

**Minutes of meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Mtek Building,
Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday 7th November, 2011 at 10.00 a.m.**

Chair: Cllr S. Coyle, Mayor.

Present: Cllrs Carthy, Carville, Connolly, Crowe, Keelan, Maxwell, B. McKenna, McElvaney, McPhillips, McNally, Murray, O'Brien, O'Hanlon P. Treanor and S. 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, Ms. N. Woods, SEO Housing, Ms. P. Maguire, Staff Officer and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

Apologies: Cllrs Bannigan, Conlon, Gallagher and S. McKenna.

At the outset, Cllr McNally proposed a vote of sympathy with Cllr Gallagher and his family on the death of his cousin Danny Gallagher RIP in a tragic accident that weekend. Cllr O'Brien seconded the proposal which was agreed unanimously.

The A/County Manager associated himself and the staff with the expression of sympathy.

As a mark of respect to, a minutes silence was observed and the meeting adjourned for five minutes.

On resumption, Cllr B. McKenna proposed a vote of good wishes to Cllr Sheila McKenna, who is currently in hospital, for a speedy return to full health.

Cllr Carthy proposed, Cllr McNally seconded that a vote of good wishes be extended to Cllr O'Hanlon's father who is hospitalised at present. This was agreed.

All present joined in the good wishes to Cllr S. McKenna and Cllr O'Hanlon's father.

Urgent Business:

The Mayor advised the meeting that he had received a notice of Urgent Business in the name of Cllr Connolly in relation to the failure of the Keane Report to adequately address the difficulties being experienced by distressed mortgage holders. The Members agreed to discuss the urgent business. The Mayor stated that he would take this item at the end of the meeting.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

(i) Minutes of Council Meeting held on 3rd October, 2011

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr S. Treanor it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 3rd October, 2011 be confirmed.

2. Correspondence

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

- Letter from the Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government in relation to the Eirgrid Interconnector.
- Letter from the Department of Social Protection in relation to the JobBridge Scheme.
- Letter from Mr. Brendan Smith TD enclosing acknowledgement from Minister Pat Rabbitte in relation to the refund of expenses to community groups participating at the Eirgrid oral hearing.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for the Environment in relation to the NPPR charge.
- Email from Deputy Sean Conlan in relation to request for meeting with the Minister for Health in relation to Monaghan General Hospital.
- Email from Deputy Heather Humphreys in relation to request for meeting with the Minister for Health in relation to Monaghan General Hospital
- Email from Deputy Heather Humphreys in relation to recoupment of costs to community groups for attendance at the Eirgrid oral hearing.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture in relation to the CAP reform negotiations.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the office of the Minister for Justice and Equality in relation to the Criminal Justice Community Service Bill.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the office of the Minister for Justice and Equality in relation to a posthumous pardon for Spike Island detainees.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Education and Skills regarding changes to the Student Grant Scheme 2011.
- Letter from the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources in relation to the provision of banking services by An Post.
- Letter from County Monaghan GAA seeking the continuation of funding allocated by the Council in previous years.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr Carthy, it was agreed that the Council write again to the Minister for Social Protection asking her to re-consider her decision not to allow persons on disability allowance be considered for recruitment under the JobBridge Scheme.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr S. Treanor it was agreed that the Council write again to the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government in relation to the payment of arrears of the NPPR charge and stating that the response is not acceptable to the Council.

On the proposal of Cllr O'Brien, seconded by Cllr Connolly it was agreed that the Council write to the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government asking him to re-examine the way the NPPR arrears are calculated.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna it was agreed that the Council write to the five Dail Deputies requesting each deputy to explain their actions in relation to the Private Members motion on health services that was discussed in the Dail recently.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr McPhillips it was agreed that the Council calls on the Cavan/Monaghan T.D's to lobby the Minister for Health to ensure that full hours are restored to the Minor Injuries Unit at Monaghan General Hospital, as soon as possible.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Carthy, it was agreed that arising out of the recent Dail debate that the Council write to Deputy Ó Caolain asking him to support the development of services at smaller hospitals.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that the Council write again to the Minister for Education and Skills asking him to ensure that the changes made to the Student Grant Scheme in 2011 are reversed in the 2012 budget.

3. Part VIII Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2001

- (i) To consider granting permission to locate one demountable dwelling with associated site works, septic tank and percolation area at Tullyglass, Shantonagh, Co. Monaghan. (Ref: 11/8007)

The Members considered the report relating to this permission which was circulated with the agenda.

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Carthy, it was agreed that the Council approve the construction of one demountable dwelling with associated site works, wastewater treatment system and percolation area at Tullyglass, Shantonagh, Co. Monaghan. (Ref: 11/8007) to comply with the Director's Report dated 21 October, 2011 and in accordance with Part VIII of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2001.

- (ii) To consider granting permission to locate one demountable dwelling with associated site works, septic tank and percolation area at Nuremore, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan (Ref: 11/8008)

The Members considered the report relating to this permission which was circulated with the agenda.

On the proposal of Cllr Murray, seconded by Cllr Carthy, it was agreed that the Council approve the construction of one demountable dwelling with associated site works, wastewater treatment system and percolation area at Nuremore, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan. (Ref: 11/8008) to comply with the Director's Report dated 21 October, 2011 and in accordance with Part VIII of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2001.

4. To consider Section 183 Notice – Disposal of land at Onomy, Castleblayney

On the proposal of Cllr O'Brien, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal of .322 acres in the townland of Onomy, Castleblayney to Castleblayney Faughs GAA Club in accordance with the terms of notice dated 7th October, 2011 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

5. Housing Grant Schemes.

Ms. P. Maguire, S.O. Housing gave a detailed report to the Council during which she outlined the following:-

Background to suspending Grants Schemes in July 2011

- In previous years, local authorities were confident that the funding made available from the exchequer would at least equal, if not increase, from one year to the next - therefore Monaghan County Council were better placed to continue to accept/approve applications from one year to another.
- The 2011 allocation was announced in February of €1,319,083 (representing an approximate reduction in funding of €500,000 from the 2010 allocation of €1,800,000.)
- A further reduction in the 2012 allocation is anticipated – possibly up to 50% less. This would mean that funding for 2012 may only be in the region of €700-800K. The budget for 2012 is very uncertain and poses a greater risk when carrying approvals from one year to the next.
- A significant increase in pressure from the DOE-IMF-EU to ensure spending targets are met – if not funds will be withdrawn and this will be reflected in a reduction of allocation for 2012. The cut-off period for drawdown of funding from the Department is now early November.
- A decision to close applications was made to allow follow-up on all approved works to ensure full drawdown of funds from the Dept. and allow staff to identify unused approvals in order to re-allocate these funds to other applicants.

Activity at End July 2011

- 29 Grants approved – carried over from 2010. (€240,000 – approx)
- 56 Applications – pending – carried over from 2010. (€200,000 – approx)
- 172 New Applications received in period January – July 2011 (representing an increased demand of 62 applications compared to same period in 2010.)
- 163 Grants approved at end July. (€1,350,374.68)
- 86 Grants paid at end July. (€43,704.42)
- At end July our total commitment was over budget by €31,291.68
- 50 Applications on hand – pending (€480,000)
- Priority 1 Cases included in above amounted to approx €150,000
- Decision taken to suspend schemes – Notification issued to all councillors 2nd August 2011.
- Application pursued with Department for additional funding of €44,734 – original application in December 2010 requested total allocation of €1,500,000 with €300,000 approved from ICR's.

Activity at end of October 2011

- Additional Funding received late September 2011.
- 185 Grants approved - €1,540,124.94
- 157 Grants Paid - €1,068,978.52
- 28 Applications on hand – pending (€220,000)
- Recoupments received from Department to date amount to €31,419.63
- The Council will follow up on all approved works to ensure completion as any incomplete works will not be paid out by Department if submitted after 15th November 2011.
- The Department drawdown date of 15th November must be met to avoid losing the allocation now committed.

Following the presentation, Ms. Maguire responded to queries raised by the Members, as did Mr. A. King, Director and Ms. N. Woods, SEO Housing Section.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr S. Treanor, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council calls on the Taoiseach and the Minister for Finance to ask the Department of the Environment and the Department of Health to liaise with each other and establish the true cost of providing beds for patients not requiring active treatment in hospitals, step down centres and nursing homes and how better value for money could be achieved by transferring scarce resources towards the Housing Grants Scheme.

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Connolly it was agreed that this Council write to Enda Kenny, T.D. asking him to instruct his Ministers to carry out a full evaluation across all departments that would see monies being better spent in a particular department that could make savings in other departments.

6. To approve nomination of Community Representatives to the County Monaghan Joint Policing Committee.

The Members considered the letter from the Monaghan Community Forum advising the Council of the names of its nominees to the County Monaghan Joint Policing Committee.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Crowe, it was agreed that the Council approve the nomination of three community representatives (Tom Conlon, Emma Middleton and Mary Lynch) to the County Monaghan Joint Policing Committee.

7. To fix date for Statutory Budget meeting.

It was agreed that the Statutory Budget meeting would be held on Monday 19th December, 2011 from 10.00 a.m. until 3.00 p.m.

At the request of the Mayor, the Members agreed that the December meeting of the Council would be held in Clones Credit Union on Monday 5th December, 2011 at 2.00 p.m.

8. To approve recommendations from Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 17th October, 2011

(i) To consider proposal from Housing SPC

Cllr Carthy proposed, Cllr Maxwell seconded that the Council adopt the proposal from the Housing SPC –“ that the Council erect No Smoking signs at all playgrounds in the county”.

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

Cllr P. Treanor raised the matter of the poor take up of the Tenant Purchase Scheme and attributed it mainly to the fact that tenants are not able to get access to loan finance.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr McNally that this Council write to the Minister for Housing outlining the barriers to the operation of the Tenant Purchase Scheme and seeking a more relaxed enforcement of the local authority Housing Purchase Loan credit policy.

(ii) To consider designating Monaghan as a ‘County of Sanctuary’

Cllr Murray proposed, Cllr Crowe seconded that Monaghan be designated as a County of Sanctuary.

A vote by show of hands on Cllr Murray’s proposal resulted in 9 for, 2 against and 4 abstentions. The Mayor declared the proposal carried.

(iii) To consider provision of salt bins to local communities:

The Members considered the report from the Councils Road Section which had been discussed by the CPG.

Mr. D. Fallon, A/County Manager stated that this was an enhancement of the service provided to the public and would be additional to that traditionally provided by Council.

Cllr B. McKenna proposed, Cllr Maxwell seconded that the Council approve the scheme for the provision of salt bins to local communities, as presented to the Council.

The Mayor put Cllr B. McKenna’s proposal to the meeting. A vote by show of hands resulted in 15 for 1 against. The Mayor declared the proposal carried.

(iv) To consider allocation of Graveyard Maintenance Grants:

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that the Council approve of the allocation of Graveyard Maintenance Grants for 2011, as follows:

| Name of Graveyard | Amount of Grant |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Donaghmoyne | €1,000 |
| Inniskeen | €1,000 |
| Donagh | €1,200 |
| Tydavnet | € 500 |
| Killeevan | €1,100 |
| Lisnamoyle | €1,000 |
| Drumsnatt | €1,100 |
| Errigal | €1,000 |

(v) To consider Review of Council Awards Scheme:

It was agreed that the Members would consider this item and make suggestions to the Corporate Policy Group for consideration at the next meeting.

(vi) To support Rehab People of the Year Awards 2011:

The Members noted the Council's support for the 2011 Rehab People of the Year Awards. Mr. Fallon advised that this year's ceremony would take place on Friday 9th December, 2010.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna it was agreed that the Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 17th October, 2011, be noted and confirmed.

9. To receive report from Twinning Committee:

It was agreed that the minutes be amended to reflect the attendance of Cllr Connolly instead of Cllr B. McKenna.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Carville, it was agreed that the Council approve the recommendation from the Twinning Committee that the Council would accept the invitation from Geel Town Council to attend the Geelse Eurofeesten 2012.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Carville, it was agreed that the minutes of the Twinning Committee be noted and confirmed subject to the amendment agreed.

10. To receive reports from Members attending Conferences

The Members noted the reports from Cllrs Carville, Conlon, Connolly, Maxwell, McElvaney, B. McKenna, McNally, McPhillips, Murray, and O'Brien, in relation to their attendance at the following conferences –

- Magill Summer School, Glenties, Co. Donegal
- Parnell Summer School, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow.
- La Touche Legacy Conference, Greystones, Co. Wicklow
- Carleton Summer School, Clogher, Co. Tyrone.
- LAMA Conference, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford.

11. Proposed Eirgrid 440kv Interconnector

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Crowe, it was agreed that the Council write to An Taoiseach, Mr. Enda Kenny, T.D., requesting him to deliver on his party's election commitment to refund the oral hearing costs of the local groups involved in the EirGrid oral hearing.

12. Business submitted by County Manager:

Flooding Report:

Mr. P. Clifford, Director of Services gave a detailed and comprehensive report on the recent severe flooding in the county on 24/25 October. The report detailed the roads, houses, and services, etc affected by the flooding. In addition it outlined the work undertaken by the Council's staff and the emergency services during that period. He stated that all reports of flooding of roads and private property are being recorded and will be reported to the Office of Public Works. Photographic evidence had also been compiled of flooding in the five main towns and along the Blackwater and Dromore River systems. The full costs and impact of the flooding cannot be ascertained until all reports are collated and assessed. He complimented the staff for the way they operated throughout the crisis period.

The A/County Manager also paid tribute to the staff for they way they dealt with the emergency. A number of members also joined in commending the staff.

During a discussion that ensued, the following proposals were put forward –

On the proposal of Cllr O'Brien, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed that the Council write to the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government seeking urgent funding to finance work undertaken towards putting preventative measures in place to avoid similar situations arising again.

On the proposal of Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that the Council write to the Office of Public Works requesting that agency to provide funding for flood defences to protect areas liable to flood in the future.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed that the Council calls on the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government to ensure that a single agency is assigned responsibility for dealing with flooding problems across the country.

In response to a query from Cllr McPhillips, the A/County Manager stated that a helicopter was hired at a cost of €2,500 to photograph flooded areas around each town and along the Dromore and Blackwater rivers. Those photographs would provide invaluable assistance in mapping flood risk areas as part of the Development Plan process.

Ulster Canal:

Mr. D. Fallon informed the members that Minister Deenihan had called a meeting on 12th October, 2011 of officials from his Department, Fermanagh District Council, Waterways Ireland and Monaghan County Council to look at the funding and phasing of the project.

Hope Castle:

Mr. D. Fallon stated that the court case to agree the terms of the lease has again been deferred until January 2012. He further stated that Castleblayney Golf Club has been served with a notice to quit as they have not agreed the terms of a new lease of the property.

13. Matters arising out of minutes of Council meeting held on 3rd October.

Matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 3rd October 2011 were responded to by the relevant officials.

Cllr O’Hanlon requested that the minutes of the Landfill sub-committee meeting be circulated to all members.

14. To receive Presentations from the following groups –

(i) Artswell

The Mayor welcomed Ms. Gillian Kenny, Director of Artswell to the meeting and invited her to address the Council.

Ms. Kenny then gave a detailed presentation to the Council during which she outlined the programme being undertaken by Artswell at the Iontas Theatre. She also outlined the benefits to the local economy and asked that the Council would continue to support Artswell in the future and that it would maintain its annual allocation in future years. Ms. Kenny then responded to queries from the Members.

The Mayor thanked Ms. Kenny for a very informative presentation and stated that the issue of funding would be discussed by the Corporate Policy Group as part of the budget deliberations later this month.

(ii) **Rith 2012**

The Mayor welcomed Coilín Ó Cearbhaill, Manager Rith 2012, Seán Ó Murchadha, Conradh na Gaeilge, Muineachán agus Pól Ó Cléirigh Oifigeach Gaeilge, Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin.

Coilín explained that Rith is a biannual national festival – the next festival takes place from the 8th to 17th March 2012. During those ten days thousands of people will be taking part in a massive relay race, 700km in length through 15 counties and 75 towns across Ireland. Every kilometre on the course is sponsored by a community group, school, sports club, business or individual. A specially commissioned baton containing a message of support for the Irish Language written by the President of Ireland is carried by the owner of each kilometre and is passed forward from group to group, kilometre to kilometre until it is read out on its final destination – Inis Mór, Arran Islands - on St. Patrick's Day.

Following the presentation he responded to queries from the Members. The Mayor then thanked Coilín, Sean and Paul for attending the meeting and for the informative presentation.

15. Questions:

Cllr. Sean Conlon asked:

1. Following on from the question I submitted February 2010 that resulted in the installation of street lighting on the road LT16301 leading from the N2 to Ballyalbany Cross, will Council Executive seek from Airtricity/ESB Networks a response as to why these lights have not yet been commissioned and a timeframe for them becoming operable.

Reply: *The ESB have advised that these lights will now be connected.*

2. When can residents of the Seavagh, Glaslough area expect overdue flood prevention measures being carried out? Will residents receive compensation for costs personally incurred in undertaking investigative site work and soil testing?

Reply: *The Council has only received funding from the Office of Public Works for these measures in the last few weeks and are making arrangements to carry out these works as soon as weather permits. Limited grant funding was made available for these measures and consequently any shortfall in funding will have to be borne by the residents.*

Cllr. Sean Conlon asked:

3. In the interest of vehicle and driver safety will the Council install a crash barrier along an exposed and elevated verge where no embankment occurs, along a short stretch of the LT14011 between the townlands of Killymarley and Coolmaine? Due to the narrow width and location at a bend of the road several accidents have occurred here in the recent past.

Reply: *The Council will liaise with the regional road safety engineer to see if an application under the Low Cost Safety Improvement Scheme would be appropriate at this location.*

4. Will the Roads Section dismantle misleading and incorrect directional road signage located on the N2 northbound lane after the Clontibret roundabout at Glennyhorn, indicating a left turn for Dublin, which erroneously takes vehicles onto a private lane. This flawed signage regularly contributes to driver confusion and reduced road safety.

Reply: *This signage is to direct motorists, who wish to change their direction of travel, to the turning loop facility at the next junction so that they can leave the main road by turning left and using the designated junction to cross the main road to travel in the other direction . The matter can be discussed at the next Road Area Committee Meeting.*

Cllr G. Carville asked:

5. What is the up to date position concerning Castleblayney Courthouse restoration? Has the work on the revised costings been completed and what are the next steps in progressing this initiative?

Reply: *The members of the Castleblayney Courthouse Committee were briefed by the Castleblayney Enterprise Board project team on Thursday 4th November. They presented the results of their survey and submitted two reports on The Inspection of the Castleblayney Courthouse and an Initial Appraisal on Conservation Works together with survey drawings. Their Quantity Surveyor is expected to complete the remedial work costings in about two weeks.*

The Castleblayney Enterprise Board will be in a position to formulate proposals for the project when they have assessed these reports and costings. Monaghan County Council Staff will assist them in their assessment.

6. When will work commence on the replacement of the maisonettes in Bree, Castleblayney?

Reply: *The Council is in the process of appointing a Contractor to carry out the work.*

Due to the current financial situation some Contractors are finding it difficult to get contract guarantee bonds to commence new projects. It is hoped that the

Contractor will be appointed during the month of November 2011 and that work will commence on site shortly after that. The work will take approximately eleven months to complete.

Cllr G. Carville asked:

7. When will the outstanding accommodation works and related issues, affecting some landowners along the Castleblayney By Pass, be sorted? Will the officials meet with the Mid-Monaghan members again soon so as to brief them on each case, as was done last year?

Reply: *The officials are agreeable to a meeting with the mid-Monaghan members to discuss any outstanding accommodation works.*

Cllr P. Connolly asked:

8. What plans have Monaghan County Council to
(a) Develop a Heritage Assets Register for the County?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council, through the Heritage Office has identified the need for a Heritage Assets Register to be developed for the Council. This will relate to properties and sites of heritage significance which are owned and maintained by the Council. The need for such a register has been identified at the County Monaghan Heritage Forum meeting in May 2010, and identified as an action for the second County Monaghan Heritage Plan and an action for the next County Development Plan. The function of a Heritage Assets Register is to facilitate proper maintenance, management and conservation practices at Council owned properties.*

(b) Create a Heritage Awareness programme?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council has an active heritage awareness programme which has been running since 2006, through the County Monaghan Heritage Plan and the Heritage Office. Funding for the delivery of the Heritage Plan is provided by Monaghan County Council and the Heritage Council. The heritage office has one staff member (Heritage Officer) and over the last number of years has organised numerous awareness raising activities for Monaghan's heritage including:*

The importance of wetland habitats and wildlife has been promoted to a wide audience:

*Wonderful wetlands booklets and posters
Vote for your favourite wild thing campaign*

The findings of technical and scientific surveys has been disseminated to the general public:

*Historic Landscape Characterisation Clones exhibition
Historic Landscape Characterisation Ballybay exhibition
Great Northern Railway calendar.
The Big Sketch workshops in Clones*

Inscribed Histories: Burial Grounds, Archaeology and Folk Art publication.

Best practice and high standards for conservation of our heritage has been promoted:

Conservation Plans for two graveyards.

Wise use of Wetlands Conference.

Inscribed Histories- Burial ground, folk art and archaeology Conference.

Biodiversity training programme.

Conservation of historic ironwork day at the Forge In.

Ensure that heritage can be enjoyed by everyone:

Access to our heritage seminar

Heritage Week annual events

Biodiversity workshops

New heritage resources for young people have been provided and visited schools:

Vote for your favourite wild thing campaign

Wild Things at School book for primary school teachers

Wild Things at School worksheets for primary school students

The second Heritage Plan 2012-2017, currently under preparation will also have actions in relation to raising awareness of heritage, best practice and conservation. As part of the ongoing heritage awareness programme, a Heritage Bus Tour will be held on the 11 November 2011 to sites within the county for members of the general public.

Cllr P. Connolly asked:

9. Will Monaghan County Council give an update in relation to the request to have 3 Eircom poles relocated back from the roadway on the Blackwater vale road between Milltown and Ballyalbany?

Reply: Monaghan County Council intend to progress these proposals before the end of the year subject to reaching agreement with Eircom.

10. Will Monaghan County Council give a progress report on the proposal to put a pedestrian crossing at St Mary's NS in Glaslough under the "safe routes to school" programme?

Reply: Monaghan County Council intend to progress these proposals before the end of the year subject to agreement with the ESB.

Cllr C. McPhillips asked:

11. In September of this year Rockcorry National School relocated to a new building, adjacent to the Cootehill-Monaghan Road, approximately two kilometres from the village of Rockcorry. Does Monaghan County Council have any plans to

create a footpath along this road in order to enable children and parents attending the school to walk the route from the village to the school?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council intends constructing a new footpath from Rockcorry Village to the School in 2012 subject to it receiving payment of the €40,000 development contribution as per condition 2(a) of the school's planning permission.*

Cllr C. McPhillips asked:

12. Will Monaghan County Council seek funding to provide lighting along the short stretch of road, approximately 700 metres, between St. Mary's Church, Aghabog, Latnamard National School and the Carn Resource Centre?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council will obtain a quotation from Airtricity for the provision of lights at Latnamard and add it to the list of public lighting schemes currently awaiting funding in the Clones Area.*

13. Does Monaghan County Council intend to mark European Week for Waste Reduction, which is running from 19th to 27th November?

Reply: *Yes, Monaghan County Council working closely with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through the Local Authority Prevention Network (LAPN) will be marking the event in the following ways.*

1. *A waste prevention workshop is planned for 5 of the County's Green Schools during the week.*
2. *Monaghan County Council will be publicising and promoting its recently completed Food Waste = Money Waste video which has been funded through the LAPN programme.*
3. *In association with the EPA a series of radio and press adverts are also planned. The EPA is co-ordinating this at a national level.*

14. At last month's meeting of Monaghan County Council, the Council was advised that the question of flooding on private lands was being referred to the Office of Public Works. Has any progress been made on this, particularly in relation to the Togan River adjacent to Threemilehouse village, which has caused severe flooding in the village recently?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council is awaiting a response from the Office of Public Works in relation to this matter.*

Cllr A. Murray asked:

15. As there has been a number of accidents at the Corvalley crossroad on the Carrickmacross/Shercock road would the Council consider erecting a safety barrier at this junction?

Reply: Consultants appointed by to design the Cavan to Dundalk Road Scheme are currently looking at the R-178 Shercock to Dundalk road through County Monaghan for improvement.

Cllr A. Murray asked:

16. Re: Lurgans Road Carrickmacross: Considering the number of residents living on this road and the narrowness of the road will the Council consider reducing the speed limit on this road? Has the Council any plans to review the speed limit on a number of narrow roads in the county

Reply: It is proposed to include this location for discussion on the Agenda of the next Speed Limit Committee Meeting.

Cllr M. Carthy asked:

17. When will Monaghan County Council upgrade the speed ramps on the approach to Táihte An Chlochair/ Convent Lands in Carrickmacross considering the current ramps are ineffectual and a large number of people, including many children, walk along this busy route?

Reply: It is intended that this work will be done before the end of the year.

18. In relation to the road (off Bothar Oiriall) leading to the Carrick Aces running track, Carrickmacross Recycling Centre & other commercial/ industrial units on the Convent Lands, Carrickmacross:
- a. Will the Council erect finger signposts for each of the businesses and the running track at the entrance to this road?

Reply: Businesses or groups can apply for a facility information sign. Details are available from the Council's Web site.

- b. Will the Council explain why the public lighting on this road has not yet been activated?

Reply: The Council have completed the lighting works and are awaiting the ESB to connect the lights to the ESB supply.

19. When is it expected that the safety works will be carried out at the Northern exit junction of the N2 Carrickmacross By-pass? Will the Council outline the full extent of the safety works planned?

Reply: The works are hoped to be completed in the next few weeks. The works consists of setting back the kerb line to include a hatched hard shoulder.

20. Will the Council give a report on the new directional signage for Mannan Castle Golf Club, Donaghmoine, following previous motion proposed by me was adopted by the Council; including the location & sizes of the new signs, and if additional signs will be considered for this important South Monaghan amenity.

Reply: *The Council have written to Louth County Council and have consulted with Mannan Castle regarding the location of signage in County Monaghan.*

Cllr M. Carthy asked:

21. What is the up-to-date position regarding plans for the upgrade of the Waste Water Treatment plant in Carrickmacross?

Reply: *Carrickmacross Sewerage Scheme – Contract 3 (Treatment Plant Upgrade and Outfall) provides for the construction of the following infrastructure at the existing wastewater treatment plant:*

- *Inlet Pumping Station*
- *Stormwater Holding Facility*
- *Inlet Works*
- *Final Effluent Pumping Station*
- *400mm diameter final effluent outfall*

The estimated cost of Contract No. 3 is € 5.5M. Approval of the Contract Documents was deferred by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government in May 2011 subject to further clarification and amendment of Monaghan County Council's Contract Documents and associated Water Pricing Report. It is not possible to accurately forecast a completion date given the uncertainty surrounding the affordability issues.

A revised application to the Department will be submitted upon finalisation of the discharge licence application procedure.

Cllr. Noel Keelan asked:

22. (a) In relation to contractors employed by this Council, what responsibility has Monaghan County Council to ensure that sub-contractors are paid by the main contractor where goods and services are clearly supplied?
(b) In relation to contractors who have a poor record of paying their sub-contractors, and where continuous complaints are being made by sub-contractors and the elected members of the Council, will this Council ensure that this type of contractor is blacklisted and not employed to carry out work on behalf of Monaghan County Council?

Reply: *The Construction Contracts Bill is currently proceeding through the Dail. Proposed by Senator Fergal Quinn in 2010, the Bill has all party support and when passed should provide a legislative basis to counteract the issue of non-payment of sub-contractors by main contractors. The bill provides for a statutory right to stage or interim payments and a new mechanism for the swift resolution of payment disputes through arbitration.*

Cllr. Noel Keelan asked:

23. In relation to the ongoing upgrading of the sewerage collection network in Carrickmacross, when will Lower Main Street be resurfaced and also when is it hoped to resurface the few remaining streets in and around the town which are in a very poor state of repair?

Reply: *Resurfacing of Lower Main Street is a Town Council matter. In respect to the remaining streets affected by the contract Monaghan County Council is awaiting confirmation of their application for increased costs from the Department before any proposed works are undertaken regarding permanent resurfacing.*

24. In relation to the 350-400 homes not connected to the sewerage collection network in Carrickmacross, as stated last month, will letter of offer be sent to these residents offering a connection at a 50% reduction before the end of this year?

Reply: *Yes.*

Cllr P. McNally asked:

25. In light of severe flooding on Monday 24th October will this Council now put in place a flooding emergency plan highlighting those areas that have been flooded for the first time as well as those areas that have consistently been flooded over the years?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council will prepare a plan in accordance with Department of Environment, Community Heritage and Local Government guidelines.*

26. When does Monaghan County Council expect to have the new branch library up and running in the civic offices in Carrickmacross?

Reply: *We would hope to have the branch library up and running by the end of March 2012.*

27. When is it expected to have a decision on the sewerage plant extension and new outflow pipe in Carrickmacross?

Reply: *Carrickmacross Sewerage Scheme – Contract 3 (Treatment Plant Upgrade and Outfall) provides for the construction of the following infrastructure at the existing wastewater treatment plant:*

- *Inlet Pumping Station*
- *Stormwater Holding Facility*
- *Inlet Works*
- *Final Effluent Pumping Station*
- *400mm diameter final effluent outfall*

The estimated cost of Contract No. 3 is € 5.5M. Approval of the Contract Documents was deferred by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government in May 2011 subject to further clarification and amendment of Monaghan County Council's Contract Documents and associated Water Pricing Report. It is not possible to accurately forecast a completion date given the uncertainty surrounding the affordability issues.

A revised application to the Department will be submitted upon finalisation of the discharge licence application procedure.

Cllr R. Gallagher asked:

28. Could the Council liaise with the Board of Works to ensure that flooding such as that experienced recently by residents, businesses and road users will not recur and/or will be minimised in future?

Reply: *The Council will continue to liaise with the OPW in relation to flooding and provide details of recent flooding in the county to them.*

29. Can the Council investigate and report on the current state of repair of footpaths in Emyvale Main Street and consider what repairs or upgrading may be necessary?

Reply: *The Council will examine this location and include an item on the Agenda of the next Road Area Committee Meeting for discussion.*

30. Would the Council as a matter of urgency liaise with Coillte to ensure that the trees overhanging on the roadway on the Threemilehouse side of Rossmore Park entrance are cutback/trimmed in the interest of road safety?

Reply: *The Council has made contact with Coillte in relation to this matter.*

Cllr J. Crowe asked:

31. What steps can Monaghan County Council take to provide public lighting at Knockcarrick, Annyalla housing estate due to the danger of residents falling?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council is attempting to have the developer provide lighting at this Unfinished Housing Development.*

32. Pending the danger to young children of Sruth An Iúir housing estate what steps can Monaghan County Council take to provide traffic calming on the road adjacent to Sruth An Iúir, Oram?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council has no plans at present for traffic calming in this area.*

16. Notices of Motion

Councillors Carthy, Conlon, Crowe, Keelan, B. McKenna, S. McKenna and P. Treanor will move:

1. At the outset of the November monthly meeting, the Sinn Fein members request from A/County Manager, David Fallon, a full report on the recent flooding and its impact on local services and communities throughout County Monaghan.

This item was taken in conjunction with the Manager's Business.

17. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

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

- The family of the late Dan Rogan, Glaslough, RIP, a former Garda and a man who made an enormous contribution to the welfare of the mentally handicapped in County Monaghan and further afield.
- The family of the late Leo Burns, Dundalk and formerly of Donaghmoyne, a former long serving Secretary of Monaghan GAA.

It was agreed that the Council congratulate the following:

- Latton O'Rahilly GAA club on winning the 2011 Gormley uPVC Systems Monaghan GAA Senior Football Championship.
- Monaghan United Football Club on their victory over Galway and on gaining promotion to the Airtricity League First Division.
- Carrickmacross Emmets on winning the Intermediate League and completing the Intermediate double for 2011.
- Glaslough Development Association and Inniskeen (Patrick Kavanagh Centre) on their awards at the 2011 Pride of Place Awards.
- Truagh Gaels GFC on winning the County Minor Football Championship for the first time in the club's history.
- Clontibret GFC on winning the Owen Ward Cup
- Donaghmoyne Ladies Football team on winning the Ulster Senior Football Club championship for the 6th time, a fantastic achievement.
- Darren Hughes, Scotstown GFC on being selected for the Ireland International Rules team on their recent tour of Australia.
- Scotstown GFC on winning the Junior "B" League Final.
- John McDonnell and Killeevan National School on their recent success in the Greenfarm Foods Poetry Competition.

18. Conferences

On the proposal of Cllr O'Brien, seconded by Cllr Keelan, it was agreed that the Council be represented at the following conference by the members listed.

| Promoting Authority | Subject/Theme | Venue | Dates | Members |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| Clare Tourist Council/ Clare County Council | Tourism – the potential for economic growth | Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare | 25 th and 26 th November 2011 | Cllr M. Carthy Cllr S. Coyle Cllr J. O'Brien Cllr P.J. O'Hanlon Cllr D. Maxwell Cllr A. Murray Cllr H. McElvaney |

Urgent Business:

Cllr P. Connolly proposed, Cllr N. Keelan seconded,

That in view of the failure of the Keane Report to adequately address the difficulties being experienced by distressed mortgage holders in a reasonable timeframe, that Monaghan County Council calls on the Government and the Minister for Finance to examine other solutions that would have a more immediate impact in helping resolved these distressed mortgage holders difficulties and furthermore to examine the solutions put forward by the New Beginnings Group.

The Mayor put the motion to the meeting and it was agreed unanimously. It was further agreed that the motion would be circulated to all County Councils in the country.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Meara Meetings Administrator

Date: _____