

Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on 18th July, 2016 at 10.00am in Clones Courthouse, McCurtain Street, Clones, Co Monaghan.

Members Present The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Pat Treanor, presided

The following members were also present:- Cllrs:- Cathy Bennett, Seamus Coyle, and Cllr Hugh McElvaney

In Attendance Adge King, Director of Services, Dympna Condra, Tourism & Marketing Executive, Kevin McNally, Municipal District Co-ordinator, Kieran Duffy, Executive Engineer, Angela Gallagher, Staff Officer.

Apologies Cllrs:- Sean Gilliland and Ciara McPhillips,

1. Confirmation of minutes of AGM

The minutes of the AGM with amendment (reference to Cllr Seamus Treanor to Cllr Seamus Coyle) were proposed by Cllr Hugh McElvaney and seconded by Cllr Seamus Coyle.

2. Confirmation of minutes of monthly meeting

The minutes of the June monthly meeting were proposed by Cllr Seamus Coyle and seconded by Cllr Cathy Bennett.

3. Matters arising from previous minutes

Cllr Seamus Coyle referred to page 1 of the previous minutes regarding the Public Lighting programme which was circulated to the Members and asked that this item be placed on the September Agenda.

Cllr Seamus Coyle asked that the update on the proposed site for Ballybay Fire Station also be included on the September Agenda. Cllr Coyle noted that A/Chief Fire Officer has obtained promotion in another County. Cllr Hugh McElvaney suggested that the Members visit this site in September as the meeting is due to take place in Ballybay. This was agreed.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to page 3 of the previous minutes regarding the event carried out by Clones Community Forum and wished to congratulate Ms. Alana McDonald on being crowned the Cassandra Hand Rose and stated that Ms McDonald has gone through to the next round of the competition.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to page 3 of the previous minutes regarding the speeding issues that are being raised on a regular basis and asked what measures are being done to alleviate this problem. Mr Kevin McNally stated that the Municipal District are investigating the area's being highlighted by the Members and liaising with the Gardai on this issue. Mr Kieran Duffy stated that ramps may no longer be the solution particularly on National Roads and that chicanes may be an option, however funding is required and only €25,000 was made available last year for the Low Cost Safety Initiatives. Mr Kevin McNally stated that enforcement needs to be considered and that the Municipal District will continue to liaise with An Garda Síochána in this regard.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney stated that he is on the JPC Sub-Committee which meet with the Gardai on a regular basis. Topics discussed include the placing of notices at the side of particular roads to encourage people to slow down, such as the number of deaths which have occurred and the importance of road safety. Cllr Hugh McElvaney noted that the next meeting of this group is due to take place in September.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to the 30km speed limits in all local authority housing estates and asked what measures would be implemented. Mr Kieran Duffy stated that signage would be erected on all these estates.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney referred to page 4 of the previous minutes regarding carrying out works at Nart hollow on the R188 subject to approval. Cllr Hugh McElvaney proposed that this road be included in the programme, this was seconded by Cllr Seamus Coyle and agreed by all. Mr Kevin McNally stated that this proposal was subject to funding being available.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to page 8 of the previous minutes regarding the allocation of €40,000 for a study of the Bunnoe River and stated that this money is welcomed, however funding is also required for the Drumore River and proposed the following:-

“That the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District write to Minister Heather Humphrey’s T.D. and the OPW and request that funding be made available to help dredge the Dromore River System. The river is presently not flowing to its full capabilities and this could be addressed easily with some relevant funding.”

This proposal was seconded by Cllr Seamus Coyle and agreed by all.

4. Correspondence

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to Item 4.2 correspondence received from Irish Water regarding the transfer of billing from the Local Authority to Irish Water. A discussion took place regarding the €50 administrative charge and the Members acknowledged that this charge would remain and that Irish Water would now be collecting all charges.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to Item 4.5 correspondence received from the Planning Section regarding the taking in charge of Ard na Gaoithe, Knockatallon. Cllr Cathy Bennett was pleased that a cash bond of €19,050 had been retained by Monaghan County Council and that they have made an application to the Department for an additional €13,450 funding under the National Taking in Charge Initiative for Residential Estates to carry out works that would facilitate the completion and taking in charge of this development. Cllr Cathy Bennett requested that based on this funding, that Monaghan County Council provide a breakdown of what works will be done and a timescale for completion of this work.

Mr Kieran Duffy advised that he could not state the exact nature or scale of the works until the total funding available is confirmed, however there is likely to be an overlay on the road, fencing and footpath works.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney stated that the residents on this estate should be congratulated in their efforts to have this estate completed and taken in charge.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to Item No. 4.6, correspondence received from the Minister for Regional Development, Rural Affairs Arts, and the Gaeltacht, Heather Humphrey's T.D. regarding restoration of the Ulster Canal and expressed concerns regarding how slow the project is progressing and that there needs to be a bigger emphasis on trying to have this work completed more promptly. Cllr Pat Treanor stated that since this letter was written a further meeting of the task force had taken place and that he is looking forward to receiving a further update on this matter.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to Item No. 4.7 regarding letters issued to the Planning Section as regards the Masts at Corcaghan and no response being received from the Planning Section. Mr Kevin McNally stated that he would continue to seek a response from the Planning Section regarding this.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to Item No. 4.32 in additional correspondence, regarding a letter from Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin T.D. and the response he received from Minister Leo Varadkar T.D. concerning a new Intreo Centre and expressed his disappointment that the Government has confirmed that they have no plans to establish a new Intreo Centre in County Monaghan. Cllr Seamus Coyle also expressed his disappointment and stated that he would be bringing this to the attention of the Oireachtas members at the Meeting in Ballybay Wetlands Centre on Friday 22nd July 2016 at 10am to discuss this same issue.

5. Launch of MD Brochure

Cllr Pat Treanor welcomed Ms. Dympna Condra to the meeting to launch the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District Brochure. Cllr Pat Treanor stated that the brochure is called '20 Things to Know about Ballybay and Clones Municipal District'. Ms Dympna Condra stated that it is an on-line brochure which will assist in the promotion of the Municipal District as a place to live, work, visit and do business in and is featured on the www.monaghanbusiness.com website. It is one of a suite of on-line brochures – one for the county, and one each for the Municipal Districts, which has been developed by the Tourism Unit to get the message out that this county is a great place to invest and do business in and has many key advantages in this regard. Advantages like:

- Our border location - providing strategic access to the UK market and access to key airports and ferry ports
- Our proximity to Dublin
- Our strong work ethic
- A wide selection of available properties for retail, industry and commercial office use
- A low cost business location

Ms Dympna Condra stated that a key target market for this promotion is the Monaghan Diaspora and we want to encourage those with Monaghan links to come back and set up or expand their companies in this area. We look forward to your support in getting this brochure out to your connections overseas and in acting as ambassadors for the county when you are travelling on business.

In addition, the Tourism Unit will be contacting the overseas offices of the IDA, Enterprise Ireland and Irish diaspora organisations to make them aware of this county, its new publications and the advantages it offers to businesses.

Ms Dympna Condra thanked the staff at the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District for their assistance in developing the brochure.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney complimented the Tourism Section on the development of the brochure and asked that he would be supplied with some hard copies of the brochure. Mr Kevin McNally stated that a supply would be forwarded to Cllr Hugh McElvaney and that if any other Members would like a supply to contact the office in Clones.

Cllr Cathy Bennett welcomed the launch of the brochure and asked if the photograph of the Sliabh Beagh Area be highlighted on the brochure. Cllr Cathy Bennett asked if Dympna works closely with Tourism Ireland and what is the Tourism Section currently doing to promote the Sliabh Beagh Area? Cllr Cathy Bennett also asked what the Tourism Section is doing to promote Ireland's Ancient East.

Ms Dympna Condra confirmed that she had previously worked with Fermanagh District Council and was involved with them in developing Marketing Material to promote the Sliabh Beagh area. Ms Condra also confirmed that she had recently met with her counterparts in Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and is currently drafting the Terms of Reference to appoint a consultant to meet with the groups and to discuss ways to promote the area further.

Ms Dympna Condra stated that Failte Ireland are currently erecting signage on the National Roads and the Roads Section are erecting signage on the Regional Roads at the moment. Ms Dympna Condra stated that there is a separate link on the Monaghan Tourism website for Heritage stories and Clones features regularly on this site. A professional photographer has been employed to take up to date photographs of key Heritage Sites and these will be forwarded to Failte Ireland to be uploaded onto their website.

6. Report by Municipal District Co-ordinator

Engineers Report – July 2016

Mr Kieran Duffy confirmed the following:-

The county roads restoration program has progressed very well this year and all roads in the 2016 county roads program have been surfaced apart from LP4905 at Raferagh which is due to be completed during the month of August.

Bitmac works are now completed on the following roads:

- LP2031 Killatten to Selloo
- LP6131 Lisarrilly to Drummullan
- LP2262 Drumurcher to Magherashagry
- LP2700 Corravackan to Mullangore
- LP3001 Mountain lodge to Money
- LP3120 Creeve to Carrickavelty
- LT27011 Oghill to Tullycarragh.

The surface dressing of these roads and the roads identified in the Municipal District's separate surface dressing program is presently taking place and it is hoped that this will be completed by the end of the month.

Unfortunately the poor weather conditions are adversely affecting the surface dressing works somewhat but it is hoped that the majority of the works will be completed on schedule. As agreed by the Members at the beginning of the year, 3 additional roads were provisionally included on the 2016 roads program which were to be considered for Restoration Improvement works in the eventuality of funding.

- LP2021 – Drumslovog to Scotstown (Bog road out of Scotstown)
- LS6510 – Loyst to– Dundrannan (Tony Hannaways road)
- LS6291 – Killygone to Corkeeran.(Road in past Killeevan school / GAA)

Having reviewed the budgets and funding it is now proposed to progress Restoration Improvement works on the LP2021 and LS6291 during August. A further budget review will be carried out in early August to determine whether sufficient funds will be available to also undertake works on the LS6510.

The regional road restoration improvement works are due to take place during August upon completion of the county roads program in each of the three Municipal Districts

These works will include resurfacing on the following roads:-

- R183 In Newbliss village
- R162 Annaneese to Edenforan
- R189 Cornansoo to Drumgarly.

Mr Duffy noted that at the June meeting it was indicated that the Municipal District may be in a position to carry out works on R188 (At Nart hollow) and in Doohamlet village. These and any additional regional road Restoration Improvement works will be subject to funding being available.

Since the last Municipal District meeting design works on the R162/R190 have been substantially completed and construction works are now progressing on both the R162 and R190. Lands have been secured and works including the provision of berms and drainage have commenced.

In the event of any additional flood preventative works funding being made available a consultant has been appointed to proceed with design works to eliminate flooding on the Monaghan road in Threemilehouse.

Similarly it is hoped to carry out works on the R162 at Monatin on the Monaghan road outside Ballybay but again this is subject to funding being available.

Regarding repair works identified following the storms earlier this year the Municipal District are progressing and works have recently commenced on Drumsnatt bridge and a tender process to appoint a contractor to carry out works at Caddagh bridge has recently been completed and it is the intention to have these works completed in the coming weeks.

Other works being progressed in the Municipal District office are footpath design works on the R188 from Rockcorry village to the new Church of Ireland School and footpath works on the Roslea road In Scotstown village. It is hoped to have these designs finalised in August.

The preparation of tender documents to carry out a hydrological study on the Bunnoe River are presently being progressed by the Municipal District office with a view to going to tender during August.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to the N54 at Teehill and stated that residents in the area are concerned regarding the number of accidents which have happened at this location and asked if crash barriers could be erected at this site. Mr Kieran Duffy stated that this issue has been highlighted to Traffic Infrastructure Ireland previously however another letter can be issued to them regarding the concerns raised.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to works at Stranooden Cross and asked when these works would be completed. Mr Kieran Duffy stated that this work would be carried out towards the end of the year.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to the footpath at Loch Mor Avenue in Ballybay and asked if the footpath could be widened. Mr Kieran Duffy stated that this would be considered.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to Ballybay Town Park and the lack of parking at this location. Mr Kevin McNally stated that he had met with Lough Muckno Tri and Ballybay Bowling Club and they are currently progressing plans for a LEADER application for funding which would include additional parking at this site.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney stated that there are trees/bushes overgrown at Stranooden Cross, Brendan McCahey's at Swanns Cross and at the crossroads on the Monaghan Side of Smithboro. Mr Kieran Duffy stated that he would arrange to have these locations inspected and works carried out.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney stated that the road at Brennan's Cross at Lemaculla needs work carried out to it. Mr Kieran Duffy stated that this will be referred to the Monaghan Municipal District.

Cllr Seamus Coyle referred to the new footpath in Rockcorry and asked if this would include a crossing at Boyher and additional parking. Mr Kieran Duffy stated that correspondence had been issued to the Roads Section regarding a crossing at this site to determine if the Low Cost Safety Initiative Allocation for Rockcorry can be used to provide a pedestrian crossing at this location. With regards additional parking, this would need to be discussed with the Housing Section as there is not a lot of green area in the estate and Mr Duffy would revert back with his findings to the Members.

Cllr Seamus Coyle referred to Latton Bridge what sought confirmation as to the commencement date for works. Mr Kieran Duffy stated that work should commence in August/September.

Cllr Seamus Coyle referred to the Corduff/Raferagh area and asked how this is serviced and could lorries use the depot in Carrickmacross. Mr Kieran Duffy stated that the filling of potholes it is usually carried out by a contractor that is used for this area, however in connection with any other works he can discuss this with the Castleblayney/Carrickmacross Municipal District should the need arise.

Mr Kevin McNally referred to the following roads and stated that there has been a request that they remain in other Municipal Districts.

The following to remain within Monaghan Municipal District:-

LT21807	Killicashel- 3 Roads	Crumlin - 3 Roads
LP1012	Drumdesco-4 Roads	Killymarran - 4 Roads

The following road to be considered by Members at the next meeting of the Castleblayney-Carrickmacross Municipal District:-

LS8201	Tullynamalra Cross Roads	Boraghy - 3 Roads
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The following road to remain within the Ballybay Clones Municipal District:-

LT21804 Drumguill - 3 Roads Clonavarn - 3 Roads West

Mr Kevin McNally noted that the final decision on these roads could be considered at Council level and will discuss same with John McKernan.

Mr Kevin McNally confirmed the following:-

Clones Regeneration committee

Clones Regeneration tourism subcommittee is investigating and developing tourism projects for Clones Town. A meeting has been organised with Mr Chris Corlett from the Department of Heritage to discuss the development of a range of possible projects for Clones – meeting will be take place on Wednesday 20th July 2016 at 10.00 in the Canal Stores.

The Municipal District is still progressing the social housing project identified for Fermanagh Street and discussions are ongoing with a number of property owners.

Ballybay

The meeting of the Ballybay regeneration committee was held on Tuesday 5th July 2016.

The Council has appointed the contractor for the streetscape improvement works and these are progressing well and weather permitting will be completed towards the end of the month.

Invitation has been sent to the Burgermeisterin of Osterhofen, Liane Sedlmeier, to attend the Oktober Feast in Ballybay at the end of September 2016.

Scotshouse Playground

A number of tenders provision of playground equipment at Scotshouse has been received. These tenders are been assessed and it is hoped to have a contractor appointed during August.

Clones Courthouse Seating

A deposit has been paid to the contractor for the tiered seating and it is hoped to have this work completed in September.

7. Questions

ClIr Seamus Coyle asked:-

1. Can Monaghan County Council immediately erect Directional Signage for "Loughmourne Presbyterian Graveyard", Loughmourne(LS08200) at Tossey Cross (R180-2-LP04210) and Larkins Cross (LP04210-LS08200) as this is a highly significant local site?

Reply The Municipal District of Ballybay and Clones will order directional signage for Loughmourne Presbyterian graveyard which will subsequently be erected at Larkins cross and Tossey cross.

2. Can Monaghan County Council arrange the immediate connection of the public lighting and all associated works at the Knocknamaddy Housing Estate, The Avenue, Ballybay, as the surrounds are very dark during the winter months?

Reply The Knocknamaddy Housing Estate in Ballybay is an estate that has yet to be taken in charge by Monaghan County Council. Monaghan County Council has not been successful in contacting the developer of the estate. The Municipal District of Ballybay and Clones will in the interim seek quotations from Airtricity to determine the scale of the costs involved in ensuring the public lighting is operational.

3. What plans have Monaghan County Council for the installation of additional traffic calming measures to address the speeding into O'Duffy Tce., Ballybay on the Carrickmacross Rd., as it is currently very dangerous for pedestrians etc, as this is a very busy traffic/pedestrian area, with Traynor's Mini-Market, entrances to Cuil Brennan, Corrybrennan and O'Duffy Tce.?

Reply There are no plans presently to provide additional traffic calming measures at this location. The Municipal District of Ballybay and Clones will carry out a traffic survey at this location the results of which can be presented at the next meeting of the Ballybay Clones Municipal District.

4. Can Monaghan County Council examine what road safety improvements, can be carried out at Veldins Cross, Latton as it is currently, very dangerous, with the acute dip at the junction of the LP03000/LP03001-LS07001/LS070000, the scene of many accidents, unfortunately one fatal, in recent years?

Reply This site was previously allocated funding for Low Cost Safety Improvement works. The road geometry at this particular location makes it difficult to carry out further significant improvement measures but the site will be reviewed by staff to assess whether it will be possible to carry out some additional minor measures particularly in light of the recent resurfacing works from Veldins cross to the Hut Cross

Cllr Sean Gilliland asked:-

5. Can Ballybay /Clones Municipal District and its Engineering Staff review the junction layout at Lisduff Cross R180/L4210 in relation to the visibility splays exiting the L4210 onto the R180.

Reply The Ballybay Clones Municipal District is presently reviewing this particular junction with a view to carrying out some additional improvement works.

8. Notices of Motion

Proposed by Cllr Seamus Coyle:-

“That Ballybay/Clones Municipal District calls on Eirgrid to immediately withdraw the planning application to An Bord Pleannala for the North-South 400Kv Interconnector from Turleenan, Co.Tyrone to Woodland, Co.Meath, through Counties Monaghan and Cavan following the Brexit Referendum result and the uncertainties over the E.U. single energy market, the project being partly funded from the European Fund for Strategic Investment, under the P.C.I. designation, which is no longer applicable as the U.K.is exiting the E.U.”

(If adopted to be forwarded to Eirgrid,the Minister,M.D.s and M.C.C.)

This proposal was seconded by Cllr Pat Treanor and agreed by all.

Proposed by Cllr Seamus Coyle:-

“That Ballybay/Clones Municipal District demands the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Michael Creed T.D., the government and the E.U.to act immediately to increase Milk Prices to farmers i.e. increase intervention prices, direct financial aid packages, butterfat adjustments, full access to the Russian Market, ensure accurate cost price analysis per litre by Teagasc for the North East region, as producers are currently suffering huge losses and addressing the issue of huge super levy fines of farmers.”

(If adopted to be forwarded to E.U.Commissioner for Agriculture, Phil Hogan, Minister for Agriculture, Michael Creed T.D. and M.C.C.)

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

9. Chief Executive Orders

Chief Executive Order No's BCMD 35/16-45/16 were noted by the Members

10. Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy

The members extended a Vote of Sympathy to the following:-

To the wife and family of Cahal O'Neill, 40 O'Neill Park, former Member of Clones Town Council.

The Ambassador of France to Ireland and the French people on the death of the Nice victims on Thursday evening last in a horrific and outrageous attack on innocent people.

The members extended a Vote of Congratulations to the following:-

The Tyrone Football team on winning the Ulster Final

The organisers of the Country Festival in Monaghan Town

The Ulster Council of the GAA, Tyrone, Donegal and Derry GAA County Boards, the business community and people of Clones, An Garda Siochana, the Emergency Services, media and staff of Ballybay/Clones Municipal District on their excellent work and professionalism hosting and presentation of the 2016 Ulster Finals at St. Tiernach's Park Clones and especially the winners Tyrone and Donegal.

The Monaghan Senior Ladies Team, team manager Paula Cunningham, selectors, backroom team and County Board on winning the 2016 Ulster Senior Football Championship.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed _____

Meetings Administrator

Date 19th September 2016