

**Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Meeting Room, Mtek 1, Monaghan on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2016 at 2.00 p.m.**

**Chair:** Cllr Noel Keelan, Cathaoirleach

**Present:** Cllrs. Bennett, Campbell, Carthy, Conlon, Coyle, Gilliland, Maxwell, McElvaney, B. McKenna, McNally, McPhillips, O’Hanlon P. Treanor and S. Treanor.

Mr. E. O’Sullivan, Chief Executive, Mr. P. Clifford and Mr. A. King, Directors of Service, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr. J. McKernan, A/Senior Engineer, Mr. D. McKernan, Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. F. McPhillips, SEO Community, Ms. B. Bradley, CEDO, Mr. B. Smyth, Veterinary Officer and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

**Apology:** Cllrs. Connolly and Crowe.

At the outset, the Cathaoirleach welcomed Aaron McElroy and Bronwyn O’Neill, Journalism Students from Dublin City University, who were attending the meeting as observers.

**Election of Senator:**

The Cathaoirleach proposed a vote of congratulations to former Councillor, Robbie Gallagher, on his election to Seanad Eireann at the end of April and wished him success in his new position. A number of members joined in the good wishes to Senator Gallagher and also to his wife and family. The Chief Executive extended good wishes on his own behalf and on behalf of the staff of the Council. He thanked the former member for his service both as a Town Councillor and as a County Councillor.

Cllr McNally requested that the filling of the Casual Vacancy would be an item on the agenda for the June Council meeting.

It was agreed that Cllr McNally would replace Cllr Gallagher as Chair of the Environment and Roads SPC.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes**

**(i) Minutes of Council meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2016.**

*Cllr. McKenna proposed, Cllr P. Treanor seconded that the minutes of the April 4 Council meeting be amended to include the written proposal submitted by him at that meeting.*

The Cathaoirleach put Cllr McKenna’s proposal to the meeting. A recorded vote was taken which resulted as follows:

**For:** Cllrs Bennett, Carthy, Conlon, Keelan, McKenna and P. Treanor Total 6

**Against:** Cllrs Campbell, Coyle, Gilliland, Maxwell, McNally, McPhillips, O’Hanlon and S. Treanor. Total 8

**Abstentions:** Cllr McElvaney. Total 1

The Cathaoirleach declared the proposal defeated.

*On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2016, as circulated, be confirmed.*

## **2. Correspondence.**

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

- Letter from the Meetings Administrator notifying the members of a casual vacancy on the Council arising from the election of Cllr Robbie Gallagher to Seanad Eireann.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Taoiseach's office in relation to the Council's resolution regarding the appointment of a Minister for Rural Affairs.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Justice and Equality regarding the Council's resolution relating to the Data Protection Act and publication of names of those convicted for littering offences.
- Letter from the Minister for Finance noting the Council's resolution regarding insurance for house-holders that have been refused insurance because they made a previous claim.
- Letter from the Minister for Health acknowledging the Council's resolution in relation to the location of the National Children's hospital.
- Letter from the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine acknowledging the Council's resolution relating to the superlevy bill incurred by dairy farmers.
- Email from Brendan Smith, T.D., in relation to the Council's resolution on home care packages.
- Email from Irish Water in relation to the problem of hard water in the county
- Letter from the Commission for Energy Regulation regarding the Council's resolution seeking remedial action to deal with hard water in the county.
- Letter from the Belgian Ambassador thanking the Council for its letter of sympathy following the recent atrocities in Brussels on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2016.
- Resolution from the Ballybay Clones M.D. members requesting the roll out of a fit for purpose broadband to all areas of the county.
- Resolution from Offaly County Council calling on the Minister for Housing to review the criteria for eligibility to qualify for local authority housing or rent assistance and to revise the rent allowances allocation as a first step in dealing with the current housing crisis.
- Resolution from Offaly County Council calling on the Minister for Social Protection to reverse the harsh cuts made to One Parent Family payments by the previous Administration.
- Resolution from Sligo County Council calling on the Minister for Health to consider the introduction of a sugar awareness day as part of a national health promotion campaign.
- Letter from Kerry County Council enclosing a "Charter of Independent Living" compiled by Cumann Iosaef, Tralee for consideration by each local authority.
- Resolution from Donegal County Council recommending to the new Government the adoption and implementation of the recommendations of the all party Oireachtas Committee on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation Report on the All Island Economy and welcoming the recent international report 'Modelling Irish Unification'.
- Resolution from Navan Municipal District regarding sewerage issues affecting householders in Navan and throughout the country.

The following correspondence was circulated at the meeting:

- Resolution from Tipperary County Council expressing dissatisfaction at the transfer of 24 electoral divisions from Tipperary to the Offaly constituency.

### **Proposals arising out of correspondence:**

*On the proposal of Cllr McPhillips, seconded by Cllr Bennett, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council writes to all MEPs for the area providing them with copy correspondence from Louise Hegarty, Irish Water indicating that E.U legislation allows for the continuation of hard water in Ireland, and setting out the detrimental effect hard water is having on the appliances of homeowners.*

*Cllr P. Treanor proposed, Cllr Bennett seconded that Monaghan County Council supports the proposal from Donegal County Council seeking, the implementation of recommendations of the "All Ireland Economy" report and "Modelling Irish Unification" international report.*

It was agreed to adopt the proposal from Donegal County Council. Cllr McPhillips requested that she would be recorded as abstaining.

*On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed that the Council adopt the motion from Sligo County Council calling on the Minister for Health to consider the introduction of a sugar awareness day as part of a national health promotion campaign.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed that the Council seek a briefing on the 'Charter of Independent Living' via the appropriate SPC.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that the Council adopt the motion from Offaly County Council calling on the Minister for Housing to review the criteria for eligibility to qualify for local authority housing or rent assistance and to revise the rent allowances allocation as a first step in dealing with the current housing crisis.*

### **Urgent Business:**

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that he had received a Notice of Urgent Business in the names of Cllrs McPhillips, Maxwell, Gilliland and Campbell, as follows:

*That the Fine Gael members call on Monaghan County Council to seek a meeting with Minister Heather Humphreys, Minister for Regional Development, Rural Affairs, Arts & The Gaeltacht to discuss her brief, as it effects County Monaghan and in particular to highlight the lack of broadband and rural town regeneration.*

It was agreed that the Urgent Business motion would be taken. The Cathaoirleach stated that it would be discussed at 5pm.

### **3. To consider Section 183 Notice – Disposal of land at Tonystacken, Scotstown.**

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

*On the proposal of Cllr McPhillips, seconded by Cllr McKenna it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal 2.3002 hectares of land at Tonystacken, Scotstown, Co. Monaghan in accordance with the terms of Section 183 Notice dated 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.*

**4. To receive Management Report – April 2016**

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

*On the proposal of Cllr O’Hanlon, seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council request a meeting with the Minister for Regional Development, Rural Affairs, Arts and the Gaeltacht, Heather Humphreys and the Minister for Transport Shane Ross, T.D., in relation to seeking additional funding for road infrastructure in County Monaghan.*

**5. To approve recommendations and minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2016**

**(i) To approve Community Development and Environment Fund allocations**

The members noted the reports circulated with the agenda in relation to allocations under the Community Development and Environment Fund Scheme. It was noted that the CPG had recommended the allocation of the grants as presented at the meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> April. Ms. B. Bradley, CEDO responded to queries from the members in relation to the allocations.

A number of members requested that the Council would consider allocating funding to the Monaghan Ladies GAA, as they do not have any access to the significant funding allocated on an annual basis to the Monaghan GAA Men’s County Board.

*On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr Bennett it was agreed that the Council seeking a meeting with representatives of Monaghan Ladies GAA County Board to discuss funding.*

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllrs Maxwell and McPhillips, it was agreed that the allocation of funding under the Community Development and Environment Fund 2016, be approved.*

**(ii) To consider increasing Council representation on Monaghan Leisure Complex Committee by one member.**

*It was agreed that the Council representation on Monaghan Leisure Complex Committee be increased by one member to four. It was further agreed that Cllr Seamus Treanor would be nominated to this committee.*

**(iii) Nomination of Council representatives to sit on the County Monaghan Peace IV Partnership Board.**

*It was agreed that the following Councillors be nominated to sit on the County Monaghan Peace IV Partnership Board*

- |                                     |                     |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| • Carrickmacross-Castleblayney M.D. | Cllr Aidan Campbell |
| • Ballybay-Clones M.D.              | Cllr Pat Treanor    |
| • Monaghan M.D.                     | Cllr Seamus Treanor |
| • 1 from among MCC reps on LCDC     | Cllr Seamus Coyle.  |

(iv) **To considering increasing M.D. Twinning budget to €2,000 per M.D.**

*On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that the M.D. Twinning Budget be increased to €2,000 per M.D.*

Cllr Conlon referred to the removal of the Twinning Signage at Aclint Bridge and suggested that the Council write to TII seeking the immediate removal of the signage.

Mr. P. Clifford, Director of Services informed the members that Failte Ireland was responsible for tourism branding and had issued a contract for Ireland's Ancient East signs to be erected. He had written to Failte Ireland asking that the twinning references be included in any new signage but was advised that this could not be included in the proposed designs. He advised the members that the Council would erect new signage at an early date.

*On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Conlon it was agreed that this Council gives its full support to the Council's Executive for the erection of tourism signage at the main entry roads to County Monaghan.*

*On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that the minutes of the CPG meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2016 be confirmed*

**6. To fix date for the following meetings:**

**(i) Annual Meeting of Monaghan County Council**

It was agreed that the Annual Meeting of the Council would be held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 at 10.00 a.m.

**(ii) JPC Road Safety Working Group:**

It was agreed that this item would be placed on the Agenda for the June meeting.

**(iii) JPC Crime Prevention Working Group.**

It was agreed that a meeting of the JPC Crime Prevention Working Group would be held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 at 10.00 a.m., subject to confirmation of availability of An Garda Siochana.

**7. To receive update from Brendan Smyth, Veterinary Officer on the control of dogs.**

Mr. Brendan Smyth, County Veterinary Officer, gave a short presentation on the main points of the new Microchipping of Dogs Regulations, 2015 which came into force on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2016.

He stated that all dogs must now be micro-chipped and registered on a database approved by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. A microchip is the size of a grain of rice and is inserted under the skin of the dog. It carries a 15 digit code which can be read with a scanner. Information linked to this code, including the description of the dog and the name and contact details of its owner, is maintained on the database. The database issues a certificate of registration to the dogowner with all this information detailed on it. No dog may

leave the place of its birth unless it has been microchipped and registered. This must be done before the dog is 12 weeks of age. If the owner wishes to sell or transfer ownership of the dog to another person, they must confirm the identity and address of the person by checking identification documents and recent utility bills provided by that person. They must complete this information on the rear of the certificate of registration, give one part of the certificate to the person taking ownership of the dog, and send the other part to the database. The new owner must send their portion of the certificate along with a fee to the database in order to have a new certificate registered. When a dog dies or is lost or stolen, the owner must inform the database. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in the issue of a €250 on-the-spot fine.

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

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

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

- LAMA Spring Seminar, Sligo.
- AILG Training (Health & Safety), Monaghan

#### **9. Business submitted by Chief Executive.**

**The Chief Executive informed the members of the following:**

- The Council has recently appointed an Assistant Health and Safety Officer who will assist the Council in meeting its requirements under Health and Safety legislation.
- A new Road Safety Officer will take up appointment in June 2016 under a shared service between Monaghan and Louth County Councils.
- The Jobbridge Scheme was being temporarily suspended on a national basis.

He complimented the Ireland 2016 Steering Committee for the excellent programme delivered on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April as part of the Council's Commemoration of the events of the 1916 Rising. He also commended Minister Heather Humphreys and the Department of the Environment and IPB for providing significant funding to local authorities towards the 2016 commemoration programme.

#### **10. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2016**

Matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 were responded to be the appropriate officials.

In response to queries regarding the Materials Recovery Facility, the Chief Executive stated that -

- Council staff are currently preparing a schedule of plant and equipment at the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) at Scotch Corner.

- A report would be forwarded, to the Local Government Auditor, on the letter received by the Cathaoirleach from a waste contractor and relating to the disposal of the trommel at the MRF.
- He had not received any feedback from the Audit Committee in response to his report on the operation of the MRF which had been presented to the Council at a special meeting in March 2016.
- He will inform members when the Tender for the Operation of the Materials Recovery Facility has been re-issued.

#### **11. To receive update on North South Interconnector project.**

The members noted correspondence from the Taoiseach's Office, Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin, T.D., and Niamh Smyth, T.D., in relation to the North South Interconnector.

A number of members expressed concern at the way the Oral Hearing into the planning application for the North South Interconnector is progressing.

*On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that a letter to be sent to Minister for Arts & Rural Affairs Heather Humphreys, T.D., to ascertain what is the position of the Fine Gael Party on North South interconnector and enquiring if the matter was discussed in relation to the formation of a Government.*

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

The members noted the letter from the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in relation to the Ulster Canal project.

#### **13. To receive Address from His Excellency Kevin Vickers, Canadian Ambassador to Ireland**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed His Excellency Kevin Vickers, Canadian Ambassador to Ireland and congratulated him on his appointment as Ambassador in January 2015. He referred to the long term links between the people of Monaghan and Canada, particularly the areas of Prince Edward Island and Miramichi with whom County Monaghan was twinned. He noted that Miramichi was the Ambassador's home town. He hoped that the Ambassador would enjoy his time in Ireland. He referred to the terrible fires raging the Fort McMurray area of Canada and asked the Ambassador to convey the message that County Monaghan was thinking of the people affected. He then invited the Ambassador to address the members.

Ambassador Vickers said he was honoured and delighted to visit Monaghan given the twinning links between the county and his hometown. His own ancestors had travelled from Bantry and Arklow during the famine times. He noted that there were over 200 Irish people buried at Middle Island that had contracted typhoid on the voyage there. He stated that exciting things are happening between Canada and Ireland. In 2015, Canada's trade with Ireland was \$1.6bn and this year it had risen to \$2.4bn. There had been \$15 million Canadian dollars invested in Ireland in recent years while Ireland had invested \$5million in Canada. There are over 500 Irish companies with involvement in Canada. For three years in a row Canada had accepted 10,000 young Irish people on two year travel and work visas. He noted that there had been a reduction in these numbers in recent years and this illustrated that the

Irish economy was doing better and young people were finding work here. He thanked the Cathaoirleach and the members for the invitation to visit County Monaghan and to attend the Council meeting.

A number of members expressed their welcome to the Ambassador and reflected on various elements of twinning visits between the two countries over the past number of years and also reflected on the efforts of the late Willie McKenna in establishing and maintaining the twinning links. They also referred to the forthcoming 'Canada Day' celebrations in Monaghan Town from 1<sup>st</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup> July and noted that the Ambassador would return to the county for the festivities.

The Chief Executive joined in the welcome to the Ambassador and joined in the message of support to the people of Fort McMurray on the scale of the disaster caused by raging fires. He asked the Ambassador to explore how the relationship between Monaghan and Canada could be developed given Monaghan strong enterprise culture.

The Cathaoirleach then made a presentation to Ambassador Vickers of a piece of Carrickmacross Lace and a sample of Brehon Rising, a special brew manufactured to mark the 1916 centenary, by Brehon Brewhouse of Inniskeen.

The Ambassador thanked the Council for the presentation and withdrew from the meeting, accompanied by the Cathaoirleach.

The Leas-Chathaoirleach, Cllr S. Coyle, then assumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

#### 14. Questions:

##### Cllr Colm Carthy asked:

1. Can this Council confirm if any correspondence was received in January relating to 'expressions of interest' pertaining to 'Swimming pool allocations', and if so was Carrickmacross highlighted as a viable option to the Department of State (Tourism and Sport)?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council submitted an expression of interest to the Department in respect of upgrade works to Monaghan Leisure Complex on the 5<sup>th</sup> February under the Local Authority Swimming Pool programme 2016. No proposals were submitted in respect of a facility in Carrickmacross.**

2. Can the Housing Section confirm:

- a) The number of **new** applicants that have been added to the Council's housing list in the first quarter of 2016 (Jan-Mar)

**Reply: 67**

- b) The number of people that have been allocated a house/ apartment in the first quarter of 2016 (not including HAP scheme tenants)?

<b>Reply:</b>	<b>January 2016</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>February, 2016</b>	<b>13</b>
	<b>March 2016</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>April 2016</b>	<b>8</b>

**15. Notices of Motion:**

Consideration of Notices of Motion 15(1)(2) and (4) – (8) was deferred to the next meeting.

The members agreed to take Notice of Motion 15(3) on the agenda, given that the UK Referendum to consider Britain’s future within the European would be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2016

Cllr McNally proposed, Cllr O’Hanlon seconded

*In light of the proposed referendum in England as to whether they stay in the European Union that Monaghan County Council seeks a meeting with An Taoiseach Enda Kenny, TD to discuss the very serious effect this would have on a border County such as Monaghan.*

The Cathaoirleach put the motion to the meeting and it was agreed unanimously.

It was agreed that a letter would issue to any Monaghan Associations in the UK asking for their support in rejecting the UK’s proposal to leave the EU.

**16. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations:**

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

- The Bishop of Clogher, Bishop Liam McDaid, his fellow priests and the family of the late Canon Sean Clerkin P.E. Tydavnet, RIP, formerly PP of Donagh, Aughnamullen West and a number of other parishes in County Monaghan.
- The Leslie Family on the passing of Sir John Leslie, RIP, late of Glaslough.

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

- All those involved in our flagship 1916 commemoration event, staff, contributors, contractors, participants and attendees, and extend our thanks for the hard work and man hours put in over the last number of months.
- Michael Lawson, Aghabog, on winning the Voice of Ireland 2016.
- Gavin Coyle, Shantonagh on winning the Adult Irish National Handball Championship, his third major national title of 2016 and to his club, Bawn Handball Club.

**17. Conferences/Training:**

*On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Bennett it was agreed that the Council be represented at the following conferences/training events by the members listed below:*

<b>Promoting Authority</b>	<b>Subject/Theme</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Members Selected</b>
AILG	<b>AILG Annual Conference</b>	<b>Buncrana</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup> May 2016	Cllr. S. Conlon

17. Conferences (contd):

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members Selected
AILG	Module 2 LA Cultural Services	Letterkenny	14 <sup>th</sup> May 2016	Cllr. C. Bennett Cllr. S. Conlon Cllr. David Maxwell Cllr. S. Gilliland
AILG	TBC	Cavan	23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2016	Cllr. P. Treanor Cllr. J. Crowe Cllr. C. Carthy Cllr. S. Coyle Cllr. P. McNally Cllr. PJ O’Hanlon

**Urgent Business:**

**Cllr Maxwell proposed, Cllr McPhillips seconded**

*That the Fine Gael members call on Monaghan County Council to seek a meeting with Minister Heather Humphreys, Minister for Regional Development, Rural Affairs, Arts & The Gaeltacht to discuss her brief, as it effects County Monaghan and in particular to highlight the lack of broadband and rural town regeneration.*

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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