

Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on 18th April 2016 at 10.30am in Ballybay Civic Offices, Main Street, Ballybay Co Monaghan.

Members Present Leas-Cathaoirleach Cllr Cathy Bennett, presided

The following members were also present:-Cllrs:- Sean Gilliland, Ciara McPhillips and Pat Treanor

In Attendance Adge King, Director of Services, Kieran Duffy, Executive Engineer, Colin Murphy, Assistant Engineer, Donna Moran, Graduate Engineer, Angela Gallagher, Staff Officer.

Apologies Cllrs:- Hugh McElvaney, Seamus Coyle,
Kevin McNally, Municipal District Co-ordinator

1. Confirmation of minutes of Monthly Meeting

The minutes of the March monthly meeting were proposed by Cllr Pat Treanor and seconded by Cllr Ciara McPhillips.

2. Matters arising from Previous Minutes

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to page 1 of the previous minutes regarding the Ulster Canal and acknowledged the correspondence received from Minister Humphrey's office. Cllr Pat Treanor noted that it was his understanding that the negotiations were currently ongoing regarding the Terms of Reference/to agree the number of meetings to take place.

Cllr Sean Gilliland referred to page 1 of the previous minutes regarding Eirgrid and the 25 new entrances Eirgrid had submitted which were not detailed on their original planning application. Cllr Sean Gilliland confirmed that a number of Councillors had attended the Oral Hearing which took place in Carrickmacross and wanted to thank everyone who made submissions on this issue.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to page 3 of the previous minutes regarding Wi-Fi and the issue with County Monaghan outlined in a recent report as being the worst County in Ireland for access to Broadband and proposed the following.

“That the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones write to the Department of Communications Energy and Natural Resources and seek an update on the implementation of the National Broadband Plan and request that Monaghan be considered at an early stage of the project.”

This proposal was seconded by Cllr Cathy Bennett and agreed by all.

Cllr Ciara McPhillips referred to page 3 of the previous minutes regarding identifying a suitable location for a bring bank in Smithboro village. Mr Kieran Duffy confirmed that a location has been identified near the boxing club and planning permission will be sought for this, however Mr Kieran Duffy had concerns that the site is not ideal as it is not in the village and the lack of public lighting in the area may cause issues with illegal dumping.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to page 3 of the previous minutes regarding speeding in the Newtownbutler Road, Clones and the Clones Road, Newbliss and asked if there was an update on this issue. Mr Colin Murphy confirmed that the Municipal District is currently monitoring traffic speeds on particular roads in the Municipal District Area and confirmed that a device is currently being used that counts traffic numbers and measures speed but does not register the car license plate numbers.

This detector has indicated that 91% of vehicles are currently speeding on the Annalore Road, Largy and speeds of 137km coming into Clones and 119km leaving Clones only 100 metres from the School have been detected. Mr Colin Murphy stated that the Municipal District will be providing this information to the Gardai. The speed detector is currently in Shantonagh at the moment and will then be relocated on one of the other locations within the town. Mr Colin Murphy also stated that to get an accurate reflection of the speed of cars the detector needs to be in situ for at least 7 days.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to page 4 of the previous minutes in connection with the discolouration/poor quality of water in O'Duffy Tce and stated that maybe the wrong house number was given and that she would check with the householder again to see if there is still an issue with the quality of water.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to page 6 of the previous minutes regarding the Clones Regeneration Committee Meetings and asked if there was an update on the 4 sites on Fermanagh Street. Ms Angela Gallagher confirmed that Mr Kevin McNally was speaking to the registered owners of these sites to see if they would be willing to sell them to the Council and that meetings would be arranged with Housing and Planning Section to progress this further.

3. Correspondence

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to Item 3.24 correspondence from Vodafone regarding the lack of mobile phone coverage in County Monaghan and their comments regarding the mast at Corcaghan. Cllr Ciara McPhillips stated that clarification be sought from Monaghan County Council's planning section before responding to Vodafone.

Cllr Cathy Bennett proposed the following:-

“That Ballybay-Clones Municipal Office write to Monaghan County Council's Planning Section and ask them to investigate the masts at Corcaghan to find out the following:-

- Who owns them?
- What Planning regulations were involved in original planning application?
- Were the general public consulted on their erection?
- Is there any penalties in the planning permission that curtails the phone companies from adding additional antenna?”

This proposal was seconded by Cllr Pat Treanor and agreed by all.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to Item 3.25 correspondence received from Irish Water regarding water hardness and proposed the following:-

“That the Ballybay-Clones Municipal Office writes to the Commission for Energy Regulation and request how we in Ballybay-Clones Municipal Office make a submission for additional necessary funding that is available. Hard Water is a serious issue that Irish Water does not currently regulate. We In the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District request the remedial action and funding be made available to Irish Water to address the issue of Hard Water in Scotstown, Ballinode and Smithboro areas of Monaghan. Currently water users in these areas are being subjected to additional costs in treating hard water and also in replacing appliances on a regular basis. This is unfair and unjust and shows no equality for our citizens.”

This was seconded by Cllr Pat Treanor and agreed by all.

Cllr Sean Gilliland referred to previous correspondence issued to both Monaghan County Council and Irish Water for clarification in relation to Irish Water billing for water supplies and Monaghan County Council separately billing for Water Meter Service. Cllr Sean Gilliland has requested that the Municipal District write again to both organisations for clarification on this issue.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to Items 3.26 and 3.7 regarding the acknowledgements received from the Palestinian and Belgium Embassy’s and welcomed the responses.

4. Presentation on Adult Literacy

Mr Michael Donohoe and Ms Carol Kelly advised the Members on the services they provide throughout County Monaghan regarding Adult Literacy and confirmed that these services are available all year round and can be provided not only as a group session but also on a one to one basis. This includes the provision of basic education, including reading and writing, numeracy skills and ICT for adults who wish to improve their literacy and numeracy skills.

Cllr Cathy Bennett thanked Mr Michael Donohoe and Ms Carol Kelly for their presentation and stated that they provide a wonderful service.

Cllr Pat Treanor stated that it is surprising the number of people who cannot read and write and is delighted that they can avail of these services.

Cllr Sean Gilliland confirmed that this is an issue that is not spoken about in public and is glad to see this service and their confidentiality is welcomed.

5. Nomination for Peace Partnership Board

Cllr Cathy Bennett confirmed that the nomination for the Peace Partnership Board will be dealt with at the Full County Council meeting.

6. Report by Municipal District Co-ordinator

Mr Kieran Duffy confirmed the following:-

Works are progressing well with regards drainage works on the 2016 Road Restoration Improvement program and by the end of this week drainage works are scheduled to be completed on the following roads in the program:-

- The LP3120 Creeve-Carrickavielty road (i.e. The Two Lough Rd)

- The LP2700 Corravackan-Mullanagore rd (Daniels shop)
- The LP2031 Killateen-Seloo Rd (Roslea road out of Scotstown)
- The LP2262 Drumurcher road (beside Miceys elbow)
- The LS6131 Lisarilly road-Drumullan (road below Robert Halls)

Mr Kieran Duffy stated that by the end of this week drainage works will commence on the following roads:-

- The LT72011 Oghill-Tullycarragh (Doohamlet GWS)
- The LP3001 Mountain Lodge-Money road (Veldons Cross to Hut Cross)

Mr Kieran Duffy confirmed that before the beginning of May works will be commencing on the LP4905 road at Raferagh and that the Municipal District also intends to widen a short section of this road from the junction with the R178 to the Celtic Pure facility as major development works are planned at the Celtic Pure facility.

Mr Kieran Duffy stated that in relation to the surfacing works on these roads tender drawings and bill of quantities have been prepared and the Council has gone to tender with the aim of having contractors on site at the beginning of June. Mr Kieran Duffy noted that this was significantly earlier than last year and in the coming weeks the Municipal District also intends carrying out preparatory works on the roads on the surface dressing programme.

Mr Kieran Duffy stated that regarding the R162/R190 regional work significant preparatory work has been carried out including the completion of a topographical survey, the commencement of a site investigation and identification of all landowners along those sections where works are planned. The General Services Supervisor will now be approaching all landowners currently with a view to securing these lands as soon as possible. The Municipal District have also procured and appointed a consultant to progress the design works required to alleviate flooding on the R162/R190.

Mr Kieran Duffy confirmed that repair works identified following the storms earlier this year, Ballybay Clones Municipal District are progressing these and to date and have completed repairs at various locations including road slippage repairs on the LP2201 at Scarvy, the LT21123 at Lough Ooney, and the LT22601 at Carnroe in Scotshouse. Mr Kieran Duffy stated that the Municipal District have completed repairs to Cormeen bridge, Milltown Bridge and Corraskea bridge and carried out additional works in Threemilehouse village.

Ballybay Clones Municipal District have recently tendered for a contractor to carry out repairs to Formil bridge on the LT71115 near Kilkitt. Following a recent tender procedure the Municipal District have appointed a contractor to progress remedial design measures for Caddagh Bridge just off the Monaghan Ballybay R162 road. Other repairs due to be carried out using the storm repair allocation include repairs to Drumsnatt bridge, repair of verge slippages on the Bog road, and repairs to the LT24111 Brackagh road, and repairs to the 5 crosses junction at Latton.

Clones Regeneration committee

Mr Kieran Duffy confirmed that at the Clones Regeneration Workshop on 7th April 2016 it was agreed to set up a Heritage Steering Committee to progress a Heritage Plan for the Town which was devised by Carol Lambe from Monaghan County Council. The plan consists of 6 different themes including heritage and historical trails. The Steering Group met last Thursday to discuss how best to progress this plan.

Ballybay Clones Erne East Partnership

Mr Kieran Duffy stated that a further meeting with groups in the Sliagh Beagh Area is due to take place on Tuesday 6th May in Coonian Hall, it is proposed that representatives from each of the groups will give a 5-10 minute talk/update and to discuss how Ballybay Clones Erne East Partnership and the partner Local Authorities might support the project promoters to advance their ideas and prepare for upcoming funding opportunities.

The Municipal District is also facilitating meetings with various angling bodies from the Municipal District and County Fermanagh – last meeting of which occurred on 11th April. The purpose of these meetings is to seek to enhance the existing angling product that existing in the area. These meetings are also attended by Inland Fisheries, the Tourism sections of Monaghan County Council and Fermanagh and Omagh District Council. Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 24th May in Clones Courthouse 2pm.

Clones Courthouse Seating Project

Mr Kieran Duffy confirmed that the tender process has been completed and a contractor has been selected, there is 15 day waiting period and the contractor is required to submit all relevant documentation in that timeframe. Once documentation is received and all is in order the contract for this work will be awarded. The contractor has advised that it can take up to 12 weeks for delivery and installation of the seating.

Clones Famine Graveyard

Mr Kieran Duffy advised that the Municipal District office is currently working in conjunction with the Clones Famine committee to develop the stone arch proposal for the Clones Famine graveyard. This project is been supported by ABP. Tender process has been completed and a contractor has been selected and work is due to commence imminently. This project is being match funded by the Members of Ballybay Clones Municipal District.

Clones Market House

The Municipal District in conjunction with Shirley Clerkin the Councils Heritage officer has completed the feasibility study stage for the project and the most appropriate use for the building is for the location of the offices for the Ballybay Clones Municipal District. A meeting took place with the Design team on Wednesday 6th April 2016 and the Members will be kept informed on how this project is progressing.

Ballybay

REDZ – Painting

Mr Kieran Duffy stated that the tender process has been completed and a contractor has been selected, and the contractor is required to submit all relevant documentation during the 15 day waiting period. Once documentation is received and all is in order the contract for this work will be awarded. The work will include the painting and repairs of gutters to particular buildings in Ballybay.

REDZ - Website

Mr Kieran Duffy advised the members that the development of a new website for Ballybay is near to completion. These works are being funded via an allocation from the Department of the

Environment and Local Government and also match funding from the Municipal District. It is proposed to have a launch of the new website in May.

Age Friendly Workshop

Mr Kieran Duffy confirmed that after Clones becoming the first Age Friendly Town in County Monaghan, the Municipal District are now implementing the Age Friendly Initiative in Ballybay and invitations have been issued to the business in the town and elected members, all are welcome to attend. The workshop will take place tomorrow @ 6pm in Ballybay Wetlands Centre.

Smithboro Playground

Mr Kieran Duffy advised that drainage works has now been completed and the grass area has been reseeded. It is the Municipal District's intention to have an official opening in June, Members will be informed of the details at the next Municipal District meeting in May.

Scotshouse Playground

Mr Kieran Duffy confirmed that a submission was made to the department for a new playground in Scotshouse and the Municipal District are currently awaiting the outcome of this, in the meantime the Engineering staff from the Municipal District are currently preparing documents for Part 8 planning permission.

Peace Link Award

Mr Kieran Duffy stated that The Peace Link has been nominated for the 2016 'Irish Building & Design Awards' under the cultural project of the year category and that the Award Ceremony will take place on Friday 22nd April in the Ballsbridge Hotel, Dublin 2.

Ballybay Town Twinning Event

Mr Kieran Duffy advised that approx 24 pupils and 4 teachers will be coming to Ballybay from Osterhofen on Monday 25th April to Friday 29th April.

On Monday Evening the Municipal District will hold a welcome reception for the visitors in Ballybay Wetlands Centre from 7pm. Traditional Irish food and refreshments will be provided along with some traditional Irish music to give the students a taste of Irish Culture.

The Students have arranged daily trips to Belfast and Dublin during their stay.

On Wednesday morning, 27th April they will meet with the pupils and teachers of Ballybay Community College and on Wednesday afternoon the Municipal District have arranged for them to visit Lough Mourne Shooting Grounds in Castleblayney.

Invitations will be issued to the Chief Executive of Monaghan County Council and the Members of Ballybay MD along with members of the Town Twinning Committee and the Local Community and school.

Gateway Staff

Mr Kieran Duffy confirmed that members of the Gateway Scheme will be finishing work this week after completing 22 months with Ballybay-Clones Municipal Office and complimented the excellent

work which they had done not only in the Towns but for some of the villages throughout the Municipal District.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to works recently carried out at Loughooney regarding the recent removal of trees and asked when the trees would be replanted at this location?

Mr Kieran Duffy stated that these trees were subject to Ash dieback and the trees in question were removed and destroyed. Mr Kieran Duffy stated that he would investigate the possibility of replacing trees at this location.

Cllr Cathy Bennett thanked the Municipal District staff for the works currently being carried out on the Roslea Road and was pleased that the Municipal District staff has agreed that works will be carried out on the Bog Road. Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to the condition of the road outside the Sliabh Beagh Hotel in Knockatallon and asked if works could be carried out on this road?

Mr Kieran Duffy stated that he can confirm that the road at the Sliabh Beagh Hotel is in need of attention and will arrange for some remedial works to be completed at this location.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to the ramps which were recently installed on the Castleblayney Road in Ballybay and asked if the Municipal District would look at how the visibility at night time of these ramps could be improved?

Mr Kieran Duffy stated that the Municipal District would look at this and get back to the members with a solution.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to the staff on the Gateway scheme that are now leaving and expressed his appreciation of the work they have completed in the Municipal District over the last 22 months. Cllr Pat Treanor stated that it is a shame that permanent posts could not have been found for them.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to the work carried out by Dianne McPhelim and asked that a letter be sent to Dianne thanking her for all the community development work she carried out on behalf of the Municipal District in the past nine months and wished her well in the future.

Cllr Pat Treanor raised concerns regarding the regeneration of Clones and Ballybay Towns and how slowly it is progressing.

Mr Adge King advised the Members that the Management Committee of Monaghan County Council has agreed to concentrate on the regeneration of one town and have selected Fermanagh Street in Clones Town. Mr Adge King advised that substantial investment will have to be made to make a real impact and this will be done in the four locations previously identified and discussed on Fermanagh Street at the Clones Regeneration Committee Meetings.

Cllr Ciara McPhillips advised the Members that she is on the Housing SPC committee and confirmed that they are looking at Housing for older people and how older houses can be used be brought back into use.

Cllr Ciara McPhillips referred to the bridges at Lisgorran between Rockcorry and Ballybay and at Dooat Cross and asked if the Municipal District were applying for funding to have these bridges repaired? Mr Kieran Duffy stated that these bridges were not eligible for the Bridge Funding as this applied to bridges on Regional Roads, however they would be funded either through the Council's own resources or the flood repair monies.

7. Questions

Cllr Seamus Coyle asked:-

1. Will Monaghan County Council examine and undertake complete resurfacing works on the roadway/parking areas at Lisdrumclave Housing Estate, Lisdrumclave, Latton, as the surfaces are currently in a very poor state?

Reply: Ballybay Clones Municipal staff will examine the roadway and parking areas at Lisdrumclave Housing Estate. In order to carry out resurfacing works on this roadway it is likely that this road will need to be included on a subsequent road restoration program.

2. Will Monaghan County Council carry out costings/plans for additional public lighting at St. Marys Church, Ture?

Reply: The Ballybay Clones Municipal District will seek costings from Airticity for the provision of Public Lighting at St. Mary's Church Ture and include this location in a future Public Lighting Programme. In 2016 the allocation for public lighting in the Ballybay Clones Municipal District is approximately €10,000 which will only facilitate relatively small scale localised public lighting works in the Municipal District.

3. Can Monaghan County Council place additional warning signage/flashing lights at the recently installed ramps on the Castleblayney Road, Ballybay?

Reply: Warning signage has been erected at the approach to the ramps on the Castleblayney road. This location can be reviewed again by the Ballybay Clones Municipal District and additional warning signage erected as required.

4. Can Monaghan County Council outline their plans/programme of works for the filling of potholes across the Ballybay/Clones Municipal District, as serious damage is being caused to vehicles, with a health and safety risk to all road users due to the atrocious state of many roads, as a result of funding cuts by government?

Reply: Unfortunately the recent unsettled weather has not provided ideal conditions for the filling of potholes. With the likelihood of more settled weather conditions on the way it is the intention of the Municipal District to allocate more resources to the filling of potholes. The Municipal District will also hire in a velocity patching unit in the coming weeks to assist in the filling of potholes throughout the Ballybay Clones Municipal District.

Cllr Ciara McPhillips referred to Question 2 regarding lights at St Mary's in Ture and stated that these lights are already on the Public Lighting programme.

8. Chief Executive Orders

Chief Executive Order No's BCMD 10/16-11/16 were noted by the Members.

Cllr Ciara McPhillips referred to the works due to take place in the Courthouse in Clones and asked if the Courthouse will be in use during the twelve weeks indicated by the contractor or would the Municipal District Meetings need to be changed. Ms Donna Moran stated that the 12 weeks referred to the manufacturing of the seating and not the installation and there should be very little disruption to the Courthouse.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to a tour of her area which she gave to the Chief Executive of Monaghan County Council and stated that he suggested holding one of their Municipal District Meetings in the Sliabh Beagh Hotel in Knockatallon, Cllr Cathy Bennett then suggested that the June Ballybay-Clones Municipal District Meeting be held in the Sliabh Beagh Hotel in Knockatallon.

9. Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy

The members extended a vote of Congratulations to the following:-

Michael Lawson on making it through to the final of The Voice.

10. AOB

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to the Cycle against Suicide event which is currently taking place and stated that the cyclist would be staying over in Monaghan on Monday 25th April and asked that if anyone could provide a free bed on the night to go onto the website and let them know as this is for a great cause.

Cllr Ciara McPhillips referred to items on the Agenda and stated that only business prescribed under the Standing Orders should be put on the Agenda automatically and other items/presentations should be added only after receiving agreement by the members.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to the lack of Dental Services for Schools in the Clones Area since the dentist retired in December and proposed the following:-

“That the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones write to the Senior Dental Officer in Cavan and seek to have a dentist appointed to the Clones Dental Clinic.”

This proposal was seconded by Cllr Cathy Bennett and agreed by all.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed _____

Leas-Chathaoirleach

Signed _____

Meetings Administrator

Date 16th May 2016