

## **Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones**

Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2014 at 10am in the Courthouse, McCurtain Street, Clones.

**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**        Alan Hall, Acting Director of Services, Kevin McNally, Municipal District Co-ordinator, Roisin Moore, Assistant Engineer, Angela Gallagher, Staff Officer.

### **1. Confirmation of minutes of AGM**

The minutes (as amended) of the AGM were agreed on the proposal of Cllr Pat Treanor and seconded by Cllr Seamus Coyle.

### **2. Matters Arising from previous minutes**

No matters arising.

### **3. Correspondence**

In relation to a letter received from Ballybay Development Association for funding, Mr McNally advised the member that this funding had been awarded in the past and that there are sufficient funds in place for this request. It was proposed by Cllr Seamus Coyle, seconded by Cllr Cathy Bennett and agreed by all.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney asked if the members could be provided with a list of any additional requests for funding that may be received. Mr McNally agreed to provide this.

### **4. Approval of Standing Orders**

#### **15 Questions item 15.5**

It was agreed to amend the number of questions to five. This was proposed by Cllr Seamus Coyle, seconded by Cathy Bennett and agreed by all.

### **5. Report by Municipal District Co-Ordinator**

#### **Peace Link**

Mr K McNally confirmed Monaghan County Council had transferred the operation and maintenance of the Peace link facility to the Community Group who originally initiated the project. The licence bringing this into effect was executed between the parties on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2014.

The key points of the licence were:

- The Management Company is obliged to operate and maintain the facility within agreed parameters
- The Management Company will deliver the SEUPB BRTS programme (this requires the employment of an integrated sports officer)
- The term of the agreement is four calendar years
- Monthly accounts to be produced
- Subsequent to the application of SEUPB (if any) to any operational deficit and if any such deficit remains, Monaghan County Council shall pay this deficit provided that the Councils liability for such deficit shall not exceed €50,000 per annum
- The Management Company are fully responsible for discharge of all future water/waste water charges

Regarding the fit out of the facility the letter of intent was issued to the preferred tender for the supply of the gym equipment at the beginning of last week. The Council hopes to be in a position to formally award this contract by the end of July.

The official opening of the facility which will be undertaken by the President is scheduled for Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney requested that the members be advised of the directors on the Management Company. Mr McNally agreed to provide this information.

### **Knockatallon**

Issued raised at a meeting with Knockatallon Local Development Association which was attended by the Cathaoirleach and Cllrs Cathy Bennett, Seamus Coyle & Pat Treanor. Cllrs Eugene Bannigan & Hugh McElvaney were unable to attend and passed on their apologies.

- Directional signage off the Clones Road

Mr McNally advised that he was currently liaising with his colleagues in the Municipal District of Monaghan to have Knockatallon listed on the directional sign at the Scotstown/Clones Road junction

- Hedge Cutting

Mr McNally confirmed this matter was raised with Coillte office in Cavan. They have undertaken to review this situation.

- Footpath

The current footpath in the area does not run continuously. The estimated cost to complete the missing sections is in the region of €13,000. These works can be considered for inclusion in the 2015 works programme.

- Traffic Calming

Mr McNally that he is currently investigating the suitability of the proposed traffic calming measures and will arrange for costings to be prepared. Subject to funding this location can be considered for works in 2015.

- Road Salting

Mr McNally confirmed that winter maintenance activities are coordinated centrally by the Councils road section. The Council used to be in receipt of a specific allocation for winter maintenance activities, however this is no longer the case and instead costs are now recouped from Road Maintenance allocations. These are very stretched and insufficient to cover this additional cost.

- Local Improvement Schemes (LIS)

In relation to the lane at Dernahesco, Knockatallon & Corragunt in Co. Fermanagh, Monaghan County Council has not received any specific allocation from the Department in the last 2-3 years. The Department has noted though that the Council can allocate a percentage of its discretionary maintenance grant towards LIS. This though would necessitate a reduction in the Municipal Districts overall roads programme. So while the Local Improvement Scheme is open it does not have a specific allocation for 2014.

## **6. Notices of Motions/Questions**

There were no notices of motions.

### **Questions**

#### **Cllr S. Coyle asked**

- 1 As journey times/additional mileage and inconvenience is being caused to H.G.V.s detouring by Scotshouse/Treehoo Cross due to weight restrictions of 7.5 Tonne on the weakened Laurel Hill Bridge on the Redhills Rd., what plans have Monaghan County Council to carry out restoration/improvement works on the bridge, to alleviate the current inconveniences being caused?

**Reply** Monaghan County Council has presently no immediate plans to carry out improvement works on this particular bridge. The Roads Section of Monaghan County Council is proposing to carry out improvement works on a number of bridges in the Municipal District but this bridge is not included under the projects proposed under the 2014 Specific Improvement Works for bridges.

- 2 Will Monaghan County Council carry out an immediate examination of what safety measures for children/pedestrians crossing the road from Crann Mor Housing Estate, Rockcorry to the footpath on the opposite side of the Rockcorry to Cootehill Rd. (R188-7), walking to school/village shop etc., can be put in place as it is currently very dangerous?

**Reply** Monaghan will carry out an assessment of the site to ascertain what safety measures would be appropriate at this location. It may subsequently be possible to include any required works in future Low Cost Safety Improvement Works Scheme applications

- 3 When will Monaghan County Council commence resurfacing works on the Main Street and Clones Rd in Newbliss Village as the surface is currently in a terrible condition?

**Reply** Resurfacing works in Newbliss village are scheduled to take place during August/September 2014 as part of Monaghan County Councils countywide bitmac contract.

- 4 Will Monaghan County Council commit to again re-examine all possible solutions to the terrible nuisance smell, in the St. Patricks Street, Castleblayney Rd. junction area, of Main St. Ballybay, which is a terrible scourge to Residents/business's in this area of Ballybay town?

**Reply** The issue of odours from the public sewer in Ballybay has been referred to Irish Water and the Municipality office subsequently contacted Irish Water on July 1<sup>st</sup> to log a complaint with regards this odour issue. Municipality office will continue to follow up with Irish Water regarding the complaint.

**Cllr C. Bennett asked:**

- 5 Can Monaghan County Council please repair a large pothole at Sweeney's Cross, Scotstown as it is in a very dangerous place and is going to cause a fatal accident?

**Reply** Monaghan Council will investigate and carry out repairs as necessary at this location.

- 6 (a) Can Monaghan Council provide details of any lanes that may be due for road improvements in the upcoming year?  
(b) How many of these lanes are resurfaced per year?  
(b) What is the criteria to secure road improvements on a throughway lane?

**Reply** The Roads section of Monaghan County Council has confirmed that departmental funding has not been made available for any lanes in 2014 under the Local Improvement Scheme. No funding has been available under this scheme since 2011.

- 7 In relation to an issue I previously submitted - Can Monaghan Council supply me with any details in relation to the construction of a footpath from Gola Crest housing development into Scotstown. Has there been any further updates?

**Reply** The acquisition of lands along the route of the proposed footpath has yet to be finalised. Once land acquisition details have been agreed and finalised then work can commence subject to funding availability.

- 8 In relation to the resurfacing of St. Dympna's Housing Estate, Scotstown, has any funds become available to start the works there?

**Reply** Presently no funds are available to resurface St. Dympna's Housing Estate in Scotstown.

- 9 In the interest of securing a better community connection with the town of Ballybay, Can the Chief Executive please provide County Councillors with the use of a room for meetings with the public within the Council buildings in Ballybay town?

**Reply** Monaghan County Council can provide access to the former Ballybay Town Council chamber to County Councillors for the purpose of meetings with the public. Arrangements for access to the building must be made in advance with Angela Gallagher at the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District office.

**Cllr C. McPhillips asked:**

- 10 Will Monaghan County Council consider providing a recycling point in Smithboro village? The provision of a bring bank facility can certainly be considered.

**Reply** The environment section of Monaghan County Council in recent years have greatly increased the number of bring banks throughout the county with the majority of towns and villages now having such facilities. In some villages though such as Smithboro the availability of a suitable location for the provision of such a site has proved problematic. However, if a suitable site is identified through liaison with local community groups in the village, a bring facility can be provided.

- 11 At the 5 Crosses in Knockatallon, can Monaghan County Council carry out hedge cutting or direct landowners that hedges be cut? When you approach the Cross from Knockatallon and look to the left, there is poor visibility due to overgrown trees/bushes.

**Reply** Monaghan County Council typically do not cut hedges on local roads. However, in the past Monaghan County Council has trimmed the hedgerows at this busy junction in the interests of road safety and will arrange for these hedgerows to be trimmed.

- 12 There was, in the past, a public bin on the Main St in Rockcorry. Was this removed by Monaghan County Council and can it be replaced?

**Reply** Monaghan County Council did previously remove the public bin on the Main Street in Rockcorry as it was being used to dump household waste which in turn led to littering problems in the village.

13 Monaghan County Council has previously received monies to carry works under the Low Cost Safety Scheme in Threemilehouse village and at Drumkeen, Aghabog. When is it anticipated that these works will start, given that some time has elapsed since the money was awarded, particularly in Threemilehouse?

**Reply** A contractor has been appointed to carry out these works and it is envisaged that the works will be completed by the end of August.

## **7. Chief Executive Orders**

Chief Executive Order No 14/1 was noted by the members

## **8. Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy**

The members extended a Vote of Sympathy to the families on the death of the following:

Joan Lynch, 12 O'Neill Park

Paddy Tracey, 14 O'Neill Park

Mary Slowey, Carrivetragh, Clones

Marcella McClean, Coragh, Killeshandra, Co. Cavan

## **Congratulations**

Congratulations to the following:-

Cllr Pdraig McNally, Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council on his appointment as National President of the Association of Irish Local Government

Deputy Heather Humphreys on her appointment as Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and that it is recommended that Monaghan County Council accord Minister Humphreys a well deserved civic reception.

County Monaghan GAA, team panel and officials on playing in the Ulster Final and wish them well in future games.

Clones Town F.C. on playing their first tournament on their new grounds at Carn, Clones

## **9. AOB**

It was proposed by Cllr Pat Treanor, seconded by Cllr Cathy Bennett and agreed by all that the Ballybay-Clones Municipal area supports in any way possible a project to floodlight and develop St Tiernach's Park, Clones. That the GAA be informed at local club, county and Ulster Council level.

It was proposed by Cllr Pat Treanor, seconded by Cllr Cathy Bennett and agreed by all that the Ballybay-Clones Municipal district proceed with establishing Clones as a free Wi-Fi Town, as a pilot scheme for Monaghan County Council.

It was proposed by Cllr Séamus Coyle, seconded by Cllr Eugene Bannigan and agreed by all that Monaghan County Council contact the Communications Regulator seeking the upgrading of mobile phone coverage in the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District and express grave concerns at coverage in recent years.

It was proposed by Cllr Séamus Coyle, seconded by Cllr Eugene Bannigan and agreed by all that the September meeting of the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District meeting take place in Ballybay Civic offices.

It was proposed by Cllr Cathy Bennett, seconded by Cllr Pat Treanor and agreed by all that Monaghan County Council support the Councillors in their battle trying to get Irish Water to take responsibility for water supplies, with high emphasis to the hardness levels in Scotstown and Smithboro and brown coloured water supplies in the Ballybay Area. Irish Water needs to be alerted to these facts.

It was proposed by Cllr Cathy Bennett, seconded by Cllr Pat Treanor and agreed by all that Monaghan County Council contact the Communications Regulator and investigate the possibility that high fibre optic cable has already been laid in the vicinity of Knockatallon.

It was proposed by Cllr Ciara McPhillips, seconded by Cllr Eugene Bannigan and agreed by all that Monaghan County Council tender for roads works earlier in the year so that roads are not left with rough stones on the surface for long periods.

### **Planned works in the Municipality**

Ms Moore circulated information to the Councillors advising them of works completed & ongoing in the Local County Roads Programme for 2014 and the Regional Road Improvement works.

Flood Defence Works at Ballybay; The construction contract has been awarded to Irish Bridge Co. Ltd. Construction to commence this week and is programmed to take approximately 4 months (subject to weather). An area of the public carpark to the rear of Ballybay Main Street will be affected by the works and will not be available for parking – alternative locations for off-street parking are being investigated. These works to be supervised by Roads Section of Monaghan County Council.

Bridge Repair Works; Bridge repair works at 7 bridges on Regional Roads were tendered as 2 separate contracts. NC Plant Hire were awarded both contracts on the 16<sup>th</sup> July 2014. Construction will take approximately 8 weeks and will commence in the coming weeks.

Flood Mitigation Works at Threemilehouse; These works are being tendered in late July 2014. Consultations are taking place with Inland Fisheries Ireland and the Office of Public Works to ensure the proposed project completion date will comply with their requirements. It is anticipated the tender will be awarded in early September and works will be complete by late October 2014.

### **Regional and County Roads Surface Dressing Program**

Estimate is that the surface dressing program in the Municipal District is 75% complete.

### **Low Cost Safety Improvement Schemes**

4 schemes planned for Municipality

- Annalore Bridge,

- Drum Village,
- R183 / LT24124 Junction,
- Threemilehouse Village

Works are being planned for September 2014.

### **Issue at Ballybay Roundabout**

A number of members highlighted an ongoing issue regarding a smell located in the vicinity of the roundabout in Ballybay which is affecting businesses in the town.

Mr McNally advised the members that this complaint had been referred onto Irish Water. It was noted that sampling and testing had been carried out and no smell was detected although the situation would be monitored.

This concluded the business of the meeting .