

Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on 15th December 2014 at 10am in Clones Courthouse, MacCurtain Street, Clones.

Members Present The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Ciara McPhillips, presided

The following members were also present:-Cllrs:- Eugene Bannigan, Cathy Bennett, Seamus Coyle, Hugh McElvaney and Pat Treanor

In Attendance Adge King, Director of Services, Paul Treanor, Head of Information Systems, Kevin McNally, Municipal District Co-ordinator, Kieran Duffy Executive Engineer, Angela Gallagher, Staff Officer, Eileen McManus, Clerical Officer,

At the outset of the meeting a vote of sympathy was extended to The Bishop of Clogher, Liam McDaid, the fellow priests, the parishioners of the Parish of Ematris, Rockcorry and the family, relatives and friends on the death of Cannon Gerard Ferguson P.E. This was proposed by Cllr Seamus Coyle, seconded by Cllr Eugene Bannigan and agreed by all.

Votes of sympathy were also extended to:-

The Mullen Family, Aghaboy, Scotstown on the death of Jimmy Mullen. This was proposed by Cllr Cathy Bennett, seconded by Cllr Pat Treanor and agreed by all.

The Cleary Family on the death of Noel Cleary, The Shambles, Clones. This was proposed by Cllr Pat Treanor, seconded by Cllr Cathy Bennett and agreed by all.

1. Confirmation of minutes of November monthly meeting

The minutes of the November monthly meeting were proposed by Cllr Seamus Coyle and seconded by Cllr Eugene Bannigan.

2. Matters arising from Previous Minutes

Cllr Seamus Coyle referred to page 2 paragraph 4 regarding the Sra Bridge and stated that there does not seem to be any work ongoing at the moment. Mr Duffy confirmed that work should commence this week. Delays in commencement of this road had arisen due to staff being assigned to Winter Maintenance duties.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to page 2 paragraph 5 of the minutes regarding street lighting. He understood that there was a contract in place to check lights in towns in villages to ensure that any lights not working would not be out too long. Mr McNally confirmed that there is a contract in place with Airtricity however a number of areas have been missed out and are being added to the contract. He also stated that if anyone wishes to report an issue with lights to contact the Ballybay Clones Municipal Office.

Cllr Cathy Bennett asked if there was any response to the submissions that were made under the Low Cost Improvement Schemes. Mr Duffy confirmed that there had been 5 or 6 schemes submitted to Monaghan County Council however he has not received update on the submission.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to the 1st paragraph on page 3 of the minutes regarding the new development at MacCurtain Street. He advised that there are currently 4 lights not working at the estate close to this development and stated that they have been out for over 1 week now. Mr McNally advised that the Municipal District have been liaising with the Housing Section regarding this issue and advised that these lights should be back in working order early this week.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to Item 3.1 on page 3 of the minutes regarding the response from John McGrath and asked how is it determined when roads are being salted? Mr McNally advised that the best available technology is being used, however sometimes after roads are salted it may rain and the road freezes over again. Cllr Hugh McElvaney stated that he has been trying to get the Bog Road from Scotstown to Smithboro gritted for the past 3 years. Cllr Cathy Bennett proposed that the Municipal District write to the SPC again requesting that the Bog Road, Courtneys Cross to Brennans Cross be salted, this was seconded by Cllr Hugh McElvaney.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to Item 4 on Page 3 of the minutes regarding the funding of €140,000 received for the new kitchen facilities in Ballybay and asked if anything further had developed from this. Mr McNally stated that he would contact John McEntegart for an update on this matter.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to question 3 on page 4 of the minutes regarding the reservoir at Carnroe and asked if there was an update from Water Services. Mr McNally stated that he had received an update and that this issue was not on the agenda at the moment. Cllr Treanor stated that this was agreed before the Service Level Agreement was put in place between Irish Water and Monaghan Co Co Water Services. Mr McNally stated that he would raise this issue with Water Services and report back to the Members.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to the second item raised under Item 9 AOB-Urgent Business regarding phone and Internet outages and asked if there has been any response from Eircom. Mr McNally confirmed that no response has been received to date, however Eircom will be contacted again for a response.

3. Correspondence

Cllr Seamus Coyle referred to Correspondence received from Brendan Smith TD, item 3.5 regarding the upgrade of the Ballybay/Cootehill Road R190 due to the constant flooding on that route and the response he received from the Minister of Transport Paschal Donohoe. Cllr Coyle expressed his dissatisfaction with the response and proposed the following:-

“That Monaghan County Council seek immediate specific funding from the Department of Transport to upgrade the Ballybay/Cootehill Road, R190, to alleviate the constant flooding of the road at Corrybrennan, Cumry, Keenoghbane and Lisnalong and also seek an immediate meeting with the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Pascal Donohoe TD, to outline

the extreme urgency of funding for these works to be carried out on this route, before there is loss of life, fatalities due to the extreme flooding of recent years.”

This motion was proposed by Cllr Seamus Coyle, seconded by Cllr Eugene Bannigan and agreed by all.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to additional correspondence item 3.6 received from the Clones Film Festival regarding funding for the acoustics and seating in the Courthouse in Clones and stated that the Ballybay Clones Municipal District should be co-operating with the film festival to help them source additional funding for the Courthouse. Mr McNally advised that he was meeting with members of Clones Film Festival today to discuss the options available to them and possible solutions to deal with the acoustics. He also stated that due to the funding received from the Minister of the Department for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht the acoustics could be completed by end of March 2015 however this contribution requires additional funding from the Council.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney referred to Item 3.1, correspondence received regarding the CPG’s decision not to hold a Civic Reception for Minister Heather Humphreys and expressed his disappointment in this. Cllr Seamus Coyle proposed the following;-

“That the members of Ballybay/Clones Municipal District request the C.P.G. to reconsider their decision to hold a civic reception for Minister Heather Humphreys on her appointment as Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.”

This was proposed by Cllr Seamus Coyle, and seconded by Cllr Hugh McElvaney and agreed by Cllr Eugene Bannigan. Cllrs Cathy Bennett & Pat Treanor abstained from the vote.

4. Presentation by Paul Treanor, Head of Information Services

Mr Treanor gave a presentation to the members regarding mobile phone and internet coverage in County Monaghan. He stated that 82% of household in County Monaghan have access to the internet. In relation to Rural Broadband, wireless has limited capacity (3G) and 4G wireless is not available yet. He stated that mobile broadband is the biggest growing area in the world, due to the volume of tablets and smartphones. He advised that it is a commercial business and the providers will only make the service available in area where they know there is the demand. In relation to future development ESB & Vodafone have confirmed a €450m project which will be rolled out over the next few years.

5. Report by Municipal District Co-ordinator

Mr McNally outlined the following works since the last meeting:-

- Regional Road repairs at the following locations:
 - R189 Newbliss – Threemileouse road.
 - R189 Newbliss Cootehill road at Doohat.

- R190 Ballybay Cootehill road.
- R187 at Sweeneys Cross.
- Low Cost safety scheme works completed on the R183 Newbliss Swans Cross Road at Feagh.

Ongoing Works in the MD

- In Clones, Footpath works on the Newtownbutler road and stone wall at traffic lights on N54. (Works likely to be completed in January)
- Threemilehouse Flood Alleviation works are progressing (Works likely to be completed In January.)
- Low Cost Safety Scheme Works at:
 - Aghdrumkeen works (due for completion this week)
 - Newbliss at the junction of the R183-LT23401 (due for completion before Christmas)
 - Corcreaghagh at the junction of the R178/LT49052 (due for completion before Christmas)
 - Traffic Calming Works in Drum village.

Works scheduled to start in MD in late December/ January

- Emergency road repairs on the L2120 road on the approach to Harte Peat.
- Upgrade of Public Lighting on the Roslea Road at St. Tiernachs school.
- Upgrade of Lighting column on Cavan road.
- Construction of a bus shelter in Newbliss.
- New Traffic management signage at Annalore Bridge

Flooding Ballybay Cootehill Road

Further to the last meeting Mr Duffy has been liaising with the Roads Engineers in Monaghan. There appears to be 2 possible options but only one viable one to resolve this issue:

Option 1: Raising with 20mm DMB, SD + relining excluding side filling of verges. Estimated cost of €550 per linear meter. We estimate that works are required to over a kilometre of road – total cost of €600,000

Due to the poor ground conditions – this really would only be a temporary solution – would last for maybe 5 years.

Option 2: Current preferred, option consists of Pile driving, ring beam construction, 200mm concrete slab + 300mm new road surface (20mm DBM). €1350 per linear meter. Total cost of these works in the region of €1.5million.

No specific improvement money for regional roads was made available by the Department in 2014 and it is likely that funding will be provided in 2015.

Mr McNally confirmed it is his intention to prepare a special application for funding for submission to the Department.

Ballybay Town Twinning

Mr McNally stated that after the last Municipal District meeting in Ballybay in November he met Karl Heinz Herzegger along with the Cathaoirleach to discuss how best to continue and develop this relationship further.

The twinning with this town has huge potential for the area in terms of education, tourism and commercial opportunities. There is potential to incorporate the proposals been generated by Ballybay Chamber of Commerce into this arrangement.

Mr Herzegger has invited a delegation from the Council to a Burgerfest on 13th June 2015.

A letter was issued to Mr Herzegger confirming the Municipal Districts interest in continuing the twinning relation and developing it further. Mr McNally suggested that a meeting of the twinning subcommittee for Ballybay with Osterhofen / Bavaria is held early in the New Year.

Retention of Department of Social Protection offices in Ballybay

Mr McNally stated that further to the meeting on 3rd December 2014 in Leinster House with Ministers Heather Humphreys, and Minister Kevin Humphreys, regarding the retention of the Department of Social Protection Offices in Ballybay, as requested Mr McNally has notified the Department regarding the availability of two suitable properties in Ballybay. Details relating to the ownership of them have been provided.

Mr McNally advised that he understand that the owners of the existing building are willing to open discussions with the Department to clarify the extent of required works to improve the existing building to meet the Departments requirements.

The Head of Facilities Management Unit for the Department of Social Protection Mr Eoghan Ryan confirmed on 5th December that he has requested that the OPW do not enter into any leases for alternative properties until the proposals received have been evaluated.

Ulster Bank

As requested at the Clones Erne East Partnership – this office issued correspondence to Ulster Bank requesting that they would reconsider their decision to close the branch in Clones. The Bank has responded noting that they acknowledge the impact on their customers – they make reference to current market conditions and customers banking behaviours.

They note that if we are unhappy with the decision that we can refer the matter to the financial services ombudsman.

Cllr Pat Treanor proposed that a letter be issued to the Financial Ombudsman asking them to reconsider their decision to close this bank. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Hugh McElvaney and agreed by all.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney proposed that the Municipal District of Ballybay Clones write to the Bank of Ireland asking them to install an ATM machine, this was seconded by Cllr Seamus Coyle and agreed by all.

6. Chief Executive Orders

Chief Executive Order No 14/5-14/22 were noted by the members

7. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

The members extended Votes of Sympathy to the following:-

Bishop Duffy on the death of his brother Peter Duffy

The members extended Votes of Congratulations to the following:-

Aughnamullen, Sarsfields on getting Juvenile Club of the Year,

Megan Nar, Toneyclay, Tydavnet on being the junior and overall winner of this year's Poetry Aloud Competition which is an All Ireland Award, 1700 people competed

Daniel McKenna, Lislea, Scotshouse on being sponsored by Monaghan County Council

Garry McKenna, Old School Boxing Club on winning the Gold Medal in Poland on Sunday 14th December 2014

8. AOB

It was agreed that the Town Twinning Sub-Committee would meet after the next Municipal District Meeting which will be held in Ballybay.

Mr McNally confirmed that the Emergency Out of Hours Number will be published in the local paper this week. This information is also available on the Council website.

In relation to lights being out at the Alders in Ballybay, Mr Duffy advised that he would discuss this with Darina Kierans from Planning as the estate has not been taken in charge.

The following was proposed by Cllr Seamus Coyle, seconded by Cllr Cathy Bennett and agreed by all.

“That the Members of Ballybay/Clones Municipal District urge all the people of the Municipal District to visit elderly/dependent neighbours over the winter, Christmas and New Year periods to ensure they are ok and that this Council assist/make available grit to allow Carers/Home help workers to make their daily visits to elderly/dependent persons during periods of snow/frost.”

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to an Urban Waste Water Report recently published for 2013 by the EPA regarding an issue with the water quality in Clones which recorded a fail result and requested that a letter be issued to Irish Water seeking Irish Water to revert with an update on this issue.

Cllr Pat Treanor asked that a letter be issued to the Chief Executive, Eugene Cummins requesting him to keep the restoration of the Clones section of the Ulster Canal on the agenda when he meets with the Ulster Canal Multi Agency Group. It was noted that funding was recently received to merge Lough Erne with the River Finn near Castle Saunderson in County Cavan and works are ongoing for

this project at Derrykerrib, County Fermanagh and they wish that this be continued further along towards Clones which will help in the overall restoration of the Ulster Canal.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed _____

Meetings Administrator

Date 19th January 2015