

Minutes of meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Mtek Building, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday 5th November, 2012, at 2.00pm.

Chair: Cllr H. McElvaney, Mayor.

Present: Cllrs Bannigan, Carthy, Carville, Conlon, Connolly, Crowe, Gallagher, Keelan, Maxwell, McElvaney, B. McKenna, McNally, McPhillips, Murray, O'Brien, O'Hanlon and P. Treanor.

Mr. D. Fallon, A/County Manager, Mr. P. Clifford, Mr. D. Treanor and Mr. A. King, Directors of Service, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

Apology: Cllr S. Treanor.

At the outset the Mayor welcomed the signing of the contract for the N2 Phase 2 & 4 – Coolkill East to Corracrin Realignment Scheme. The contractors appointed for this project are P. T McWilliams & McLaughlin & Harvey.

Urgent Business:

The Mayor stated that he had received a notice of urgent business in the names of the Sinn Fein members, as follows:

“ That Monaghan County Council seeks assurances from Bus Eireann CEO Martin Nolan that the existing 177 Monaghan – Dublin service retains its current route and frequency of provision ”

The Mayor ruled that as correspondence on this issue was circulated with the agenda, the matter could be discussed under Item 2, Correspondence.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr Coyle it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 1st October, 2012, be confirmed.

2. Correspondence:

The following correspondence was circulated to the members –

- Letter from the Border Regional Authority regarding nomination from that Authority to the Interreg V Steering Group.
- Letter from Cavan County Council notifying its intention to commence a review of the Cavan County Development Plan.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for the Environment in relation to Council's resolution seeking a grant aid package for septic tanks.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Justice in relation to illegal collection of recycled clothes.

- Letter from the Minister for Jobs Enterprise and Innovation regarding the establishment of a task force to find an alternative employment/industry for Lagan Brick, Kingscourt.
- Letters (2) from the Minister for Jobs Enterprise and Innovation regarding the proposed sale of IDA lands at Knockaconny, Monaghan.
- Letter from IDA Ireland regarding the proposed sale of IDA lands at Knockaconny, Monaghan.
- Letter from Deputy Ó Caolain enclosing letters from Minister Bruton regarding the proposed sale of IDA lands at Knockaconny, Monaghan.
- Email from Deputy Humphreys enclosing email from Minister Bruton regarding the proposed sale of IDA lands at Knockaconny, Monaghan.
- Letter from the Minister for Education and Skills regarding a capital asset test to determine eligibility under the Higher Education Grants Scheme.
- Letter from the Minister from the Minister for Housing and Planning regarding the Tenant Purchase Scheme.
- Letter from the Health Service Executive confirming 14th November as the date for a meeting with Council delegation regarding primary care units.
- Letter from IPB insurance notifying the Council of the payment of a dividend of €136,230.64 for the year 2011.
- Letter from the Town Clerk, Monaghan Town Council advising of three resolutions passed by that Council.
- Resolution from Donegal County Council calling for the restoration of all benefits withdrawn from our elderly and disabled persons.
- Resolutions from Leitrim County Council calling for the extension of artists exemption guidelines to musicians to include the performance of traditional pieces or music.
- Resolution from Offaly County Council calling on the Minister for Justice to review government policy to reflect an adequately resource policing force.
- Resolution from New Ross Town Council condemning the decision of the Minister for the Environment to abolish all Town City and Borough Councils.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in relation to the Council's resolution regarding the retention of the Heritage Council in its current format.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in relation to the Council's resolution regarding funding to assist in the initiation of an Irish Family History Research Centre.
- Email from Deputy Humphreys regarding the capping of interest rates for money-lenders.
- Letter from the Minister of State for Tourism and Sport seeking support for the The Gathering Ireland 2013.
- Email from Cllr Robbie Gallagher enclosing email from Bus Eireann regarding the 177 Monaghan – Dublin bus service.
- Letter from the National Roads Authority regarding the removal of signs on national routes.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr McPhillips, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed that the Council writes to Cavan County Council asking that they note the strategic importance of the Ulster Canal in their forthcoming review of the Cavan County Development Plan.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr Coyle it was agreed that the Council supports the resolution from Donegal County Council calling on the Department of Social Welfare to restore all benefits withdrawn from our Elderly and Disabled, and that all Widows and Elderly who live alone be granted an additional allowance in the region of 50% to compensate for their loss on the death of a partner and thus assisting them to avoid the poverty trap.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that the Council adopt the resolution from Offaly County Council calling on the Minister for Justice to review Government policy to reflect an adequately resourced policing force that has the capacity to serve, protect and safeguard all individuals and communities.

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon it was agreed that the Council adopt the proposal from Monaghan Town Council calling on the Minister for Finance to rescind his decision to withdraw tax relief for first time buyers from January 2013.

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that the Council adopt the proposal from Monaghan Town Council calling on the Minister for the Environment not to change the existing rules whereby cars over 10 years old would have to be tested every year instead of the present two years.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed that the Council write to the Minister for Education and Skills requesting that all grant applications be processed as quickly as possible and that additional resources be put in place immediately to deal with this matter.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that this Council seeks from the Minister for State at the Department of Finance Brian Hayes TD that, as per the Programme for Government and recently published 'Putting People First' the former Customs and Revenue building at Tullyherim, Monaghan is transferred into the ownership of Monaghan Town and County Councils for the purpose of enhancing job creation opportunities through the provision of start-up incubation units at this site.

Cllr Conlon proposed, Cllr P. Treanor seconded that this Council adopt the motion from New Ross Town Council condemning the decision of the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government to abolish all Town, City and Borough Councils and further calls upon the Minister to embark on a programme of meaningful reform of Local Government which includes the retention of Town, City and Borough Councils.

A vote by show of hands on this proposal resulted in 11 for 4 against. The Mayor declared the proposal carried.

On the proposal Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was agreed that this Council seeks assurances from Bus Eireann CEO, Mr. Martin Nolan, that the existing 177 Monaghan – Dublin service retains its current route and frequency of provision. It was further agreed that the Council would seek a meeting with Mr. Nolan and the Minister for Transport in relation to this matter.

The following members of the Council were selected as members of the delegation should a meeting with Mr. Nolan/Minister Varadkar be forthcoming – Mayor McElvaney, Cllrs Gallagher, O’Hanlon, Maxwell, Carville, Conlon, Carthy and Connolly.

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Murray it was agreed that this Council expresses its concern and alarm at the IDA policy of concentrating its investment in Gateway locations and the implied reference to Enterprise Ireland having a similar policy and that we request our local T.D’s to facilitate a meeting with Minister Bruton and the IDA/Enterprise Ireland in order to make the case for supporting inward investment in Co. Monaghan.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna it was agreed that Monaghan County Council make a submission to SEUPB in relation to Interreg V and Peace IV, seeking a more focused support for the Central Border Region, improved telecommunication system and better transport including the Ulster Canal.

On the proposal of Cllr O’Hanlon, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was agreed that having regard to the fact that 90% of all chicken product used in restaurants and take-aways is imported, this Council writes to the Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Simon Coveney T.D., requesting that legislation be introduced to ensure that all restaurants and takeaways must display, at the point of sale, details of the country of origin of their chicken product.

It was agreed that this resolution be circulated to all County and Town Councils throughout the country.

- 3. Part VIII Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations** – To consider granting permission for proposed underground foul sewer collection tank and associated site works at Terrytole, Ballinode, Co Monaghan

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Gallagher that the Council approve the development of an underground foul sewer collection pump sump, overflow tank, valve chamber, meter chamber, associated mechanical equipment, above ground electrical kiosk and all associated site works at Terrytole, Ballinode, Co. Monaghan (Ref 12/8010) to comply with the Manager’s Report dated 23rd October, 2012 and in accordance with Part VIII of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2001.

4. To receive the Statutory Audit Report and the Audited Annual Financial Statement for 2011

Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance referred to the Statutory Audit Report and the Audited Annual Financial Statement for 2011, which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting. Mr. Murray responded to queries from the members in relation to the audit report.

Household Charge:

A number of members referred to letters reminding people to pay the household charge that had been issued by the Council to people who had already paid the charge and called on the Acting County Manager to apologise to these people.

The Acting County Manager stated that he had no problem apologising to people that had already paid the household charge but had received a reminder letter. The Council had issued the reminder letters which were generated from a data base supplied by the LGMA and which had been supplied by the Property Registration Authority.

5. To receive recommendations from Corporate Policy Group

(i) To consider draft Scrap Metal Fundraising Events Policy

Cllr B. McKenna, Chair of the Environment SPC outlined the background to the preparation of this policy document – the main reason for the introduction of the policy was to relax the current regulations for community groups, GAA clubs, etc who wish to organise these type of events.

Cllr O'Brien stated that he was not in favour of the introduction of this policy as he felt that it was creating a layer of red tape for clubs/groups trying to raise much needed funds in order to manage their finances.

Mr. J.P. McEntee, Env. Technician responded to the issues raised by the members.

Cllr Maxwell proposed that point 3 be deleted. Mr. McEntee explained that this point could not be deleted as it was required by Waste Management legislation.

Cllr Coyle proposed that points 2 and 4 be deleted from the draft Scrap Metal Fundraising Events Policy. Cllr O'Brien seconded this proposal.

The Mayor put Cllr Coyle's proposal to the meeting and it was agreed.

On the proposal of Cllr O'Brien, seconded by Cllr Coyle it was agreed that the draft Scrap Metal Fundraising Events Policy be adopted, as amended.

(ii) **To consider allocation of Graveyard Maintenance Grants 2012**

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr O'Brien it was agreed that the Council approve the allocation of grants under the Graveyard Maintenance Scheme 2012, as follows:

Name of Graveyard	Amount of Grant
Donaghmoyne	€1,000
Inniskeen	€1,000
Donagh	€1,000
Tydavnet	€1,000
Killeevan	€1,000
Lisnamoyle	€1,000
Drumsnatt	€1,000
Errigal	€1,000
Edraguil	€1,000

(iii) **To consider change of Community Development Fund Grant**

It was agreed that the Council approve the change of use of the grant of €3,200 allocated to Emyvale Leisure Centre under the Community Development fund 2012.

(iv) **To consider motion from the Planning & Economic Development SPC**

Cllr Conlon referred to the motion, as follows which had been passed at the Planning & Economic Development SPC meeting and recommended for adoption by the CPG.

“That Monaghan County Council writes to the Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government requesting a review of the procedures and legislation in respect of the control of standards of construction of both single dwellings and multiple housing developments.”

Cllr Conlon stated that he wished to propose an amendment to the motion.

Cllr Bannigan, as Chair of the Planning SPC proposed that in view of Cllr Conlon's intention to propose an amendment, that the motion should therefore be referred back to the Strategic Policy Committee for consideration. Cllr McPhillips seconded the proposal.

The Mayor put Cllr Bannigan's proposal to the meeting and it was agreed.

(v) **To agree date for Statutory Budget Meeting – 19th December 2012**

It was agreed that the Statutory Budget meeting of the Council to consider the draft Budget 2013, would be held on 19th December, 2012.

(vi) **To approve minutes of CPG meeting**

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was agreed that the Council approve the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on Monday 15th October, 2012.

6. To fix dates for the following meetings:

(i) **Road Area Committee meetings.**

It was agreed that Road Area Committee meetings would be held as follows:

Carrickmacross	Friday 23 rd November at 10.00 am
Castleblayney	Tuesday 27 th November at 9.00 am
Clones	Tuesday 27 th November at 2.00 pm
Monaghan	Thursday 29 th November at 9.30 am

(ii) **Twinning Committee meeting.**

It was agreed that a meeting of the Twinning Committee would be held on 21st November, 2012 at 10.00 am in the Conference Room, The Glen, Monaghan.

(iii) **Environment & Infrastructure SPC meeting.**

It was agreed that a meeting of the Environment & Infrastructure SPC would be held on 20th November 2012 at 10.00 am

7. To receive reports from Members attending Conferences

The members noted the reports from Cllrs Keelan, McElvaney and McNally in relation to their attendance at the LAMA Conference in Letterkenny, Co. Donegal

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed that Mr. Peter Murphy, Director of Tourism, Miramichi, Canada be invited to attend the St. Patrick's Day celebrations in March 2013.

8. Proposed Eirgrid 440kv Interconnector

Cllr Bannigan advised the members that it is expected that an out of court settlement will be reached in the High Court case taken by the County Monaghan Anti Pylon Committee which is seeking recoupment of costs incurred by community groups in relation to the failed EirGrid Interconnector oral hearing.

9. Business submitted by County Manager

Hope Castle:

The Acting County Manager advised the members that a date has been set for the hearing of the appeal against the Hope Castle malicious injury claim court hearing.

Ulster Canal:

The Acting County Manager advised the members that Waterways Ireland have submitted information to the Planning Authority of Northern Ireland.

10. Matters arising out of minutes of meeting held on 1st October, 2012.

Matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 1st October, 2012 were responded to by the relevant officials.

Cllr S. Treanor requested that a further letter be issued to the Department of Social Protection regarding part time firemen.

11. To receive Presentations:**(i) CFRAM presentation by the Office of Public Works**

The Mayor welcomed Mr. Aidan Harney, Office of Public Works and Mr. Alan Barr, RPS Consultants who are engaged on the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Study and invited them to address the members.

In their presentation, Mr. Barr and Mr. Harney outlined details of the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Study being carried out for the North Western and Neagh Bann regions by the Office of Public Works with the support of RPS Consultants. They stated that the study will give local authorities more accurate information that will assist them in predicting flooding risk and help them to deal with flooding situations that will arise. The study will not prevent flooding it will only assist with flooding management. The compilation of meteorological and hydrological data along with the use of weather and coastal models will lead to the development of a model that will result in improved flood forecasts and warnings and better flood management approaches.

The importance of consulting with local communities was highlighted as they could learn from local people as to what had happened in the past so that they could make informed judgements as to what might be likely to happen in the future. Climate change would also be factored in as there is more intense rainfall occurring leading to more frequent flooding. Mr. Harney urged the members and the public to be aware of and to use the website – floodmaps.ie. He encouraged people or groups with relevant information to submit it to the website.

Following their presentation, Mr. Barr and Mr. Harney responded to queries from the members.

Mr. D. Fallon, A/County Manager thanked Mr. Barr and Mr. Harney for their presentation and for the very detailed information imparted. He also acknowledged the funding allocated to date by the Office of Public Works for flooding remedial works.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Barr and Mr. Harney for attending the meeting and for a very informative presentation.

(ii) The Garage Theatre:

The Mayor welcomed Ms. Eileen Costello, Administrator and Mr. Barry McSkeane, Youth Worker from the Garage Theatre. Cllr S. Conlon as Chairperson of the Garage Theatre Board also participated in the presentation. He outlined in detail the history of the existing theatre; the economic impact of the Arts; the new theatre which will open in January 2013 and the role it will play in stimulating further economic benefits for the arts in the region.

Ms. Costello acknowledged the financial and other support which the Council had given to both the old and new theatres and particularly the contribution of €800,000 for the new theatre which would be technically the best equipped theatre of its size in the country.

Mr. McSkeane referred to the Monaghan Youth Theatre which is an important outlet for the energies and creative talents of young people and which will be enhanced and further developed with the new theatre coming onstream.

A number of members complimented the Garage Theatre Board on the development of the new theatre and wished it success in the future. They also paid tribute to the CEO of the VEC, Mr. Martin O'Brien on bringing the project to fruition and to the former CEO Mr. McCluskey and former County Manager for their contributions.

Mr. D. Fallon, A/County Manager joined in the sentiments expressed by the members and wished the new theatre every success.

12. Questions:

Cllr P. Connolly asked:

- 1 To ask Monaghan County Council for an update in relation to recent developments regarding unfinished housing developments in the county?

Reply: *A full and comprehensive update on all unfinished housing developments was given to members at the September meeting of the Council. The Planning Office will update members in relation to progress on specific developments at any time, upon request.*

2. What plans have Monaghan County Council to introduce Traffic Control Measures in Ballinode at all three road junctions on the Scotstown side of the village thereby improving road safety in the area?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council currently have no plans for improvements at this location.*

3. Does Monaghan County Council have any plans to take in charge the public lighting in partially occupied unfinished housing developments?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council has arranged for the connection and continuation of electricity supply for a number of unfinished housing developments including 'Ros Cluain' in Carrickmacross, 'Knockcarrick' in Annyalla, and 'Killycard Manor' in Castleblayney. Similar efforts are also underway in relation to the 'The Ferns' in Scotstown and 'Latlorcan' in Monaghan.*

Cllr P. Connolly asked:

4. To ask Monaghan County Council for an update in relation to Septic Tank Registration and the number of households who availed of the €5 registration fee?

Reply: *7,809 households availed of the €5 registration fee.*

Cllr P.J. O'Hanlon asked:

5. Has the snag lists for the new houses in Cloughvalley and Houses No 1 and 2 An Gleann been completed yet? If not, when do you expect them to be finished?

Reply: *The twenty two houses at number 1 and 2 An Gleann and numbers 97 to 116 Cloughvalley were substantially completed by O'Hanlon & Farrell Contracts Ltd on 27 April 2012.*

The minor defects liability period during which the Contractor is required to repair minor defects will not expire until 27 April 2013. Monaghan County Council's administrative staff and Clerk of Works in conjunction with Cooney Architects have ensured that urgent defects reported are attended to as soon as possible. The Contractor has been very cooperative and has visited the houses on numerous occasions to carry out minor repairs and to explain the operation of the heating systems in the houses. The urgency in ensuring that all heating systems are fully functioning has been stressed to the Contractor. It should be noted that in some cases problems have been caused due to tenants not fully understanding the mechanics of the installed systems e.g. having turned thermostats down and forgotten to turn them up again.

In October 2012 Monaghan County Council issued letters to the tenants of the houses explaining that on Saturday 20 October 2012 the Contractor would call to all of the houses to deal with any issues with heating systems and that tenants should ensure that somebody is at home on that day if they have issues with their heating systems. It was also explained that at this point in the contract the Contractor is only required to deal with urgent defects, all other minor defects reported will be dealt with at the end of the minor defects liability period when a final list of defects will be prepared and dealt with. The Contractor called to all twenty two houses on Saturday 20th October 2012 and met with fifteen of the tenants however there was nobody at home in seven of the houses.

Any defects that are considered to be urgent will be dealt with as soon as possible and any other minor defects will be dealt with as appropriate in April and May 2013.

Cllr P.J. O’Hanlon asked:

6. In relation to the funding applied for, to make the junction on the high road coming out at McCartney’s Cross safer, I know there is to be a positive response to the application, can we please make sure that these works are done without any delay?

Reply: *An application has been made for 2013 under the Low Cost Safety Improvement scheme for funding to carry out works at this location recently. Confirmation of funding is still awaited and normally is confirmed with the announcement of the road grant allocations in February each year.*

Cllr S. Treanor asked:

7. Would the County Council consider extending the new Ballinode sewage system to include the Rafeenan Road on the opposite side of the river at Connolly’s bridge, as, due to recent flooding there is a danger of sewage tanks being washed into the river Blackwater?

Reply: *The economic viability of crossing of the Cappog Bridge with a scheme which will connect approximately 11 houses is unviable considering the physical/heritage constraints attached to the bridge regarding flooding and conservation issues.*

Cllr B. McKenna asked:

8. In relation to the cycle path currently under construction from Dernagrew to Coolkill East along the N2, what is the total estimated cost of these works? Were these works advertised for tendering purposes and if not, why not?

Reply: *The re-alignment works for this section of road were completed by Monaghan County Council staff. The kerbing and the surfacing works to provide the surfaced verge to facilitate vulnerable road users were tendered under the Annual Civil Works tendering process. The total estimated cost of these works is €85,000.*

9. When is it anticipated that the Council yard adjacent to the Riverbank Childcare Centre will be moved to the site beside the Sewerage Treatment Plant on the Glaslough road out of Emyvale as its current location is totally unsuitable given developments in that area over the past 10 years or so?

Reply: *There are currently no plans to move this Council yard.*

Cllr A. Murray asked:

10. What plans have the Council to remedy the flooding in the Play Park at Cloughvalley Carrickmacross which is currently severely impeding the use of this play area?

Reply: *The Carrickmacross Town Engineer has advised that it appears that the existing land drainage may be damaged and once weather and ground conditions permit restoration works will be carried out.*

Cllr P. McNally asked:

11. What plans have this Council in place to deal with worn tyres that are dumped along our public roads?

Reply: *Tyres dumped on the side of the public road are generally dealt with by the Local Authority workforce. Collected tyres are disposed of at an approved facility.*

12. How many incidents of washed diesel sludge has this Council had to deal with so far this year and how much has it cost?

Reply: *Up to the end of October 2012 Monaghan County Council have dealt with 84 separate incidents. 405 tonnes of waste have been collected and sent for disposal. Approximate cost is €400,000.*

13. Will this Council consider putting a plan in place that will mean all signposts will be washed at least once annually, if necessary?

Reply: *The Council will include maintenance of signposts as part of the ongoing general maintenance having regard to the available funding, resources and priority demands on the maintenance programme.*

Cllr M. Carthy asked:

14. When is it expected that a Part VIII planning application will be presented to the members of the Council for the proposed Group Home for women with physical and sensory disabilities at Drummond Otra, Carrickmacross? If no unforeseen planning issues arise when is the likely commencement date of the project?

Reply: *A provisional budget of €1,158,360 was approved for the project by the Department in July 2012. RESPOND Housing Association prepared the planning application which was validated on 4 October 2012. Following the mandatory planning submissions and observations period it is expected that the planning application will be presented to the members at the Council meeting in January 2013. It is intended that during the submissions and observations period meetings will be held with RESPOND Housing Association, the H.S.E. and the Department as a proactive measure to try to ensure that there will be agreement to proceed as soon as possible after planning permission is granted.*

Following procurement and final Department approval to proceed to construction stage, it is expected that the project will commence on site in early 2013 with an anticipated construction period of approximately 10 months.

Cllr M. Carthy asked:

15. a) How many enquiries have been made to Monaghan County Council by homeowners regarding the Mortgage to Rent Scheme announced by the government last June?

b) In how many cases has the process of moving from Mortgage to Rent commenced and are there any instances in County Monaghan where the process is complete?

Reply: *The authority would not record details of informal enquiries made in relation to the scheme. The County Council is aware of one formal written enquiry made to the local authority in respect of this scheme and the applicants are being assisted in the process in this instance.*

It should be noted that progression of an application through the process is initially between the customer, their Mortgage Lender and the Housing Agency. It is only once the customer has been formally identified as a potential Mortgage to Rent customer that the Local Authority is formally notified. The Local Authority involvement is confirming the applicant's eligibility for social housing support, and a clarification on the demand for that property type in the area.

There are no instances in County Monaghan where the process has been completed

16. What works will the Council carry out to prevent the continued flooding at the play-park at Cloughvalley, Carrickmacross? When is it expected that this work will be completed?

Reply: *It is intended that drainage work will be carried out in the area in question as soon as the ground is sufficiently dry to allow the work to be carried out. Given the exceptionally wet weather this year it is difficult to estimate when the work will be completed.*

17. What level of salt and grit does the Council have to hand for use on our roads in the event of frosty / icy conditions over the course of the winter months? Is the Council satisfied that sufficient stocks are available?

Reply: *The Council have approximately 3,300 ton of salt in stock. This together with further allocation from the National Roads Authority should be sufficient for normal conditions.*

18. How much funding (including government grants and the Council's own resources) was spent on the upkeep, maintenance and resurfacing of Local, Regional and National roads (separate figures please) in County Monaghan from January – to date this year? What are the figures expected to be by year end? What were the corresponding figures for the year totals 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011?

Reply:

	Projected 2012	2012 to Oct 31	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Programme	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
National Primary Roads	600,000.00	452,053.63	578,982.56	642,512.84	629,968.33	855,620.57	676,669.38
National Secondary Roads	170,000.00	141,053.19	215,117.67	282,938.88	220,980.59	282,360.93	341,020.84
	770,000.00	593,106.82	794,100.23	925,451.72	850,948.92	1,137,981.50	1,017,690.22
Regional Rest. Surf.Dressing	405,359.20	405,359.20	406,006.39	407,874.26	643,465.15	543,913.06	767,292.00
Regional Disc. Maintenance	2,705,754.00	2,296,654.49	2,968,727.48	2,836,615.09	2,225,722.82	2,638,790.49	2,629,550.36
Regional Restoration	748,479.00	720,628.66	1,952,765.26	1,255,970.73	1,133,689.87	1,964,145.04	1,669,532.15
Specific Improvement	700,000.00	444,718.17	999,330.78	813,356.46	1,481,801.41	2,194,202.84	3,391,501.96
	4,559,592.20	3,867,360.52	6,326,829.91	5,313,816.54	5,484,679.25	7,341,051.43	8,457,876.47
Local Ordinary Maintenance	903,938.00	633,679.75	1,093,969.02	2,604,616.87	1,446,819.67	1,662,825.02	1,962,901.46
Local Rest. Surface Dressing	1,243,229.00	1,242,490.37	1,204,001.53	1,203,954.22	1,618,102.24	1,165,003.64	1,743,135.78
Local Rest. Improvement	4,256,375.00	3,845,537.13	5,425,560.34	5,449,160.30	4,302,423.14	6,603,346.02	7,613,554.84
	6,403,542.00	5,721,707.25	7,723,530.89	9,257,731.39	7,367,345.05	9,431,174.68	11,319,592.08

Cllr S. Conlon asked:

19. In relation to the recent traffic management changes at the Moyles (LS05520) and Aghnagap (LT55011) T junction, what degree of consultation occurred with either elected members or local road users prior to implementation?

Reply: *In response to a safety complaint from a resident and following an investigation of the junction this local road junction was changed to an all stop.*

Cllr R. Gallagher asked:

20. In relation to the Ballinode Sewerage Extension when does the Council intend to contact the residents with a view to advising them on the procedures for connecting to same?

Reply: *Water Services intend to contact all residents prior to completion of the scheme.*

21. What is the up to date situation and projected timeframe for the proposed extension to the Sewerage System in Scotstown village?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council is in negotiations with landowners regarding site location for proposed pumping station. Following successful outcome Part 8 planning will be progressed immediately.*

22. Has the Council any plans to extend the Ballinode Sewerage System to include the residents on the Rafeenan Road out of Ballinode village?

Reply: *The economic viability of crossing of the Cappog Bridge with a scheme which will connect approximately 11 houses is unviable considering the physical/heritage constraints attached to the bridge regarding flooding and conservation issues.*

Clr G. Carville asked:

23. In relation to the formulation and ongoing development of a Memorandum of Understanding between Monaghan Co Council and Armagh City & District Council, what is the current progress in relation to such an initiative and what does this Council envisage being achieved by such an undertaking? How will the elected members and the wider public be involved?

Reply: *One meeting has taken place at official level in relation to a Memorandum of Understanding between Monaghan County Council and Armagh City & District Council, with another planned for early December. The full scope of the MOU has yet to be drafted.*

The process will be informed by the Review of Public Administration in Northern Ireland which is ongoing as this will alter the composition of the local government sector.

The elected members and the public have an essential role to play in framing and adopting the MOU which will facilitate closer collaboration and co-operation between the two authorities, strengthening of existing ties, and promote joint activities in a regional context.

It is envisaged that a position paper will be prepared for discussion at a County Council Meeting early in 2013. Councillors will then be in a position to formulate and direct policy to the fullest extent.

24. What progress is being made in relation to outstanding issues concerning Killycard Manor estate in Castleblayney, in furtherance of the recent presentation made to this Council, and specifically in relation to safety concerns such as lighting etc?

Reply: *Following the September's UHD presentation to the Elected Members, Monaghan County Council arranged for the supply and installation of public lights at 'Killycard Manor' in Castleblayney. The lights were operational from the 04/10/12. In addition, security fencing has also been erected on the site as an interim safety measure.*

A planning application (ref 12/179) to regularise matters, was lodged by the EBS Building Society on 06 June 2012. The planning authority is currently awaiting a response to an additional information request issued on 26 July 2012.

25. In relation to development charges on historical planning applications, how much is now owed to this Council and what level of agreements does the Council enter into with applicants in relation to the payment agreements or schedules?

Reply: *As at 31 December 2011, a total of €5.8m remained outstanding in respect of development contributions where commencement notices were received. However €2.6m of this figure relates to unfinished phases of large scale developments, where construction did not commence or which remain incomplete, and will be written off*

in 2012. The Planning Authority has entered into formal agreements with a number of applicants, in order to facilitate the payment of outstanding contributions over a phased basis. The terms of the agreements are determined on a case by case basis.

Cllr G. Carville asked:

26. What is the up to date position concerning the question of Castleblayney Courthouse / Markethouse?

Reply: *It is understood that the Castleblayney Enterprise Board is to lodge a planning application to renovate the Market House. The question of funding is being considered both by the Board and Monaghan County Council. Both parties remain very committed to the project.*

27. In view of the announcement contained in the recently published Local Government reform document that this Council is to be allowed to advertise and fill the position of County Manager, when is it envisaged that this will happen and what timescale is involved?

Reply: *In accordance with the Local Government Act, 2001, and the Local Authorities (Officers and Employees) Act, 1926, a request shall be deemed to have been submitted to the Local Appointments Commission in respect of a manager either:*

- (i) 6 months in advance of the expiration of the tenure of the manager*
 - or*
 - (ii) on the date the manager ceases to hold employment*
- whichever is earlier.*

The Local Appointments Commission, therefore, is deemed to have received this request six months prior to the retirement of the former County Manager.

The Local Appointments Commission makes the recommendation to the local authority which appoints the person so recommended - a reserved function.

Under the Local Government Act, 2001, where a position of manager becomes vacant the Minister shall appoint a person to be manager temporarily until a permanent appointment to the position is made.

There has of yet been no indication to Monaghan County Council as to the time frame in advertising the position of manager.

Cllr. N. Keelan asked:

28. Approximately how much rent is Monaghan County Council paying to private landlords and other agencies for premises per annum? Where are these premises located throughout the county? In order to save the hard pressed taxpayer money, will the Council consider using the ample space available in the new Council owned Civic Building in Carrickmacross?

Reply: Monaghan County Council leases ten premises throughout the county at a total cost to the Council of €274,386. The two highest rents relate to MTEKII, where over 40 staff in the Roads and Environment sections are employed and the Motor Tax Office in Park St. Monaghan. Other rented premises include Emyvale and Clones Area Offices, the Arts Office, Castleblayney Library, Clones Civil Defence Depot, and three small storage units at Killyvane, Gallagher and Laragh.

Monaghan County Council was in discussions with other parties relating to letting the five vacant offices in the Carrickmacross Civic Centre, however pending a decision on the published proposals for local government structures throughout the county, no decision to let these offices will be made.

Cllr. N. Keelan asked:

29. Will the Council consider putting in place a pedestrian crossing on the Dundalk Road in Carrickmacross adjacent to Pearse Avenue which will allow safer access to children in particular attending St. Joseph's National School?

Reply: It is proposed to place this as an item on the agenda for next Area Roads Meeting.

30. Given the number of submissions received by Monaghan County Council from residents living in the Bawn area and from other individuals/bodies from outside the area concerning the designating of Bawn as a Tier 6 Settlement in the Council's Draft Development Plan (2013-2019), and the possibility of further social housing being built in the area, will the Council clarify what a Tier 6 Settlement designation means. Will the Council also clarify if there are any plans to build any more social housing in Bawn given that the 8 houses already built have largely catered for the housing need in that area, as I understand it.

Reply: Tier 6 settlements are defined as Dispersed Rural Communities (DRC) in the Draft Development Plan 2013 – 2019. They are considered to be the smallest form of settlements in the County. A comprehensive definition of this form of settlement is contained in paragraph 3.4.4 of the Draft Plan.

At present, there are no plans to build any more social housing in Bawn.

31. How much money has Monaghan County Council spent to date on advertising / postage in relation to collecting the household charge?

Reply: Monaghan County Council has spent €14,086 in respect of advertising to date. This relates to adverts during the month of March 2012 reminding households of their obligation to pay the charge before the 31st March deadline in order to avoid penalties and adverts during the month of September 2012 informing households that the charge was increasing from €116 to €127 on the 1st October.

€6,759 has been spent on postage to date. This relates to letters issued to people who have paid the NPPR Charge but have not paid the Household Charge and also the letters issued during October 2012 based on PRA details received from the Central Bureau of the Local Government Management Agency.

13. Notices of Motion:

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

14. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations.

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

- Ms Ann Durnin, Council employee on the death of her mother-in-law Katie Durnin, Ardee, Co. Louth, RIP.
- The family of the late David Black, a member of the Northern Ireland Prison Service who was murdered on Thursday 1st November.

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

- Magheracloone GFC on winning the Owen Ward Cup recently.
- Carrickmacross Tidy Towns Group on achieving second place in the All Ireland 'Pride of Place' Competition.
- Christina McMahon, Carrickmacross on winning the Celtic Warrior Boxing Title and to her husband Martin who is also her Manager.
- Clones GFC on winning the Eurotech Junior Football League Final and gaining promotion to intermediate ranks for 2013.
- Castleblayney Faughs on winning the County Monaghan Minor Football Championship.
- Doohamlet O'Neills GFC on winning the Monaghan Intermediate Football Championship.
- Castleblayney Camogie Club on winning the Ulster Club Camogie Championship
- Ballybay Pearse Brothers GFC on winning the Gormley uPVC County Monaghan Senior Football Championship.
- Paul Brady, Cavan who retained the World Handball title in the 40x20 in one of the most dramatic finals in recent times.
- Eoghan McGinnity, Mullaghmore, Monaghan who won a gold medal at the World Handball Championships in Dublin in the U11 Doubles 40x20 and also won a silver medal in the U11 1 wall doubles.
- Jakup Szhus of Monaghan Harps Handball Club who won silver in the U11 40x20 Singles final.
- Conor McDonnell of the Monaghan Harps Handball Club who won silver in the Golden Masters One Wall Doubles Final.
- Darren Doherty, Emyvale Handball Club who won two silver medals at the World Handball finals.
- Donaghmoyne Ladies who won the Ulster Junior and Senior Ladies Football titles.
- Rockcorry GFC on winning the Intermediate Football title.
- Father Owen Joe McEaney, Francis McGuigan Builders, Shirley Clerkin and all associated with the extensive building enhancements works at St. Joseph's Church and St. Macartan's Hall, Park Street, Monaghan Town.
- Pastor Stephen Matthews and all associated with the completion of the new Monaghan Elim Church complex situated at Ballybay Road, Monaghan.

- Monaghan County Gospel Choir and the 30 strong contingent travelling to Prague to represent Ireland at the ‘Prague International Advent Choral Festival’.

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed that the Council host a Civic Reception for World Champion Handballers, Paul Brady from Cavan and Eoghan McGinnity from Tyholland.

The meeting then concluded.