

**Minutes of meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Mtek Building,  
Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2011 at 10.00 a.m.**

**Chair:** Cllr S. Coyle, Mayor.

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

Mr. D. Fallon, A/County Manager, Mr. P. Clifford, Mr. D. Treanor, Directors of Service, Mr. J. McNally, A/Head of Finance, Mr. K. McNally, Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. S. MacConghail, Arts Officer, Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

*At the outset, the Mayor proposed a vote of sympathy to Cllr Padraig McNally on the death of his mother Teresa, RIP, who passed away the previous week. Cllr O'Hanlon seconded the proposal.*

A number of members expressed their sympathy to Cllr McNally, as did the A/County Manager on behalf of the staff. The motion was passed unanimously.

Cllr McNally thanked all present for the expressions of sympathy and support and for their attendance at the wake and funeral.

The Mayor also proposed a vote of sympathy to Ms. Helen Martin, a member of the Council's staff currently based in Castleblayney Town Council, on the sad and tragic death of her husband Adrian, RIP in an accident in Clare. He proposed that a vote of sympathy be also extended to the Martin family, the Chief Superintendent and his colleagues in Clones Garda Station. Cllr O'Hanlon seconded the proposal which was agreed unanimously.

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

A minutes silence was observed, following which the meeting adjourned for ten minutes as a mark of respect.

On resumption the Mayor stated that he had received a notice of urgent business from Cllr Conlon and the Sinn Fein members, as follows:

*“ That Monaghan County Council write to the Football Association of Ireland expressing its disappointment at the punitive measures imposed on Monaghan United Football Club manager Roddy Collins and the potential negative impact it will have on that team, as a result of opinions he expressed as guest commentator on a recent RTE radio sports programme. An appeal against these measures is scheduled for this Thursday. ”*

*Cllr B. McKenna proposed, Cllr S. McKenna seconded that the motion be taken as urgent business.*

In accordance with Standing Order 14.2 the Mayor put the proposal to the meeting. A vote by show of hands resulted in 7 for 11 against, 1 abstention.

As the proposal had not received the support of one half of the members of the Council the Mayor deemed it to have been defeated.

## **1. Confirmation of Minutes:**

### **(i) Minutes of Council Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2011**

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Carville, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2011 be confirmed.*

### **(ii) Minutes of Special Council meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2011**

*On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr Gallagher, it was agreed that the minutes of the Special Council meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2011, be confirmed.*

## **2. Correspondence:**

The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda:

- Letter from the Office of Public Works in relation to the EU Floods Directive/Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Education and Skills in relation to changes to the Student Grants Scheme 2011.
- Email from Heather Humphreys, TD in relation to the N2 Clontibret to the Northern Ireland border road realignment project.
- Letter from Eirgrid in relation to the North-South 400 kv Interconnector
- Letter from the Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government in relation to possible health effects of exposure to electromagnetic fields from power lines.
- Letter from Brendan Smyth, TD in relation to the N2 Clontibret to the Northern Ireland border road realignment project.
- Letter from Halfcrown Publications seeking support for the nomination of David Norris for President.
- Letter from Joseph Duffy, seeking the Council's support for his nomination to contest the forthcoming Presidential election.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Office of the Minister for Social Housing and Planning in relation to unfinished housing developments.
- Letter from the Minister for the Environment Community and Local Government in relation to rates on commercial properties.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in relation to the Ulster Canal restoration.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Office of An Taoiseach in relation to the forthcoming Presidential election.

- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Training and Skills in relation to the school transport scheme.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform in relation to the use of An Post for Banking Services.
- Letter from the Inland Fisheries Board re illegal poaching of coarse fish from lakes in County Monaghan.
- Letter from AIB Group regarding Cloughvalley Stores Limited.
- Letter from the Office of the Taoiseach re Cloughvalley Stores Limited.
- Letter from the Minister for Finance re Cloughvalley Stores Limited.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources regarding the Eirgrid Interconnector.
- Letter from Minister of State Fergus O'Dowd, T.D., regarding costs arising from the Eirgrid Interconnector oral hearing.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the office of An Taoiseach regarding costs arising from the Eirgrid Interconnector oral hearing.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Agriculture Fisheries and Food regarding the closure of Ballybay Agricultural office.
- Resolution from Cobh Town Council in relation to a posthumous pardon to all those who were incarcerated as convicts on Spike Island.
- Letter from Heather Humphreys TD regarding funding for unfinished housing developments.
- Letter from Brendan Smith TD enclosing letter from the Minister for Transport regarding the N2 Clontibret to the border realignment project.
- Letter from the National Roads Authority to the A/County Manager regarding signage for Monaghan on the M1.
- Letter from Cumann Peil Gael na mBan Coíste Chontae Mhuineacháin seeking assistance towards its All Ireland Fooball Final match with Cork on 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2011.

**Proposals arising out of correspondence:**

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that the Council write to the Department of Education and Skills seeking a copy of the Value for Money Review of the School Transport Scheme.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Connolly seconded by Cllr S. Treanor it was agreed that the Council write again to the National Roads Authority expressing its disappointment that there are no immediate plans to have Monaghan listed in signage on the M1 motorway and requesting that the matter be re-considered.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Connolly seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that the Council support the motion from Cobh Town Council calling on the Minister for Justice and the British Home Secretary to issue a posthumous pardon to all those adults and children who were incarcerated as convicts on Spike Island and elsewhere having been convicted of crimes in relation to stealing food, in particular during the Great Famine. And further that all local and County Councils be encouraged to make similar calls.*

*On the proposal of Cllr S. Treanor seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that the A/County Manager would meet with officials of the Inland Fisheries Board in relation to illegal poaching of coarse fish in the county and that a member of Rossmore Coarse Angling Club be invited to the meeting.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Keelan, it was agreed that the Council write to the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government and the Minister for Finance requesting that local authorities be given the power to waive payment of commercial rates where ratepayers are experiencing serious financial difficulties.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that the letter from Cumann Peil Gael na mBan Coíste Chontae Mhuineacháin be referred to the Corporate Policy Group for consideration.*

**3. To approve borrowing for Water Services Capital Programme.**

*On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Connolly it was agreed that the Council approve borrowings for the Water Services Capital Programme in the following amounts -*

<i>Carrickmacross Water Supply Scheme</i>	<i>€2,200,000</i>
<i>Water Conservation</i>	<i>€ 250,000</i>
<i>Monaghan Waste Water – Old Cross Square</i>	<i>€ 800,000</i>
<i>Carrickmacross Sewerage Treatment Scheme</i>	<i>€1,750,000</i>

**4. To consider Section 183 Notice - Disposal of 0.0636 acres of land at Newbliss**

*On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal of 0.636 acres of land at Newbliss to Mrs. Jane Flynn, Newbliss, in accordance with the terms of notice dated 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2011 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.*

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

(i) To consider granting permission for the easement, realignment, improvement and overlay of the N2 National Primary Road between Coolkill East and Corracrin –

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

*On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr S. McKenna, it was agreed that the Council grant permission for the easement, realignment, improvement and overlay of the N2 National Primary Road between Coolkill*

*East and Corracrin to comply with the Director's Report dated 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2011 and in accordance with Part VIII of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2001 and subject to the following amendment –*

*“that the old N2 from the proposed Enagh South junction at Chainage 2460 runs one-way from its junction with the proposed N2 southbound to its junction with the proposed N2 at Chainage 2140”.*

**6. To approve Draft Variation No.19 – Incorporation of Core Strategy into Monaghan County Development Plan 2007-2013.**

Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner commenced with a brief synopsis of the draft Core Strategy. He stated that the Planning Officials had held a number of meetings with the parties/groupings over the past number of months and that there was agreement from the parties/groupings to go to public consultation in relation to the draft Core Strategy. He stated that the principal objective of the Core Strategy is to articulate a medium to long term quantitatively based strategy for the spatial development of County Monaghan, and in doing so, demonstrate that the development plans and their objectives are consistent with the national and regional development objectives set out in the NSS and RPG's. Mr Hughes also advised that the text of this document would be incorporated into Chapter 3 of the current Development Plan.

He further stated that following consideration by Monaghan County Council the document will also be considered by the Town Councils. He stated that it was anticipated that the variation would proceed to public consultation in October, with a Manager's Report on any submissions received being presented to the Councils in December.

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Murray it was that Monaghan County Council proceed to public consultation in relation to the proposed variation of Monaghan County Development Plan 2007-2013 to incorporate the draft Core Strategy.*

**7. To consider Manager's Report in respect of proposed reduction of electricity infrastructure charges under Development Contributions Scheme 2008-2012**

Mr. P. Clifford, Director of Planning Services circulated a copy of the Manager's Report in relation to the proposed revision of electricity infrastructure charges under the Development Contributions Scheme 2008 – 2012. He stated that following a presentation from ESB Networks Ireland to the Council's Planning Strategic Policy Committee (SPC), the SPC recommended to the Council that the charge applied to electricity pylons carrying power below 400kv (€20,370 per pylon) be removed from the Development Contribution Scheme.

The recommendation of the SPC was considered by the Corporate Policy Group at its meeting in March 2011 when the CPG recommended that a development charge be retained in respect of electricity pylons carrying power below 400kv

but that it be reduced from €20,370 to €2,037. Monaghan County Council at its meeting in April accepted the recommendation of the CPG and agreed that the proposed revision be put to public consultation.

Mr. Clifford stated that no submissions were received during the public consultation period. The Manager's Report recommends that the development contribution charge in category 5(n) relating to the provision of overhead transmission or distribution lines for conducting electricity that carry power less than 400kv be reduced from €20,370 to nil per pylon.

*Cllr Carthy proposed, Cllr P. Treanor seconded, that the Council adopt the amended policy agreed at the April 2011 meeting – that the development contribution charge in category 5(n) relating to the provision of overhead transmission or distribution lines for conducting electricity that carry power less than 400kv be reduced from €20,370 to €2,037 per pylon.*

*Cllr Maxwell proposed, Cllr O'Hanlon seconded that the Manager's Report be adopted as presented.*

*The Mayor put Cllr Carthy's proposal to the meeting. A recorded vote was called for and it resulted as follows:*

**For:** Cllrs Carthy, Conlon, Crowe, Gallagher, Keelan, B. McKenna, S. McKenna, McNally, O'Brien, P. Treanor and S. Treanor. **Total 11**

**Against:** Cllrs Bannigan, Carville, Connolly, Coyle, Maxwell, McElvaney, McPhillips, Murray and O'Hanlon. **Total 9**

The Mayor declared Cllr Carthy's proposal carried. Given the outcome of the vote, Cllr Maxwell's proposal was not put to the meeting.

**8. To consider Managers report on preparation of Draft Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019 and accept Strategic Directions from Elected Members.**

Mr. A. Hughes referred to the Manager's reports on submissions received in response to the publication of the Issues Paper and the Strategic Environmental Issues Paper relating to the review of the current County Development Plan and the preparation for the County Development Plan for the period 2013-2019. These reports had been circulated at the July Council meeting. Mr Hughes stated that the Manager would welcome directions from the members in relation to the preparation of the draft Monaghan County Development Plan but stressed that any directions to the Manager should be strategic in nature and must not relate to zoning of specific parcels of land.

Cllr S Conlon raised issues around protection of water quality and mentioned growing concerns regarding the hydraulic fracturing process know as 'fracking' which involves injecting water and other liquids into the ground at high pressure to extract gas and oil from fissures below the surface of the earth. He stated that

the rights of people need to be protected and that advice should be sought from representatives of Lough Allen Protection Group.

*On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna it was agreed that if and when Tamboran Resources requests an opportunity to give a presentation to the Council that an equal opportunity is afforded to spokespersons of groups opposed to hydraulic fracturing (fracking).*

Cllr P Treanor stated that balanced development was important in the west and mid west of the county and that policies/incentives were needed to favour development in these areas. He added that comments made in this respect should be built upon by investigating best practice in other areas.

Cllr Murray stated that the County Economic Strategy 2010-2014 should be incorporated within the development plan.

Cllr B McKenna raised concerns that the status of 'Hubs' in the National Spatial Strategy appeared to be under threat.

Mr. Hughes stated that the Department had not issued any correspondence to Monaghan County Council regarding this.

**9. To fix date for Special Meeting re Presidential nomination.**

It was agreed that a Special Meeting of the Council would be held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2011 at 10.30 am in the VEC meeting room, to consider the nomination of a candidate for the Presidential election.

**10. To approve recommendations from Corporate Policy Group.**

*On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2011 be adopted.*

**11. To receive reports from Members attending Conferences**

The Members noted the reports from Cllrs Bannigan, Carthy, Conlon, Connolly, Coyle, Crowe, Gallagher, Keelan, Maxwell, McElvaney, B. McKenna, McNally, McPhillips, Murray, O'Brien, O'Hanlon and P. Treanor in relation to their attendance at the following conferences –

- Performance Management for Councillors, Westport, Co. Mayo.
- Byrne Perry Summer School, Gorey, Co. Wexford.
- Magill Summer School, Glenties, Co. Donegal
- William Carleton Summer School, Clogher, Co. Tyrone
- Parnell Summer School, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow.

- Irish Language Training Seminar, Gweedore, Co. Donegal
- Peace III Conference, Derry City, Co. Derry.
- Tipperary Peace Convention, Ballykisteon, Co. Tipperary
- Housing Practitioners Conference, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.
- Inaugural Water Metering Summit, Croke Park Centre, Dublin.
- Irish Food and Agribusiness Conference, Croke Park, Dublin

## **12. Proposed Eirgrid 440kv Interconnector:**

The Members were circulated with a detailed response from Eirgrid to the questions raised by the Member during the presentation by Eirgrid officials at the Council meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2011. It was agreed that the Eirgrid sub-committee would be re-constituted and that it would comprise the members from the Carrickmacross and Castleblayney electoral areas together with any other member who wishes to attend. It was further agreed that the sub-committee would examine the responses given by Eirgrid.

A meeting of the sub-committee was agreed for Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2011 at 7 pm at a Castleblayney venue.

*On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Carthy, it was agreed that the Council would write back to the Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government enquiring –*

1. *Does he stand over the comments made by Eirgrid that it was simply impossible for the level of emissions associated with power-lines to cause cancer?*
2. *When did he request the Review to be carried out?*
3. *Why did he copy the letter of July 13<sup>th</sup> to Eirgrid?*
4. *Is it normal policy to copy correspondence to Eirgrid?*

*On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed that the Council write to the Oireachtas Members in relation to a refund of expenses to community groups involved in the Eirgrid oral hearing.*

## **13. Business submitted by County Manager**

### **Lough Muckno/Hope Castle:**

The A/County Manager referred to discussions that had taken place over the summer months in relation to Castleblayney Faughs GFC acquiring the lands currently being occupied by the Castleblayney Golf Club. He stated that the Council's objective is to get all lands on the estate back into its ownership and that the Council has made no commitment to either club.

It was agreed that a meeting of the Muckno sub-committee would be held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 2 p.m. in the Council Offices, The Glen.



It was further agreed that a meeting of the Castleblayney Courthouse Working Group would be held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 3.30 p.m. in the Council Offices, The Glen.

In response to a query from Cllr O'Hanlon regarding the future operation of the Council's landfill at Scotch Corner, Mr. Fallon stated that he would bring a report to the Council at the October meeting.

**14. Matters arising out of minutes of Council meetings held on 4<sup>th</sup> July and 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2011.**

Matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meetings held on 4<sup>th</sup> July and 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2011 were responded to by the relevant officials.

The Mayor advised the Council that both A. King, Director of Services and he travelled to Prince Edward Island at the end of July to attend the Irish Festival there. They had a very enjoyable experience.

Cllrs Conlon and Maxwell stated that another group of people from Canada would shortly be visiting the county in addition to a number of other groups that had already visited this year.

*Cllr Conlon proposed that a sub-committee would pursue the preparation of an information pack detailing the twinning links between Monaghan and various Canadian communities which should also include tourism literature on the county. This would open up further promotion and marketing opportunities and could be made available at Irish festivals in Canada. He also proposed that the specific genealogy research available through the County Library and other sources should be made known to visitors. Cllr Maxwell seconded the proposal which was agreed by the Council.*

Cllr B. McKenna suggested that the Council's Twinning Committee along with the Tourism Officer could look at these proposals.

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna it was agreed that the Council hold a special meeting on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2011 to consider the nomination of a candidate to contest the forthcoming Presidential Election.*

**15. Questions:**

**Cllr R. Gallagher asked:**

1. Would the Council, in conjunction with the appropriate local agencies, consider the setting up of a phone line or access point for potential new businesses such as the Get Your Business Going / The Leitrim ONE CALL to Success which gives access to all the information needed on what local agencies have to offer to people setting up their own business?

**Reply: Yes the Economic Working Group has discussed this possibility and both John McEntegart, Monaghan County Enterprise Board and the Council have been in negotiations as to how this could be practically undertaken.**

**Cllr P. McNally asked:**

2. What information has this Council gathered from its enquiries about the use of secret cameras at litter black spots as requested by a Council motion recently?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council purchased a CCTV system in 2006 and has used it effectively to detect and aid in the prosecution of persons involved in illegal dumping. The Council has placed an order for an updated system of a type currently being used by other local authorities.**

3. Has this Council received an update recently from the Consultants dealing with the Cavan/Dundalk road upgrade, especially the sections of road between Shercock to Carrickmacross and Carrickmacross to Essexford junction?

**Reply: The preliminary design for the scheme is being progressed and subject to funding being available for the coming year it is expected that the preliminary designs will be completed by November 2012.**

**Cllr P. Connolly asked:**

4. How many houses in County Monaghan are being serviced by their own septic tanks?  
(I believe the 2006 census indicated 10,096 --possibly changed since that)

**Reply: The full census results for 2011 have not been published so there is no definitive update on this figure.**

5. (a). Following the recent European Court of Justice ruling has there been any request from the Department of the Environment to Monaghan County Council for submissions in relation to the implementation of sewage and waste water treatment systems?

**Reply: Yes**

5. (b). Have Monaghan County Council made any submissions to the Department of the Environment regarding the proposed new inspection and monitoring system for septic tanks and other waste water treatment systems?

**Reply: Yes. Local Authority submissions were co-ordinated through the CCMA.**

- (c). Are any additional resources been made available to local Authorities to

enable them to roll out a system requiring an intensive review of all single house septic tank systems?

**Reply:** *There are none at present.*

**Cllr P. Connolly asked:**

6. To ask Monaghan County Council for an update in relation to improving road safety at Knockconan National School Ballyosin and whether any funding will be made available from the recently announced €120,000, and upcoming €120,000, for improving road safety near schools?

**Reply:** *An application for funding for a Low Cost Safety Improvement Scheme at this location for the current was not successful. The funding of €120,000 was granted for the following initiatives, provision of pedestrian crossings at four schools participating in the Green Schools programme and for the removal of twenty roadside obstacles which pose a safety hazard.*

7. In relation to the recent Government funding initiative to tackle unfinished housing developments to ask for a progress report in relation to unfinished developments in Co. Monaghan?

**Reply:** *Works at Chapel Court, Carrickroe have been completed. Notices have been served and works commenced at Forest Walk, Mullaghmat, Monaghan. Notices have been served and works will commence shortly at Wylie's Hill, Ballybay.*

8. This question was withdrawn.

**Cllr B. McKenna asked:**

9. Will Monaghan County Council examine the feasibility of erecting a safety barrier along the road from Killyneil Cross to the filling station at Tamlat? There are no verges on this section of road, a number of vehicles have gone off this road in recent times, and unless something is done quickly we could have fatalities in the future.

**Reply:** *The Council will examine the feasibility of erecting a safety barrier at this location. In the interim the Council intend to make an application under the Low Cost Safety Improvement Scheme funding to the Department of Transport to provide measures to give advance notice to road users of the road layout.*

10. What, if any, regulations/restrictions are there currently under the Roads Act or any other Act in relation to the erecting of barbed wire fencing along a public road?

**Reply:** *Section 70 of the Roads Act provides that any owner or occupier of any land shall take reasonable steps to ensure that any structure or use of a*

*structure does not cause a hazard or potential hazard to road users or to the safe use or maintenance of a public road.*

*The Act provides where a structure (or tree, shrub or vegetation) is a hazard or potential hazard that the road authority may serve a notice on the owner or occupier to remove the hazard.*

*The Barbed Wire Act of 1893 gave similar powers to a local authority but was specifically concerned with barbed wire fences.*

**Cllr M. Carthy asked:**

11. Will the Council make a statement outlining the up-to-date position regarding the Aghavilla junction on the N2 Carrickmacross – Castleblayney Rd; when is it envisioned that additional traffic movements will be facilitated at this junction?

*Reply: It is now proposed to amend the junction layout to allow traffic turn left out onto the N2 towards Monaghan in addition to the left in movement currently in allowed.*

*The Council intends to apply to the National Roads Authority for an allocation to have these works included in the 2012 roads programme.*

12. Further to my previous questions in this regard will the Council give an up-to-date report on progress regarding the proposed Group Home for women with physical and sensory disabilities in Carrickmacross? Has the approved Housing Body, Respond, presented the Council and the HSE with revised plans? When is it expected that a formal planning application will be lodged and what is the anticipated timeframe for this Group Home to be completed?

*Reply: Revised plans for the Project were received from Respond in July 2011 and initial feedback was given by the Council immediately. Respond has suggested that some elements of the design may have to be debated with the Department of Environment Community and Local Government (DoECLG). Preliminary appraisal & design brief submission as requested by DoECLG were submitted in August 2011 and there is no feedback from Department yet.*

*The formal application for funding will be lodged once approval is granted by DoECLG to move to the next stage ie Planning. The timescale for completion will be dependant on stage approvals by DoECLG; however if it were assumed that all approvals will be granted within a reasonable period of time then it would be anticipated that the project could be completed within 18 -20 months including the planning process (it should be noted that this is an indicative estimate by Respond and is based on an assumption as outlined above including grant of funding and no objections to Planning) A further meeting is to be arranged in September 2011 between Respond, the HSE and the Council to discuss progress, submissions to DoECLG, design and management of the project and Service Level Agreement required etc.*

**Cllr M. Carthy asked:**

13. Will the Council agree to consider erecting public lighting at Carrickashedoge Community Centre in Magheraclone in the upcoming lighting programme?

*Reply: There is no funding available in this year's programme for these works. These works can be discussed at the next Road Area Committee Meeting held to agree the proposed 2012 roads programme.*

14. Will the Council outline the additional directional signage that will be put in place to advertise and inform motorists of Mannan Castle Golf Club and Driving Range; when will this signage be put in place?

*Reply: Council officials have consulted with Mannan Castle Golf Club and agreement has been reached on a sign location.*

15. At this point how many applications for Higher Education (Student) Grants have been received by Monaghan County Council? Of these how many grant applications are approved, refused and pending? What was the total number of applications received by Monaghan County Council for the academic year 2010/11?

*Reply: 247 new applications have been received by Monaghan County Council to date.*

- *91 have been approved (this figure includes 17 which have been provisionally approved – awaiting Final Course Acceptance forms from students).*
- *3 refused.*
- *32 have been forwarded to County Monaghan VEC.*
- *44 have received further information requests.*
- *77 have been received in the last week and have yet to be processed.*

*328 renewals have been received to date. Exam results are still outstanding for 44 of these students. 1<sup>st</sup> instalment cheques for 284 renewal students will issue to the colleges on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2011.*

*In the academic year 2010/2011, Monaghan County Council received 324 new applications, 206 were awarded, 60 sent to County Monaghan VEC, 48 were refused, 10 were withdrawn.*

*There were 401 Renewals – of these 387 were approved, 2 cancelled and 12 refused.*

**Cllr P. Treanor asked:**

16. What Public Water Treatment supplies in County Monaghan are operated and managed by Veolia?

*Reply: Smithboro, Newbliss and Inniskeen*

**Cllr P. Treanor asked:**

17. In relation to these schemes:

(a) What performance indicators are in place to ensure adherence to EU Drinking Water Regulations?

*Reply: In accordance with the European Communities (Drinking Water) No 2 Regulations, 2007, Monaghan Co Council monitor all public and group water supplies in the county to verify compliance with the range of parametric values specified in the Drinking Water Regulations.*

(b) What are the results for 2009 and 2010?

*Reply: All monitoring results are returned to the EPA for verification of compliance with the Drinking Water Regulations. The EPA publish an Annual Report – The Provision and Quality of Drinking Water in Ireland - in which the results for all supplies in the country are summarised. ‘The Provision and Quality of Drinking Water in Ireland – A Report for the Years 2008 – 2009’ is available at [www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie).*

*Drinking Water Quality monitoring results for water supplies in County Monaghan are also published on our website at [www.monaghan.ie](http://www.monaghan.ie)*

(c) What is the annual operational cost paid to Veolia by Monaghan County Council?

*Reply: The annual operational costs paid to Veolia for each Public Supply varies on the basis of the volume of water produced. For the past 12 months (April 2010 – Mar 2011) the operational costs paid to Veolia for the Public Supplies are as follows*

*Smithboro - €44,731.88; Newbliss - €65,629.34; Inniskeen - €64,973.39*

17. (d) How is this divided between Fixed Standing charge and Variable charge?

	<i>Fixed</i>	<i>Variable</i>
<i>Smithboro</i>	<i>84.7%</i>	<i>15.3%</i>
<i>Newbliss</i>	<i>75.3%</i>	<i>24.7%</i>
<i>Inniskeen</i>	<i>76.5 %</i>	<i>23.5%</i>

(e) What was the cost per PE before Veolia were contracted?

(f) How does this compare with the current cost per unit (PE) at Council operated Water Treatment Plants?

*Reply: In value for money or efficiency assessments on Water Treatment Plants the cost per PE (Population Equivalent) is not a suitable performance metric. A more appropriate metric in Water Supply Schemes is the cost/cubic meter of water produced. Notwithstanding this, the cost of producing and distributing water in the late 1990’s early 2000’s is not comparable to the costs now being paid to Veolia due to ever changing legislation.*

*The present Veolia costs refer only to the abstraction, treatment and delivery of water to the treated water reservoir. The costs incurred by Monaghan Co Council prior to the DBO contract refer to the abstraction, treatment, delivery to the treated water reservoir as well as the distribution, network maintenance and repairs, metering etc.*

*Production costs in County Monaghan vary from €0.43/m<sup>3</sup> to €1.63/m<sup>3</sup>. The larger water treatment plants, namely: Lough Egish RWSS, Monaghan PWS, Carrickmacross PWS and Clones PWS have lower production costs/m<sup>3</sup> primarily because of the scale efficiencies associated with them.*

**Cllr. S. Conlon asked:**

18. Following on from a question submitted at the last meeting regarding the New Brunswick twinning sign removed at Moybridge, similarly, the twinning sign at the Acclint bridge location on the N2 has also recently been removed. Have Council officials been in contact with the National Roads Authority to determine that agency's involvement in these tourism related signs being removed? Is there an inventory of the Council's road signage and have Council officials contacted the Gardai to establish the possibility of criminal involvement in road signs being removed?

*Reply: The Council have contacted the National Roads Authority and they have put forward a proposal for replacement twinning signage at Moybridge.*

*The Council would generally contact the Gardai where signage is stolen*

19. A considerable number of roadside drains and gullies along the main roads into Monaghan are blocked and have sprouted grass. Can a scheduled programme of maintenance be organised to ensure properly functioning storm water drainage as well as assist Tidy Town efforts.

*Reply: These works will be carried out as part of the routine maintenance programme having regard to current programme constraints*

20. Will the Council undertake overdue civil works needed at the Corran, Cootehill Rd. to include:
- a) provision of stop sign and lines
  - b) road surfacing works
  - c) unblocking of gullies
  - d) additional street lighting

*Reply: It is proposed to discuss these works when the Road Area Committee meet to agree the proposed 2012 roads programme.*

**Cllr. N. Keelan asked:**

21. In relation to the many functions carried out by the various sections of Monaghan County Council, how many complaints/submissions per annum, on average, would be made to the Ombudsman questioning decisions and how decisions were made by the Council?

*Reply: The number of complaints against the Council that are referred to the Ombudsman is small. In 2010 there were three complaints submitted. There have been none to date in 2011. The Ombudsman has ruled in the Council's favour in each of the three cases.*

22. In welcoming the resurfacing of many of the approach roads to Carrickmacross, including part of the town's Main Street, when will the Main Street and other streets and roads around the town be completed; will the Council give an overview as to what stage the contract to upgrade the towns sewage and water network is now at.

*Reply: The majority of affected roads are permanently reinstated at this time.*

*The attached schedule details indicative dates for the completion of the remaining permanent reinstatement on roads affected by the P & S Pipelines Contract.*

<b><u>Mullinary Road:</u></b>	<i>(Town Council to complete kerbing and footpaths in advance of permanent reinstatement)</i>	
<b><u>Mullinary Street:</u></b>	<i>Full width</i>	<i>Quarter 3 2011</i>
<b><u>Castle Street</u></b>	<i>Half width</i>	<i>Quarter 3 2011</i>
<b><u>Lower Main Street</u></b>	<i>Trench only</i>	<i>Quarter 3 2011</i>

*The Carrickmacross Sewerage Scheme - Pipelines Contract is 98% complete at this time. The remaining works include:*

- The commissioning of the six wastewater pumping stations,*
- The completion of a number of water / wastewater cross connections between the old distribution / collection systems and the newly constructed services.*
- The construction of a rising main from the Link Road wastewater pumping station to the wastewater treatment plant.*
- Permanent reinstatement.*

23. Given that our housing project in Cloughvalley is progressing well, when is it hoped that the 22 housing units will be completed and ready for occupation?

*Reply: If there are no unforeseen delays it is hoped that the housing project in Cloughvalley will be completed and ready for occupation before the end of 2011.*



**Cllr. N. Keelan asked:**

24. Given that Carrickmacross Civic Building Project is progressing well, will the Council give an overview as to what stage this project is now at?

*Reply: The project will be completed before the end of December 2011.*

25. In relation to water services, on average, what percentage of treated water never gets to the end user as a result of poor water infrastructure; approximately what is the cost to treat a litre of water?

*Reply: The current total county outflow from public water treatment plants is 10,722m<sup>3</sup>/day. Total UFW (Unaccounted for Water) is 2,761m<sup>3</sup>/day or 25.75%. While leakage from Local Authority mains almost always represents the highest proportion of unaccounted for water (UFW); Total UFW percentages also include private leakage on un-metered domestic connections.*

**Cllr A. Murray asked:**

26. Re: Demountable Homes owned by Monaghan Co Council:

- (a) How many are there in the county?
- (b) How many are currently vacant?
- (c) Are the Council in a position to purchase sites where vacant homes are located, if owners are willing to sell and where there is a person in locality on housing list that the home would suit. If possible, this would avoid the substantial cost of moving these homes.

*Reply (a) There are 53 demountable dwellings currently owned by Monaghan County Council*

*(b) There are 16 no demountable dwellings currently vacant 3no of which are very old and cannot be reused due to their poor condition. Another 3no vacant demountable dwellings are to be moved to sites where they are needed when Planning Permission has been granted for the development of the sites. Any surplus demountable dwellings in areas where they are not required are to be moved and reused, stored or disposed of as appropriate.*

*(c) Most of the demountable dwellings provided by the Council are in relatively remote areas on farmland and it is seldom that there are any other Housing Applicants that the sites will suit. The Council does and will consider any viable option available to provide housing however in making any decision it must be borne in mind that the sites for demountable dwellings are provided on a temporary basis free of charge by the applicants, their relatives or neighbours.*

## 16. Notices of Motion:

1. In the absence of Cllr McNally, consideration of this notice of motion was deferred until the next meeting.

2. **Cllr Connolly proposed, Cllr S. Treanor seconded, and it was resolved,**

*“ That in view of the European Court of Justice recent ruling calling for the introduction of new inspection and monitoring systems for septic tanks and other on site treatment systems Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for the Environment to introduce a grant scheme to mitigate the impact of the costs for rural homeowners involved in upgrading/replacing septic tanks.”*

3. **Cllr Carthy proposed, Cllr B. McKenna seconded**

That Monaghan County Council

- acknowledges that this state must introduce a new inspection regime for septic tanks and other private wastewater treatment systems, in order to comply with a 1975 Council Directive on waste (as amended), which the European Court of Justice has ruled that the state has breached;
- Calls upon the government to end its practice of foisting further punitive household charges upon the public
- Calls upon the government to instead establish a body for the purpose of carrying out these inspections through the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government using a €200 million fund that would employ 20 people over ten years, including a €20 million fund to allow for upgrades and refits to septic tanks.
- Calls upon the government to review this after ten years with a view to harmonisation with the 6 Counties system

Cllr Bannigan stated that he was broadly in favour of the motion and the previous one put forward by Cllr Connolly but he cited the self regulatory system that operated in Co. Cavan where there is an onus on people to produce certificates themselves indicating compliance with the septic tank regulations. He proposed an amendment, as follows:

- *that no registration fee applies*
- *that any inspection regime be based on the self regulation system as introduced by Cavan County Council*
- *that where upgrade is necessary due to changed new regulations/conditions introduced since planning permission was granted than grant-aid be available towards the costs involved.*

Cllr McPhillips seconded the amendment.

The amendment was accepted by the proposer and seconder of the original motion, on the basis that in the absence of self-regulation, the proposals put forward therein would apply. The substantive motion was agreed by the Council.

## **17. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations**

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

- Francis and Anna Watterson and family, Derrygasson, Emyvale on the tragic death of Enda, RIP.
- Eugene and Bridget Quigley and family, Dooskey, Smithboro on the death of Sean, RIP
- The family of the late Eugene Monahan, RIP, Faltagh, Swanns Cross, a former member of the Council's outdoor staff.
- Mr. Pat Binns, (former Canadian Ambassador) on the death of his mother Phyllis, RIP.
- The family of the late Martin Kirk, RIP, Inniskeen

It was agreed that the Council congratulate the following:

- Monaghan Ladies U-16 football team on winning the Ulster Football Championship.
- Monaghan Ladies Senior Football team on reaching the All Ireland Final and wishing the team good luck on the 25<sup>th</sup> September.
- Monaghan Junior 'B' Camogie team on winning the All-Ireland Championship for the second year in a row.
- Cremartin Shamrocks GC on winning the Junior Football Championship.
- Monaghan Harps Ladies Club on winning the Intermediate Football Championship
- Inniskeen Ladies on winning the Junior Football championship.
- Fintan Hackett, Cornagilta, Tydavnet on winning the U-15 Ceili band drumming competition at Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann 2011.
- Cavan-Monaghan U-12 league team on winning the Foyle Cup, an internationally prestigious competition.
- Carrickmacross Emmets GFC on winning the U-12 Division 5 competition.
- Co. Monaghan Towns and Villages who have participated in the 2011 Tidy Towns Competition and have not dropped points in the scoring matrix.

## **18. Conferences**

*On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr McPhillips it was agreed that the Council be represented at the following conferences by the members listed.*

<b>Promoting Authority</b>	<b>Subject/ Theme</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Members</b>
<b>LAMA</b>	<b>The Role of Tourism in Economic Recovery</b>	Clonea Strand Hotel Dungarvan	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>nd</sup> September 2011</b>	Cllr Brian McKenna Cllr Paudge Connolly Cllr PJ O’Hanlon Cllr John O’Brien Cllr Hugh McElvaney Cllr David Maxwell Cllr Aidan Murray
<b>Greystones Town Council</b>	<b>Local Democracy – A vision for the future</b>	Charlesland Golf & Country Club Hotel Greystones Co Wicklow	<b>30<sup>th</sup> September – 1<sup>st</sup> October 2011</b>	Cllr Sean Conlon Cllr Pdraig McNally Cllr Robbie Gallagher Cllr Seamus Coyle Cllr Gary Carville Cllr Ciara McPhillips Cllr Owen Bannigan

The meeting then concluded.