

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, Mtek Building, Monaghan on Monday 6th October, 2014 at 2.00 p.m.

Chair: Cllr Pdraig McNally, Cathaoirleach

Present: Cllrs. Bannigan, Bennett, Campbell, Carthy, Conlon, Connolly, Coyle, Crowe, Gallagher, Keelan, Maxwell, McElvaney, B. McKenna, McNally, McPhillips, O'Hanlon, P. Treanor.

Mr. E. Cummins, Chief Executive, Mr. P. Clifford and Mr. A. King, Director of Services, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

Apology: Cllr S. Treanor.

Vote of sympathy – Willie McKenna, former Member of Monaghan County Council.

At the outset, the Cathaoirleach referred to the recent death of a former member of Monaghan County Council, the late Willie McKenna, RIP. Cllr McNally paid tribute to the late Willie, who had been a member of the Council from 1974 until 2004, a period of 30 years and with whom he had been privileged and honoured to have served with for 19 of those years. He described Willie as a colourful character who was a man of the people and a local man who made good in many ways, being a very successful businessman. He paid tribute to Willie's untiring work in promoting and maintaining the county's twinning links with Miramichi and Prince Edward Island in Canada.

The majority of the members present expressed their sympathy at Willie's passing, concurred with the sentiments expressed by the Cathaoirleach and reflected on their memories of him.

Cllr S. Conlon read the text of an email from the President of the Benevolent Irish Society in Canada, expressing its sympathy on the death of Willie.

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was agreed that the sympathy of the Council be extended to Willie's wife Nancy, his brother Sean and his sisters Eileen and Mary and his extended family circle.

Mr. E. Cummins, Chief Executive associated himself and the staff with the vote of sympathy. He stated that Willie had been one of the first people he had met when he came to Monaghan and he had met him on a number of occasions since. He was a very sincere man.

The vote of sympathy was passed in silence. The Cathaoirleach adjourned the meeting for five minutes as a mark of respect.

Following the brief adjournment, the Cathaoirleach resumed the meeting.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

- (i) On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Bannigan, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 1st September, 2014, be confirmed.*

(ii) On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed that the minutes of the Special Council meeting held on 24th September, 2014, be confirmed.

2. Correspondence.

The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda:

- Letter of acknowledgement from the Office of the Minister for Business and Employment Mr. Gerald Nash TD, in relation to Council's request for a meeting with the Minister.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Office of the Minister for Justice & Equality regarding Lorry Compliance checks.
- Letter of acknowledgement from Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine Simon Coveney, TD in relation to issues pertaining to CAP Reform Pillar II Programme.
- Letter from Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to Minister Humphreys, TD Re: Acknowledgement of letter received to Simon Coveney, TD regarding issues pertaining to the Poultry Sector
- Email from Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin, TD re Support for Poultry Sector – CAP Reform Pillar II Programme
- Email from Minister Humphreys, TD re acknowledgement of email 9th September 2014 in relation to Rates on childcare facilities.
- Email from Sean Conlan, TD re acknowledgement of in relation to Rates on childcare facilities
- Letter from Eirgrid re acknowledgement of letters sent to Chief Executive, Mr. Fintan Slye relating to North South Interconnector project.
- Email from Joe O'Reilly, TD re acknowledgement of Council email regarding North South Interconnector project.
- Letter from Office of the Taoiseach re acknowledgement of Council's letter regarding North South Interconnector project.
- Email from Minister White's Office re acknowledgement of Council's letter regarding North South Interconnector project
- Email from Minister Humphreys, TD re acknowledgement of email dated 5th September 2014 re Council's letter regarding North South Interconnector project.
- Email from Brendan Smyth, TD in relation to resolution passed by the Council regarding the North South Interconnector project.
- Letter from Monaghan County Museum Advisory Committee requesting that the Council send a delegation to meet Minister Humphreys to discuss strategic aims for Monaghan County Museum
- Letter from Monaghan Sports Partnership thanking Cllr Pat Treanor for his work with the Partnership and welcoming Cllr Sean Conlon onto the Partnership.
- Letter from LAMA Community & Council Awards seeking nominations from the Council for consideration under the various categories.
- Email from Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin in relation to the resolution passed by the Council regarding the North South Interconnector project.
- Email from Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin, TD re acknowledgement of email 9th September 2014 in relation to rates on childcare facilities.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon it was agreed that the Council write to the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Heather Humphreys, T.D., requesting that she meet with a delegation from the Council to discuss the main strategic

aims for Monaghan County Museum over the next five years with a view to the development of a new building for the Museum.

3. To consider disposal of land at Mucker, Inniskeen in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001

The Members considered the Section 183 Notice and supporting documentation which had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

Cllr Maxwell stated that he was not happy with the proposed disposal of 5.795 acres of land at Mucker, Inniskeen on the grounds that the Council should change its policy regarding the disposal of assets. He further stated that this disposal should take place through an open market or sealed tender process.

Cllr Maxwell proposed, Cllr Bannigan seconded, that the proposed disposal of land at Mucker, Inniskeen is not proceeded with.

A debate followed to which a number of members contributed.

Mr. J Murray, Director of Housing stated that the land had been zoned for housing in the past but the Council did not have any use for it as it was located too far out of the village of Inniskeen.

Mr. E. Cummins, Chief Executive advised that in the disposal of any land, it was a requirement that the Council seek a valuation. He stated that the Council had complied with current legislation in relation to the proposed disposal. However, he acknowledged the points made by the members and requested their approval to have the matter deferred until another meeting pending consideration of the points raised by them.

It was agreed by the Council that the Section 183 disposal be deferred pending the submission of a report by the Chief Executive at the December Council meeting.

4. To consider Material Contravention of Policy HDP8 of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019 – the omission of the requirement to provide a crèche/childcare facility at Latlorcan housing development, Monaghan Town.

Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner, referred to the report from the Director of Planning Services dated 25th September, 2014 and which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting. He outlined the main provisions of the report and responded to queries from the members.

Mr. Hughes stated that the Planning Authority is of the opinion that the development as proposed, although contrary to Policy HDP8 of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019, is compliant with the relevant Ministerial Guidelines, relevant policies and objectives of the Government, or Minister of the Government and with the Regional Planning Guidelines. As such it is recommended that the elected members pass a resolution requiring that a decision to grant permission be made subject to the conditions outlined in the report.

Cllr Conlon proposed, Cllr McElvaney seconded that the Council approve a Material Contravention of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019 to grant planning permission (Ref. M.T. 14/30006) for alterations to previously approved planning permissions M.T. 01/69, M.T. 05/9 and M.T. 08/2 for development at Latlorcan, Monaghan, subject to the conditions outlined in the Director's Report dated 25th September, 2014.

A vote by show of hands resulted in 14 for, nil against (14 members present at time of vote).

The Cathaoirleach declared the proposal carried as it had received the consent of three quarters of the total membership of the Council.

5. Strategic Policy Committees - To receive report on submissions received during the public consultation process and Adoption of Scheme for SPC's.

Mr. A. King, Director of Services referred to the report circulated to the members in relation to submissions received following the public consultation process on the draft Strategic Policy Scheme. He stated that two submissions were received from the Monaghan Community Forum and the National Environmental Pillar.

The submission from the Community Forum suggested that the number of sectoral places on both the SPC for Housing and Fire & Civil Protection and the Social, Cultural and Community Development be increased by one. It also suggested that training be provided for new members and that the Public Participation Network be used when seeking representatives from the community sector.

The submission from the National Environmental Pillar welcomed the allocation of sectoral interest places in the draft SPC scheme; retained its right to nominate representatives onto the SPC pending the establishment of the PPN and suggested some proposals for operational matters for the SPC's.

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon, it was agreed that the number of community representatives be increased by one on the SPC for Housing and Fire & Civil Protection and the SPC for Social, Cultural and Community Development.

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon, it was agreed that the Draft Scheme for the Strategic Policy Committees 2014-2019 be adopted, subject to the amendments outlined above.

6. Establishment of the County Monaghan Joint Policing Committee

Ms. Carol Lambe, CEDO, gave a presentation to the members in relation to the establishment of the County Monaghan Joint Policing Committee. Ms. Lambe outlined that revised guidelines has issued from the Department of Justice and Equality which provided for the alignment of the JPC's with the new local authority structures. JPC's are now required to develop 6 year strategic plans linked appropriately with the Local and Economic Community Plan and must implement Annual Plans which include objectives derived from the relevant Annual Policing Plans. In addition JPC Annual Reports which are

a statutory requirement must reflect the progress made in achieving objectives contained in the Annual Plans. The membership of the JPC is similar to the previous County JPC except for an increase in the number of community representatives from three to six.

Ms. Lambe advised the members that filling of the Council positions on the JPC would be an item on the agenda for the November Council meeting and that the Council would invite the Public Participation Network (Community Forum) to nominate the community representatives.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Conlon, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council establish a Joint Policing Committee for County Monaghan in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Garda Síochána Act, 2005.

7. Housing – To receive report on demountable dwellings.

The Members considered the report circulated by the Director of Housing in relation to demountable dwellings. During the course of a debate on this item, Mr. Murray responded to queries/issues raised by the members.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was agreed that the Council review the recently issued guidelines/policy on the provision of demountable dwellings and provide a full report to the Council at a future meeting on the policies of adjoining local authorities/counties regarding these dwellings which are essential in the provision of housing to accommodate rural dwellings.

It was agreed that this matter would be referred to the Housing SPC for consideration.

8. Launch of Monaghan County Council Tenant Handbook.

Ms. N. Woods, SEO Housing distributed copies of the Monaghan County Council Tenant Handbook to each member. Ms. Woods explained that the tenant handbook, which would be distributed to all Council tenants in the county in the coming weeks, clarified the responsibility and obligations of the tenant. It also outlined the duties the local authority had towards the tenant.

Members generally welcomed the publication of the tenant handbook which would provide valuable information for Council tenants.

A discussion followed during which a number of issues were raised in relation to the provision of housing services. Ms. Woods and Mr. Murray, Director of Housing responded to the issues raised.

On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was agreed that a meeting be held in all towns in the county in relation to the new changes in housing and that an invitation be issued to all Council tenants.

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was agreed that the Council calls on the Minister with responsibility for Social Housing to re-introduce the Tenant Purchase Scheme immediately.

9. Management Report – to agree date for submission of monthly report to Council members.

Mr. A. King, Director of Services advised the members that in accordance with Section 136(2) of the Local Government Act, 2001 as inserted by Section 51 of the Local Government Reform Act, 2014, the Chief Executive is obliged to prepare monthly management reports to the Council Members. This requirement gives further effect to the additional role and responsibility of members under the 2014 Act in the area of monitoring and overseeing the work of the executive. Circular LG 18/2014, which had been circulated with the agenda, sets out guidelines on the preparation of Monthly Management reports. The management report is required to be furnished to elected members on or before the seventh day of each month or on a date in each month that is set by Council resolution.

Mr. King explained that in consultation with the members the Chief Executive will agree the date which is most suitable to them for the circulation of the report. Ideally that date should be selected so as to give members the opportunity to consider the report at the next local authority meeting following circulation of the report. It is obviously not feasible or practical that each monthly report would attempt to cover progress across all sub sections within each council functional area. Accordingly, it is proposed that progress in some functional areas would be reported on a 2/3 monthly basis, as appropriate. The timing of such reports would be such as to provide members, at the earliest possible opportunity, with information on important developments, progress and/or issues of significance.

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Keelan it was agreed that the Management Report would be circulated with the Agenda for each monthly Council meeting.

10. Corporate Policy Group – to adopt Minutes of CPG meetings held on 10th and 23rd September.

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Gallagher, it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meetings held on 10th and 23rd September, 2014 be adopted.

11. Budget 2015

(a) To fix date for Statutory Budget meeting.

It was agreed that the Statutory Budget meeting to consider the Draft Budget for 2015 would be held on Tuesday 18th November at 2.00 p.m.

(b) Municipal District – Budget process.

Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance advised the members that he would present details of the budgetary process for 2015 to each Municipal District Committee at their next meetings.

12. Business submitted by Chief Executive.

Mr. E. Cummins, Chief Executive advised the members of the following –

Visit of Chinese Ambassador – The Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht had arranged for the Chinese Ambassador to Ireland – Mr. Jianguo Xu – to visit County Monaghan on Friday 10th October.

Latlorcan Glen Housing – The signing of contracts for the purchase by Monaghan County Council of 17 houses and circa 20 acres of land at Latlorcan, Castleblayney Road, Monaghan would be carried out in the coming week.

Housing Grants: The Council was notified of additional funding as follows:

- €700,000 to purchase 4 houses for "Families with a particular need"
- €460,297 for Housing Adaptation Grants. This will bring the allocation up to the budgeted figure of €1.2m from the DECLG allowing for a total spend of €1.5m by Monaghan County Council

Coillte MoU – Coillte has proposed that a Memorandum of Understanding between it and the Council would be agreed in relation to the development of Coillte properties at Rossmore, Dartrey, Black Island, Billy Fox Memorial Park, Derrygorry and Eshbrack.

It was agreed that a small sub-committee would be formed to discuss the proposed Memorandum of Understanding. The following were nominated to the committee – Cllrs Conlon, Gallagher, Maxwell and Connolly.

13. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meetings held on 8th July and 1st September.

There were no matters arising out of the Council meetings held on 8th July and 1st September.

14. To receive update on North South Interconnector project

Cllr Keelan read the text of an email which he had received from An Bord Pleanála advising that ... *“At present Eirgrid is involved in the pre-application procedure under Projects of Common Interest Regulation 347/2013. Eirgrid submitted a Concept for Public Participation, as required under the Regulation, and the Concept was modified by An Bord Pleanála in its role as competent authority. A copy of the Concept and An Bord Pleanála’s letter as competent authority is available on Eirgrid’s website. Also as part of the pre-application process Eirgrid has been requested to submit a proposal for the scope of material and level of detail of information to be submitted as part of the application file”.*

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr Crowe, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council re-establish the EirGrid Sub Committee as soon as possible. The Sub-Committee to be chaired by the Cathaoirleach, contains 2 representatives per political party and one Non Party representative and that an official of the Council would facilitate meetings of the committee (eg minute taking).

The following were appointed as members of the EirGrid Sub Committee – the Cathaoirleach Cllr McNally, Cllrs N. Keelan, J. Crowe, A. Campbell, E. Bannigan, R. Gallagher, S. Coyle and P. Connolly.

It was agreed that a meeting of the sub-committee would be held on Monday 13th October at 11.00 am in Castleblayney Enterprise Centre.

Mr. E. Cummins, Chief Executive advised the members that it was time for him to break his silence on this important topic. He stated that the future development of the county, the region and the country was dependent on having a secure network with sufficient capacity to allow for economic growth. He further stated that future foreign direct investment would be compromised if such a capacity and network was not in place. He concluded by advising the members not to gamble with the employment prospects of the county's younger generation.

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that Monaghan County Council seek a meeting with the Oireachtas representatives for the constituency in the coming weeks in relation to the North-South Interconnector, given that it is EirGrid's intention to lodge a planning application for an overhead 400Kv line across Co. Monaghan in the very near future.

It was agreed that the Oireachtas members would be invited to the EirGrid Sub Committee meeting on Monday 13th October.

15. To receive presentation from TUSLA (Child and Family Agency)

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Janice Wedlock and Ms. Maire McKenna from TUSLA (The Child and Family Agency) and invited them to address the meeting.

Ms. Wedlock thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak to the members. She outlined the background to the establishment of TUSLA. She referred to the 'Meitheal' which is an old Irish term that describes how neighbours would come together to assist in the saving of crops or other tasks. The Cavan/Monaghan Meitheal is a partnership between the ISPCC/Barnardos and TUSLA. It provides a national response to child/young people welfare and there is an integrated approach between ALL agencies working with young people and families. The team around the child/young person is in effect the Meitheal, it brings together parents and a range of practitioners from the statutory, community and voluntary sectors to provide specific support and interventions to a specific child/young person and their family. The members of the team work together to develop and deliver a tailored package of outcomes focused interventions to meet the needs of the child/young person as identified through the meitheal strengths and needs form.

Ms. Wedlock outlined the points of contact for those parents/families that are in need of support and wish to avail of the service. She then responded to queries from the members.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Ms. Wedlock for the presentation.

16. Questions:

Cllr P. Connolly asked:

1. To ask Monaghan County Council for an update in relation to the NPPR charge on properties owned by Monaghan people domiciled abroad
 - (a) The number of properties registered for NPPR owned by people living abroad?
Reply: 231
 - (b) The level of compliance with the NPPR charge?
Reply: Unknown as this was a Self Declaration charge
 - (c) How many accounts are overdue?
Reply: Unknown as the number liable is unknown
 - (d) The total amount of money outstanding?
Reply: €210,320.00

Cllr Robbie Gallagher asked:

2. In light of the danger to pedestrians walking along the N12 between Silverstream and the border would the Council, in the interests of safety and the development of a valuable local recreational amenity, consider extending the Greenway along the canal route running parallel to the road?

Reply: The Ulster Canal Greenway has proven very successful, with over 26,000 pedestrians using it in the first six months. Monaghan County Council has always viewed this project as a Phase I, with the ambition being to construct a greenway along the entire length of the Ulster Canal, from Clones to Lough Neagh. In this context, the stretch at Tyholland will be reviewed and advanced as soon as practicable. Such a project will be dependent on the co-operation of landowners along the route, and the availability of funding.

3. Can the Council provide an update on the current housing list and how it breaks down across the County - for example, how many OPDs, families, single people etc and in the light of same has the Council any plans to liaise with the Department with a view to organising funding to construct much needed housing itself?

Reply: In respect of the housing list there are currently 1060 new households on the approved housing list.

This comprises of the following household size breakdown

1 bed	455	4 bed	38
2 bed	380	5 bed	1
3 bed	186		

Monaghan County Council engage on a regular basis with the department in order to secure additional capital funding. This includes seeking funding for the purchase and construction of new housing in addition to requesting funding for housing adaptation grant aid programmes and maintenance programmes

Cllr Robbie Gallagher asked:

4. Can the Council outline current policy in relation to rural and village areas and the potential to obtain much needed broadband connectivity for both local businesses and families?

Reply: The Department of Communications Energy and Natural Resources' Website states:

Following the conclusion of a competitive tendering process, the contract to implement and operate the National Broadband Scheme (NBS) was entered into with "Three" (a Hutchison Whampoa company trading as "Three") on 23 December 2008.

The objective of the NBS was to deliver basic, affordable broadband to certain target areas in Ireland in which broadband services were deemed to be insufficient. Under the NBS contract, Three were required, for the duration of the Operational Period, to provide services to all premises in the NBS coverage area who sought a service. In order to facilitate competition in the area, "Three" were also required to provide wholesale access to any other authorised operator who wished to serve premises in the NBS area.

The rollout of the provision of NBS services advanced incrementally over a 22 month period and was completed in October 2010. In line with the NBS contract, broadband services were available to all premises within each of the 1,028 designated NBS Electoral Divisions across 25 Counties. The National Broadband Scheme ended following a 68 month operational period at midnight on August 25th 2014.

Following the expiry of the Scheme on this date, Three will no longer be required to make available the NBS retail and wholesale services specified under the NBS contract. Broadband coverage will continue to be available throughout the NBS areas on a commercial basis.

The Rural Broadband Scheme was established to enable a basic broadband service to be provided to individual rural premises which were not capable of obtaining a broadband service from existing internet service providers.

The focus now is on ensuring that rural Ireland enjoys similar opportunities to urban areas in terms of access to high speed connectivity. In this regard, the next phase of Ireland's broadband evolution is focused on the delivery of the State-led intervention under the National Broadband Plan. In parallel, the commercial sector is investing approximately €2.5bn in upgrading broadband services, including the upgrade from 3G to 4G services and various fibre-based networks.

It remains the case that there is no commercial case for investment in high speed networks and services in some parts of Ireland. The Government intends to intervene in these areas.

On 25 April 2014, the Minister signalled the Government's commitment to a major telecommunications network build-out to rural Ireland. The next phase of Ireland's broadband evolution will be focused on the delivery of the State-led intervention

under the National Broadband Plan. This intervention will involve the delivery of long term, future proofed infrastructure build with next generation backhaul infrastructure (likely to primarily be fibre based) as the key component underpinning whatever access technology delivers the service (fixed or wireless).

Under EU State Aid Guidelines Member States cannot intervene where commercial investors have plans to roll out services. A comprehensive mapping exercise is underway in the Department, to identify those areas that require a State intervention. A county-by-county list of towns and villages which have already been identified for intervention is available on the Department's website, at <http://www.dcenr.gov.ie/>. This is an indicative list and is subject to the completion of the mapping exercise. It is expected that this mapping exercise will be concluded in Autumn 2014.

In tandem with the completion of the mapping exercise, intensive design and planning work is ongoing in the Department with a view to producing a detailed implementation strategy for the State led intervention. A full public consultation will be conducted on the outcome of the mapping process and the proposed intervention strategy.

EU State aid clearance will be required for the intervention once the strategy is finalised. This will be followed by a detailed procurement process with a view to commencing the roll out of high speed broadband services as quickly as possible.

Indicative List identified in Co. Monaghan

Aghadrumkeen	Aghnamullen
Annahaia	Ballymackney
Brandrum	Carrickroe
Coolderry	Corcullionglish
Corduff	Cortober
Creaghanroe	Creeve
Dartrey	Donaghmoyne
Doohat	Drum
Drumacrib	Drumakill
Figanny	Glaslough
Killeevan	Killybrone
Killyneill	Knockatallan
Laragh	Latnamard
Latton	Lisnalong
Loughmorne	Magheracloone
Oram	Selloo
Shantonagh	Tedavnet
Three Mile House	Tullynacross

Cllr Robbie Gallagher asked:

5. With regard to litter issues:
- (a) Has the Council any plans to promote an "Adopt a Road" initiative or any other initiative to deal with litter on main routes between our towns as raised in the most recent IBAL report?

Reply: Monaghan County Council have no current 'Adopt a Road' initiative, but do physically participate in the Spring Clean campaigns to pick litter on main routes in conjunction with the Tidy Towns network. It is an initiative that can be considered in conjunction with the new Municipal Districts however there would be a road safety concern with voluntary groups on public roads in regards to Health & Safety.

- (b) Can the Council outline its policy with regard to ensuring the accountability of every household with regard to the disposal of household waste?

Reply: There are obligations under the Waste Management Act for the duty of holders of Waste to manage their waste in a manner that won't cause or likely to cause environmental pollution. Monaghan County Council on some occasions have issued notices under section 18 of the act to furnish records of how that waste is managed by householders but it wasn't based on a specific policy as the act is broad in terms of householders obligations. However, with the New Household Waste Regulations expected in early 2015, there will be greater accountability on the householder as to how they manage their waste. In addition these regulations will place greater obligations on the operators as well on local authorities in relation to enforcement. Once adopted Monaghan County Council will need to put in place a policy on how the regulations will be implemented.

Cllr Colm Carthy asked:

6. Will Monaghan County Council seek additional capital funding from government to provide social houses to the high numbers of families on housing waiting list in this county?

Reply: Monaghan County Council engage on a regular basis with the department in order to secure additional capital funding. This includes seeking funding for the purchase and construction of new housing in addition to requesting additional funding for housing adaptation grant aid programmes and maintenance programmes

7. What is the Council's position on adding social clauses (i.e. to ensure that local companies and local employment are supported) to public contracts awarded to private companies?

Reply: Monaghan County Council are unable to instruct tenders to provide staff/obtain materials services only from the local area. This is due to the requirement of the Council to comply with National and EU procurement requirements.

In some recent projects e.g. Peace Link Project, the Council requested that the Contractor would meet specific targets to employ apprentices and long-term

unemployed people. Due to the requirements to comply with National and EU procurement requirements it is difficult to enforce such targets and the implementation of same is dependent on cooperation from the contractor.

Cllr Colm Carthy asked:

8. Could the Council indicate approximate dates of completion (in relation to the Group home in Carrickmacross for Persons with Physical & Sensory Disabilities) with regards to:
 1. Planning Approval
 2. Tendering Process

Reply: RESPOND Housing Association have indicated that they are currently waiting for revised programmes from the various consultants involved in the project. They will then be in a position to outline the revised programme stages as requested by members. Once RESPOND notify us of the revised programme the housing authority will inform members.

Cllr P.J. O'Hanlon asked:

9. In relation to road works on the N2 Dublin/Derry roads, could the Council please look at doing all the works at the one time, and as quickly as possible?

Reply: Where possible, road works will be co-ordinated with a view to minimising disruption on the N2 Dublin/Derry National Primary route within the county.

Cllr Cathy Bennett asked:

10. With reference to the constant updating of the Register of Electors, can Monaghan County Council provide the general public with the easiest method to add and remove names? Is it possible to add names at any time?

Reply: In relation to the compilation of the Register of Electors, the Council is obliged to comply with the requirements of the Electoral Act 1962 (as amended). The following are the statutory periods when additions/deletions/amendments can be made to the Register

- Applications for inclusion on the Draft Register can be made during the period leading up to the publication of the Draft Register on the 1st November annually.
- Following the publication of the Draft Register any member of the public can make a claim to have a name added or removed from the Draft Register – the closing date for this process is the 25th November. Claims received during this process are adjudicated on by the County Registrar.
- When an election or referendum is called there is an opportunity to have names added to the Supplementary Register – closing date for this process is normally 14 days before polling day.

Completed application forms will be accepted by Monaghan County Council at any time of the year and will be held on file and updated at the preparation of the next draft or supplement to the Register.

Members of the public are reminded that they should check the Register of Electors to ensure that they are registered to vote. They can do this online at www.checktheregister.ie or at any local authority offices, post offices or garda stations in the county.

Clr Cathy Bennett asked:

11. In relation to play parks within the county, have Monaghan County Council made full use of the match funding available? Are there any new play parks in plan for County Monaghan for the foreseeable future?

Reply: The Council provides match funding for playgrounds where grants are allocated by the DoECLG or any other source. In addition the Council provides direct funding for playgrounds such as Killygoan, Monaghan, Cloughvalley, Carrickmacross and also provides playgrounds in new housing developments.

12. With regards to the LIS Scheme, does Monaghan County Council envisage that this scheme will commence again?

Reply: Operation of the LIS Scheme is contingent on an allocation of funding from the Department and if such an allocation is notified in 2015 Monaghan Co. Council will be in a position to proceed with the Scheme.

Clr Noel Keelan asked:

13. In relation to the Non-Principal Private Residence charge that was in place from 2009-2013, (a) How much revenue has been collected to date ?

Reply: € 3,462,940

- (b) Will the Council give a breakdown year by year?

Reply: The following amounts have been paid in respect of the years 2009 to 2013 as follows. Details received from the NPPR Bureau reflect the year the charge was paid for not the year the charge was received

2009	€732,560
2010	€734,240
2011	€685,760
2012	€677,180
2013	€633,200

- (c) What is the total amount, including the high penalties that citizens have committed to pay in the time ahead?

Reply: €233,682.00

- (d) Has all this funding been retained in the county?

Reply: Yes

Cllr Noel Keelan asked:

- 14 In the event of bad weather, will the Council give a report as to how well prepared we are for severe weather; what is the situation regarding the Council's salt supplies?

Reply: The Council has 1750 tonnes of salt in stock. The normal winter maintenance plan will be implemented as in previous years.

- 15 Will the Council agree to put in place a system whereby a Housing official is available 1–2 days a week in the Civic Office in Carrickmacross to deal with and assist the high number of our citizens that are on the Housing Waiting List in the area, as requested by the Members of the Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District?

Reply: The officials in the individual municipal districts have the ability to assist members of the public with general housing queries. Additional guidance documents will be drafted where deficits exist

Where individuals have specific inquiries they should make direct contact with the Housing Office. MCC have a dedicated officer that deals with individual queries for each individual municipal district

- 16 Given how vital the provision of Broadband is in the county, in particular for citizens and the business community in rural areas, will an official of the Council who has knowledge of this very important issue, give a presentation to the November meeting of the County Council, subject to the agreement of the Members?

Reply: This request will be referred to the CPG, the committee responsible for scheduling presentations at Council meetings. A presentation has been agreed and scheduled for the next Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District Council following the proposal of Cllr. Keelan at its September meeting.

- 17 What is the up-to-date position in relation to the 'taking-in-charge' by the Council of the Sliabh Dubh estate in Corduff?

Reply: Monaghan County Council holds a €20,000 bond for the completion of the Sliabh Dubh estate. A portion of the bond monies have been used to commission a CCTV survey of the waste water infrastructure. This was completed in May 2014. This report is currently being considered by Irish Water. The Council shall progress the Taking in Charge application following receipt of this response.

18. Notices of Motion:

This item was not reached. All Notices of Motions were deferred to the November meeting.

19. Votes of sympathy/congratulations:

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

- Patrick Sweeney, Luton on the death of his wife Anna RIP, sister of Frank Treanor, Chairman of the Monaghan Association in Luton.
- Marie and Cyril Smyth on the death of Cyril's mother Christina Smyth,RIP, Chapel Land, Athboy, Co. Monaghan.
- The Leonard Family, Ballybay on the passing of Jim Leonard, a former member of Ballybay Town Commissioners.

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

- Latton O'Rahilly GFC on winning the U-16 Double of League and Championship for 2014
- Clontibret O'Neills GFC on winning the 2014 Gormley uPVC Senior Football Championship.
- Drumhowan GFC on winning the 2014 Universal Graphics Junior Football Championship.
- Donaghmoynne GFC on winning the 2014 Maguire Transport Minor Football Championship.
- Truagh Youth Choir on winning the U-13 and U-16 All Ireland Choir competition.
- Siobhan McKenna on being selected as the Player of the Decade by Truagh Camogie Club.
- Castleblayney Hurling Club on winning the Senior Hurling League final
- The Patrick Kavanagh Centre on the very successful weekend which was attended by the President of Ireland.
- Monaghan Phoenix Club on hosting their inaugural Marathon race event recently.
- Eddie Rudzinkas on winning a silver medal for Ireland at the recent World Cocktail Championships in South Africa.
- Monaghan County Museum on the recent celebrations marking the 40th Anniversary of the Museum.
- The organising committee of the Taste of Monaghan Festival for a very successful event.
- Clones Town FC on finding and bringing home the Lipton Cup after 100 years.
- Emyvale Ladies Club on winning the county League Division 1 championship.

20. Conferences/Training:

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Conlon, it was agreed that the Council be represented at the following conferences/training events by the members listed.

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members Selected
Cross Border Groups Conference	Local Authorities and Cross Border Collaboration & Partnership	Inishowen Gateway Hotel, Bunrana	2 nd October 2014	Cllr. PJ O'Hanlon Cllr D. Maxwell

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members Selected
LAMA Seminar	Autumn Seminar	Inishowen Gateway Hotel, Buncrana	17 th /18 th October 2014	Cllr. Sean Conlon Cllr. Noel Keelan Cllr. Jackie Crowe Cllr. Brian McKenna Cllr. Paudge Connolly Cllr. Hugh McElvaney Cllr. Eugene Bannigan Cllr. David Maxwell Cllr. Aidan Campbell Cllr. Pdraig McNally Cllr. Robbie Gallagher Cllr. Seamus Coyle Cllr. PJ O'Hanlon
AILG	Housing	Hotel Kilmore, Cavan	21 st October 2014	Cllr. Cathy Bennett Cllr. Noel Keelan Cllr. Sean Conlon Cllr. Jackie Crowe Cllr. Colm Carthy Cllr. Paudge Connolly Cllr. David Maxwell Cllr. Eugene Bannigan Cllr. Pdraig McNally
AILG	Inaugural Annual Conference 2014	Hotel Kilmore, Cavan	29 th – 30 th October 2014	Cllr. Sean Conlon Cllr. Pat Treanor Cllr. Noel Keelan Cllr. Colm Carthy Cllr. Jackie Crowe Cllr. Brian McKenna Cllr. Pdraig McNally
AILG	Training Seminar - Planning	Great Northern Hotel, Bundoran	11 th November 2014	Cllr. Cathy Bennett Cllr. Sean Conlon Cllr. Pat Treanor Cllr. Noel Keelan Cllr. Colm Carthy Cllr. Jackie Crowe Cllr. Brian McKenna Cllr. Paudge Connolly Cllr. David Maxwell Cllr. Eugene Bannigan Cllr. Seamus Coyle

Urgent Business:

It was agreed to discuss the following notices of Urgent Business:

1. Notice in the names of Cllrs S. Coyle, P.J. O’Hanlon and R. Gallagher.

That Monaghan County Council demand the full retention and expansion of the Department of Social Protection, Public Services Card (PSC), retaining all jobs at the location on Main Street, Ballybay, as committed to by Government in 2012.

This motion, if adopted, to be forwarded to An Taoiseach, An Tanaiste, the Minister for Social Protection and the local Oireachtas representatives.

In proposing the motion Cllr Coyle referred to correspondence he had received from the Office of the Minister for Social Protection and which he felt contained a strong indication that the Ballybay office was to close. He stated that the business community in the town were worried about the loss of 30 jobs, if these offices were to close, and the impact it would have on the town which had suffered economically and financially over the past number of years. Cllr O’Hanlon seconded the motion.

The Cathaoirleach put the motion to the meeting and it was agreed unanimously.

2. Notice in the name of Cllr P. Connolly, seconded by Cllr H. McElvaney.

That Monaghan County Council calls on Irish Water to desist from demanding PPS Numbers from adults and children as a means of allocating a water allowance to customers.

In moving the motion Cllr Connolly stated that Irish Water was demanding a great deal of personal information from customers in the application forms that are currently being circulated. There would then be a significant amount of personal information would be in the possession of Irish Water and he feared for its usage should the new utility be sold off to another private concern in the future. Cllr B. McKenna seconded the motion.

The Cathaoirleach put the motion to the meeting. A vote by show of hands resulted in 9 for 0 against 1 abstention. The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Meara Meetings Administrator

Date: _____