

Municipal District of Monaghan.

Minutes of Meeting of the Municipal District of Monaghan held in the Boardroom, Mtek 1 Building, Knockaconny on Monday, 19th January, 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. Frances Matthews, Co-Ordinator of Municipal District Meetings, Ms. Bernie McElvaney, Senior Staff Officer, Dermot Deeney, Executive Engineer, Ms. Bernie McMahon, Staff Officer.

Cllr. Conlon welcomed all to the meeting.

1. Urgent Business:

Cllr. Conlon read out items of urgent business submitted by himself and Cllrs. McKenna, Treanor, Connolly in relation to a road traffic accident on Sunday 18th January, at Emyvale, requesting that this Municipal District take immediate action to ensure that measures are taken to improve road safety and that of residents at the north entrance to Emyvale village and that plans for these safety improvements are forwarded to the NRA for approval and safety works commence as soon as possible thereafter.

Cllr. Conlon praised the emergency services for their quick response resulting in traffic diversions being put in place very quickly.

Mr McElwain informed the members that roads were salted the previous evening at approximately 6:30pm and reports that rain occurred at approximately 6am of the morning of the incident. The Garda will be investigating the incident. He also reported that this stretch of roadway is earmarked for funding under the Road Safety Minor Improvement Scheme by the NRA for this year. He advised the members that the Regional Safety Engineer visited the site last year. Monaghan County Council have to carry out a feasibility Study including traffic counts and assessment of speed with regard to this location with a view to setting designing a traffic management scheme. The Council will bring forward their proposal for works to the NRA for approval. In the meantime, as a temporary measure, digital information signs will be erected to indicate that there is a dangerous bend ahead and encourage motorists to slow down.

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Maxwell, it was agreed that we call on the Gardai to monitor speed of traffic travelling through the village of Emyvale. He added that the local residents should be consulted and informed of the safety measures that will be introduced. A lengthy discussion took place on the matter.

1. Confirmation of minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr. McKenna, seconded by Cllr. Treanor, it was agreed that the minutes of the Municipal District of Monaghan meeting held on the 15th December, 2014 be confirmed.

2. Matters arising:

Cllr. Conlon thanked the members for the photoshoot on the Greenway. He also advised the members that a number of fallen trees towards the Convent Section are impeding the Way and requested their removal.

Cllr. Treanor queried if anything can be done to stop the vandalism at development known as 'Forest Walk' at Cortolvin. Mr McElwain responded that we can write to the occupant/receiver to declare who owns it, similar to 'Cnoc na Greine' development which is to be discussed later.

Cllr. Gallagher requested that the area of Greenway to Monaghan Harps Complex be drained as the ground is water clogged causing an icy surface which is dangerous.

In relation to question number 5, Cllr. Gallagher advised that the fencing at Legacurry has deteriorated and requested that a quick response be sought from the NRA in relation to this issue.

Cllr. Treanor stated that 'Ard Gleann' housing estate is dangerous and queried if ramps could be provided to slow down traffic.

Mr Deeney stated that there are ramps installed 60 metres each way and that speed is the problem.

Cllr. Conlon stated that we cannot rely on the Garda to check speed in housing estates and that we must be pro-active ourselves.

Cllr. Gallagher said a 30km speed limit makes sense but laws must be enforced and there is a lack of resources for this. Mr Deeney advised that all housing estates will be evaluated. Mr McElwain stated all requests regarding ramps will be investigated and a proposal put to the members to agree the Works Programme 2015.

Cllr. Gallagher queried the cut-off point for hedgecutting within the Wildlife Act which Mr McElwain confirmed is the 1st March.

3. Application to have development known as 'Manor Wood' taken in charge:

This application was proposed by Cllr. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Maxwell and unanimously agreed.

4. LG Circular 27/2014 Schedule of Municipal District Works:

Mr McElwain gave an overview on what this Circular entails and proposed to meet with the members in early February in conjunction with the Roads Area Meeting when Department funding is known which was agreed by all.

5. St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee:

It was unanimously agreed that all members would be on this committee.

A brief discussion followed on the importance of including retailers/ businesses/recreational and community groups in the organising of this major event. It was also agreed that an invite would be open to these groups inviting them to attend a public meeting in the Market House on Tuesday, 3rd February at 8pm. An advertisement to be placed in the Northern Standard.

6. Funding Request for Monaghan Town Centre Retail Manager:

Cllr. Conlon informed the meeting that an agreement in principle is being sought at this stage regarding the appointment of a Town Centre Retail Manager. Mr Murray gave a brief overview of

the requirements and how it would be funded. Members agreed in principle and indicated that they would have liked more information on this. It was unanimously agreed to support this initiative.

7. Funding Request for Food Specialist/ Business Development Consultant:

Mr McEntegart, Head of LEO, outlined proposals to establish a 'food kitchen' research facility at the Ballybay Business Centre, which would provide those with ideas for the generation of new food enterprises with the environment in which to develop their products. Following a discussion on the initiative where members questioned funding of the project, Mr McEntegart informed members that he had met with Minister Nash before Christmas but had been unsuccessful in achieving 100% funding for the project. It was proposed by Cllr. Conlon, seconded by Cllr. Gallagher, that a funding request should be made in the first instance by Mr McEntegart to the Department of Enterprise and state that he had been asked by the members of the Municipal District of Monaghan to request funding for this Post in order to enhance the business environment of County Monaghan.

8. Report from Municipal District Co-Ordinator:

Mr Mc Elwain read his report and Cllr. Conlon noted it and thanked him.

9. Questions:

Cllr. Sean Conlon asked:

In order to correct the misspelt directional 'finger post' signage at the Old Cross Square entrance to the Monaghan Harps GAA grounds (photo enclosed), will the Council Executive liaise with the relevant bodies to have sign replaced?

Response:

Sign to be replaced, Monaghan County Council liaising with Monaghan Harps to obtain their up to date crest.

For the purpose of supporting the 'shop local' ethos as encouraged by Monaghan Local Authorities and being mindful of procurement legislation, will the Council Executive ensure the buying of local goods and services required for Council business is prioritised? Can this approach apply to major purchases such as for vans, lorries etc.?

Response:

The Council must comply with National and EU procurement rules and the purchase of any vans or lorries will be advertised on etenders website which will be open for all suppliers local or otherwise to participate in.

With the anticipated completion of the current phase of the Mullaghmatt Remedial Scheme due by March, what progress has been made in relation to advancing to Phase 4 specifically with design and tendering. Will all the remaining houses yet to be upgraded be completed in the next phase?

Response:

Monaghan County Council is working with the Department on the delivery of the Remedial Works Scheme at the Mullaghmatt Estate. Funding of €9.986 million has been approved for the remedial works on the estate to date, including €1.3 million approved in respect of Phase 3 of the project which is nearing completion.

The 4th and final phase of the Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme is intended to include all of the remaining houses yet to be upgraded. It is hoped to include significant internal and external work to 12no. local authority owned dwellings and minor external work in the area at 63no. private houses at a total estimated cost of €1.8 million.

The Council has not received Department approval to proceed with Phase 4 yet however it is hoped that approval will be forthcoming during 2015 and as a measure towards continuity of the Remedial Works Scheme the Council has appointed the Housing Agency to prepare the plans and documents required to make a formal application for the funding required.

It is envisaged that a formal application for the fourth and final phase will be made early in the second quarter of 2015 and if Department approval is forthcoming within a reasonable time frame it is intended that the tender process will commence shortly thereafter.

Cllr Robbie Gallagher asked:

Can the Council provide an update with regard to the removal of the derelict building on the Glaslough / Emyvale road near Glennan?

Response:

Health & Safety documents and Traffic Management plan have to be prepared and it is proposed to have the works carried out by the end of February.

Can the Council investigate what repairs are required to the stone walls at the bridge between Coolshannagh and Ballyalbany and take appropriate action?

Response:

An initial assessment has been carried out and it is proposed to carry out the works under the Roads Grant subject to allocations.

Can the Council request that, to avoid unnecessary and unsightly littering, companies responsible for emptying bottle banks and bring banks empty said banks more frequently over the festive period when demand is greater?

Response:

Monaghan County Council already works with the contractor and outdoor staff to ensure bottle banks do not cause a litter problem, however sometimes problems are unavoidable as the volume of bottles has significantly increased over the Christmas and New Year periods in recent years.

For the Christmas / New Year period just past the following scheduled and extra lifts were in place:

19th Normal Lift

27th Extra lift

2nd Extra Lift

5th Jan Normal lift

In addition Notices were placed on all banks in urban areas before Christmas notifying people of all recycling locations and requesting them to notify environment if bank was full. One notification received

Bottle banks were inspected in Monaghan Town and other areas on 31st, 2nd and 5th.

10. Notices of Motion:

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

That due to the continuing lack of reliability of Bus Eireann scheduling, particularly the 3:15am service from Monaghan to Dublin Airport, that this Council seek a meeting with the National Transport Authority and Bus Eireann in an effort to regularise this vital transport service”

Cllr Conlon stated that real time monitors to tell where a bus is on the route is required, that all we are asking for is our basic standard rights in service delivery. Cllr. McKenna seconded the motion and also highlighted the need for up-to-date information on a Digital Information Sign. The motion was unanimously carried.

11. Correspondence:

A letter from the Minister for Justice and Equality dated 17 December 2014 acknowledging receipt of our letter.

A letter from the Office of the Minister for Education and Skills dated 28 December 2014 acknowledging receipt of our letter and advising us that enquiries are being made about this matter. Cllr. Gallagher informed the members that another strike is taking place this week and that he supported the stance the teachers are taking.

A letter from the Minister of Justice and Equality dated 30 December 2014 advising the members that all funds for CCTV have been fully allocated and there is no plans to further extend the Scheme. On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Treanor, it was agreed to write again to the Minister for Justice and Equality requesting that the Scheme be re-opened again given the worthwhile nature of the CCTV Scheme.

A letter from the Minister for Justice and Equality dated 31 December 2014 acknowledging receipt of our letter.

A letter from the Department of Social and Family Affairs dated 8 January 2015 clarifying the benefits for foreign nationals. A discussion took place on the contents of the letter.

Cllr. Conlon commended our Community Welfare Officers who are under pressure due to the high volume of clients and the strict rigours applied. He also commended the Gardai on applying the Law and their work on fraud claims. On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Conlon, it was agreed to invite the Social Welfare Officer, Anita Tierney to our next meeting to clarify the questions that are being asked so that citizens of this County know what people are entitled to regarding social Welfare.

A letter from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs dated 13 January 2015 acknowledging receipt of our letter and advising that it is receiving attention.

An email from Yamil Uarac Rojas, City Clerk, Manager of Foreign Affairs, Municipality of Osorno to Cllr. Conlon dated 5 January 2015, requesting revival between Sister Osorno Chile and County Monaghan.

A Letter from Enda O Carroll Solicitor dated 9 January 2015, containing legal advice on 'Cnoc na Greine' development.

An email from George Kostadinov, dated 16 January 2015 regarding the possibility of twinning with the Municipality of Chepelare and being a co-applicant in sourcing EU funding.

12. Congratulations:

Congratulations were extended to Francie Coogan, New Terrace, Monaghan on his exemplary Christmas lighting display he erected at his home in December, where he puts tremendous work and effort into the visual entertainment. He added that Francie is a trojan community activist. His expressions were echoed by all members.

Cllr. Conlon expressed support and solidarity for the family of missing man, Kieran McAree. He commended the huge community effort being made in the search for Kieran in the Lough Erne area. He offered the continuing support and solidarity of the Municipal District to the family. All members concurred with this.

13. Sympathy:

A Vote of sympathy was extended to the following:

Dermot Deeney and his family on the passing of his Uncle Seamus in Derry.
The family of Mary Fealy on the passing of Mary, the family of JJ Keenan on the passing of John J, and Barry Healy on the death of his father.

Meeting concluded

Dated this the 19th day of January, 2015

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Meetings Administrator