

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Mtek Building, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday 4 October, 2010 at 10.00 a.m.

Chair: Cllr J. Crowe, Mayor.

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

Mr. D. Nelson, County Manager, Mr. P. Clifford, Mr. A. King, Mr. D. Fallon, Directors of Service, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner, Mr. Toirleach Gourley, Senior Executive Planner, Ms. E. McShane, Senior Executive Officer and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

In attendance (as observers) -

Cathal McGlone, Hugh Doherty, Nuala Cloonan, James Ward and Ivor Finlay from the 'Don't Bypass the Bypass Group.

At the outset, the Mayor proposed a vote of sympathy to Cllr Noel Keelan and the McCartney family, Derrylavin, Carrickmacross on the death of Eileen. Cllr B. McKenna seconded the vote of sympathy which was agreed by the Council. A number of members joined in the expression of sympathy to Cllr Keelan, as did the County Manager on behalf of the staff.

Cllr Keelan thanked all present for their kind words and to those who attended Eileen's funeral and sent messages of support.

Cllr McElvaney proposed, Cllr Carville seconded that the sympathy of the Council be extended to the wife and family of the late Adam Armstrong, a former Member of Monaghan County Council. This was agreed.

The Mayor joined in the expression of sympathy to Mr. Armstrong's family and stated that he proposed, with the agreement of the Council, to adjourn the meeting at 12.30 p.m., so that Members could attend the funeral and partake in a guard of honour. This was agreed unanimously.

A number of members paid tribute to the late Adam Armstrong who served as a County Councillor for two terms in the 70's and 80's.

The County Manager associated himself with the vote of sympathy on behalf of the staff.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 6th September, 2010, be confirmed.

2. Correspondence

The following correspondence was circulated

- Letter from Monaghan Sports Partnership requesting the opportunity to make a presentation to the Council on the work of the Partnership to date.
- Letter from the Football Association of Ireland requesting the opportunity to make a presentation to the Council at a forthcoming meeting.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Office of the Taoiseach in relation to the Council's resolution regarding the Eirgrid planning application.
- Letter from the private secretary to the Minister for Finance in relation to Council resolution relating to mortgage arrears and personal debt.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the CEO's Office of the Health Service Executive regarding the re-location of a rapid response vehicle to Castleblayney.
- Letter from the Chief Ambulance Office of the HSE regarding the re-location of a rapid response vehicle to Castleblayney.
- Letter from Cathal McGlone on behalf of the 'Don't bypass the bypass Group' regarding the N2 proposed dual carriageway through Monaghan.
- Letter from Cllr Brian McKenna (a Council rep on the HSE Dublin North East Forum) regarding the admission of patients from Dublin NE hospitals being accommodated in Monaghan Hospital for step-down/rehabilitation care.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform regarding Council resolution relating to security information on Irish citizens not being released to the Israeli government.
- Letter from An Bord Pleanála regarding the Council's resolution in relation to the Meath-Tyrone 400kv interconnector.
- Letter from the National Roads Authority to the Councils Director of Roads in relation to the Specific Improvement Grants 2010 – Clones Area.
- Letter from Tomás Mahony, Eirgrid in relation to the Meath-Tyrone 400kv interconnector and offering a meeting in Carrickmacross on 28th October, 2010.
- Letter from Gerry Adams, MLA offering a meeting with Deputy Ó Caoláin to discuss the Eirgrid planning application.
- Email from Cathal McGlone on behalf of the 'Don't bypass the bypass Group' seeking an opportunity to make a presentation to the Council at a future meeting.
- Letter from the Arts Officer to the Mayor thanking the Council for its support for the Monaghan Blues Festival.
- Letter of acknowledgement from Minister Brendan Smith, T.D., to the Mayor regarding issues raised by the Mayor.
- Letter from the Vintners Federation of Ireland to the Mayor requesting that the Council would look at reducing the rates bills in 2011.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Crowe, it was agreed that the Council receive a presentation from the Monaghan Sports Partnership.

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Connolly, it was agreed that the Council receive a presentation from the Football Association of Ireland.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that the matter of the Specific Improvement Grants 2010 – Clones Area would be placed on the agenda for a meeting with the NRA if such a meeting is forthcoming.

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Murray it was agreed that the Council accept the offer of a meeting with Eirgrid on the afternoon of the 28th October, 2010.

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Murray it was agreed that the Council write to the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to determine

- 1. What impact will the re-configuration of services have on the D.V.O. section of the Department office in Ballybay Town.*
- 2. Will the Ballybay office remain as a public office with the doors open providing a public service to the farmers of Co. Monaghan.*
- 3. What is the timescale for the two programmes recently announced for the Ballybay office. Is any of the programmes a pilot programme?*
- 4. Have all farmer files been removed from the Ballybay office (except reactor disease files)?. Where are these files currently located.*

Cllr B. McKenna proposed, Cllr Conlon, Connolly, Gallagher, Maxwell S. McKenna and S. Treanor seconded that Monaghan County Council extend until the 31st October, 2010 the consultation period on the preferred route study from Clontibret to Moybridge on the confirmation by the Director of Services for Roads that there are no negative financial implications for the Council as a result of such a decision.

In response to the proposal from the North Monaghan Members, Mr. David Fallon, Director of Roads, stated that the proposed N2 Clontibret to the Border road is a national strategic route which has a national and a north-south dimension. The Council is currently engaged in a second period of public consultation in relation to the route corridor selection stage. There will be a third phase of public consultation when the preferred route is selected. He stated that it is not possible to extend the closing date for receipt of submissions in relation to the N2 Clontibret to the Border road scheme. He confirmed that the Council will continue to accept significant new information up until such time as the presentation is made to the Council in relation to the selection of the preferred route. He added that the extension of the closing date could lead to a financial claim on the Council by the firm of Consultants engaged on the project. The Council has been put on notice in relation to a possible claim by the Consultants for the current extension to the 30th September. He stated that the Council will challenge the claim but if the NRA does not allocate the additional funding involved in any claim, the Council will have to bear this cost.

Cllr B. McKenna stated that having regard to the comments of Mr. Fallon he was withdrawing the motion. This was agreed.

The County Manager stated that whilst he appreciated the bona fides of all involved, it is important that there is closure on the project – people need to know the preferred route being selected. He acknowledged the fears that are being expressed and that the submissions will be taken on board by the Consultants. He reiterated what Mr. Fallon had stated - the Council will continue to accept significant new information up until such time as the presentation is made to the Council in relation to the selection of the preferred route.

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Conlon, it was agreed that the Council receive a presentation from the 'Don't Bypass the Bypass Group' at a future meeting.

3. To approve an Overdraft accommodation in the sum of €10m for the period from 1st January 2011 to 30th June 2011

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Connolly it was agreed that the Council approve of Overdraft accommodation in the sum of €10m for the period from 1st January 2011 to 30th June, 2011.

4. Section 183 Notice – Disposal of Land at Candlefort, Inniskeen

On the proposal of Cllr McNally seconded by Cllr Murray it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal of the disused toilets block adjoining the existing community centre, on a plot measuring 111 sq metres in the townland of Candlefort, Inniskeen, together with right of way, measuring 4.26 metres be disposed of to the Trustees of Inniskeen Community Social Club in accordance with the terms of Notice dated 8th September, 2010 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

5. To receive report on Council Landfill at Scotchcorner

This item was deferred until the adjourned meeting scheduled for Monday 18th October, 2010.

6. To receive recommendations from Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 20th September, 2010.

This item was deferred to the adjourned meeting scheduled for Monday 18th October, 2010.

7. To fix date for the Joint Civic Reception for Monaghan ICA and Muintir na Tire Community Alert programme

It was agreed that a date for this Civic Reception would be finalised at the adjourned meeting.

8. To approve list of newspapers in accordance with Part 4 Article 18(2) of the Planning & Development Regulations 2006 for use in Monaghan Planning Authorities for giving notice of the intention to make a planning application

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that the following newspapers be approved by the Council for the publication of planning notices in accordance with Part 4 Article 18 (2) of the Planning & Development Regulations 2006.

Monaghan Electoral Area	Northern Standard, Anglo Celt, Irish Independent, Irish Daily Star, Irish Times.
Carrickmacross Electoral Area	Northern Standard, Dundalk Democrat, Irish Independent, Irish Times, Irish Daily Star.
Castleblayney Electoral Area	Northern Standard, Dundalk Democrat, Anglo Celt, Irish Independent, Irish Times and Irish Daily Star.
Clones Electoral Area	Northern Standard, Anglo Celt, Irish Independent, Irish Daily Star, Irish Times.

9. To receive reports from Members attending conferences

The Members noted the reports from Cllrs Carville and McNally in relation to their attendance at the Humbert Summer School in Castlebar, Co. Mayo.

10 Business submitted by County Manager

This item was deferred to the adjourned meeting.

11. Matters arising out of Council meeting held on 6th September, 2010.

This item was deferred to the adjourned meeting.

12. Proposed Eirgrid Interconnector

This item was dealt with under correspondence.

13. To receive presentation on the County Monaghan Economic Strategy

The Mayor welcomed Mr. Pdraig Warren, Chinook Consulting and Dympna Condra, Tourism/Marketing Officer to the meeting. He invited Mr. Warren to make a presentation to the Council in relation to the Economic Strategy and Implementation Plan for County Monaghan 2010 – 2014 which had been prepared by the County Development Board in active consultation with the heads of business, state agencies and community activists.

In his presentation, Mr. Warren stated that the main objective of the review process was to have an overall vision for economic development in County Monaghan which is relevant to the current economic climate. He described the new strategy as ‘a work in progress’ which had already taken a number of important steps towards implementation. The strategy had implemented the technique of ‘scenario planning’ which looks at a number of possible economic outcomes and plans accordingly for each of them.

Inputs from each of the four driving perspectives – business, education and training, infrastructure and employment had been sought and secured. A series of workshops was held involving around 40 key stakeholders from the business sector and senior personnel from relevant state agencies and the local authority. Arising out of this process, 128 potential actions/brainstormed ideas were identified across 6 key areas – IT; Tourism & Amenities; Industry; Food; Retail and Services and Education and Training. As a consequence, what has been identified in the report is what the stakeholders actually want. Critical to the success of the strategy is the establishment of a delivery mechanism to make it into a reality. This has led to the formation of a Business Leaders Forum (BLF) for each of the six thematic areas, comprising a ‘Champion’ from the business sector, a ‘Facilitator’ from the relevant state agency and 6/7 individuals from the business sector with knowledge and expertise specific to the area they are involved in. A review of the progress made by these groups will be undertaken after six months.

The County Manager paid tribute to all those involved in the process to date.

It was agreed that any queries/comments which the Members had would be taken at the adjourned meeting scheduled for 18th October.

14. To receive presentation from Co. Monaghan GAA Coaching Committee

It was agreed that this presentation would be deferred until the adjourned meeting.

15. Questions:

Cllr S. Conlon asked:

1. Following on from the considerable debate at the September monthly meeting regarding Project Kelvin and the major significance of this network in our county, please forward this question to the relevant stakeholders, “ In reference to damage and breakages to phone and broadband cabling that occurs occasionally and that part of the 24,000 km fibre optic broadband cable that feeds into the €30 million Project Kelvin passes through County Monaghan, what security/preventative measures are in place that will help avoid potential damage and major disruption to this valuable network of communication infrastructure?

Reply:

Anyone executing works on a public road are required to obtain a road opening licence. Individuals carrying out such works should seek confirmation from utilities and communication providers as to the location of all existing services.

2. Is the Planning Section investigating the relocation of a telecommunication mast, previously located on the site of the former army barracks at Knockaconny, to a nearby field that has occurred without planning permission and payment of appropriate development levies imposed on mobile phone companies for each device attached to the mast?

Reply:

Following the receipt of a complaint, the planning section inspected the telecommunication mast at Knockaconny.

The mast is a transportable radio installation and as such is exempted development in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 2, Part 1, Class 31 (g) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). This exemption is limited to a period of 12 weeks only.

If the mast has not been removed on or before the expiry of that period, the planning authority shall proceed with enforcement action to have the breach of planning remedied.

Cllr P. Connolly asked:

3. What is the up to date position in relation to the construction of the proposed public footpath along the bank of the Mountain River Water from Sruth an Mhuilin towards the village of Emyvale, bearing in mind that it was proposed to have this footpath constructed by July 2010?

Reply: *The Council intend to have these works completed by the end of the year.*

15. Questions (contd):

Cllr P. Connolly asked:

4. In view of the fact that quite a number of people use it as a recreational walking route, the fact that there are a large number of new dwellings and the fact that a late night shop is nearby, what is the up to date position in relation to the proposal to install lighting from Ballyalbany cross to the N2 Emyvale-Monaghan road?

Reply: *The Council intend to have these works completed by the end of the year.*

Cllr A. Murray asked:

5. Re: Cloughvalley Estate Carrickmacross
- (a) When will the road ramps be completed?
(b) When will the two new lights be installed?

Reply: *Ramps will be completed towards end of 2011. Lighting to be in place by October.*

Cllr R. Gallagher asked:

6. With regard to applications for college grants 2010
- (a) How many applications have been received this year?

Reply: *To date, we have received 298 new applications, of which 122 have been approved, 54 have been forwarded to the VEC, 1 has been withdrawn, 34 are ineligible and 87 have been issued letters requesting further information.*

- (b) How is the process of assessment progressing and

Reply: *Where applications have been submitted with full documentation attached, decisions as to eligibility have issued to applicants within 1-2 weeks of receipt. Where incomplete applications (i.e. where all documentation required has not been submitted) have been received, letters requesting further information issued from the Council within 1 week of receipt of the application. The onus is on each applicant to submit the information requested as soon as possible.*

To date over 300 student grant cheques have been forwarded to the colleges from Monaghan County Council, this includes payments for both new applicants and renewal students. First grant payments issued to colleges on 24th August, 2010.

15. Questions (contd):

Cllr R. Gallagher asked:

(c) When is it expected that the process will be completed?

Reply: *In accordance with the Higher Education Grants Scheme 2010 the Council has discretion to accept late applications, which it continues to do. The completion of the process is, therefore, dependent on the receipt of all outstanding information from applicants and on no further late applications being received.*

7. Regarding the issue of abandoned cars in residential and other areas which is listed among the areas of concern in the draft litter management plan

(a) What records exist of the problem?

Reply: *A data base is kept in Roads Section.*

(b) How many have led to on the spot fines in the past?

Reply: *None*

(c) How are the vehicles disposed of at present?

Reply: *No vehicles have had to be disposed of as yet. Vehicles are normally removed when sticker is applied requesting removal of car.*

8. With regard to reviews of the response to the severe weather crisis last winter
(a) Does the Council have any plans to provide de-icing salt to community groups or schools to help keep facilities open?

(b) What changes will be made to previous practice on the treatment of roads in severe weather?

(c) Can the Council clarify for householders and businesses what their responsibilities are regarding the clearing of ice and snow outside their premises and the situation regarding liability if anyone slips or falls?

Reply: *The various issues that have arisen during last winter's severe cold weather are being considered by the Roads Strategic Policy Committee*

9. What is the position regarding safety measures that need to be taken at the entrance to Knockconan National School / Blackwater Learning Centre / Tru Beginnings Childcare Centre just off the N2 at Ballyoisin particularly with regard to the large number of vehicles entering and exiting this facility?

Reply: *The Council have made an application for a scheme under the Low Cost safety Improvement grant for 2011.*

15. Questions (contd):

Cllr M. Carthy asked:

10. What is the up-to-date position relating to right of way at the Aghavilla junction off the N2 north of Carrickmacross (Creevy road LS08150)?

Reply: *The junction is currently designated as “one way traffic only” for traffic turning left from the N2 Castleblayney Road. All other movements are prohibited. It is proposed to discuss the operation of the junction at the South Monaghan Road Area Meeting.*

11. When is it expected that all road works relating to the Carrickmacross Waste Water Collection network will be completed; what measures have been taken to ensure minimum disruption to local businesses in the run-up to the important pre-Christmas shopping season?

Reply: *It is expected that permanent reinstatement of all roads affected by the Carrickmacross Sewerage Scheme will be completed within the twelve month maintenance period, as provided for under the contract. The maintenance period commences following substantial completion in Q1 of 2011. However, it must be noted that it is Monaghan County Council’s intention to undertake permanent reinstatement as soon as is reasonably practicable. The majority of affected roads are permanently reinstated at this juncture.*

No work will be undertaken in the town centre area from the week ending Friday 10th December 2010.

12. When will the Council be in a position to put in place CCTV cameras at the play-park at St. Macartans Villas/ Convent Lands, Carrickmacross in a bid to prevent anti-social behaviour and vandalism occurring there particularly in the dark hours?

It is anticipated that work on the installation of CCTV at this location will be completed this month.

13. Since its introduction, how much has been collected by Monaghan County Council under the Development Contribution Scheme for Community, Recreation and Amenity Facilities? How much is currently outstanding to the Council? Has this funding been ring-fenced as promised? When is it proposed that the Allocation Sub Committee will be constituted?

A total of €443,449.78 has been received. An amount of €145,806.37 remains uncollected although €65,770.87 will be paid in accordance with agreements on phased payments. The funding is ring-fenced. The appointment of the sub-committee is a matter for the elected members

15. Questions (contd):

Cllr M. Carthy asked:

14. In relation to the Remedial Works Scheme currently ongoing in Cloughvalley, Carrickmacross:
- (a) When will the houses be completed and allocated,
 - (b) Has the Council contacted those previous tenants who vacated the houses to accommodate works to inform them of the current situation,
 - (c) Will those tenants who vacated houses be offered a house in the new scheme as previously stated?

Reply: *The demolition and construction contract is for the period of one year. They will be allocated when the houses are satisfactorily completed.*

Those tenants who expressed a wish to return to the Scheme in Cloughvalley will be facilitated.

Cllr G. Carville asked:

15. Further to the reply received last month in relation to the monies to be allocated for Tourism Development in Co Monaghan, has this Council, through its association with East Border Region Tourism Partnership, made application for any developments at Lough Muckno so as to maximise benefit to Co Monaghan in respect of the proposed Geo-Park to be created in the Cooley, Mourne and Sliabh Gullion region?

Reply: *Through East Border Region Tourism Partnership, an application has been to INTERREG IVA to develop a Geo-park in the Cooley, Mourne and Gullion Area. The EBR Partnership is also seeking to improve access and develop tourism infrastructure at 9 natural resource based tourism destinations in the region and Monaghan County Council has proposed Lough Muckno in this respect. Application details for the 9 sites as follows:*

- *Geopark/eco-tourism projects and associated works:*
 1. *9 x plans for eco-tourism developments [Exploris Marine Park – Ards, Lough Muckno Leisure Park – Monaghan, Navan Fort- Armagh, Maghery Eco-Tourism Park and wider eco-tourism master plan & associated works – Craigavon (2 plans), Trim Porch Field and Moynalty Steam Threshing Field (2 plans) and associated works – Meath, Strickland & Crawfordsburn Glens, North Down (2 plans)]*
 2. *Associated works to improve access to sites (road resurfacing, trail development, access improvements etc)*
 3. *Wider recommendations for the regeneration of these areas as eco- tourism destinations*

Each of the 9 sites is seeking €75,000.

15. Questions (contd):

Cllr G. Carville asked:

16. Has the review of road safety in the village of Oram been completed yet and if so, what actions are required and when can they be implemented?

Reply: *Funding has been sought for a Low Cost Accident Reduction scheme for the area in 2011 and a review and design will be prepared prior to any works being carried out*

Cllr S. McKenna asked:

17. Will Monaghan County Council arrange to have all water gullies on regional roads and in villages cleaned and maintained in a reasonable condition? This year there is a lot of flooding due to the lack of attention to this problem after a very dry period of some six months.

Reply: *The Council will carry out routine maintenance within the confines of the available resources.*

Cllr P. McNally asked:

18. What is the official completion date for the Carrickmacross Sewerage upgrade scheme?

Reply: *The Carrickmacross Pipelines Contract commenced construction in February 2008. The 30 month construction contract was extended to the end of 2010 as a result of additional works that were not provided for in the original contract. The two most significant elements of which were:*

- i. The roads and footpath works completed in Farney Street, O Neill Street, Chapel Lane and Parnell Street, as instructed by the Town Council, and*
- ii. Rock encountered in the Ross Road area.*

The contract is expected to be substantially complete in the first quarter of 2011. However, P & S Civil Works Ltd. will have a presence in the town throughout 2011, to facilitate snagging and to fulfil their contractual obligations during the maintenance period.

19. Has this Council received any recent updates regarding the East/West route Dundalk to Sligo?

Reply: *The consultants appointed by Cavan County Council are progressing the second part of their brief to prepare a preliminary design for the Cavan, Carrickmacross to Dundalk Road. It is expected that the design will continue next year subject to the availability of funding.*

15. Questions (contd):

Cllr P. McNally asked:

20. Following a request from Bawn Development Association:

- (a) Is this Council going to put a salt bin in place adjacent to Bawn chapel?

Reply: *The various issues that have arisen during last winter's severe weather are being considered by the Roads Strategic Policy Committee.*

- (b) Is Monaghan County Council going to put a bottle bank in place adjacent to the new houses in Bawn?

Reply: *A meeting has been arranged between officials and local community interests with a view to providing a bottle bank.*

21. Has this Council received any correspondence from the NRA regarding illegal signage along our national routes over the summer and, if so, do they intend acting on same, as I feel this would be a retrograde step in the midst of an economic downturn.

Reply: *The Council is not aware of any recent correspondence. However, the NRA has a Signage Policy document in place regarding such signage and Monaghan County Council adopted a policy for signage on National Roads in July 2008.*

22. What is the completion date of the new branch library in Carrickmacross?

Reply: *Construction work began on the site last week and should be completed in 12 months. Allowing for a further 3 month fit out period, the library should be ready to open to the public in January 2012.*

Cllr S. Coyle asked:

23. Will Monaghan County Council place on their public lighting schemes list & have estimates costing, etc. completed for the erection of public lighting at St. Alphonsus Chapel, St. Conghalls Primary School & Connons Community Centre? This area is currently dangerous for pedestrians & motorists, particularly when mass events are taking place & for general use during dark winter evenings.

Reply: *The Council will examine these locations for inclusion in discussions on the public lighting programme at the next Road Area Committee meeting.*

Adjournment of meeting:

The time being 12.30 p.m. the Mayor adjourned the Council meeting so that the Members could attend the funeral of the late Adam Armstrong, a former Member of Monaghan County Council.

It was agreed that the business remaining on the agenda would be dealt with at the adjourned meeting to be held on Monday 18th October, 2010 from 9.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. in the Mtek Building.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Meara Meetings Administrator

Date: _____