

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in Mtek Building, Knockaconny, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday 4th September, 2006, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Cllr P McNally, Mayor

Present: *Cllrs Bannigan, Carville, Conlon, Coyle, Crowe, Gallagher, Humphreys, Keelan, Keenan, Kieran, Martin, Maxwell, McAnespie, McElvaney, O'Brien, P. McKenna, B. McKenna, and Treanor.*

Mr. D. Nelson, Co. Manager M/s M. Fitzpatrick, A. King and P. Clifford Directors of Service, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr Patrick Johnson, Senior Engineer, Mr Drew Hurley, Planning, Mr Jerome Savage, A/Financial Management Accountant, Ms C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator, Ms. A. Mackle, Acting Staff Officer.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

Amendments:

Part VIII, Ballybay Streetscape – Improvement works at Main Street and Castleblayney Road, Ballybay

Cllr Bannigan requested that the last line of the final paragraph on page four of the minutes of the July Council meeting be amended by the inclusion of the words “*but this consultation did not include discussion about the traffic lights*” after the word consultation. This was agreed.

Proposed Variation to County Development Plan 1999:

Cllr Martin requested that the minute on page six relating to item 6(ii) (second paragraph, first line be amended to read as follows “Cllr Martin said that he understood that there was no interest in a link road at present but the need *may* arise in the future”. This was agreed

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr P. McKenna it was agreed that the Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 3rd July, 2006, be confirmed, subject to the amendments outlined above.

Matters Arising

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed that Matters Arising be listed on every Council agenda and this item would be dealt with at 12.45 a.m. at each monthly meeting.

2. Correspondence

- Letter from Taoiseach, Mr. Bertie Ahern T.D in relation to a letter of forwarded by the members regarding Mr. Peadar McMahan

- Letter from the Tanaiste and Minister for Health, Mary Harney TD acknowledging receipt of a letter from the Member supporting Mr. Peadar McMahon
- Letter from Mr. Chris Lyons in relation to Peadar McMahon's letter to the Tanaiste and Minister for Health Mary Harney TD.
- Letter from Mary Coughlan, TD concerning costings for the Pollution Control Grant Scheme.
- Letter from Mr. Dick Roche, TD, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government office regarding farm plastic collection
- Letter from Minister for Agriculture and Food, Ms Mary Coughlan, TD office regarding standard costings under the farm Waste Management Scheme.
- Letter from Cathy Bruton, Private Secretary to Minister Dick Roche regarding Farm Plastics
- Letter from B. Corcoran, Chief Superintendent Personal Assistant to the Commissioner regarding the enforcement of waste disposal legislation
- Letter from Cathy Bruton, Private Secretary to Minister Dick Roche, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, regarding derelict houses.
- Letter from the Rape Crisis & Sexual Abuse Centre requesting some time at the next Council meeting to make a presentation
- Letter from the North Eastern regional Drugs Task Force requesting an opportunity to make a presentation at the next Council meeting.
- Letter from Ballybay Town Council regarding a resolution
- Letter from Clones Town Council regarding a Notice of Motion
- Letter from Jim O'Keeffe T.D. regarding the Ulster Canal
- Letter from Seamus Kirk, T.D. regarding the Ulster Canal
- Letter from Dr Jimmy Devins, T.D. regarding the Ulster Canal.
- Letter from Senator Brian Hayes regarding the Ulster Canal
- Letter from senator Mary O'Rourke, Leader of Seanad Eireann regarding the Ulster Canal
- Letter from John Ellis TD, Co. Leitrim regarding the Ulster Canal.
- Letter from Maria Eagle MP, Belfast, regarding the Ulster Canal.
- Letter from Seymour Crawford TD regarding the Ulster Canal
- Letter from Senator Mary O'Rourke regarding the Ulster Canal
- Letter from Jim Glennon, TD regarding the Ulster Canal.
- Letter from Arthur Morgan, T.D regarding the Ulster Canal.
- Letter from David Hanson's Private Secretary regarding the re-opening of the Ulster Canal.
- Letter from Seymour Crawford, TD regarding the opening of the Ulster Canal.
- Letter from Eamon O'Cuiv, Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs regarding the Ulster Canal
- Letter from Senator Paschal Mooney regarding the Ulster Canal
- Letter from Damien English, T D regarding the Ulster Canal

- Letter from Martin Mansergh, a Member of the British Irish Interparliamentary Body regarding the Ulster Canal.
- Letter from Paul Mooney, Private Secretary, Department of Finance, Mr Brian Cowen, T.D regarding on farm investment.

Temporary Closing of Roads Advertisement

Cllr McElvaney referred to an advertisement placed in the Northern Standard regarding the temporary closure of the N54 Monaghan to Clones Road to facilitate road works being carried out at Smithborough. He objected to traffic being diverted onto narrow roads (eg Drumsnatt – Threemilehouse road) – it should be diverted via Swanns Cross and Newbliss. He requested that the matter be re-examined as these roads could not take such heavy volumes of traffic. He also referred to the unacceptable delays which the road works on the Monaghan bypass were contributing to.

Mr. David Fallon, Director of Road said that he would take Cllr McElvaney’s comments on board in relation to the diversion of traffic from the N54. In relation to the delays caused by works on the Monaghan bypass, the official opening date for the bypass would be the 25th September 2006 and the Minister would be present for the official opening.

Ballybay Town Council Motion

Cllr Bannigan referred to the resolution from Ballybay Town Council, which had been circulated to the Council and to his notice of motion (F) on the agenda paper as follows:

“Due to the continued and unacceptable decline in the number of trading business premises in Ballybay Town this Council calls on Monaghan County Council and Ballybay Town Council to put in place a “Forum” consisting of Local Authority, Business and Voluntary interests in order to try and halt the decline and attract new business into Ballybay”

Cllr Bannigan proposed, Cllr McElvaney seconded that the Council support Ballybay Town Council’s resolution and that this Council puts in place the Forum consisting of Local Authority, Private, Business and Community interests to reverse the decline and attract new business to Ballybay as requested at a meeting of Ballybay Town Council on Monday, 10th July 2006

In proposing the motion Cllr Bannigan said that he hoped a forum could be put in place to assist the business sector in Ballybay. A large number of businesses were closing down therefore new business would need to be attracted to the town. Monaghan County Council should take the lead role in putting the forum in place and the local authority should facilitate the request.

Cllr Coyle, Crowe, O’Brien and Carville spoke in favour of the motion. Cllr Bannigan’s motion was put to the meeting and agreed unanimously.

Mr. Adge King, Director of Services said that he would call a meeting with Ballybay Town Council in order to progress this matter.

Rape Crisis & Sexual Abuse Centre

On the proposal of Cllr Treanor, seconded by Cllr Keelan it was agreed to write to the Rape Crisis & Sexual Abuse Centre and invite them to make a presentation to the Council at the October meeting.

BMW Regional Assembly – Draft Operational Plan 2007-2012

Ms. Carmel Thornton, Meetings Administrator read a notice from Gerry Finn, Director of the BMW Regional Assembly stating that he would make a presentation to the October Council meeting. The Members agreed.

An Garda Siochana

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Keenan, it was agreed that An Garda Siochana be requested to place a continuous patrol in vulnerable areas of the county (ie border areas and quiet country roads) in order to reduce the number of incidents relating to illegal diesel laundering and the illegal movement of waste”

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr P. McKenna, it was agreed to write to Chief Superintendent B. Corcoran, Personal Assistant to the Garda Commissioner to request that all Garda Stations within County Monaghan be continuously manned on a twenty-four basis.

Clones Town Council Motion – Register of Electors

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed to support Clones Town Councils motion, which stated “That this Council calls on the Minister for the Environment Heritage and Local Government, the County Registrar and Monaghan County Council to get the voting register up to date with the correct information”

Carmel Thornton, Meetings Administrator and Michael Fitzpatrick, Director of Services outlined in detail the intensive campaign which is currently being undertaken throughout County Monaghan in relation to the Register of Electors and replied to a number of queries from the Members.

On the proposal of Cllr Keenan, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was agreed that the Government be requested to introduce legislation to ensure that the voters are required to produce a form of identification at polling stations during elections.

North Eastern Regional Drugs Task Force

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr P. McKenna it was agreed to invite Mr. Andrew Ogle from the North Eastern Regional Drugs Task Force to make a presentation at the November Council meeting.

Bawn Latton Transport

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed to invite the Bawn Latton Rural Transport organisation to make a presentation to the Council at the November meeting.

Farm Plastics

In response to a query from Cllr Bannigan in relation to a pilot scheme in operation in other counties for the collection of waste farm plastics, Mr. D. Fallon, Director stated that the Council had received no correspondence from the Department of Environment on the matter; however the Council is very interested in having a similar scheme in Monaghan.

3. Section 183 – Disposal of lands:

(i) Edenamo, Inniskeen

On the proposal of Cllr Keenan, seconded by Cllr Humphreys it was agreed to approve the disposal of 0.0251 acres at Edenamo, Inniskeen in accordance with notice dated 11th August 2006 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

Cllr Martin said he wished to express his gratitude for the circulation of a valuation for the land being disposed of. at Ednamo, Inniskeen.

(ii) Drumharriff, Broomfield

On the proposal of Cllr Keenan, seconded by Cllr Humphreys, it was agreed to approve the disposal of 0.346 acres at Drumharriff, Broomfield in accordance with notice dated 28th July 2006 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

Urgent Business

Ms. Carmel Thornton, Meetings Administrator read out three items of Urgent Business:

1. “That this Council rejects the HSE report on Hospital services in the North East Entitled “A New Direction for Health Care in the North East”
Signed: Cllr McElvaney, Bannigan, Humphreys, Keenan, Carville, Maxwell and McKenna.
2. “That in view of recent developments regarding the further downgrading of services at Monaghan General Hospital this Council hereby demands a meeting with An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, and the Minister for Health and Children, Mary Harney without delay. We do so recognizing that the ultimate responsibility for

the diminution of services at our hospital lies with the government and that the Fianna Fail/PD government has failed time and time again in this regard.

We further call:

- For the rejection of the Teamwork report which, if adopted, will be used as political cover to remove yet more services from Monaghan General Hospital
- An entire reorganization of the Health services in this country to one that recognizes the pivotal role of local hospitals as a central plank of health care provision.

- Such reorganization must be All-Ireland in nature and must essentially be fair and equitable for all citizens regardless of their income or their place of residence. The privatization of our health services must immediately cease.

Monaghan County Council once again calls for the full retention, restoration and development of services at Monaghan General Hospital

Signed: Cllr Brian McKenna, Brenda McAnespie, Sean Conlon, Pat Treanor, Jackie Crowe, Noel Keelan and Matt Carthy

3. "That Monaghan County Council send a formal letter of support to Fermanagh District Council in support of the construction of a Southern by-pass of Enniskillen, a bridge across the Erin, this would be a vital part of the East-West link Route, preferred route as adopted by Monaghan County Council."
Signed: Cllr Seamus Coyle, John O'Brien, Robbie Gallagher and Benny Kierans

It was unanimously agreed to deal with all three motions to discuss Urgent Business.

Urgent Business Item No 1 & 2

Cllr Bannigan proposed Cllr P. McKenna seconded Motion No.1 and outlined the following

- a. This report "A New Direction for Health Care in the North East" was based on recommendations from English based consultants and the opinions of local consultants were not sought.
- b. The report says that larger super regional hospitals are the way to go forward which will take fifteen years to build, what will occur with the health service in the mean time.
- c. The report states that all acute surgery will be based in Drogheda.
- d. Treatment rooms are to be nurse led, not Doctor led.
- e. People should recuperate at home with home help and carers, however these services are difficult to access and resources are poor.
- f. The report goes on to say that the Acute Medical Services at Monaghan hospital will have to be reviewed.
- g. This sums up the future for Monaghan Hospital, if this teamwork report is followed acute medical services will be withdrawn. The hospital will be reduced to a glorified nursing home or rehabilitation centre.

- h. They called on the people of Monaghan to attend a public meeting on September 13th in the Hillgrove Hotel to voice their support for the Hospital Alliance and reject this report. The time for action is now.

Cllr B McKenna proposed, Cllr Treanor seconded Motion No. 2 and outlined the following

- a. The first part of this motion called on the Members to meet with the Taoiseach and Tanaiste, to clarify the situation in County Monaghan.
- b. Chris Lyons had denied that the acute medical services were to be withdrawn, however without surgical cover, medical and ICU treatment was not sustainable. If the ICU is withdrawn all methods for saving peoples lives will be removed.
- c. They called on the Members to support the Fine Gael and the Sinn Fein motions.
- d. There is a new treatment room available at the General Hospital, however after equipping it the HSE said that resources are not available to run it. It would only cost in the region of €200,000 to staff it.
- e. The second part of Sinn Fein’s motion asked for a reorganization of the report to include local hospital support. The action plan talks about developing local services and then goes onto say that all services will be centralized in Drogheda. This situation does not bear well for anyone living in the North Monaghan area, if they were to become ill they would be safer traveling to Northern Ireland to be treated because if they were to try to make it to Drogheda the “Golden Hour” would be lost.

Cllr McElvaney proposed an addendum - that the Council call on the Oireachtas Members to facilitate the meetings being requested with An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern and Minister for Health, Mary Harney to discuss the Monaghan County Hospital situation and that the Oireachtas Members be invited to the October Council meeting to outline progress on the matter. Cllr Bannigan accepted.

The addendum was accepted. The Mayor then put both motions to the meeting. A recorded vote was called for which resulted as follows:

Motion One and Two

For Cllrs O. Bannigan, G. Carville, S. Conlon, S. Coyle, J. Crowe, R. Gallagher, H. Humphreys, N. Keelan, J. Keenan, B. Kierans, V.P. Martin, D. Maxwell, B. McAnespie, H. McElvaney, B. McKenna, P. McKenna, P. McNally, J. O’Brien, P. Treanor.

Total 19

Against: Nil

The Mayor declared the motion carried.

Motion 3

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr O’Brien it was unanimously agreed to send a formal letter of support to Fermanagh District Council in support of the

construction of a Southern by-pass of Enniskillen, a bridge across the Erin as this would be a vital part of the East-West link preferred route as adopted by Monaghan County Council.

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

(i) 06/8006 – provision of traffic calming measures along a 1.0km section of the N2 National Primary Route, through the town lands of Glennyhorn, Carrickaderry and Gallagher.

Cllr Carville proposed, Cllr McAnespie seconded that the Council approve the proposed development as per Director's report dated 25th August, 2006.

The Mayor put the motion to the meeting which was agreed by the Council with the exception of Cllr McElvaney who stated he was opposed citing that he felt these traffic calming measures were dangerous particularly where signs/bollards were dirty or where they were not properly lit

David Fallon, Director of Services said that the maintenance of traffic calming signs had been removed from the local authority and given to the NRA.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed to write to the National Roads Authority to ask them to wash and maintain all road signs on a regular basis.

On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr P. McKenna it was agreed to ask the County Engineer David Fallon, to negotiate with the NRA to have a footpath and lights installed between the Village of Clontibret and St. Mary's church and to provide a footpath on the Keady road.

(ii) 06/8001 – Carrickmacross Waste Water Collection System

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr Keenan it was agreed to approve the Director's Report dated 25th August 2006 on the proposed construction of a waste water pumping station, connection to public services, erection of palisade fencing and all associated site works at Tullynaskeagh West, Drumconrath Road, Carrickmacross.

(iii) 06/8002 – Carrickmacross Waste Water Collection System

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr Keenan it was agreed to approve the Directors Report dated 25th August 2006 on the proposed construction of a waste water pumping station, connection to public services, erection of palisade fencing and all associated site works at Drummond Otra, Dundalk Road, Carrickmacross.

(iii) 06/8003 – Carrickmacross Waste Water Collection System

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr Keenan, it was agreed to approve the Director's Report dated 25th August, 2006 on the proposed construction of a waste water pumping station, connection to public services,

erection of palisade fencing and all associated site works at Lisanisk, Crossmaglen Road, Carrickmacross.

(iv) 06/8008 – Carrickmacross Waste Water Collection System

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr Keenan it was agreed to approve the Director's Report dated 25th August 2006 on the proposed construction of a waste water pumping station, connection to public services, erection of palisade fencing and all associated site works at Magheross, Carrickmacross.

5. Extinguishment of Public Right of Way at Silverstream, Lisnanore, Co. Monaghan

Cllr Maxwell declared he had an interest in this item and stated that he would not be participating in any debate or vote on the matter.

On the proposal of Cllr B McKenna, seconded by Cllr Bannigan it was agreed to accept the Extinguishment of Public Right of Way at Silverstream, Lisnanore, Co. Monaghan in accordance with Section 73 of the Roads Act 1993.

6. Proposed Takeover of Mullan Group Water Supply Scheme:

The Members considered the report dated 19 July 2006 from Mr. P. Clifford, Director of Water Services recommending the takeover of the Mullan Group Water Supply Scheme. He stated that the Members of the Scheme had requested the Council to take over the scheme. An inspection of the scheme has been carried out and it is in good order and repair.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Bannigan, it was agreed to approve the Takeover of Mullan Group Water Scheme by Monaghan County Council by virtue of Section 6(3) (a) of the Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act 1962.

7. To adopt the Higher Education Grants Scheme 2006:

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna it was agreed to adopt the Higher Education Grant Scheme 2006, as circulated.

8. Playground Grants Scheme 2006

Michael Fitzpatrick, Director of Services said that a fixed grant of €120,000 was being allocated to each County Council to meet the costs of providing playground equipment. Monaghan County Council received five requests (as per report dated 25th August, 2006 which was recommending projects at, four of which (Lakeview Emyvale, Cloughvalley, Ballybay, Beechgrove Lawns)

will be submitted for the grant scheme and the fifth (Cara Street Clones) will be funded from the Councils internal capital receipts.

Cllr Bannigan requested a report on the up to date position in relation to the provision of a playground in the Billy Fox Memorial Park.

On the proposal of Cllr P. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Keenan it was agreed to approve the Playground Grant Scheme 2006 (in principle) in order to comply with the Department of Environments closing date for submissions, 22/09/2006, and to place it on the October Agenda for further discussion

Cllr Coyle proposed, Cllr Bannigan seconded that the Council examine the possibility of having toilets installed in Ballybay Town Park.

9. Percent for Arts Scheme – Bypasses

Mr. A. King, Director updated the Council in relation to this scheme. The Members agreed to commence the process to identify a suitable artist to undertake the art commission for the Carrickmacross Bypass ('Kavanagh Way'). It was agreed that the brief for the artist would be circulated to all members.

11. Nomination of Member to Local Sports Partnership:

Cllr Humphreys proposed, Cllr Carville seconded that Cllr Maxwell be nominated to represent the Council on the Local Sports Partnership

Cllr P. Treanor proposed, Cllr Coyle seconded that the Mayor of the day be the Council's representative on the Local Sports Partnership and if he was unable to attend the Deputy Mayor be nominated.

Cllr Humphreys withdrew her nomination for Cllr Maxwell and Cllr Treanor's motion was unanimously agreed.

12. To fix dates for the following meetings:

(i) Special Planning Meeting:

The Members agreed to hold the Special meeting on the 17th October, 2006 from 10am – 5pm, to consider the submissions on the Draft County Development Plan received during the public consultation process. It was agreed that the Members would received a synopsis of each submission made during the process.

(ii) Offices Working Group:

The Members agreed to hold the next meeting of the Council Offices Working Group in the Ballybay Council Offices at 10.30am on the 18th September 2006

14. Business submitted by County Manager.

The Manager advised that under the East Border Interreg IIIA Tourism Project Festival funding there was €5000 allocated for enhancing local festivals to be used in the last quarter of 2006, at the discretion of Monaghan County Council. Two applications for funding had been received - one from the Sliabh Beagh Walking Festival and one from the Patrick Kavanagh Weekend Festival.

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr Keenan it was agreed that €1,500 be allocated to the Sliabh Beagh Development Association for the Knockatallon walking Festival in October and the remaining €3,500 to the Patrick Kavanagh centre for the Annual Patrick Kavanagh Weekend.

15. Matters arising

Ballybay Streetscape

Cllr Bannigan stated that in relation to the Part VIII Ballybay Streetscape Scheme, a petition had been signed by the businesses in the town to protest against the intended installation of traffic lights.

Traffic problems in Castleblayney

Cllr McElvaney requested that measures be introduced to deal with the serious traffic delays in Castleblayney. Cllrs Crowe and Carville supported this proposal.

David Fallon, Director of Services said that he would follow up this proposal.

It was agreed that the fixing of dates for Road Area Meetings would be an item on the October Agenda

Bye-laws for Jet Skis

Cllr Carville asked when byelaws would come into effect to regulate the use of Jet Skis on Lough Muckno

Mr. David Fallon, Director of Services said that the formal consultation period had ended on this matter and the Council had received twelve submissions – approx. two thirds against Jet Skies and one third for. He said that there were two options – to either regulate them or to ban them. He suggested discussing the matter with the Strategic Policy Committee and bringing a report to the full Council. This was agreed

Irish Language Officer

Cllr Treanor referred to the possibility of recruiting a full time Irish Languages Officer. The Manager said that this item could be placed on the October agenda

Sewerage Works at Latton

Cllr Coyle proposed, Cllr O'Brien seconded that the Council carry out immediate remedial works on the sewerage scheme at the Council Housing scheme at Latton. Cllr Bannigan requested that Doohamlet be included in this proposal. This was agreed

16. Questions

Cllr Heather Humphreys asked:

- (a) “What plans have Monaghan County Council to develop the car park on the already committed site in Newbliss and also provide bring bank facilities in this location?”

Reply: Monaghan County Council intends to develop a car park and bring – bank in Newbliss on lands made available by the Housing section. As of yet no funds have been made available. The Council intends to secure funding from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government for the bring-bank. The funds for the car park will have to come from the Council’s own resources and will be considered in the context of the 2007 estimates.

Cllr Vincent P. Martin asked:

- (b) “Has Monaghan County Council commissioned or carried out any scientific and/or environmental studies with the view to formulating a 'Countywide' policy on the erection of wind turbine and particularly the erection of same on the drumlin hills which are characteristic of the County of Monaghan?”

Reply: The Council Policy for wind turbines is dealt with in the Draft Monaghan County Development Plan 2006 – 2012 which states “When considering planning applications for wind turbines, or wind farms the Council shall have regard to the policy laid out in the DOEHLG’s Wind Energy Development Draft Guidelines, 2005.

The Council will also have regard to the wind contour maps, which have been prepared to assist in choosing suitable operating locations. Section 8.8 Wind Farms of the Draft Monaghan County Development Plans.

Cllr Robbie Gallagher asked:

- (c) “Does the Council have any plans to re-align the Cootehill Road at Leck in the interests of road safety and in view of the number of dangerous junctions there and the volume of traffic that particular road is now seeing?”

Reply: The Council has no plans at present to realign the Cootehill Road, R188, at Leck. However we are presently investigating the possibility of improving the junction where the county road LT56001, locally known as the Beaghkearns road, meets the Cootehill Road.

Cllr Benny Kieran asked:

- (d) “Has Monaghan County Council considered using their existing road identification numbers for all roads, to be placed at the beginning and end of each road for the benefit of improving communication between the general public and the engineering staff. If these numbers were installed, the emergency services, Gardai, and doctors etc could use them. If possible these ID numbers could be introduced into the County Council interactive planning maps?”

Reply: The Council is agreeable in principle to the suggestion from Councillor Kieran. It is intended to have the road numbers on the County Road map displayed in the Councils website. It would be very helpful if the road numbers were to be placed on signposts. The DOEHLG has allocated €50,000 in 2006 for a programme of improved Regional Road signs, which will display local road number where appropriate. The number plates for local roads might be provided on the back of “Stop” or “Yield” signs. The Director of Services will have a scheme prepared and costed as soon as possible and will present it to the Strategic Policy Committee and the Council.

Cllr Owen Bannigan and Cllr Pat McKenna asked:

- (e) “Will Monaghan County Council provide speed ramps on the road from Clontibret Church to the Council housing at Clontibret in order to improve road safety?”

Reply: Yes, the Council will provide the speed ramps as requested. The work will be done within the next few months.

Cllr Seamus Coyle asked:

- (f) “Will Monaghan County Council make an immediate application to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government for an allocation under the Low Cost Accident Improvement Scheme for safety and accident prevention measures to be put in place, at what is known locally as Veldins Cross, Latton, (the junction of the LS 07000 and the LP 03000/1), as this is currently a very dangerous junction, with the increasing volumes of traffic?”

Reply: Monaghan County Council will make application for funding for remedial works at this location.

- (g) “What is the expected date for the completion of the County Council housing scheme at Doohamlet, and when will tenancies be allocated to tenants and affordable homes allocated?”

Reply: It is expected that the housing scheme at Doohamlet will be completed in October 2006. It is intended that the allocation of social units will be made close to the completion of the units. Offers in respect of the 8 affordable houses will be made from the list of approved loan applicants

after the viewing of one of the houses to be arranged in the week commencing 4/9/06.

- (h) “When will the existing County Council Housing Scheme at Doohamlet be connected into the new sewerage/treatment works as the current sewerage system, is a cause of great concern to local residence as a health and safety threat?”

Reply: The existing County Council Housing Scheme at Doohamlet discharges to a septic tank. The septic tank will be removed and the houses connected to the new treatment plant in conjunction with the proposed private development on the adjoining site.

Cllr Pat Treanor asked:

- (i) “In relation to Hollywood Lake, what assistance have the Council given to the Hollywood Lake Development Committee in dealing with the weed problem in the lake? What further action needs to be taken at Hollywood Lake and Lough Oonaigh? When will it happen?”

Reply: The Water quality in Hollywood lake is very good and meets the standards for bathing waters. The problem with weeds has become worse in recent years, however and remedial action is necessary.

The Environment section has been liaising with the Hollywood Lake Development Association for some time. The Executive Chemist sought advice from the Fisheries Board and Waterway Ireland to identify the various species of weeds and on their eradication. Many of the species are invasive and difficult to eradicate.

Monaghan County Council passed on advice to the Development Association on the means of weed eradication, the options being physical or chemical removal. It proved to be too late for chemical removal in 2006 but the Development Association carried out a lot of work in the physical removal of weeds.

The Development Association should contact the Council’s Executive Chemist with a view to timely action for 2007. Any programme of work will require input from the Development Association, Waterways Ireland, Fisheries and Monaghan County. I would suggest that the work itself be carried out by the Development Association in a voluntary capacity.

- (j) In relation to the 999 Emergency call made in the Clones area on Tuesday 8th August, has the Council received a report from all those involved? Are these reports satisfactory? Has the Council reviewed its contract with the CAMP project? What changes are proposed?

Reply: The Fire incident in Clones on the morning of Tuesday 8th August is still being investigated by Monaghan County Council. The Director of Services and the Chief Fire Officer have been in contact with the Eastern

Region Control Centre (ERCC) in Dublin. The Director visited the control centre on Monday 21st August as part of the investigation. The fire service is awaiting a report from the ERCC. There seems to be some confusion as to the time of the initial call but an examination of the ERCC log indicates that it was made at approximately 12.36 a.m. on Tuesday 8th August. There have been reports that it was made at 12.15 a.m. or 12.20 a.m. but this has not been confirmed despite enquiries to the ERCC, Eircom and the Northern Ireland Fire Services.

It is clear, from listening to the recording of calls made during the incident, that the caller generally gave correct initial information at 12.36am. The ERCC operative did not employ a correct interrogation technique and therefore used flawed information in the search processes. He did, however ascertain that nobody had been left in the house. Monaghan Fire Brigade was alerted first and later the Clones Brigade was alerted but with incomplete information. The investigation being carried out by Monaghan County Council will examine the reason for the delay in responding to the call.

The ERCC has taken action to improve their handling of emergency calls and are using the recording of the incident as part of their training sessions. They are also planning to refine the search procedure on their database. It should be noted that a recent call out in Clones, which unfortunately involved a fatality, indicates an emergency call at 5.15 a.m. and mobilisation of the Clones Fire Brigade at 5.22a.m.

The Computer Aided Mobilisation Projects (CAMP); ERCC provides a national emergency call out service, which has been in operation for a number of years under the guidance of the DOEHLG. This was extended to Monaghan in April 2006. Monaghan County Council has expressed its dissatisfaction to the Management of the ERCC regarding the incident and awaits a final report from it.

- (k) The 2004 – 2008 Housing Strategy stated that there were 820 applicants awaiting social housing. How many are on the current waiting list? How many are awaiting E.H.O. reports? The report indicated that by 2006, 356 social units and 75 affordable units would be provided. How many of each have been provided?

Housing waiting list

	Approved applications on housing waiting list at 28/8/06	New applications being processed with EHO for inspection and report	Existing applications with EHO for update
Monaghan County Council	213	29	10
Monaghan Town Council	264	29	0

Castleblayney Town Council	129	13	0
Clones Town Council	91	13	18
Carrickmacross Town Council	106	23	0
Total	803	107	28

The report indicated that by 2006, 356 social units and 75 affordable units would be provided. How many of each has been provided?

Action plan for Social and Affordable Housing 2004-2008
(Note Targets per review of the Social and Affordable Housing Action Plan 2004-2008)

	Social Housing targets 2004-2008	Social Housing outcome 2004-to date	Social Housing units in progress or due to start in 2006	Affordable Housing Targets 2004-2008	Affordable Housing outcome 2004-to date	Affordable Housing units in progress or due to start in 2006
Monaghan County Council	250	155	65	105	81	20
Monaghan Town Council	86	13	4	0	0	0
Castleblayney Town Council	20	16	4	0	0	0
Clones Town Council	48	0	5	0	0	0
Carrickmacross Town Council	16	14	4	0	0	0
Voluntary Housing	293	163	17	0	0	0
Total	713	361	119	105	81	20

Cllr Jackie Crowe asked:

- (l) "In the interest of safety for residents and mass goers at An Corran and Oram Church will Monaghan Council proceed with a footpath from the main road to the Chapel?"

Reply: The pedestrian safety issues will be investigated at this location.

- (m) "With long traffic delays in Castleblayney, the road at Carrickagarvan is been used as a rat run by ever increasing volumes of traffic and many accidents have occurred. Will Monaghan Council put urgent traffic calming measures in place such as ramps to avoid further accidents?"

Reply: The speed survey on the Carrickagarvan Road indicated a general operation speed in the region of 55 KPH for the majority of the road length due to poor horizontal and vertical alignments. Road signs appropriate to the various locations and potential hazards will be erected and roadside hedges will be trimmed. The Garda have no record of accidents in recent months.

18. Conferences

It was agreed that the Council would be represented at the following conferences by the Members indicated:

Conference Budget 2006	€126, 500.00
Expenditure to date	€ 77, 976.00
Balance remaining	€ 48, 524.00

CONFERENCES September 2006

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Approx cost Per member	Members Selected
National Federation of Group Water Schemes	Rural Water Services Conference	Cavan Crystal Hotel, Cavan	13 th September 2006		Brian Mc Kenna
Omagh District Council	Benedict Kiely Literary Weekend 2006	The Silverbirch Hotel, Gortin Road, Omagh	15 th – 17 th September 2006	€400	Hugh Mc Elvaney Benny Kieran Padraig Mc Nally
River Basin District Advisory Councils	Conference on: A Future for our Waters	Conference Centre, County Hall, Cork	29 th September 2006		Brian Mc Kenna
Greystones Town Council	2006 La Touche Legacy Seminar - "Local Authorities and Minorities"	Charlesland Golf & County Club Hotel, Greystones, Co Wicklow	29 th September – 1 st October 2006	€700	Vincent P. Martin David Maxwell Gary Carville Pat Mc Kenna Owen Bannigan Hugh Mc Elvaney John O Brien Seamus Coyle Jackie Crowe Padraig Mc Nally
All Ireland Nuclear Free Local Authorities Forum	Autumn Seminar – A New UK Nuclear Programme: Implications for Ireland	Conference Room, The 'D' Hotel, Drogheda	30 th September 2006	€200	Brian Mc Kenna
Kerry Life Education Ltd	Getting a Grip 2006	The Brehon Hotel, Killarney, Co Kerry	5 th & 6 th October 2006		Matt Carthy
Association of Irish Regions	"Sustainable Energy – The Untapped Resource of Our Regions"	The Radisson SAS, Hotel & Spa, Ballinac, Rosses Point Road, Sligo	6 th October 2006	€450	Vincent P. Martin David Maxwell Pat Mc Kenna Owen Bannigan John Keenan Hugh Mc Elvaney Benny Kieran Noel Keelan Padraig Mc Nally

Donegal County Council	Neil T. Blaney Autumn School 2006 – What is Republicanism	Letterkenny Institute of Technology	13 th & 14 th October 2006	€400	Vincent P. Martin Gary Carville Owen Bannigan John Keenan Heather Humphreys Seamus Coyle John O'Brien Benny Kieran Padraig Mc Nally
------------------------------	--	--	---	------	--

19. Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations

Votes of Sympathy:

The Members agreed to extend a vote of sympathy to

- Mr Phil Ward, Revenue Collector and family on the death of his brother Packie.
- Mrs Agnes Summers and family on the death of her husband David former Council Caretaker
- Mr Adrian Hughes on the death of his brother-in-law Joe O'Toole
- Mr. Kevin McNally, Senior Engineer, on the death of his uncle, the late Dan McNally

A number of members paid tribute to the late David Summers and referred to the kindness and hospitality which he showed towards the Members whilst they were attending meetings or visiting the Council H.Q at the Glen.

The Manager, Declan Nelson said that David was a loyal committed, decent, kind man who had given almost thirty years service to the Council. On behalf of the Council staff he wished to express his sympathy to Agnes and family.

The Manager also joined in the expressions of sympathy to Phil Ward, Adrian Hughes and Kevin McNally.

The votes of sympathy were passed with a minute's silence.

Votes of congratulations:

The Members agreed to extend votes of congratulations to the following

- Donaghmoyne Youth Band on winning the All-Ireland Fleadh in Letterkenny
- St Mary's Band, Broomfield on coming 2nd at the All-Ireland Fleadh in Letterkenny
- The Ceolteoiri Drumlin Group on winning the U-12 Instrumental Music at the All-Ireland Fleadh 2006 in Letterkenny
- George, Clare and Ursula Mc Adam on winning the top Awards at the recent All-Ireland Fleadh in Letterkenny

- Donaghmoyne girls & managers U-15 Outdoor Soccer Team and children and managers of the U-12 Draughts Team who won Silver Medals & Certificates at the Community Games National Final in Mosney.
- Caoimhe Ni Shuibhne on winning gold at the All-Ireland Fleadh in the U12 Piano competition
- Laura Beagan on winning 2nd place at the All-Ireland Fleadh in the Senior Fiddle competition
- All Monaghan Representatives in the recent National Community Games Finals in particular medal and award winners.
- Castleblayney Hurling Club on winning the Monaghan Senior Hurling Championship
- Clontibret GAA Club on winning the U-21 Div I Title.
- Emyvale GAA Club on winning the Div II, Kerley Cup U-21 Title
- Donaghmoyne Ladies on winning the Co Ladies Senior Championship
- Emyvale on winning the Co Ladies Junior Championship
- Daisy Monaghan on winning Gold in the All-Ireland Community Games Gymnastics competition
- Robert Mc Cluskey on winning Gold in the All-Ireland Community Games U8 Art competition
- Magheracloone Girls Olympic Handball Team on winning Gold in the All-Ireland Community Games Final
- Louise Connolly on winning Gold in the All-Ireland Community Games U13 Walk competition
- Boys U16 Marthon Team on winning Gold in the All-Ireland Community Games Final
- Tydavnet U15 Boys Soccer Team on winning Gold in the All-Ireland Community Games Final
- Kilmore/Drumsnatt U14 Boys Relay Team on winning Gold in the All-Ireland Community Games Final
- Adam Duffy on winning Silver in the All-Ireland Community Games U10 Art competition
- Muireann O Rourke on winning Silver in the All-Ireland Community Games U12 Art competition
- Adam Mackin on winning Silver in the All-Ireland Community Games U14 Gymnastics competition
- Magheracloone Boys U13 Olympic Handball on winning Silver in the All-Ireland Community Games Final
- Donaghmoyne Girls U15 Soccer Team on winning Silver in the All-Ireland Community Games Final
- Andrew Jackson on winning Bronze in the All-Ireland Community Games U12 Gymnastics competition
- Julianne Mc Mahon on winning Bronze in the All-Ireland Community Games U16 Swimming competition
- Sarah Capaldi on winning Bronze in the All-Ireland Community Games U8 60 metres competition
- Magheracloone U10 Draughts Team on winning Bronze in the All-Ireland Community Games Final
- Donagh U11 Tag Rugby Team on winning Bronze in the All-Ireland Community Games Final

- Aisling Mc Elvaney on winning Bronze in the All-Ireland Community Games U14 Art competition
- Carmel Connolly on winning Bronze in the All-Ireland Community Games U16 Gymnastics competition
- Carrickmacross U13 Boys Rounders Team on winning Bronze in the All-Ireland Community Games Final
- Truagh U13 Boys Handball Team on winning Bronze in the All-Ireland Community Games Final
- Killeevan Gymnastics Team on winning Bronze in the All-Ireland Community Games Final
- Carrickmacross U13 Basketball Team on winning Bronze in the All-Ireland Community Games Final
- Donagh U14 Tag Rugby Team on winning Bronze in the All-Ireland Community Games Final
- Patrick Mc Kenna on winning a gold medal at the special Olympics.
- Pauric Duffy on his appointment by the GAA as Player's Welfare Officer.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____ **Meara** _____ **Meetings Administrator**

Date: _____