns all acts of violence throughout the world.

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

- The Monaghan County Senior Football Team on beating Donegal and retaining Division 1 status in 2016.
- CombiLift Management and employees on being awarded the Gold Standard accolade as one of Irelands 'Best Managed Companies' in the prestigious national awards programme instituted by DeLoitte.
- Gaeil Truicha CLG on winning the Leiriú (Novelty Act) competition at the Scór Sinsir finals in Killarney last Saturday, the first win in the history of the Club.
- Gavin Coyle on winning the All-Ireland Junior B singles title recently and to his club, the Bawn Handball Club.
- The Ireland 2016 Team, Minister Heather Humphreys and all involved with the appropriate, respectful and inclusive ceremonies held over Easter 2016 to commemorate the 1916 Easter Rising.

## 20. Conferences:

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr McElvaney, 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
Superior Training 3	The Seanad & The Councillor	The Millrace Hotel, Bunclody, Co. Wexford	15 <sup>th</sup> to 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2016	Cllr. P. McNally
AILG	AILG Annual Conference	Inishowen Gateway Hotel Buncrana	5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup> May 2016	Cllr. P. McNally Cllr. PJ O'Hanlon Cllr. S. Coyle Cllr. C. McPhillips Cllr. S. Gilliland Cllr. D. Maxwell Cllr. A. Campbell Cllr. C. Bennett Cllr. J. Crowe Cllr. B. McKenna Cllr. P. Connolly
AILG	TBC	Letterkenny	14 <sup>th</sup> May 2016	Cllr. P. McNally Cllr. PJ. O'Hanlon Cllr. S. Coyle Cllr. J. Crowe Cllr. B. McKenna

**Urgent Business:**

**Cllr Connolly proposed, Cllr S. Treanor seconded**

*“That Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Health to reverse the decision to locate the national Children’s Hospital at St James’s Hospital and instead to locate the New Children’s Hospital for all the children of Ireland at Connolly Hospital in Blanchardstown.”*

Following a short discussion, the Cathaoirleach put the motion to the meeting. A vote by show of hands resulted in 10 for, nil against and 4 abstentions. The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

**Cllr McNally proposed, Cllr Coyle seconded**

*In light of the very severe crisis in the dairy sector, that Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Agriculture, Simon Coveney T.D and the European Agriculture Commissioner, Phil Hogan, to immediately intervene to have the outstanding €48m super levy bill owed by farmers in this County and across Ireland, postponed indefinitely or if legally possible, abolished altogether as these farmers are not in a financial position to pay this money.*

*On the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015, a figure of €72m was deemed owed by way of a fine for Ireland being over its Milk Quota, this despite Milk Quotas being abolished the next day, the 1<sup>st</sup> of April, 2015. €24 of this was paid by farmers in the summer of 2015 with the balance to be paid over the summer of 2016 and 2017. However milk prices have fallen dramatically from a high of 39c a litre in 2013/2014 to its present level of only 25c which doesn’t cover the cost of production.*

Following a short discussion, the Cathaoirleach put the motion to the meeting and it was agreed unanimously.

It was agreed that the resolution would be forwarded to all rural local authorities.

**Cllr McPhillips proposed, Cllr P. Treanor seconded,**

*That Monaghan County Council calls on the Roads Department, in conjunction with the MD engineers to devise a strategy to deal with roads which have sections in two or more MD areas.*

Following a short discussion, the Cathaoirleach put the motion to the meeting and it was agreed unanimously.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Cathaoirleach

\_\_\_\_\_

Meetings Administrator

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

\_\_\_\_\_