

Municipal District of Monaghan.

Minutes of Meeting of the Municipal District of Monaghan held in the Boardroom, Mtek 1 Building, Knockaconny on Monday, 16th February, 2015 at 3.30pm.

Cllr. Sean Conlon presided.

Present: Cllrs. David Maxwell, Seamus Treanor, Paudge Connolly, Robbie Gallagher and Brian McKenna.

In Attendance: Mr. John Murray, Director of Services, Mr. Donal McElwain, Municipal District Co-Ordinator, Ms. Bernie McElvaney, Senior Staff Officer, Dermot Deeney, Executive Engineer, Ms. Bernie McMahan, Staff Officer.

Cllr. Conlon welcomed all to the meeting.

At the outset, in view of the fact that the date of the next meeting is scheduled on the day before St. Patrick's Day, it was agreed to re-schedule to Monday, 9th March at 2.30pm.

1. Confirmation of minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Connolly, it was agreed that the minutes of the Municipal District of Monaghan meeting held on the 19th January, 2015 be confirmed.

2. Matters arising:

Cllr. Connolly queried if the Gardai had been asked to carry out extra speed checks at the north entrance to Emyvale village to which Mr McElwain responded that they had.

Cllr. Gallagher queried if the hedgecutting will be complete by the cut-off date of 1st March. Mr Deeney confirmed that works will be complete.

Cllr. Gallagher asked is there a long-term plan for the fencing at Clontibret. Mr Deeney confirmed that Roads Section are submitted a proposal to the NRA.

Cllr. Connolly asked had there been any progress on the development known as "Cnoc na Greine".

Cllr. Maxwell confirmed that he had discussed this matter with Planning Section and they are proceeding with the purchaser to make this development safe.

Cllr. Treanor queried if the same proceedings would take place for the development known as 'Forest Walk' and Mr McElwain confirmed that it would.

Cllr Conlon requested the Executive to acknowledge receipt of an email from Sister Osorno Chile and advise them that it has been forwarded to Monaghan County Council for consideration at a Twinning meeting on Tuesday, 24th February, 2015.

Cllr. Maxwell enquired of any progress on sourcing EU funding with the Municipality of Chepalare. Mr McElwain advised that we are awaiting a response from the Mayor of Chepalare in this regard.

3. Presentation on Broadband by Paul Treanor, IT:

A presentation on Broadband in County Monaghan was given by Paul Treanor and this was followed by a Questions and Answers Session. Cllr. Conlon, on behalf of all the members, thanked Mr Treanor for the presentation, and also his staff for their hard work.

4. Update on St. Patrick Day's Parade:

Cllr. Conlon advised the members that the first meeting took place in the Market House on the 3rd February and was well attended. He thanked Mr McElwain and Ms. McElvaney for attending and providing the administrative support for the Parade. He also advised that an advertisement had been placed in the Northern Standard detailing guidelines for Expressions of Interest in taking part in the parade, and emphasised the need for participation from the local community.

Cllr. Conlon also welcomed Comhairle na nÓg, headed by Fiona McEntee who has suggested a theme 'There's no place like home'. He also thanked Bernie McMahan, Municipal District of Monaghan, for her role in organising the Parade. The Parade will be 'live streamed' and recorded by Murphy Videos where the public can come along and say 'Hello' to their loved ones abroad. Mr McElwain confirmed that the main buildings in the town will be green. He also confirmed that Daniel McKenna, WRC Rally Driver is available as Grand Marshal. Cllr. Conlon advised that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 17th February in the Market House at 6pm and members are all welcome to attend.

5. Report from Municipal District Co-Ordinator:

The Report was circulated and Mr Mc Elwain gave a brief report to the members. A discussion took place on the email received from Mr Gourley, Senior Executive Planner, in relation to the CFRAMS Public Consultation.

Cllr. Conlon implored all members to attend the consultation days and suggested that the local media should alert the public to attend as it is the public that have local input and knowledge. Cllr. Conlon welcomed Mr Shipley to the Public Participation Network (PPN) committee. He added that there are three Strategic Committees working with the members and Executive, the Public Participation Network, the Strategic Policy Committee, and the Local Community Development Committee. He added that the weakness is the mechanism to convey the information of the work being done to the wider public and asked the Executive to set up a communication strategy. Cllr. McKenna stated that the LCDC have a substantive public membership. On the proposal of Cllr. McKenna, seconded by Cllr. Conlon, it was agreed to request a report from Mr Clifford, Monaghan County Council, on what has been happening to date in the LCDC.

6. Questions:

Cllr. Sean Conlon asked:

1. Regarding the Council leased car park at The Diamond Centre, is the public lighting supply paid for by the Council and is this area part of the daily town litter pick routine? Will the Executive forward a letter to the HSE to ask them to similarly include the curtilage of their building as part of routine maintenance and litter pick at the Diamond Centre?

Response:

The public lighting in the Diamond Centre car park is paid for by the Council and the area is part of the daily town litter pick routine. Environment Section will contact all private properties in the vicinity requesting them to keep their properties free of litter in accordance with the Litter Pollution Act 1997.

2. Further to the following query I submitted last March 2014, please outline what is proposed regarding the recent allocation of €10,000 towards Road Safety Improvement Works on the R188 Cootehill Road at Drumbear Wood, what specific measures are to be implemented that will encourage a reduction in speed from traffic approaching both this junction and The Corran?

Response:

As part of the improvement works on the Cootehill road, Monaghan town, two Driver feedback, digital warning signs are to be erected. One sign at the Drumbear Woods junction and one sign within the reduced speed limits on entering the urban area. Both signs to be in place in the coming weeks .

3. Will this Council undertake a survey of recently installed flush wood burning fireplace inserts in Council dwellings as to their draught efficiency as these stoves emit excessive smoke and fumes when the door is opened?

Response:

The Council has dealt with a small number of complaints regarding emission of smoke and fumes from new stoves. The stoves in question are high efficiency stoves and in a small number of cases it has been found that the stoves have become blocked by excessive amounts of soot produced when inappropriate fuels have been used. It is recommended that smokeless fuel is used in high efficiency stoves and such stoves should be cleaned regularly by the user to remove any soot build-up. Any issues with stoves should be reported to housing section and will be invest

Cllr Robbie Gallagher asked:

1. Can the council outline which roads are to be re-surfaced in 2015?

Response:

The 2015 Road program is to be discussed at the next Municipal District Road Meeting.

2. Regarding the 30km speed limit in housing estates, what funding has been made available to the County Council and specifically to this Municipal District and how many estates will benefit from works as a result?

Response:

The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport has set aside €2 million nationally for a signage/engineering measures programme to support the introduction of 30km/h speed limits in housing estates. Each local authority is required to submit proposals to the department for funding following a review and assessment of the works required, it is envisaged that the municipal districts will carry out this process.

3. Can the Municipal District provide an update in relation to proposals for traffic calming measures to slow traffic approaching Emyvale village from the northern side and what is the likely timescale for instalment of such measures?

Response:

The roads section is currently working on a design for traffic calming measures on the Northern approach to Emyvale. The scheme will be submitted to the NRA for approval in the coming weeks and it is envisaged that funding will be received to commence works in May.

4. In relation to the fence along the bypass at Clontibret which has seen further damage in recent storms and has been a concern of local residents with regard to road safety and appearance can the council address this issue as a matter of urgency and outline a timeframe for same?

Response:

Repairs are being carried out to the fence at present and are expected to be completed on Tuesday 17th February 2015.

Cllr. Brian McKenna asked:

1. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the provision of a crash barrier on the northern approach to Emyvale village where a lorry overturned recently; can you give a time-frame for when we can expect works to commence?

Response:

The provision of a crash barrier is being examined in the context of the proposed traffic calming measures on the Northern approach to Emyvale which is currently being designed.

2. What progress has been made since our last meeting in relation to the acquiring of the house at Lemaculla crossroads?

Response:

No funding has been allocated for the acquisition of this house at the Lemaculla junction. This can be discussed further at the Municipal District Road Meeting.

7. Notices of Motion:

Cllr. Gallagher advised the meeting that he wished to discuss the following motion:

“That this Council voices its disappointment and frustration with regard to the reduction in funding for local and regional roads and calls on the Minister for Transport and the Fine Gael led government to at least increase the funding to last year’s levels”.

A discussion took place on the motion and it was unanimously carried.

Cllr. Treanor proposed, seconded by Cllr. Conlon, that we should request a meeting with Alan Kelly TD, Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government on Thursday, 19th February, during his visit to our county, to seek additional funding for Regional and Local Roads for 2015.

Cllr. Robbie Gallagher advised the meeting that he wished to discuss the following motion:

“ That this Council supports THE ADOPTION (IDENTITY AND INFORMATION) Bill 2014 put forward by Senator Averil Power which facilitates putting in place a proper system through which adoptees and natural parents may reunite if they wish”.

A lengthy discussion took place on the motion and it was unanimously agreed to write to the Minister to bring this legislation forward.

8. Correspondence:

A letter from the Minister for Justice and Equality received on the 5th February 2015 in relation to new psychoactive substances in the Monaghan area. All members voiced concern and advised that any information on drug pushers should be conveyed to the Gardai.

A letter from the Garda Siochana dated 19th January 2015 acknowledging receipt of our correspondence dated 22nd December 2014 and advising that it is receiving attention.

A letter from the Minister of Justice and Equality dated 28th January 2015 acknowledging our request to re-open the CCTV funding scheme.

A letter from Pieta House dated 24th January 2015 informing the members that the 2015 event will take place on the 9th May 2015.

An email from Toirleach Gourley, Senior Executive Planner in relation to CFRAMS Public Consultation Days

A letter from Eileen Morgan, dated 26th January, 2015, on behalf of the Killygoan Resident's Association, requesting a delegation to attend the next meeting of the Municipal.

It was agreed that the Executive would liaise with the Residents Association in relation to their Agenda and they will be met prior to our next Municipal meeting at 2.00pm on 9th March.

Meeting concluded.

Dated this the 16th day of February, 2015

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Meetings Administrator