

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, Mtek Building, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday 2nd November, 2015 at 10.00 a.m.

Chair: Cllr Noel Keelan, Cathaoirleach

Present: Cllrs. Campbell, Carthy, Conlon, Connolly, Coyle, Crowe, Gallagher, Maxwell, McElvaney, McPhillips, B. McKenna, McNally, O’Hanlon and P. Treanor.

Mr. A. King, Chief Executive, Mr. P. Clifford, Director of Services, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Ms. P. Monahan, A/Director of Service, Mr. J. McKernan, A/Senior Engineer, Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner, Ms. N. Woods, SEO Housing, Mr. D. Hurley, SE Housing, Mr. L. MacCinna, Executive Engineer Housing, Mr D. McKernan, Senior Executive Engineer and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

Apology: Cllrs Bennett and S. Treanor

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Amendments:

Page 3 – Bottom of page – the number of those voting against Cllr Gallagher’s motion should read two.

Page 11 – Top of page – should read Cllr C. Carthy asked questions 6, 7, 8 and 9

The amendments were agreed.

(i) *On the proposal of Cllr. S. Coyle, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 5th October, 2015, as amended above, be confirmed.*

2. Correspondence.

Urgent Business:

The Cathaoirleach advised the members that he had received a notice of Urgent Business from Cllrs Coyle, Gallagher, McNally and O’Hanlon as follows:

That this Council calls on the Minister of Justice and Equality, Francis Fitzgerald TD, to address, as a matter of urgency, the current dangerously low level of Garda numbers in the Cavan/Monaghan division – the most depleted Garda division in the country.

It was agreed that this motion would be taken at the end of the meeting.

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

- Letter from the AILG regarding an amendment to Clause 5 of the AILG Standing Policy Council Chapter.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Office of the Taoiseach in relation to the N2/A5 upgrade.

- Letter of acknowledgement from the Department of Finance regarding the Local Improvement Scheme.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Office of the Taoiseach in relation to the Council's resolution regarding the Dublin/Monaghan bombings.
- Letter from the Minister for Social Protection declining the Council's request for a meeting to discuss the PSC Office in Ballybay.
- Letter of acknowledgement from Minister Heather Humphreys, T.D., regarding the PSC Office in Ballybay.
- Letter of acknowledgement from Brendan Smith, T.D., regarding the PSC Office in Ballybay and enclosing correspondence from Minister for State Kevin Humphreys T.D.
- Letter from the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport Pascal Donohoe, T.D., in relation to the Local Improvement Scheme.
- Letter from the Minister for Business and Employment Ged Nash T.D. regarding zero hour and low hour contracts.
- Letter from the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation regarding the closure of the BOSE factory in Carrickmacross and the subsequent need for renewed employment for Cavan and Monaghan.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Simon Coveney, T.D., regarding the Council's resolution relating to milk prices.
- Letter from the Area Manager, HSE Cavan Monaghan in relation to Home Help hours.
- Letter from the Officer of the Director General of the HSE regarding the Home Help hours.
- Email from the President of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick in San Diego, CA, USA seeking a flag from County Monaghan.
- Resolution from the Ballybay-Clones M.D. in relation to the provision of RESPITE beds/facilities in County Monaghan.
- Resolution from the Ballybay-Clones M.D. regarding a meeting to seek an update on the extension works at Monaghan Hospital.
- Resolution from Clare County Council calling for the release of Ibrahim Halawa.
- Resolution from Galway City Council calling for the immediate review of the HAP system.
- Resolution from Meath County Council requesting that Irish Water or the local authority accepts responsibility for all sewerage mains and infrastructure maintenance including those running through non-public property.
- Resolution from Donegal County Council calling on the Government to issue a bus pass to all cancer and other patients travelling to Galway or Dublin during the period of their treatment regardless of their age.

The following correspondence was circulated at the meeting:

- Letter from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government regarding a survey of elected members in relation to the reform of local government and advising that the closing date for the submission of the completed survey was the 1st December, 2015.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Communications, Energy & Natural Resources regarding the Council's request for an extension of the REFIT Scheme.
- Letter from Deputy Sean Conlan in response to the Council's resolution regarding the Department of Social Protection Office in Ballybay and enclosing written answers from Ministers Joan Burton and Simon Harris.
- Letter from Bus Eireann confirming that an official would be available to attend a future Council meeting to discuss the School Transport Scheme for children with special educational needs.

- Letter of acknowledgement from the Office of Public Works in relation to the Department of Social Protection Office in Ballybay
- Letter from the HSE Cavan & Monaghan in relation to the Council's resolution regarding home help hours.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

Cllr Coyle proposed, Cllr Gallagher seconded

- That Monaghan County Council expresses serious disappointment at the ongoing refusal of An Tanaiste, Joan Burton, TD, Minister for Social Protection, to meet a Council delegation to discuss the retention of the Dept. Of Social protection offices in Ballybay and the 30 plus jobs on the town's Main St.*
- That Monaghan County Council expresses serious disappointment at the failure of the Fine Gael TD's for Co. Monaghan, Minister Heather Humphreys, and Sean Conlan to secure a meeting with Minister Burton, despite numerous requests from this Council and Ballybay-Clones MD, and their failure to respond adequately to the questions posed to them on this issue, by Monaghan County Council at the meeting of the 5th October 2015.*
- That this Council seeks through Fine Gael TD's, Minister Heather Humphreys and Sean Conlan, an immediate meeting with Simon Harris, Minister with responsibility for the OPW to discuss the Ballybay Social Protection Offices and their permanent continuance in Ballybay.*

Following a discussion on the motion, the Cathaoirleach put the motion to the meeting.

A vote by show of hands resulted in 12 for, nil against, 3 abstentions. The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

Cllr Coyle proposed, Cllr Gallagher seconded that Monaghan County Council expresses its outrage at the betrayal of a solemn commitment in the programme for government to increase home help hours, each year of the governments term, and then cuts the hours by 76,743 from 2010 to 2013, an outrageous attack on the most vulnerable in society. We call on the current Fine Gael lead government to immediately increase the funding for home help hours.

A vote by show of hands resulted in 10 for, 3 against, 1 abstentions. The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

It was agreed that the motion be circulated to all local authorities.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon it was agreed that Monaghan County Council write to Minister Pascal Donohue, T.D. outlining that in view of the fact that Monaghan County Council roads budget has reduced from €8m in 2010 to €5m in 2015, the fact that our LIS has ceased four years ago, and due to the lack of funding and the fact that there is no scope within our roads budget to implement LIS, that the Minister again examine our request for additional LIS funding.

On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that this Council calls on the Minister for Transport, Paschal Donohue to make additional funding available for our local and regional roads. The funding for local roads is down 50% on 2011. The funding for

regional roads is down 40% on 2011. As a result of this, it is having a negative impact on our roads infrastructure - it is important for us to have a proper road infrastructure to create and maintain jobs, as 90% of the jobs in the county comes from the SME sector.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Crowe, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Richard Bruton, TD, to give a detailed report on actions being carried out behind the scenes in relation to the former BOSE facility, including reasons potential investors/ companies are not accepting the property for their company/ business.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon, it was agreed that the Council seek a meeting with the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation; the Junior Minister or a senior official of that Department to discuss the vacant BOSE factory in Carrickmacross.

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon, it was agreed that this Council seeks an urgent meeting with Mr. John Hayes, to discuss the need for additional home help hours.

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon it was agreed that we write to the Departments of Environment and Transport seeking a specific fund for the Local Improvement Scheme.

It was agreed to take Notice of Motion 19(3) at this stage:

Cllr S. Coyle proposed, Cllr Gallagher seconded and it was agreed,

That Monaghan County Council seeks from the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Alan Kelly T.D., and the Fine Gael/Labour Government, special funding to address the long waiting and ever increasing list of private lanes under the Local Improvement Scheme in 2016, as many are suffering great hardship in rural County Monaghan due to the cutting of funding for this hugely successful scheme by the current Fine Gael/Labour government.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Connolly it was agreed that the Council present a County Monaghan flag to the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick in San Diego, CA, USA in response to their request.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Conlon, it was agreed that three flags would be purchased, one for San Diego, one for Miramichi Council and one for PEI Fort Augustus Society, and that all flags could be sent to each group at the same time.

On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that this Council supports the Donegal County Council resolution calling on the Government to issue a bus pass to all cancer and other patients travelling to Galway or Dublin, and that this scheme be extended nationwide.

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed that Monaghan County Council accepts the amendment recommended by the AILG Executive that Clause 5 of the Standing Policy Council Chapter, page 3, be amended to that: the Standing Policy Council shall meet on a bi-monthly basis and that the Executive Committee will be empowered to call an emergency meeting where such is warranted.

3. To consider Material Contraventions of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019 (in accordance with Section 34(6) of the Planning Acts 2000-2010)

- (i) **15/179** - Retention permission for the change of use of an agricultural yard to commercial yard/storage area, conversion of existing buildings to offices & erection of machinery shed in connection with environmental contractors business at Mullanarry, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan.

Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner, referred to the report dated 23 October 2015 which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting. He outlined the main provisions of the report and advised that there had been no objections or submissions received during the public consultation period. He then responded to queries from the members.

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Carthy 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 specified conditions, for the change of use of an agricultural yard to commercial yard/storage area and associated works at Mullanarry, Carrickmacross (Ref 15/179).

- (ii) **15/204** -1) Construct single storey steel portal framed building to be used for bus storage and maintenance complete with constructed soakways, site drainage, hard-standing area and all associated site works using the existing site entrance 2) Retain the existing use of lands as a bus depot, retention of existing hard standing and related structure and all other associated site works using the existing entrance on the Carrickmacross/Dundalk Road R178 at Drummond Otra, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan

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On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr Keelan 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 specified conditions, for the retention of existing hard standing and related structure and associated construction works at Drummond Otra, Carrickmacross (Ref 15/204).

4. To consider Section 183 Notice – Disposal of land at Tullynaskeagh East, 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 Keelan, it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal of 1.944 hectares of land at Tullynaskeagh East, Carrickmacross to Carrick Rovers AFC in accordance with the terms of Section 183 Notice dated 16th October, 2015 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

The Members requested that when a Section 183 Notice is being presented to them for consideration that all information relevant to the disposal would be presented in the accompanying report.

5. To receive update on the Social Housing Strategy 2015 - 2017.

A presentation was made by Mr. Drew Hurley (SE Housing) that:

- Outlined the national and local targets that have been set down by the government in respect of number of housing units that should be provided between 2015 and 2017. Associated with this was the amount of monies that have been allocated to achieve those targets.
- Outlined the various developments/projects that are ongoing in the County by which the numbers can be secured.

A detailed handout was given to the members outlining the projects involved and the costing of the projects.

Following the presentation, Mr. Hurley, Ms. Woods and Mr. L. MacCinna responded to queries from the members.

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon it was agreed that Monaghan County Council seeks an urgent meeting with the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government to seek assurances regarding local government involvement in the provision of housing, as well as demanding an increase in funding to allow us develop or purchase an adequate volume of houses to meet our demand.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna it was agreed that In the event of an unfavourable outcome regarding the imminent decision on funding for phase 4-5 of the Mullaghmatt remedial scheme, that a delegation, representative of the Monaghan MD and a staff member, seek a meeting with Minister Paudge Coffey to discuss the matter.

6. To receive update from Tourism Unit and to consider Adoption of Tourism Strategy:

Ms. Dympna Condra, Tourism Marketing Executive provided an update on the work of the tourism unit in 2015. Key capital developments included enhancement works and improved interpretation at Errigal Truagh graveyard and the development of 3 way-marked walking trails in Ballybay. The Tourist Office in Monaghan town was staffed by the unit and was open from June to mid October. In terms of tourism promotion the unit completely revamped the tourism website, updated the Explore Monaghan brochure and produced a new companion brochure and a Calendar of Events for 2015. Several familiarisation trips for journalists were organised which resulted in good publicity for the county in national media. The unit also took a lead in developing the concept of a central border area tourism destination.

In terms of the draft Tourism Strategy, she then gave an overview of the submissions received during the consultation process and highlighted the recommended amendments and additions to the document.

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

During the course of a debate which followed it was agreed to take Notice of Motion 19(2) at this point.

Cllr C. Carthy proposed, Cllr Conlon seconded,

That Monaghan County Council sets up a group (from the Tourist office, the Arts Office, LEO and all relevant MCC departments) to help in the running and promotion of events throughout County Monaghan. This group should be tasked only with an advisory role to help committees/businesses raise funds, advertise the event(s), seek relevant national support etc with a view to making County Monaghan a hub for festivals and national events.

Mr. P. Clifford advised the members that the Tourism Office was there to promote tourism and operated with very limited resources. He said that a lot of the festivals being organised in the county were already being supported through the M.D. Offices.

The Cathaoirleach put Cllr Carthy's motion to the meeting. A vote by show of hands resulted in 7 for 8 against.

The Cathaoirleach declared the motion defeated.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr S. Conlon, it was agreed that the Council adopt the Draft Tourism Strategy incorporating the amendments outlined by the Tourism Marketing Officer following the public consultation process.

On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr McNally, it was agreed that this Council calls on the Minister for Tourism, Michael Ring, to meet with Dympna Condra, the Cathaoirleach and a representative from each political grouping in relation to seeking additional funding to help us improve our festivals and fishing competitions throughout the county.

7. To receive Presentation from Consultants (Roughan & O'Donovan) on the Dundalk – Sligo Road Project.

The Cathaoirleach advised the members that this presentation was not going ahead and was being re-scheduled for the December Council meeting.

8. To receive Management Report for October 2015:

The members noted the Management Report for October which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting.

The Chief Executive and relevant Directors responded to queries from the members arising from the report.

In response to a query from Cllr Campbell in relation to the Branding of County Monaghan and the Council's sponsorship of Daniel McKenna, Mr. A. King, Chief Executive stated that work was continuing on the branding process. It was anticipated that a draft report would be presented to the Council in early 2016.

Regarding the Council's sponsorship of Daniel McKenna, Mr. King stated that whilst Daniel McKenna had participated in a number of JWRC events, he was unable to complete the full schedule as had been originally anticipated.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr N. Keelan requested that a copy of the Proclamation of Ireland would be obtained and hung in the Council Meeting Room. This was agreed.

9. To receive recommendations from Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 16th October, 2015

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr McPhillips it was agreed that the recommendations from the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 16th October, be approved and that the minutes of the meeting be confirmed.

Regarding the Hedge Cutting Policy a number of members expressed the view that the Council needs to get tough on individuals who persistently fail to comply with their legal obligations to cut their hedges along public roads. Cllr McNally requested that a list of all such offenders be drawn up. He also requested that an uncut hedge at a dangerous bend on the road servicing the Council dog pound be addressed. Cllr McPhillips referred to hedges in the Bragan mountain area of Knockatallon where hedges owned by Coillte needed attention. She asked that this be followed up.

Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015:

It was agreed that a presentation would be arranged on this matter at a future meeting of the Council.

10. To adopt draft County Monaghan Polling Scheme 2015

The members considered the Draft Polling Scheme which had been circulated with the agenda.

On the proposal of Cllr McPhillips, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was agreed that the Draft County Monaghan Polling Scheme 2015, be adopted and that the changes take effect for the 2016/2017 Register of Electors.

11. To receive Minutes of Meeting with officials from IDA/Enterprise Ireland

The members noted the minutes of the meeting held between officials from the IDA and Enterprise Ireland and a delegation from Monaghan County Council.

12. To fix date for the following meetings:

(i) Special Council meeting in relation to Scotch Corner Landfill

It was agreed that a Special Council meeting to discuss the Scotch Corner Landfill would be held on Tuesday 10th November at 9.30 a.m. in the Council meeting Room, Mtek 1.

(ii) Speed Limit Committee meeting:

It was agreed to place this item on the Agenda for the December Council meeting.

15. To receive update on North South Interconnector project.

Cllr S. Coyle advised the meeting that the Monaghan Anti Pylon Committee were holding a public meeting on the North South Interconnector on Monday 30th November.

Items 16 and 17 were not reached and were deferred to the next Council meeting.

18. Questions:

Cllr P. Connolly asked:

1. To ask Monaghan County Council in relation to the roads programme phase 3 of the N2 Monaghan to Emyvale scheme and in view of the fact that "the Notice to Treat" was issued to persons onto 31/08/2015 following approval by the TII what is the likely commencement date for works to begin on this stretch of roadway into Emyvale?

Reply: Monaghan County Council will be seeking approval from the TII to commence the tender phase of the project before the end of 2015 with the intention of having it completed and construction works started in 2016, subject to funding being available.

Cllr J. Crowe asked:

2. (a) When will the works that have started on the refurbishment of the five one bedroom houses in Oliver Plunkett Park, Castleblayney be completed?

Reply: The Major Refurbishment Works, Energy Efficiency & Ancillary Works at the five one bedroom houses in Oliver Plunkett Park, Castleblayney, assuming no unforeseen issues, will be completed by March 2016.

- (b) What will be the age limit of future tenants of these former OPD'S?

Reply: As OPD units, persons over 55 will be given preference for these units.

3. When will Monaghan County Council advance the building of the eight houses in Castleblayney for which funding was allocated last year?

Reply: Monaghan County Council has appointed a Design Team for the eight houses to be constructed at Bree, Castleblayney and designs are currently being prepared. Following the design, planning and tender periods it is intended that the construction of the eight houses will commence on site in late 2016.

Cllr J. Crowe asked:

4. In relation to the acquisition of nine houses at Thorndale, Bree, Castleblayney by Cluid Housing Association, what is the position as regards applicants on the County Council waiting list being housed in one of these houses?

Reply: Applicants who are deemed eligible for inclusion on the Housing Waiting List may be eligible for nomination to the Approved Housing Body (Cluid). They will be referred to the Body for interview and consideration for suitable vacancies. The Voluntary Body shall then determine if an offer of suitable accommodation is to be made.

Cllr B. McKenna asked:

5. In light of the tragic deaths at the halting site in Glenamuck, Carrickmines, Co. Dublin, can this Council indicate what measures are in place at our two halting sites in Clones and Gortakeegan that would ensure that such a similar incident and tragic loss of life would not occur?

Reply:

- (a) Monaghan Fire & Civil Protection in partnership with the housing section intend providing fire safety talks to members of the travelling community on fire safety in the home and/or fire safety in caravans. We have linked with Packie Kelly Teach Na Daoine in relation to a venue in which to deliver these talks and a public announcement will follow shortly.
- (b) Monaghan Fire & Civil Protection shall be undertaking inspections of the two sites in County Monaghan that are managed and maintained by the Council. This follows the expected guidance issuing from the DoECLG.
- (c) Monaghan Fire & Civil Protection are seeking to strengthen links with the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee to offer support in relation to fire safety.

Cllr C. Carthy asked:

6. What is the up-to-date position on the proposed Group Home for persons with Physical and Sensory Disabilities in Carrickmacross (has all stakeholders been updated on the recent decision to hold up the works; have the issues been resolved)?

Reply: Monaghan County Council continues to support Respond! Housing Association in seeking approval from the Department to allow the project to proceed. The H.S.E. has again reaffirmed support for the project and Respond! Housing Association is working on replies to Department queries regarding the tender price and fees. Respond! Housing Association intends to address the Department queries by 30 October 2015 and if the answers provided are accepted by the Department it is hoped that the project will commence on site shortly thereafter.

7. Can the Council confirm the following:

- (a) Number of houses it currently has in its ownership, MD Region they're in and size of each (i.e. number of 1 bed, 2 bed etc)

Reply: Total stock 1412 broken down as follows (per iHouse)

Ballybay Clones MD 419	CMX/CB MD 474	Monaghan MD 519
1 bed 49	1 bed 60	1 bed 37
2 bed 125	2 bed 142	2 bed 189
3 bed 208	3 bed 240	3 bed 247
4+ bed 37	4+ bed 32	4+ bed 26
		Gortakeegan Bays 20

(b) Number of houses the Council currently rents off private landlords (through RAS & HAP etc)

Reply: Housing Assistance Payment: Monaghan County Council have accommodated 162 applicants under the terms of the Housing Assistance Payment Scheme. No contract is entered between the landlord and Monaghan County Council, a Rent Contribution Agreement is signed between the HAP applicant/tenant and Monaghan County Council.

Reply: Rental Accommodation Scheme currently have 158 RAS properties, there are 97 Voluntary Housing units returned under the RAS scheme as well.

(c) Number of those on Housing Waiting list for more than 3 years

Reply: There are currently 609 applicants on the waiting list that have applied prior to 30/10/2012. This figure includes 36 applicants that have been accommodated by HAP and also includes applicants that are on RAS.

8. Can Monaghan Council confirm it will carry out a safety review of its 'Traveller' accommodation/halting sites in the wake of the Carrickmines tragedy?

Reply: Monaghan Fire & Civil Protection shall be undertaking inspections of the two sites in County Monaghan that are managed and maintained by the Council. This follows the expected guidance issuing from the DECLG.

Cllr S. Coyle asked:

9. Will Monaghan County Council immediately seek from the NRA, the erection of signage for County Monaghan on the M1(Dublin- Belfast)at junction 14,for Ardee (N33) and at the N33-N2 junction (Ardee), as tourists/transporters etc., find it very difficult to exit for County Monaghan from our main National route?

Reply: A letter of request will issue to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (Formerly NRA) requesting signage at these locations.

10. Can Monaghan County Council give a detailed breakdown of the mileage/kilometres of National/Regional and Local Roads per L.E.A., Carrickmacross - Castleblayney, Ballybay- Clones and Monaghan L.E.A.?

Reply:

Road Classification	Monaghan Km	Ballybay/Clones Km	Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Km	Road Class Total Km
National Roads	49.02	20.41	35.33	104.75
Regional Roads	56.53	159.25	82.41	298.18
Local Roads	606.26	888.19	650.47	2144.92
Total Local & Regional Road Length	662.78	1047.44	732.88	2443.10
Total Road Length (Nat/Reg/Local)	711.80	1067.85	768.21	2547.85

11. Will Monaghan County Council erect signage for Bawn and the Senator Billy Fox Memorial Park, at the appropriate locations in Carrickmacross, Castleblayney and Ballybay, and request Cavan County Council to erect similar signage in Shercock and Cootehill, as the Senator Billy Fox Memorial Park, offers huge tourism potential to the region?

Reply: Monaghan County Council will assess the current signage for Senator Billy Fox Memorial Park and replace/install new signs where appropriate.

12. Will Monaghan County Council outline in detail the funding/expenditure for road restoration, improvements and surface dressing for the past 6 years, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015, under the headings of National, Regional and Local roads, and the mileage/kilometres completed in each respective year?

Reply:

Year	COUNTY ROADS		REGIONAL ROADS		TOTAL County and Reg.	Expenditure	NATIONAL ROAD PAVEMENT & MINOR WORKS			
	RM Rest./Mtce. (Surface Dressing)	RI Rest./Improv.	RM Rest./Mtce. (Surface Dressing)	RI Rest./Improv.			NP ROADS	NS ROADS	TOTAL	
2010	179.2km		25.9km		205.2 km	€8,140,000	6.8km	6.3km	13.1km	2.7m
2011	157.2km		28.2km		185.4 km	€8,613,273	0.4km	6.4km	6.8km	5.1m
2012	136.7km		14.7km		137.6 km	€6,589,854	2.6km	10.0km	12.6km	7.8m
2013	127.4km		15.0km		142.4 km	€7,014,221	4.2km	/	4.2km	5.3m
2014	58.8km	40.3km	8.6km	4.4km	112.1 km	€5,067,786	4.2km	/	4.2km	1.06m
2015	*51.8km	*42.1km	*5.41km	*6.9km	106.3 km	€4,970,887	6km	1.1k	7.1km	2.92m

* Provisional lengths (final lengths to be confirmed on completion of after works survey).

Cllr S. Coyle asked (contd):

13. How many persons have Monaghan County Council recruited under the "Gateway Programme", and how many have been allocated to each Municipal District, and what is the overall number allocated to County Monaghan?

Reply: Monaghan County Council has to date recruited 70 employees under the Gateway Scheme.

- **10 participants have exited the scheme on the grounds of ill health or having gained employment elsewhere.**
- **60 participants are employed under the scheme at present and are assigned as follows:**
 - **19 in the Municipal District of Monaghan**
 - **22 in the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones**
 - **18 in the Municipal District of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney**
 - **1 in Tourism**

The Council has met the target of 55 set by the Department.

Cllr N. Keelan asked:

14. What savings have been made to-date or may be made as a result of the abolition of the 5 Town Councils across the county, and given that Local Authority seats have been reduced from 65 to just 18 elected members?

Reply: Based on 2013 expenditure the saving in 2014 was €205,398 and the saving for 2015 year to date is €204,581.

15. In relation to the three by-passes that have been constructed in recent years across the county, is there a scheme at Department of Transport level or at National Roads Authority level to put in place additional measures such as sound barriers in order to reduce the noise levels that some residents are experiencing adjacent to the by-passes?

Reply: Monaghan County Council prepared a 5 year Noise Action Plan in 2013 for the mapping of noise levels along the N2/N53/N54 in conjunction with the NRA. The plan identified a programme of works to be undertaken over a 5 year period to identify areas that may warrant further assessment and determine possible mitigation measures if required. The plan is currently in its second year and the measuring of on-site noise levels at locations identified from the year 1 mapping assessment is due to commence in the next 2 weeks. The analysis of information obtained from the on-site measurements will establish if noise mitigation measures are warranted and identify the most appropriate intervention prior to seeking funding in year 3.

Cllr S. Conlon asked:

16. What progress has been made in relation to sourcing a suitable site, design and funding for a new County Museum?

Reply: Following on from the April County Council meeting where members agreed that the new museum should be sited in Monaghan Town, Museum Curator, Liam Bradley and Monaghan County Council Senior Executive Engineer Alan Hall along with other relevant

County Council staff worked to develop the appropriate documentation required to tender on a phased basis for a capital build project of this nature which would incorporate the assessment of a number of potential sites in Monaghan Town for the new museum. Assistance was also sought from Fingal County Council who have liaised with Monaghan County Council in the past in the development of capital projects. Once these documents were complete the Museum Curator and Aige King met with Donal McDonald who has vast experience in sourcing and managing funding from the Peace programme to ensure that the tender brief and associated documents reflected the objectives of the upcoming Peace IV programme. Monaghan County Council are now ready to tender for a suitable company to work with them to bring the new museum building to Part VIII planning stage, which will be a requirement of the Peace IV application process.

Monaghan County Museum received an allocation of €5,000 from the Dept of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht as well as €15,000 from Monaghan County Council to carry out this work. At present there has been no official statement from SEUPB as to when the Peace IV programme will be launched but it is envisaged to be in Spring 2016 at which time an application will be made to fund the cost of building the new museum in Monaghan Town.

Cllr S. Conlon asked:

17. With the passing of twelve months since the signing contracts for the purchase of 28 acres of land and 17 houses at Latlorcan in Monaghan town, is the Council any closer to taking ownership of these properties?

Reply: The appointment of the Administrator acting in respect of the sale of this property is currently the subject of a Judicial Review. The sale cannot be completed pending the conclusion of this case, which is due before the Courts in early 2016.

18. What progress has been made regarding the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between Coillte and the Council in relation to enhancing recreational facilities at Coillte properties at Rossmore Park, Dartrey, Black Island, Billy Fox Memorial Park, Derrygorry and Eshbrack?

Reply: A change in personnel within Coillte (Recreation Section) has led to a delay in progressing this proposal. Renewed negotiations will now commence with the relevant staff within that organisation.

Cllr R. Gallagher asked:

19. What is the current position regarding the next phase of road re-alignment between Corracrin and Emyvale village?

Reply: Monaghan County Council is currently discussing accommodation works with affected landowners and tender documents are currently being finalised by the projects consultants. It is intended to seek formal approval from the TII to commence the tender phase of the project before the end of 2015.

20. Regarding road salt supply - is the Council satisfied that it has a sufficient amount of salt in stock for the winter ahead and what is the cost of salting per night?

Reply: Monaghan County Council currently has 1200 Tonnes of salt in storage within the county at present and will be restocking its salt barns to their maximum capacity of 3500 Tonnes in the next 2 weeks. The approximate cost per salting call out is €11,000.

Cllr R. Gallagher asked:

21. Has the Council received any finance for social housing from central government and if so, how much and at what locations does it intend to spend it?

Reply: In 2015 Central Government announced that the “Targets for delivery under the Social Housing Strategy 2015, 2016 and 2017” for Monaghan are as follows: Current and Capital combined target 205 with an estimated cost of €11.5million. 55 of the 205 to be delivered by L.A. own construction/acquisition programme and returning voids to use with a Provisional Capital Allocation of €10.4million over the period 2015 to 2017.

109 of the 205 to be delivered by L.A. through various forms of leasing including the Capital Advance Leasing Facility in partnership with Approved Housing Bodies. 41 of the 205 to be delivered through the Rental Accommodation Scheme. In 2015 funding has been allocated for several ongoing projects including: Mullaghmatt Phase 3 which returned 9no vacant houses to use in April 2015, the construction of 9no new houses at McCurtain Street, Clones, the construction of an 8-bedroom Group Home and 10no houses at Drumillard by Castleblayney Care Association under the Capital Assistance Scheme(C.A.S.).

C.A.S. funding has also been provided for the provision of 6 units of accommodation for people with disabilities in Monaghan town in conjunction with Newgrove and Tuath Housing Associations and for 7 units of accommodation for people with disabilities in Carrickmacross in conjunction with Respond! and North & East Housing Associations. In addition the Council is awaiting approval of a 7-bedroom Group Home for people with disabilities planned for Convent Lands, Carrickmacross.

So far Monaghan County Council has Department approval for two direct new build construction projects; €2.6million approved for Monaghan Town and €1million approved for Castleblayney. The Department has indicated that Phase 4 of the Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme will be approved shortly and has separately given the go ahead for a feasibility study by Cluid Housing Association into the potential conversion of an existing disused building into apartments in Monaghan town.

The Department has approved funding for the completion and purchase of 9no houses at Thorndale, Castleblayney by Cluid Housing Association and funding has also been made available for the direct purchase by Monaghan County Council of between 12 to 15 individual houses at various locations throughout the County to address urgent need. The Department and Monaghan County Council will also be supporting the purchase by Approved Housing Bodies of houses in Unfinished Housing Developments at Liseggerton, Clones (6) and Lough na Glack, Carrickmacross (30 plus). Funding from Central Government in the amount of €250,000 has also been provided for returning long term vacant social housing to use and a further similar amount has been provided to deal with 5no vacant derelict houses at Oliver Plunkett Park, Castleblayney and additional funding has been sought to bring two additional old derelict social houses back into use. In 2015 Energy Efficiency funding in the amount of €340,000 has also been provided by Central Government to improve cavity wall and attic insulation in the remaining 330 Council owned houses that have cavity walls. So far a total of 1,300 Monaghan County Council owned houses have been

improved under the Energy Efficiency programme with less than 100 Council owned houses remaining that have not had Energy Efficiency measures, which are to be surveyed for the next phase in 2016.

Monaghan County Council in partnership with Approved Housing Bodies and Developers is also working on potential new build opportunities and proposals to bring vacant/derelict houses back into use in Monaghan, Carrickmacross, Castleblayney, Clones and Ballybay. To facilitate this it is intended that advertisements will be placed in late 2015 and/or early 2016 seeking expressions of interest for turnkey housing projects in County Monaghan.

Urgent Business:

Cllr Gallagher proposed, Cllr Mc Nally seconded

That this Council calls on the Minister of Justice and Equality, Francis Fitzgerald TD, to address, as a matter of urgency, the current dangerously low level of Garda numbers in the Cavan/Monaghan division – the most depleted Garda division in the country.

In moving the motion Cllr Gallagher said the Cavan Monaghan division was the most depleted unit in terms of Garda numbers in the country. As a result of the unfortunate death of Garda Tony Golden in Dundalk, there had been a transfer of up to 30 Gardai to Co. Louth, 16 of whom had been taken from Cavan/Monaghan. This left a situation where a division that had already been very lowly manned was now in a worse position in terms of personnel. Not only did Garda members feel exposed and vulnerable but so did local communities. He stated that on occasions there may be only two patrol cars covering the entire county, one in the north and one in the south.

Cllr McNally seconded the motion and said that since he came to the meeting that day he had received text alerts about a robbery which had taken place in South Monaghan. He proposed that the Council request the Chief Superintendent to meet with the Council and explain whether he was happy with his resources and what resources the Councillors might need to lobby for on his behalf. Cllr Gallagher seconded the proposal which was agreed by the Council.

Cllr P. Treanor called for Clones Garda Station to be returned to the status of a full-time Garda Station as there had been a significant increase in the level of criminal activity in the Clones area.

Cllrs McPhillips, Maxwell and Connolly also spoke to Cllr Gallagher's motion.

The Cathaoirleach put Cllr Gallagher's motion to the meeting and it was agreed unanimously.

Cllr Gallagher thanked the members for their support.

The meeting then concluded.