

Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on 19th January 2015 at 10am in Ballybay Civic Offices, Main Street, Ballybay.

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 Kevin McNally, Municipal District Co-ordinator, Kieran Duffy Executive Engineer, Angela Gallagher, Staff Officer, Eileen McManus, Clerical Officer, Frances Matthews, Monaghan County Council

Apologies: Adge King, Director of Services, Steven O'Donnell, BRTS

1. Confirmation of minutes of monthly meeting

The minutes of the December monthly meeting were proposed by Cllr Pat Treanor and seconded by Cllr Eugene Bannigan.

2. Matters arising from Previous Minutes

Omission from Previous Minutes

Cllr Hugh McElvaney advised that his proposal from the previous meeting was not recorded in the December 2014 minutes.

The following was proposed by Cllr Hugh McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Cathy Bennett and agreed by all.

“That Monaghan County Council form a sub-committee to engage with the rural community in their need and requests for broadband.”

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to page 1 paragraph 2 of the minutes regarding street lighting and asked if there was a system in place for checking the lights. Mr McNally confirmed that this is happening at the moment and as previously stated some area were missed from the original contract however this is currently being rectified. Mr McNally also encouraged everyone to contact the office if they discover that there are lights which are not in working order.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to page 3 of the minutes detailing the presentation by Paul Treanor regarding wi-fi for Ballybay and Clones and proposed the following.

“That this Council proceed with the project of installing free wi-fi in the towns of Clones and Ballybay, with a report at each step and approval prior to committing expenditure.”

This was proposed by Cllr Pat Treanor, seconded by Cllr Cathy Bennett and agreed by all. Cllr Hugh McElvaney stated that any expense for this project should rest with the County Council and not the Municipal District.

Cllr Seamus Coyle referred to page 2 of the minutes regarding the upgrade of the R190 Ballybay/Cootehill Road and whether the Municipal District had heard back from Monaghan County Council regarding the proposed meeting with Pascal Donohoe TD. Mr McNally stated that there had been no response received to date. This matter would be followed up.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney referred to page 5 of the minutes regarding the Bank of Ireland installing an ATM and asked if there had been any response to their request. Mr McNally confirmed that he was advised verbally from the Bank of Ireland that they would consider this request.

Cllr Seamus Coyle referred to page 6 of the minutes regarding salting of the roads and asked if this was now being dealt with by Carrickmacross. He advised that certain housing estates such as Loch Mor Avenue are no longer being gritted and asked whether the salt/grit was of not as good quality as previously used. Cllr Coyle stated that he thought that all issues would be dealt with at a local level and not centrally and asked if this was the case. Mr McNally confirmed that salting of the roads is organised centrally by the Councils Road Section in Monaghan (as has been the case for many years), and that to date the roads had been salted on a regular basis when weather conditions required them to be. He advised that 600km of road is salted which costs in the region of €10,000 each night when the gritting Lorries are called out. Mr McNally stated that he was not aware of Housing Estates not being gritted and that he would look into this and report back at the next meeting. Mr McNally confirmed that if there are any particular areas which need to be gritted due to funerals taking place that they should contact the overseers. Mr McNally also stated that salt Bins can be purchased from Monaghan County Council and advised that the large bin with salt costs €170.00.

Cllr Cathy Bennett confirmed that 3 accidents had taken place on the Scotstown/Monaghan Road, even though this road is salted. Cllr Bennett stated that drains which have not been cleared are overflowing when it rains and this freezes over causing the road to be extremely dangerous. Mr McNally stated that Landowners also have a responsibility to ensure water does not run from their land onto the road which is extremely hazardous in very cold weather.

Mr McNally noted though that even if a road was salted that it did not guarantee that there would be no black ice present and that road users should exercise caution when travelling during the winter period.

Cllr Pat Treanor asked if the Councillors can be provided with a map to confirm which roads are currently being salted. Mr McNally advised that this will be issued to the members and also stated that this information is currently available online.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney stated that road users have to be careful on the roads. He also stated that compared to some other Counties, Monaghan's roads are in good condition. He noted that the Bog Road is an extremely busy road and requested that this road be included in the road Salting programme. Mr McNally noted that Cllr McElvaney request regarding the Bog road had been forward to the Roads SPC for consideration.

Cllr Seamus Coyle asked that the Council salt Carn Heights, Wylies Hill and Loch Mor Avenue Housing Estates.

Cllr Eugene Bannigan asked if Lough Mourne Road could be salted as this has 3 or 4 School buses travelling on it every week day. Mr McNally noted that these areas would be reviewed but it was unlikely that they would be added to the roads salting programme. In times of extreme weather conditions such as snow fall etc the Council would endeavour to assist were possible.

3. Correspondence

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to correspondence received from Drumhowan Community Centre and proposed the following.

“That Ballybay-Clones Municipal District continues to work with Drumhowan Community Centre in helping to alleviate the flooding problem there”.

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

Mr Duffy confirmed that he visited the site last Thursday and stated that some small scale works may rectify this issue. Mr Duffy stated that he would revisit this issue again. This was welcomed by all the Members.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to correspondence received from John McEntegart in relation to a request for funding and proposed the following

“That Ballybay-Clones Municipal District contributes €5000 towards the appointment of a food specialist and that Ballybay-Clones Municipal District actually help promote this service. This service will be of great value to the local food sector in Monaghan in helping advance and also in promoting any new food product development.”

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

Cllr Seamus Coyle referred to correspondence received regarding the closure of the Ulster Bank and proposed the following:

“That Monaghan County Council, the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District call on Ulster Bank to review and reverse the decision to close their branch in Clones, a profitable and successful location for 143 years with large potential for increasing business, the service to their loyal customer base and in particular vulnerable customers.”

This proposal was seconded by Cllr Hugh McElvaney and agreed by all.

Cllr Seamus Coyle referred to a letter received from St Tiernach’s GAA and advised that the Council need to be pro-active and assist them with the Development of the park. Cllr Hugh McElvaney proposed the following

“That the Municipal District of Ballybay- Clones meet with St Tiernach’s GAA to ensure that the Ulster Finals remain in Clones. “

This was proposed with Cllr Hugh McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Pat Treanor and agreed by all. The Members agreed to meet with the representatives of St Tiernach’s park on Wednesday 28th January 2014 at 7.30pm in the Courthouse in Clones.

4. LG 27/2014 Schedule of Municipal District Works

Mr McNally referred to the Local Government Document LG27/2014, Schedule of Municipal District Works which is mandatory and required as quickly as possible after adoption the Council's budget. It is adopted by resolution by the Municipal District members (with or without amendment). If it is not adopted by the Municipal District Members, it reverts to the full Council for adoption (with or without amendment).

The Schedule of Municipal District Works for 2015 has to be adopted by 31st March 2015.

Mr McNally suggested that the next District Roads Meeting takes place after the February Municipal District Meeting. Mr McNally noted that he hoped to have a draft of the Schedule of Municipal District Works for the Members consideration. Finalisation of the overall Districts Works programme was dependant on confirmation of Department grant allocations.

5. Report by Municipal District Co-ordinator

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

- Completion of 2 No Low Cost safety scheme works completed on the R183 Newbliss Swans road at Aghdrumkeen and at Feagh.
- Erection of Public Lighting columns on the Roslea Road Cross Road and new decorative lighting column on the Cavan road. (currently awaiting on ESB TO connect same)
- Junction improvement works at the junction of R178/LT49052 at Corcreaghagh

Cllr Hugh McElvaney stated that more of the corner at R183 Newbliss Swans road should have been removed, Mr Duffy confirmed that the Council had removed as much of the corner as had been agreed with the landowner concerned , Mr Duffy undertook to review this matter again.

Ongoing Works in the MD

- In Clones, footpath works on the Newtownbutler Road and stone wall at traffic lights on N54 are currently ongoing – these have been delayed due to poor weather
- Ongoing works on the Threemilehouse Flood Alleviation works. Culverting works are now completed. The Consulting Engineers are have been requested to provide additional measures so as to address the flooding incident that occurred in November of last year.
- Low Cost Safety Scheme works in Drum (electronic signage to be erected)

Cllr Seamus Coyle referred to issues at Fitzpatrick Square, Mr Duffy confirmed that he is to meet with Patrick Carville.

Works scheduled to start in MD

- Emergency road repairs on the L2120 road on the approach to Harte Peat. – These works have been delayed due to recent poor weather
- Public lighting in Ballybay Town Park.
- Construction of a bus shelter in Newbliss. (Shelter presently being manufactured)
- New Traffic management signage at Annalore Bridge.

Cllr Pat Treanor asked if it were possible to move the Bike Stand in Magherarney, Smithboro across the road and that this could also serve as a bus shelter. Mr Duffy stated that he is currently liaising with Brendan Treanor regarding this.

Flooding Ballybay Cootehill Road

Further to our last meeting Mr McNally noted that Mr Duffy had prepared a report outlining the issues and cost to address same for submission to the Department. This has been forwarded to the Councils Road Section for forwarding to the Department. As discussed earlier we are currently awaiting confirmation of date for meeting with Minister.

Ballybay Town twinning subcommittee meeting

Mr McNally stated that a meeting of the sub-committee is scheduled after the Municipal District meeting. During this meeting it is hoped to discuss possible ways to develop this proposal in terms of Education, Cultural, Commercial, Economic and Tourism.

Retention of Department of Social Protection offices in Ballybay

Mr McNally confirmed that an email was issued on 15th December 2014 to the Department asking if they required any further information – to date no response has been received.

Cllr McElvaney asked if Minister Humphreys could be kept up to date with this situation and could the Members receive an update at the February meeting, Mr McNally agreed to do this.

Ulster Bank

Mr McNally confirmed that as was agreed at last Municipal District meeting, a letter was issued to the Financial Services Ombudsman's noting the Municipal District Members disappointment and concern of the closure of the Ulster Bank Branch and the resulting impact on the economic viability of the town and the region.

The Financial Services Ombudsman have reverted and noted that as Municipal District Members' complaint does not relate to an individual dealing with the branch that they cannot review the matter. The Financial Services Ombudsman has suggested that we forward this issue to the Central Bank – a letter was subsequently issued to the Central Bank.

Bank Of Ireland

The Clones Branch Manager, Karen Shipley has confirmed that the bank are actively considering to install and ATM machine in their branch. Mr McNally noted that he had offered the Municipal District Offices assistance to arrange meetings with the planning officer if required.

Meeting with the Community Groups

Mr McNally noted that Ms Eileen McManus from the office had been meeting with various representatives of community/tidy towns groups.

The purpose of the meetings are initially:

- To make introductions,
- Make people aware of the location of the Municipal District office
- Seek possible projects that maybe undertaken by the gateway staff.

To date the Municipal Distirct office had met with

- Clones Tidy Towns
- Clones Chamber of Commerce
- Ballybay Chamber of Commence
- Doohamlet Development Association
- Drum Development
- Threemilehouse
- Latton/Bawn
- Newbliss

6. Chief Executive Orders

Chief Executive Order No 14/23-14/36 were noted by the members

7. Questions

Cllr Seamus Coyle asked:

1. As resurfacing works are planned for the section of the R181-9(i.e. Bellatrain-Corracharra), will Monaghan County Council examine and carry out safety improvement

works at the junction of the LT40054(Corhelshinagh,Shantonagh), as this is an extremely dangerous junction for traffic exiting onto the R181-9(Castleblayney-Shercock Rd.), and for the traffic, coming from the Bellatrain direction, as it is in the hallow of the road, an extremely dangerous dip?.

Reply To date, Monaghan County Council has not received confirmation of the 2015 road allocations. Depending on the allocation amount received and the scope of required works, it may be possible to carry out safety improvement works at the junction of the LT40054 in Shantonagh.

2. What plans have Monaghan County Council, to carry out safety improvement works on the junction of the Ballybay-Castleblayney Road (R183-12/13),with the Ballintra Road(LS071000)as this is an extremely busy and dangerous junction, with local traffic, traffic travelling to Our Lady's of Knock Church, Ballintra, Drumhowan G.A.A. grounds and Community Centre, if plans are not drawn up, can this be done immediately, with a view to works being completed as soon as possible?

Reply There are no plans in place to carry out improvement works on the junction of the Ballybay-Castleblayney Road (R183-12/13), with the Ballintra Road (LS071000) during 2015. The best mechanism for funding these works is through the Low Cost Safety Initiative scheme and this junction could be included in a further application for LCSi funding for 2016.

3. What plans have Monaghan County Council for the installation of public lighting on the Monaghan Road, Rockcorry Village, as this is an extremely busy vehicular/pedestrianised Regional road, with a filling station, Gardai station, St.Mary's Hall and St.Mary's Church, Corravackan on this section of roadway and is extremely dangerous on dark winter evening's for pedestrians or those attending masses/funerals at St.Mary's Church, or events in St.Marys Hall. In view of the dangers of the road, can these works be prioritised by Monaghan County Council?

Reply The Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones has a considerable number of locations requiring significant works to be carried out to provide new public lighting. The Public Lighting Budget for 2015 has not yet been received but in 2014 the budget was only €10,000. Assuming a similar allocation in 2015, it would be hoped to complete Public Lighting at those locations at which civil works have already been carried out. These locations include Hill Top/The Square in Rockcorry village and the Newbliss Road in

Threemilehouse. It may also be possible during 2015 to carry out some additional public lighting works on some of the smaller schemes in the Municipal District including Threemilehouse, Connons, and Corcaghan subject to agreement and funding availability.

Cllr Cathy Bennett asked :

4. In relation to road maintenance, do Ballybay/ Clones MD have a regular schedule to table the roads and clean the drains as serious flooding issues are arising on all roads during heavy rain. This also leads to hazardous driving conditions when temperatures drop.

Reply The Municipal District has a schedule of drainage maintenance works, though this is concentrated primarily in urban and areas known to be subject to possible flooding.

The Municipal District staff, do open outlets and carry out small scale works on those roads that are subject to flooding during periods of heavy rainfall.

5. In relation to Cornacrieve and Cornaguillagh Roads, Knockatallon, when will repair works be carried out there, as the road is in an extremely dangerous condition at present and not suitable for traffic.

Reply The Municipal District is due to carry out patching works on these roads before the end of January 2015.

6. Has there been any more developments in relation to the construction of a footpath, from the housing estates on the Roslea Rd into Scotstown?

Reply Work on a 50 metre section of footpath on the Roslea Road at the Ferns Housing Estate is due to be completed before the end of February 2015.

7. In relation to the Low cost safety improvement scheme, has any further developments arose with regards the treacherous crossing at Stranooden, Corcaghan (The old post office) and also the hazardous junction at Greenfield Eggs on the Roslea to Scotstown road?

Reply Both of these locations were included in an application submitted by the Municipal District Office for consideration under the Low Cost Safety Initiative Scheme for 2015. As yet the Municipal District Office has not received confirmation of its Low Cost Safety Initiative Scheme allocation for 2015 and whether these applications have been successful.

8. With regards to safety measures to slow traffic at Urbleshanny School, when will these be carried out?

Reply The Municipal District office is currently preparing tender documentation for the provision of two ramps on the LP2000 outside Urbleshanny School. It is envisaged that a contractor will be appointed by the end of February 2015.

Cllr Ciara McPhillips asked:

9. Will the Municipal District of Ballybay/Clones contact Eircom in order to investigate the progress of repairs to telephone lines in the Connons/Drummully area and to confirm when permanent repairs will be completed? It is my understanding that overhanging trees have caused serious damage to telephone lines in this area and the current repairs are a "stop-gap" solution only.

Reply The Municipal District Office issued a letter to Eircom on 15th January 2015 regarding this matter. Once a response has been received it will be circulated to all the Municipal District Members.

10. Can the Municipal District of Ballybay/Clones please advise whether any response has been received from the Roads Section, Monaghan County Council in relation to my previous question regarding traffic calming measures in Smithboro village?

Reply The Roads Section has confirmed that the NRA's Safety Inspector has visited the site and is currently awaiting the Inspector's report and recommendations.

11. Can the Municipal District of Ballybay/Clones, please confirm that all public lighting in Scotshouse village/housing estates is in working order?

Reply The Municipal District Office understands that Public lighting in Scotshouse village which is under the control of Monaghan County Council is in working order. However, there is also Public Lighting in estates in the village which may not be in working order. These estates have yet to be taken in charge by Monaghan County Council and as yet no application for taking in charge has been received.

Pat Treanor asked:

12. When will Monaghan County Council be in a position to repair the dangerous road's edge at Corhelshinagh, Shantonagh, on the R181 ?

Reply The Municipal District Engineering staff inspected this road on Monday 12th January 2015. The Municipal District Office proposes to carry out remedial works at this location shortly with the aim of having works completed before the end of January 2015.

13. When will Monaghan County Council repair the dangerous dip on one side of the road near the new Handball Ally, Bawn on the R162

Reply The Municipal District Engineering staff inspected this location on Monday 12th January. The Municipal District Office proposes to carry out remedial works at this location shortly with the aim of having works completed before the end of January 2015.

14. There is only 1 public light at the Connons chapel to cater for mass-goers, those using the car park, the school, and the community centre. Are there plans for further lights? When will they be erected? How many public lighting projects are on the waiting list? Where are these and how long are they on the waiting list?

Reply The Municipal District of Ballybay Clones has a considerable number of locations requiring significant works to be carried out to provide new public lighting. The Public Lighting budget for 2015 has not yet been received but in 2014 the budget was only €10,000. Assuming a similar allocation in 2015 it would be hoped to complete Public Lighting at those locations at which civil works have already been carried out. These locations include Hill Top/The Square in Rockcorry village and the Newbliss Road in Threemilehouse. It may also be possible during 2015 to carry out some additional public lighting works on some of the smaller schemes in the Municipal District including Threemilehouse, Connons, and Corcaghan subject to agreement and funding availability.

8. Notice of Motion

Cllr Seamus Coyle proposed the following:

“That Monaghan County Council immediately, carry out all required investigative works, identification of possible sites, access and exit routes, draw up detailed plans for consultation and on completion of this process, commence works on, off Street Car Parking at Main St., Ballybay, which is necessary for business in the town centre of Ballybay town”.

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

9. Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy

The members extended Votes of Sympathy to the following:-

Chris Mallon and family, on the death of his father, Brendan.

Anna McDermott and family on the death of her husband, Benny.

The wife, family and all relatives, friends and work colleagues on the death of Pat Connolly, Brackley, Loughmourne,

The Quinn Family on the death of Dr Patrick Quinn

The McCarney Family of the recent death of Fr. Harry McCarney

The members extended Votes of Congratulations to the following:-

Largy College, Clones on their recent GAA victory over Bailieborough in the 1st round.

Gael Scoil Eois on their success in winning the Ulster Title for the Primary School Science Fair

10. AOB

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to the closure of the Social Welfare Offices in Clones and confirmed that this issue had been discussed at County Council level and advised Members that a meeting has been arranged tomorrow to discuss solutions to this.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed _____

Meetings Administrator

Date 16th February 2015