

**Ceantar Bardasach Carraig Mhachaire Rois – Baile Na Lorgan
Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin**



**The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney
Monaghan County Council**

Minutes of proceedings of July 2016 monthly meeting of The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney held in the Civic Offices, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan on Monday 25th July 2016 at 9.00am

Present: - Mayor Campbell

CLRs Colm Carthy, Jackie Crowe, Noel Keelan, Pdraig McNally, P J O'Hanlon.

In attendance: - Eamon O'Sullivan, CEO; Paul Clifford, Director of Services; Adrian Hughes, Senior Planner; Frances Matthews, Co-ordinator; John Lennon, District Engineer, Amanda Murray, Staff Officer; Stephanie McEaney, Clerical Officer.

At the onset of the meeting Mayor Campbell said it was a great pleasure to welcome everyone to the "Gate Lodge" where he lived as a child.

A minute silence was held for the victims of the recent terrorist attacks in Nice and Munich.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Annual General Meeting

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan and seconded by Cllr Carthy the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 27th June 2016 were adopted

2. Confirmation of Minutes of the June 2016 monthly meeting

On the proposal of Cllr McNally and seconded by Cllr Crowe the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 27th June 2016 were adopted

3. Matters arising

Replies to queries:

- Members were informed that IGSL had finished ground investigations at Annadrummond and the Engineering section were now reviewing same.
- Town Manager has yet to meet with the CoderDoJo group in Carrickmacross.
- It was agreed that land owners be contacted to establish their interest / support in developing Phase II, Carrickmacross Link Road and prepare a report for the September meeting.
- The works at the Wall at St. Finbarr's Church were almost finalised. The Council still awaits a response in relation to the Convent Wall and works have not commenced on repairs to the wall at Ivy Lane. The engineering section will conduct a land search in relation to the wall on the opposite side of Ivy Lane to Parnell Street.

- It was agreed to write again to the Minister for Transport Shane Ross requesting an urgent meeting in relation to road funding.
- It was agreed that a schedule of works and costings would be put together for the September meeting in relation to centre of Inniskeen village.

4. Correspondence

Correspondence was received from the Office of An Taoiseach, acknowledging the receipt of a letter regarding Border Poll. Cllr. Carthy commended his colleagues for taking the lead in this issue and highlighting same.

The Department of Finance acknowledged receipt of a letter outlining a proposal to introduce a 5% reduction/rebate on all costs back to companies who export their products to the UK, to help with the fluctuation of sterling and that this is reviewed every 3 months.

Following a debate on the impact of BREXIT, the following proposal was made by Cllr O’Hanlon, seconded by Cllr McNally and agreed by all:

“That this Municipal District of Carrickmacross Castleblayney undertakes a business plan in relation to making sure that the proper infrastructure is in place for all new possible opportunities that might arise as a result of Brexit. That a meeting be held with local Ministers and local TD’s in relation to this issue”.

The following proposal was made by Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr O’Hanlon and agreed:

“That this Municipal District call on Monaghan County Council through its various channels to make contact with all section on our local economy (i.e. business, industrial, agriculture, tourism) to establish what are their greatest concerns due to Brexit, following this, that we highlight these issues to government, Co. Monaghan is particularly vulnerable to increased cross border trade”.

5. Consideration of Taking in Charge Coil Darach, Bree, Castleblayney

The Mayor welcomed Adrian Hughes, Senior Planner to the meeting and thanked him, Darina Kierans and Ben Clerkin from the planning section for all their work and meetings with the residents and developer. On the proposal of Cllr Crowe, seconded by Mayor Campbell it was unanimously agreed to proceed to take the estate in charge.

6. Consideration of Coordinators monthly report

Issues Raised/Discussed:

- Cllr. McNally said that to date there was still no work underway and he had a number of people concerned about the security fencing around the Convent Wall, Carrickmacross. He sought new bye-laws following the erection of new parking signage in relation to short-term and long-term parking in Carrickmacross. He also sought improved maintenance and hedgecutting on rural road signs.
- Cllr. Keelan commended the council staff on the clean-up works done on the Playparks in the area.
- Cllr. O Hanlon acknowledged the District Engineer and team for all the work taking place on a monthly basis throughout the district and asked that the Council look into possible improvements in the Casual Trading Area in Carrickmacross.
- Mayor Campbell thanked all the Council staff who helped out at the Muckno Mania Festival.
- John Lennon, ExecutiveEngineer, informed the members that flood –relief works on the Keady / Oram Road would take place the last week of August. There would be slight

interruptions as a traffic light system will be in place. He also stated that underground of wirescape on Castleblayney Main St. would be completed in conjunction with improvement works at the roundabout.

7. Questions

The following question were asked by Cllr McNally

1. Has this MD made any progress in identifying a route for a greenway walk around Carrickmacross?

Response: The Municipal District Office has not completed their tender assessment for the walking/cycling strategy for Carrickmacross Town. An assessment report will be provided at the next Municipal District meeting.

2. When is it expected to have the adjustments made to the dividing islands at the roundabout on the Ballybay road in order to allow extra long vehicles access the by-pass to and from the Ballybay direction?

Response: The Municipal District Office has procured a contractor to undertake the realigning of the splitter islands on the R180, Ballybay Road. Work will be completed in the coming weeks.

3. Has this MD received any recent communication from the OPW regarding the flooding at Drumgoan, and what is the latest position regarding flooding prevention measures at (1) Crumlin, Magheraclone; (2) Old N2 Ardee Road, Carrickmacross; and (3) Ballybay road at O'Rourke's Oils.

Response: Drumgoan: - Design proposals, along with flood modelling are currently being developed by the OPW. No start date has been confirmed.

Crumlin, Magheraclone: - The Municipal District Office is finalising flood alleviation works with those affected. Works will commence in 3/4 weeks.

Old N2 Ardee Road: - An overlaying contractor has been procured with works commencing in late August/early September.

Ballybay Road: -A section 50 is being prepared by the District Office for submission to the OPW. When the section 50 is approved, a minor works application will be made the OPW for funding to increase the size of the existing storm culvert in 2017.

4. Has this MD finalised its proposals to reduce speed on the Castleblayney road between Inver College and the roundabout?

Response: A road safety audit has been completed by Duffy Consulting Engineers. The recommendations in the audit will form a low cost safety improvement application to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport for funding in 2017.

The following questions were asked by Cllr Carthy

1. Has any of the budget for footpath repairs been allocated to fixing up cracks and damaged areas to St Josephs Terrace footpath, Carrickmacross?

Response: The public footpath programme for 2016 has already been agreed with the elected members. Consideration will be given to Cllr Carthy proposal, subject to funding becoming available.

2. Will the MD consider offering a first cut service for green areas to private estates in Carrickmacross & Castleblayney where resident committees will continue to maintain the grass etc thereafter (subject to official request being made by resident committee)?

Response: The Municipal District will not be undertaking any grass cutting in private housing estates.

3. When does the Municipal District roads section envisage road markings to be completed to the south-bound junction for LS08152 (Old Castleblayney Road/Castleross Nursing Home junction) as discussed at last month's MD meeting?

Response: Monaghan County Council are still waiting on a date from the TII in relation to the installation of revised road markings on the N2 at its junction with the LS08152 (Old Castleblayney Road/Castleross Nursing Home junction)."

4. Has the County Councils audit of housing estate speed limits been completed and will this MD be considering the addition of speed ramps to a number of housing estates to help implement these new limits?

Response: Yes, the review of speed limits within housing estates taking in charge by Monaghan County Council has been completed. Speed ramps will only be considered when all speed calming solutions have been exhausted.

5. What is the up-to-date position on the proposed works by the OPW in Derrylavin/Drumgoan area of Magheraclone in relation to the flood relief works required?

Response: Drumgoan: - Design proposals, along with flood modelling are currently being developed by the OPW. No start date has been confirmed.

8. Notice of Motions

It was proposed by Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon and agreed by all.

"In light of the continuing high levels of lime in Carrickmacross water supply, that we invite representatives from Irish Water to our next Municipal District meeting"

It was proposed by Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Keelan and agreed by all.

"This Municipal District calls on the Government to act on behalf of the consumer in relation to excessive increases in motor insurance over recent months. We ask that government call on insurance companies to outline their reasons, especially in cases where existing customers, with no previous claims, are seeing up to 100% increases. We call on the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport to outline his plans to deal with this issue including possible measures to help new and young drivers who simply cannot afford to pay for insurance"

Cllr. Carthy added that over the last few months he had spoke to numerous people that this is affecting. Young drivers are been quoted out of the market and that Insurance should be dropping in price. He stated that Minister Shane Ross needs to step in and deal with same.

It was proposed by Cllr Campbell, seconded by Cllr Crowe and agreed by all.

"That Carrickmacross – Castleblayney Municipal District carry out a survey of the junctions on the Castleblayney by-pass to ensure sufficient lighting"

Cllr. Crowe issued his serious concerns in relation to the lack of junction lighting off the Shercock and Ballybay road junctions. He added that from the onset of the opening of the bypass these issues are ongoing.

9. Director of Services Orders

The orders attached to the agenda were noted.

10. Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations

The following Votes of Sympathy were passed, a minutes silence as observed with all present standing.

- Catherine McConnon and Family on the death of her father Murtagh Francis Montgomery.
- John McEneaney and Family on the death of Marion McEneaney.
- Fionn and Barry McCourt and Family on the death of their mother Mairead McCourt.
- Anthony Fee on the death of his father Tom Fee.
- Greg Boylan and family on the death of his father in law Michael Agnew.

Votes of congratulations were extended to the following:

- Born To Perform Stage School on winning All Ireland Variety Show 2016.

11. Any Other Business

Cllr. Carthy requested that a presentation be made to “Born to Perform” Stage School on their ongoing success.

The Director of Services informed the members that a review of derelict buildings in the area had commenced.

Cllr. McNally asked that the Engineers look into upgrading section of the Carrickmacross – Dundalk Road from the Ballymackney to the Red bog as there are a number of serious dips on the road.

Mayor Campbell thanked Frances, Amanda and Stephanie and all staff that had helped in anyway with the official opening of the Gate Lodge which was taking place directly after the meeting.

Next meeting – Monday 26th September 2016 at 10.00 am

Meeting concluded at 10.45am

Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: 26th September 2016.