

Minutes of meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Mtek Building, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday 1st October, 2012, 2012 at 10.00 am.

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, 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. S. Clerkin, Heritage Officer and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

The Mayor, on behalf of the Members, congratulated the Action for Biodiversity Cross Border Project, of which the Council is a lead partner, on winning the Sustainable Ireland Biodiversity Project of the Year Award 2012. He also congratulated Dr. Carmel Brennan, Biodiversity Officer and Shirley Clerkin, Heritage Officer, Council staff, who were involved with the project.

Ms. Clerkin thanked the Members for their congratulations and support. She explained that Action for Biodiversity is a cross border project that engages councils and communities in the biodiversity process by raising awareness and promoting biodiversity conservation. The project is funded through the SEUPB Interreg IVA funding and co-ordinated by East Border Region Ltd. It is the first regional biodiversity project of its kind in Ireland with cross-border collaboration between councils and stakeholders for the delivery of a biodiversity agenda. Monaghan County Council is a lead project partner, budget holder and employs a project officer covering Monaghan and Meath County Councils.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

- (i) *On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 3rd September, 2012, be confirmed.*
- (ii) *On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna it was agreed that the minutes of the Adjourned Council meeting held on 17th September, 2012, be confirmed.*

2. Correspondence

The following correspondence was circulated to the members:

- Letter from the Garage Theatre seeking an opportunity to make a presentation to the Council.
- Letter from the Border Counties Childcare Network seeking an opportunity to make a presentation to the Council.
- Letter from the Minister for Finance in relation moneylenders' interest rates.
- Letter from the Minister for the Environment in relation to the household charge.
- Letter from the Department of Education and Skills in relation to the re-training of construction workers under the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund.

- Letter of acknowledgment from the Minister for Social Protection in relation to Jobseekers payments for part time firemen.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation regarding the sale of industrial lands at Knockaconny, Monaghan.
- Letters from the Department of Social Protection in relation to waiting times for people on Carers/Domiciliary Care Allowance.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the office of the Minister for Health in relation to the Councils request for a meeting with the Minister re Monaghan Hospital.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources in relation to the Universal Service Obligation on mobile phone operators.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Housing and Planning in relation to unfinished housing developments.
- Resolution from Dublin City Council in relation to the collection of clothes by collectors who are operating under false pretences.
- Resolution from Leitrim County Council calling on the Minister for Finance to make changes to the car registration system for the 2013 year.
- Letter from the Department of Social Protection outlining the position in relation to Jobseekers payments for part time firemen.
- Letter from the Border, Midlands & Western Regional Assembly in relation to nomination from the Assembly to the INTERREG V Steering Group.
- Email from Deputy Heather Humphreys in relation to the sale of IDA lands at Knockaconny, Monaghan.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that the Council support the resolution from Dublin City Council calling on the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and Department of Justice and Equality to change the law to criminalise the collecting of clothes, etc, by collectors who are operating under false pretences, purporting to be charities. The legitimate charities are struggling to deal with the illegal collecting of clothes, etc. All collecting should be licensed to stop criminal elements that are making a fortune from these collections.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna it was agreed that the Council writes to all our T.D's enquiring what way they voted in relation to the Dáil motion that sought to cap the rate of interest moneylenders can charge and seeking their support to have this matter re-visited with a view to introducing a cap (at a max of 40% APR) on moneylenders, considering the hardship that is being caused to Monaghan families who are paying huge rates of interest to these unscrupulous institutions.

Cllr B. McKenna proposed, Cllr P. Treanor seconded, that this Council expresses a vote of 'no confidence' in Minister for Health Dr. James Reilly in view of his failure to meet with a delegation of this Council concerning the further downgrading of Monaghan General Hospital and also his failure to honour commitments he had given to our hospital prior to the 2011 General Election.

A recorded vote on Cllr McKenna's proposal resulted as follows:

For: Cllrs Carthy, Conlon, Connolly, Coyle, Crowe, Gallagher, Keelan, B. McKenna, McNally, O' Brien, P. Treanor and S. Treanor. **Total 12**

Against: Cllrs Bannigan, Carville, Maxwell, McElvaney and Murray. **Total 5**

The Mayor declared the proposal carried.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed that a delegation from the Garage Theatre be invited to make a presentation to the Council at the November meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna it was agreed that the Council implores Ministers Richard Bruton T.D. and John Perry T.D., to immediately address the crisis of unemployment and resulting mass emigration. We seek the Department of Jobs Enterprise and Innovation to enable Monaghan County Council in local job creation efforts by transferring ownership of IDA lands at Knockaconny and the former Customs and Revenue building at Coolshannagh, Monaghan to Council ownership.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Connolly, it was agreed that the Council write to Joan Burton TD, Minister for Social Protection, seeking that she introduce special arrangements in the Jobseekers Benefit/Allowance Scheme which allow part time firemen to continue in their posts.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Connolly it was agreed that the Council seek a copy of the final submission in relation to the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund Programmes which ran from 1st July 2009 and ended on 9 June 2012 for former construction workers.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr S. Treanor it was agreed that the Council write to the Minister for Finance and the Central Bank requesting that funds be made available through financial institutions to target low income families thus reducing their dependence on moneylenders.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr S. Treanor it was agreed that the Border Counties Childcare Network (BCCN) be invited to make a presentation to the Council at a future meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr S. Treanor it was agreed that the Council write to the Health Service Executive requesting them to address the issue of food sourcing and standards of food hygiene.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Keelan it was agreed that the Council call on Bank of Ireland to reverse its decision to introduce charges where account holders do not have a balance of €3,000 in their current accounts.

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed that the Council support the resolution from Leitrim County Council calling on the Minister for

Finance to consider meaningful changes to the car registration system for the 2013 year to ensure that the Motor Industry avoids any further job losses through poor car sales, as the '13' car plate will have negative implications for many potential buyers.

3. To approve Overdraft accommodation in the sum of €10m for the period from 1st January 2013 to 31st December 2013

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed that the Council approve of Overdraft Accommodation in the sum of €10 million for the period from 1st January 2013 to 31st December, 2013.

4. To consider Section 183 Notice – disposal of land at Glennyhorn, Clontibret.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna it was agreed that the Council approve of the disposal of .080 hectares in the townland of Glennyhorn, Clontibret, Co. Monaghan in accordance with the terms of notice dated 12th September, 2012 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

5. To consider entering into an Agreement with Donegal County Council under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001.

On the proposal of Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed that Monaghan County Council enter into an Agreement with Donegal County Council under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001 to allow Donegal County Council carry out rehabilitation works on the N53 Ballinacarry Bridge in County Monaghan.

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed that the Council write to the Minister for Transport and the National Roads Authority requesting that funding be made available for the re-alignment of the N53 Castleblayney – Dundalk Road at Ballinacarry Bridge given the number of fatalities at this location.

On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed that the Council also write to the Department of Rural Development and the Northern Ireland Roads Service requesting that funding be made available for the re-alignment of the N53 Castleblayney – Dundalk Road at Ballinacarry Bridge given the number of fatalities at this location.

6. To consider Taking in Charge the following housing developments:-

(i) Drumlynn Manor, Castleblayney

On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed that, having regard to the Planning Report dated 20th September 2012 and in accordance with Section 180(2) of the Planning & Development Act 2000, the Council approve the Taking in Charge of Drumlynn Manor, Castleblayney.

Ashling Grove, Castleblayney

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr O'Brien it was agreed that, having regard to the Planning Report dated 20th September 2012 and in accordance with Section 180(2) of the Planning & Development Act 2000, the Council approve the Taking in Charge of Ashling Grove, Castleblayney.

7. To approve nomination to the Social Cultural Community & Voluntary SPC:

On the proposal of Cllr O'Brien, seconded by Cllr Coyle it was agreed that the Council approve the nomination from Monaghan Community Forum of Ms. Agnes McGuinness, to fill the vacancy on the Social, Cultural, Community & Voluntary Strategic Policy Committee.

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed that the Council write to Ms. Ann Mullen, thanking her for her contribution to the work of the Social, Cultural, Community and Voluntary SPC.

8. To fill vacant position on County Monaghan Vocational Education Committee:

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that Cllr S. Conlon be nominated to fill the vacancy on County Monaghan Vocational Education Committee.

9. Finance:

(i) Financial position as at 31 August, 2012

Mr. John Murray, Head of Finance briefly outlined the details of the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the financial position of the Council at 31st August, 2012, and replied to queries from the members.

(ii) Household Charge – to receive update on current situation.

Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance stated that as of that morning, 12,788 households in Co. Monaghan had paid the household charge (approx. 63.4%). He confirmed that the Council will achieve the 65% target set by the Minister and there should be no further reduction in the Local Government Fund for 2012. However, the earlier reduction of €340,589 in the LGF allocation will not be refunded. He stated that the Council is awaiting a database from the LGMA, giving details of those households that haven't paid the charge. Following receipt of this database reminder letters will issue to circa 5,000 households.

Septic Tank charge – Mr. D. Fallon, A/County Manager advised that with effect from midnight on 28th September the septic tank charge had increased to €50. 1200 people had registered their tanks in Monaghan County Council Office in the last week.

10. To receive recommendations from Corporate Policy Group

The members considered the recommendations from the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 25th September, 2012.

(1) Funding for Blayney Blades:

On the proposal of Cllr O'Brien, seconded by Cllr Crowe, it was agreed that a grant of €225 be allocated to Blayney Blades, Castleblayney from the Community Development Fund 2012.

(2) SPC Committees:

The members noted the Minutes from the various SPC meetings held in 2012

On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed that Monaghan County Council support the retention of the Heritage Council in its current format.

(3) Draft County Monaghan Heritage Plan:

Ms. S. Clerkin, Heritage Officer outlined the main objectives of the Draft County Monaghan Heritage Plan 2012-2017 and responded to queries from the members.

On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed to adopt the Draft County Monaghan Heritage Plan 2012 – 2017.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that this Council request the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to provide funding to assist in the initiation of an Irish Family History Research Centre as proposed in the Heritage Council's 'Towards Policies for Ireland's Heritage'. This initiative will greatly enhance the experience of visitors seeking their ancestral heritage.

(4) To consider allocation of funding for The Gathering Initiative:

The Members considered the motion from the CPG meeting as follows:

That the Council, when considering the Budget for 2013, would consider ring-fencing for the The Gathering Initiative an amount of €30,000 under the Community Development Fund.

Cllr B. McKenna stated that the funding for The Gathering Initiative should come from the Development Contributions Fund. Mr. P. Clifford, Director stated that this fund was ring-fenced for infrastructure projects and that a significant portion of the fund had already been earmarked for The Garage Theatre and the Clones Sports Centre Project.

It was agreed that the Council would consider ring-fencing funding for The Gathering Initiative from the Community Development Fund when considering the Budget for 2013.

The A/County Manager advised that the launch of The Gathering Initiative for County Monaghan is scheduled for Wednesday 17th October, 2012.

(5) Adoption of minutes of CPG meeting:

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 25th September, 2012 be adopted.

11. To receive reports from Members attending Conferences:

The members noted the reports from Cllrs Bannigan, Carville, Conlon, Connolly, Coyle, Gallagher, Maxwell, Murray, O'Brien and O'Hanlon in relation to their attendance at the following conferences –

- Byrne Perry Summer School, Gorey, Co. Wexford.
- Planning Seminar, Limerick
- Parnell Summer School, Rathdrum, Wicklow
- William Carleton Summer School, Clogher, Co. Tyrone
- Training Seminar for Councillors, Galway
- Local Authority Housing Seminar, Galway.
- Magill Summer School, Glenties, Co. Donegal

12. Proposed Eirgrid 440kv Interconnector

There was no discussion on this item.

13. Business submitted by County Manager

Ulster Canal: The A/County Manager advised that a meeting of the Inter Agency Group set up to explore and examine ways to advance the Ulster Canal project and to examine possible funding options for project had met the previous week. The group agreed to invite representatives from the Department of the Environment and SEUPB to join the membership which comprises the County Managers from Monaghan and Cavan County Councils, the Director of Leisure, Development and Arts from Fermanagh District Council, representatives from the Northern Ireland Tourist Board, Failte Ireland, Strategic Investment Board, Waterways Ireland and senior officials from the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, Northern Ireland and the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Mr. Fallon further stated that a significant tract of land along the line of the former Ulster Canal was vested in Monaghan County Council. Subject to the approval of the Council, these lands could be made available to Waterways Ireland at a nominal sum for the re-development of the canal.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Coyle it was agreed that the A/County Manager write to Waterways Ireland advising that the Council will consider handing over the former Ulster Canal property at a nominal sum for the re-development of the canal

Re-structuring of Directorates:

Mr. Fallon advised the members that the following changes had been made to the Directorates within the Council –

- The Tourism Section will transfer to the Planning Directorate.
- The Economic Development Section will transfer to the Planning Directorate.
- Information Services Section will transfer to the Finance Directorate.

14. Matters arising out of minutes of meetings held on 3rd and 17th September, 2012.

Matters arising out of the minutes of the meetings held on 3rd and 17th September, 2012 were responded to by the relevant official.

15. Questions:

Cllr. P. McNally asked:

1. Has this Council finalised its flooding emergency plan and is it available to the members?

Reply: *The Council has a Major Emergency Plan in place to cover all emergencies including flooding. A draft flooding emergency plan is being prepared and includes flood risk maps for the towns. Extending the flood risk mapping to cover the rural areas is being examined for inclusion in the draft plan. It is proposed to present the current draft flood emergency plan to the next meeting of the Strategic Policy Committee for discussion.*

2. Should money become available in the future for the building of local authority houses, what locations in County Monaghan have the greatest need?

Reply:

COUNTY HOUSING NEED						
AREAS OF CHOICE	Family	Small Family	2Bed OPD	1 Bed SU55	SPEC NEEDS 2 Bed/3 Bed	Total
ANNYALLA	6	19	0	9	0	34
BALLNODE	5	11	2	7	0	25
BALLYBAY	8	15	8	37	0	68
BAWN	0	2	1	1	0	4
CARRICKROE	0	0	0	0	0	0
CLONTIBRET	3	8	0	5	0	16
DOOHAMLET	2	15	1	12	0	30
EMYVALE	9	15	1	15	1	41
GLASLOUGH	7	8	1	12	0	28
INNISKEEN	1	3	1	5	0	10
KNOCKATALLON	3	2	0	2	0	7

LATTON	1	2	1	0	0	4
MAGHERACLOONE	1	0	0	3	0	4
NEWBLISS	2	4	5	7	0	18
ORAM	1	17	2	6	0	26
ROCKCORRY	0	0	1	4	0	5
SCOTSHOUSE	1	7	2	1	0	11
SCOTSTOWN	8	13	4	6	0	31
SMITHBORO	9	14	3	7	0	33
THREEMILEHOUSE	2	6	0	1	0	9
TYDAVNET	0	3	0	2	0	5
TYHOLLAND	1	6	2	2	0	11
TOTAL MCC	70	170	35	144	1	420
FAMILY	70					
SMALL FAMILY	170					
SU55	35					
OPD	144					
SPEC NEEDS	1					
Total	420					

Cllr. M. Carthy asked:

- How many RAS (Rental Accommodation Scheme) tenancies have been allocated by Monaghan Local Authorities (per year) since the scheme was introduced? Of those who were provided tenancies how many have remained on the Council's housing waiting list? How many tenants who were provided with a RAS tenancy have subsequently been provided with a transfer to a Council house?

Reply:

RAS Tenancies allocated each year from introduction of the scheme in 2006 up to 26/09/2012

2006 - 34

2007 - 47

2008 - 33

2009 - 66

2010 - 83

2011 - 54

2012 (to date) – 19

All tenants who have been allocated tenancies under RAS have remained on the housing waiting list.

17 tenants who were provided RAS tenancies have subsequently been provided with a transfer to a Council house.

- Will Monaghan County Council carry out the necessary works to the playing field at Cloughvalley, Carrickmacross to ensure that sports can be played at this location throughout the year, within reason?

Reply: *There is no funding at the moment to carry out works to the green pitch play area at Cloughvalley, however the Council will consider carrying out improvements should funding become available in the future.*

Cllr. M. Carthy asked:

5. (a) What progress has been made by the Council in preparing an inventory of the junctions off the N2 Carrickmacross to Castleblayney Road with a view to establishing a list of required safety improvement works at these junctions?

Reply: *A report will be brought to the next Local Road Area Committee Meeting for discussion.*

- (b) When is it expected that the agreed works at the Aghavilla junction on the N2 to permit two-way traffic will be carried out?

Reply: *Although a funding application was made for 2012, no funding is available for these works in the current year. An application for funding has been made for 2013.*

6. When will the additional public lights at Carrickashedge Community Centre, Magheraclone be operational?

Reply: *These works are now in place and are operational.*

7. When is it expected that a planning application will be submitted in respect of the proposed Group Home for women with physical and sensory disabilities at Drummond Otra, Carrickmacross?

Reply: *It is expected that a planning application will be submitted on 4/10/12 in respect of the Group home for women with physical and sensory disabilities at Drummond Otra, Carrickmacross.*

Cllr. C. McPhillips asked:

8. Can Monaghan County Council, please advise how many lighting projects are currently being sought in the Clones area? What is the total cost of these projects is and when is work on the lights on the Ballybay Road in Newbliss due to commence?

Reply: *There are currently 22 public lighting projects being sought in the Clones Area with an estimated cost of €250,000. A contract for the provision of new public lighting for the Ballybay Road in Newbliss will be awarded in the next week and it is hoped that the lights will be installed before the end of the year.*

9. Monaghan has recently received substantial funds to carry out flood prevention works in a number of areas, including the Cootehill Road from Monaghan Town and Ballybay. Has Monaghan County Council received any correspondence from the OPW in respect of its application for funding to carry out flood prevention works in Threemilehouse village?

Reply: *Clones Area Office is in the process of designing mitigation measures for Threemilehouse Village and it is envisaged that an application will be made to the OPW before the end of October.*

Cllr. B. McKenna asked:

10. In relation to what is perhaps the most dangerous junction on our national secondary roads in the county – the junction at the Pipers Bridge on the N12 Monaghan to the border road – what measures are this Council taking at this time with a view to re-alignment of this section of road on the N12 that will reduce the likelihood of an accident and possible loss of life there in the future?

Reply: *Road Safety funding was made available by the NRA in 2012. A design has been prepared and Monaghan County Council is in negotiations with landowners to acquire the required lands with a view to going to construction in 2013 (subject to funding).*

Cllr. S. Conlon asked:

11. When will overdue civil and traffic safety works commence at the Corran, Cootehill Rd. Monaghan, first queried by this Councillor last year, to include the following:
- a) provision of stop sign and lines
 - b) road surfacing works
 - c) unblocking of gullies
 - d) enhanced street lighting.

Reply: *It is proposed to complete the street lighting and stop sign this year. Cleaning of gullies will be carried out as part of routine maintenance. It is proposed to discuss the funding of the road surfacing at the next Road Area Committee Meeting.*

12. Will the Executive and planning staff that have been negotiating with developers WJ Dolan, financial agencies and administrators, give an update as to what further steps have been taken, or outcomes achieved to date, that will result in a schedule of works of overdue remedial measures for the Latlurcan Estates on the Castleblayney Road?

Reply: *The Local Authority has agreed a site resolution plan with the administrator acting for the Ulster bank in respect of this development. The Bank has however failed to confirm its intentions in respect of this plan. The Councils solicitor has been directed to pursue payment of the insurance bonds relating to this development. The money realised from these bonds will be used to carry out remedial works to the development.*

A Derelict Sites Notice has been issued requiring the clearing up and making safe of the adjoining building site. In the event that the Bank fails to act on foot of this notice, the Local Authority may remediate the site and seek recovery of the costs through the courts

Cllr. P. Treanor asked:

13. When will Monaghan County Council erect a bus shelter at Magherarney, Smithborough, so that school children don't have to wait on their bus in the rain and snow?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council has no plans at present to erect a bus shelter at Magherarney Smithboro. Clones Area Office will contact Bus Eireann to discuss the provision of a shelter in the area.*

14. What is the update in relation to the Planning Application for the Development of the Ulster Canal?

Reply: *The Department of the Environment Planning Service (Northern Ireland) wrote to Monaghan County Council on 10 September 2012 to state that a request for further information was issued to the applicant Waterways Ireland in relation to issues concerning the natural and built heritage and seeking an appraisal of the likely environmental impacts of the project. The Planning Service NI advises that this information is already being addressed by Waterways Ireland who is currently liaising with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency in relation to these issues.*

15. What is the remit of the Ulster Canal Interagency Group established by Minister Jimmy Deenihan? Who is represented on it?

Reply: *Minister Jimmy Deenihan TD, established the Inter Agency Group to explore and examine ways to advance the Ulster Canal project and to examine possible funding options for project including existing funding streams and leveraging funding from other sources.*

The Group comprises County Managers from Monaghan and Cavan County Councils, the Director of Leisure, Development and Arts from Fermanagh District Council, representatives from the Northern Ireland Tourist Board, Failte Ireland, Strategic Investment Board, Waterways Ireland and senior officials from the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, Northern Ireland and the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

16. Has Monaghan County Council appointed an Oifigeach Gaeilge?

Reply: *An Irish Officer has not been appointed. The government moratorium prohibits recruitment of all but essential staff. An application for sanction for a person to act as Irish Officer was forwarded to the Department of the Environment and the Council await a response.*

16. Notices of Motion:

Cllr P. Treanor proposed, Cllr B. McKenna seconded, and it was agreed

1. *That Monaghan County Council supports the extending of the Ulster Way to all Ulster counties, including Monaghan, Cavan and Donegal and we ask Council officials to work with the relevant Government Departments north and south to progress this initiative.*

In the absence of Cllr C. McPhillips notices of motion 16 (2) and 16(3) were deferred to the November Council meeting.

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

4. *That Monaghan County Council demands a commitment from the Government, the Minister for Education and Skills Ruairi Quinn T.D. and all local Oireachtas representatives, that assets i.e. Farm Land, Shop/ Business premises be not included in means testing for student College Grant applications, following the current review, as this would be totally unfair to farmers etc.*

It was further agreed that the resolution would be forwarded to all local authorities in the country.

17. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations.

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

- Andy Smyth, Aughalaverty, Monaghan on the death of his wife Eileen RIP
- Dermot McCague, Council employee, on the death of his aunt Mary McCague, RIP late of Newtownbutler Road, Clones.
- Mary Nelson, Monaghan on the death of Mary's nephew John Campbell, RIP
- Francis Meehan, Council outdoor staff on the death of his father John Meehan, RIP, late of Mullahinshigo, Tydavnet

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

- Rehab Monaghan on their achievements in the recent Road Bowls Championships held in Westport, Co. Mayo.
- Anne McFarland, Rehab Monaghan on organising a very successful 'Open Day' held recently highlighting the excellent services available at this centre.
- Emyvale GFC on winning the Division 2 Minor Football League Final.
- Drumhowan GFC on winning the County Junior Football Championship Final.
- Castleblayney Hurling Club on winning the Senior League Final
- Donegal Senior Football Team on winning the All-Ireland Senior Football Championship.
- David Kildea, Eimear O'Brien, Dessie Duffy and Karl Kildea who represented Ireland in the World Half Iron Man Championship in Las Vegas and particularly Karl who was 5th overall in his category and Eimear who was 6th overall in her category.

- Aughnamullen GFC on winning the U14 League title.
- Aughnamullen Ladies GFC on winning the U14 and U16 League titles.
- Carrickmacross Emmets GFC on winning the U16 League Division 2 title
- Carrickmacross Emmets GFC on winning the U12 Division 5 League title.

Urgent Business:

The Mayor advised the meeting that he had received a notice of Urgent Business in accordance with Standing Order 14.2, in the names of Cllrs McNally, Gallagher, O'Brien, Coyle and O'Hanlon, as follows:

'In light of Minister for Health James Reilly's decision to add an additional 15 locations to the list for Primary Care Centres, that this Council seek and send a deputation to HSE personnel dealing with these developments in County Monaghan.

As well as the above, that this Council communicate with the G.P.'s in Monaghan Town and Carrickmacross.'

The Council unanimously agreed to deal with the motion of urgent business.

In moving the motion, Cllr McNally stated that in view of the recent decision by the Minister for Health to include an additional 15 locations to a national list of 20 proposed primary care centres including two locations in the Minister's constituency, it is important that the Council meet with the Health Service Executive to ascertain the position in relation to the centres proposed for the towns of Monaghan and Carrickmacross. The Council needs to know if the negotiations with the local GP's have stalled. In his opinion unless there is buy-in from the GP's the county could miss out on the first tranche of primary care facilities.

Cllr Gallagher seconded the motion and stated that when services were being removed from Monaghan General Hospital the HSE had proposed a primary care centre for Monaghan Town but progress on this has been limited to date. Cllrs Carthy, Murray, Connolly and O'Hanlon also spoke in favour of the motion.

Cllr McNally's motion was put to the meeting and agreed unanimously.

On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that the Council seek clarification from the HSE as to whether the interim Primary Care Centre in Carrickmacross is proceeding, as previously advised to Carrickmacross Town Council.

The following delegation was agreed pending notification of a meeting from the Health Service Executive – Mayor, Cllrs Maxwell, Murray, B. McKenna, Carthy, McNally, Gallagher and Connolly.

The meeting then concluded.