

Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on 16th June 2015 at 4.15pm 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: Adge King, Director of Services, Kevin McNally, Municipal District Co-ordinator, Kieran Duffy, Executive Engineer, Angela Gallagher, Staff Officer, and Ann Burke, Assistant Staff Officer, Monaghan County Council

Prior to the commencement of the meeting Cllr. Ciara McPhillips thanked the members stating that it was a pleasure to work with them. Cllr. Ciara McPhillips informed the members that it was an honour to be the first Cathaoirleach of the new Municipal District for the past year.

1. (a) Election of Cathaoirleach

Adge King announced that the first order of business was to elect the Cathaoirleach, he then requested nominations for the election of Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. Eugene Bannigan was proposed by Cllr. Hugh McElvaney and seconded by Cllr. Pat Treanor. As there were no other nominations, Cllr. Eugene Bannigan was declared elected as Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones for the coming year. Cllr. Eugene Bannigan then assumed the position of Cathaoirleach. He thanked his proposers for nominating him and he stated that he was looking forward to working with the Councillors and the Municipal District staff in the year ahead.

All members congratulated Cllr. Eugene Bannigan on his election as Cathaoirleach and wished him success during his term of office.

(b) Election of Leas-Chathaoirleach

Cllr. Eugene Bannigan sought nominations for the position of Leas-Chathaoirleach. Cllr. Cathy Bennett was proposed by Cllr. Pat Treanor and seconded by Cllr. Ciara McPhillips. As there was no other nominations for this position the Cathaoirleach declared Cllr. Cathy Bennett elected as Leas-Chathaoirleach. Cllr. Cathy Bennett thanked her proposer and seconder for nominating her.

All members congratulated Cllr. Cathy Bennett on her election as Leas-Chathaoirleach.

2. Confirmation of minutes of monthly meeting

The minutes of the May monthly meeting were proposed by Cllr. Seamus Coyle and seconded by Cllr. Pat Treanor.

3. Matters arising from previous minutes

Cllr. Cathy Bennett referred to page 1 of the minutes regarding village signs to be erected at Cremartin and she enquired if there was any further up-date. Mr. Duffy noted that signs have been ordered and will be put in place when received.

Cllr. Cathy Bennett referred to page 4 of the minutes regarding Kilmore football grounds outside Scotstown village. She welcomed the fact that the Council are putting road markings in place and enquired what type of road markings will be installed. Mr. Duffy stated that the road markings will consist of yellow lines.

Cllr. Cathy Bennett referred to page 4 of the minutes regarding a new footpath at Corlatt Housing estate, Knockatallan. Mr. Duffy stated that the Council will provide the required footpath.

Cllr. Eugene Bannigan referred to item 4.4 of the correspondence regarding a letter of congratulations issued to Sean Gilliland, Mourne Shooting Grounds. He stated that one of the names in the letter should have read Matthew Gilliland instead of Mattie Gilliland.

Cllr. Cathy Bennett referred to page 5 of the minutes regarding potholes on the Drummons road and she enquired if there was any further update. Mr. Duffy informed her that remedial works on this road will be carried out in July.

4. Correspondence

Cllr. Seamus Coyle referred to item 4.1 regarding correspondence received from Deputy Caoimhghin O'Caolain TD. Cllr. Coyle acknowledged the efforts of Caoimhghin O'Caolain TD in seeking to retain the Department of Social Protection offices in Ballybay. Cllr Coyle stated that he was disappointed with the contents of the Deputy's letter which confirmed that the Department of Social Protection offices were been removed from Ballybay.

Cllr Coyle noted that the long term cost to the state and exchequer will be greater than retaining the Department of Social Protection offices in Ballybay.

Cllr. Seamus Coyle acknowledged the work of Mr. McNally and the Municipal District staff in identifying other premises in Ballybay for the retention of the DSP Offices.

Cllr. Seamus Coyle proposed the following:

“That the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District write and request the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Brendan Howlin TD to immediately carry out a full investigation and cost analysis of the relocation of the Department of Social Protection Office, PSC Section from Ballybay, Co. Monaghan in terms of lease/rental cost and payments to staff for relocation.

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

Cllr. Pat Treanor acknowledged the letter received from Caoimhghin O'Caolain TD relating to the closing of the Department of Social Protection offices in Ballybay. Cllr. Pat Treanor stated that the closure of the two Social Protection offices in this Municipal District by the Department was an insult to us all. Cllr. Treanor stated that those who travel to Monaghan are told to wait in line and do so for a quite a while.

Cllr. Ciara McPhillips urged all members of the public who go to the Social Welfare Offices in Monaghan to contact each of the Municipal District members with their waiting times etc. which will in turn be forwarded by each Council Member to the Department of Social Protection.

Cllr. Ciara McPhillips stated that Heather Humphreys TD is the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and not the Minister for Social Protection. Cllr. McPhillips noted the efforts of Minister Humphreys in seeking to retain the Department of Social Protection offices in Ballybay.

Cllr. Ciara McPhillips noted that Minister Humphreys Department had allocated funding for various projects within the County.

Cllr. Seamus Coyle stated that Minister Heather Humphreys had failed to meet with the members but that he also acknowledged what Minister Humphreys Department has provided for the County.

Cllr. Seamus Coyle proposed the following:

“That the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District expresses its serious disappointment at the failure of the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to meet the electoral members and representatives of the Ballybay Town community to discuss the retention of the Department of Social Protection Offices in Ballybay on 18th May and 21st May and the Minister and Sean Conlan TD lack of action/interest in assisting to have the approximate 40 jobs retained in the Main Street of Ballybay, with their removal, disastrous for the town’s business activities. Also the Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District to speak to Minister Humphreys to seek her immediate intervention to have the Department of Social Protection Offices and associated jobs retained in Ballybay”.

This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Pat Treanor.

A discussion took place on the matter.

The members agreed that the proposal be put to a vote with the outcome as follows:-

For: - Cllrs. Bannigan, Bennett, Coyle, McElvaney and Treanor

Against:- Cllr. Ciara McPhillips

Cllr. Pat Treanor referred to page 18 of the minutes regarding the closure of the Ulster Bank in Clones and he enquired if there was any response. Mr. McNally noted that correspondence had been issued to the Bank and that he would follow up on this issue.

Cllr. Seamus Coyle referred to item 4.11 regarding email received from Fergal Corrigan, Manager, The Peace Link relating to permission for the Magheraveely Football Club to play matches in The Peace Link. He stated that this was a proud moment in cross border co-operation. All members were in agreement with the sentiments expressed.

5. Report by Municipal District Co-ordinator

Mr. McNally asked Mr. Duffy to give a brief report on the Roads Programme.

Recently Completed and ongoing Works in the area:

- Preparatory works on roads included in the 2015 surface dressing program.
- Ongoing road maintenance and patching works.

- Verge reinstatement works on the R181 at Doora prior to resurfacing works.
- Completion of Restoration Improvement Works on the following roads under the 2015 Roads Improvement program:
 - LS-6141 - Killeevan Glebe Road.
 - LP-2290 - Doohat Road in Drum.
 - LP2291 - Drum
 - LP2321 - Carsan Road
 - LT-71111 - Cargaghbane Road Latton (Windmill Road)
- Completion of Surface Dressing Works on the following roads under the 2015 Surface Dressing program :
 - LP-2120 - Harte Peat Road
 - LP-2222 - Drumloo (Scotshouse Rd out of Newbliss)
 - LT2221 - Drumloo to Latroe road
 - LT23312 and LT23311 Claraghy-Boyher-Rockcorry (2 roads from in Rockcorry from Hilltop to the R188 opposite Church of Ireland school)
 - LS6521 - Cortober Road (Allisters Quarry)
 - LT71112- Cortaghart to Rebane Road.
 - LS7111- Cortaghart to Kilkitt road
 - LT40312- Umarafree road in Corduff

It was intended that works on the following roads will be completed by Friday 19th June 2015:

- Resurfacing works on the LT21003 and LT21003 (i.e. Carn Lane)
- Resurfacing works on the LT21102 and the LT21103 (i.e. Mullanamoy Lane)
- LS-6420 - Kiltubrid-Togan (Red Hut Road) – 850 metre section from Togan crossroads to just past the Kiltubbrid road)
- R183 - Surface dressing works at Aghdrumkeen and Drumate.

Works scheduled to start in Municipal District in coming month:

- Macadam resurfacing works on the following roads under the County and Regional Road I Improvement Programs:
 - LT70011 - Drumlood to Lisnalong road
 - LS5000 - Derrynahesco Road
 - LS5001 - Derrynahesco road.
 - LS7300 - Cornahoe to Creevagh road
 - R181 – Doora to Shantonagh road
 - R190 at Anny
 - R179 at Greenans cross.
- Drainage works on the following county roads
 Completion of drainage works on the LS6130 Lecklevra-Drumullagh Road and the adjacent LT61603 Dyan road.

Completion of drainage works on the LS7020 Money road.

- Safety Storage Systems, the supplier of the proposed bus shelter in Newbliss, have confirmed that the bus shelter on the Clones road out of the village is due to be erected on Wednesday 1st July 2015.

Ballybay-Clones Regeneration committees:

At the last meeting with Clones Regeneration committee it was agreed that a terms of reference would be prepared for the procurement of a planning consultant to draft proposals for the regeneration of Clones - these proposals would be subject to public consultation and will form the basis of possible funding applications in the future. Further meeting with Ballybay Regeneration committee is organised for Wednesday 1st July 2015.

Twinning of Ballybay - Osterhofen

Mr. McNally gave an outline of the recent trip to Osterhofen, Germany. Mr. McNally considered that the trip was very successful and that the twinning between Ballybay and Osterhofen offered potential for the Municipal District as a whole. He noted that many of the shops in Osterhofen displayed the coat of arms of Ballybay in their shop windows and they provided discounts for Ballybay customers.

Cllr. Ciara McPhillips thanked the staff members for booking the flights. Cllr. McPhillips informed the members that they had attended a local festival and visited industrial sites as potential for business is vast and that there is a positive basis for a greater partnership.

Cllr. Cathy Bennett stated that she supported Cllr. Ciara McPhillips' and Mr. McNally's report. Cllr. Bennett stated that she never experienced such a welcome like it and that when members of the Osterhofen committee come back to Ireland the Municipal District will have to provide a warm welcome.

Cllr. Ciara McPhillips suggested that a letter be forwarded to The Burgermeister of Osterhofen, Liane Sedlmeier on their hosting of the Twinning contingent from the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District area. Cllr. McPhillips further stated that this Municipal District should recognise fifteen years of the twinning arrangement between Ballybay and Osterhofen – this special occasion should be acknowledged in the near future.

6. Questions

Cllr. Seamus Coyle asked:

1. As many roads in the Corduff, Raferagh and Bawn areas (Area of formerly South Monaghan - now in Ballybay-Clones M.D.), are in an absolutely atrocious condition, with road surface completely gone in many cases, large potholes, local residences are suffering enormous hardship, with the threat of school bus services being withdrawn for the commencement of 2015/16 school year, taxies refusing to travel, many of the roads in these areas, such is the terrible condition, they are in, what action can the Ballybay-Clones M.D. take to address, what is a crisis situation of road conditions in these areas?

Reply There is presently no funding under the 2015 RI program to carry out Restoration works in these areas. Monaghan County Council can undertake basic some emergency repair work in these areas but to effectively and adequately address a

number of the worst roads in these areas will require the inclusion of these roads in subsequent road restoration programs.

2. What progress have Ballybay-Clones M.D. made on proposed works on the pedestrian crossing at Main Street, Ballybay, (Bank of Ireland to Post Office), as local business persons and residents are continuously highlighting the dangers of the crossing for particularly the elderly and children crossing, as traffic is failing to stop at the crossing?

Reply Monaghan County Council intends carrying out a road safety audit at this location prior to deciding what works if any should be carried out on the crossing. It has been estimated that the cost of upgrading the existing zebra crossing to a signalised pelican crossing is in the region of €20,000.

3. RE; Gola Crest and The Ferns Housing Estates, Roslea Road, Scotstown.
Can the Ballybay-Clones M.D. and Monaghan County Council outline their plans for the above Scotstown estates?

(A) When can residents expect the above estates to be "Taken in Charge" by Monaghan County Council and what procedures have been or need to be done, to activate the Taking in Charge process by the residences/developer?

Reply Monaghan County Council is in the process of reviewing all Taking in Charge applications pending. Local Authorities are now required to consult Irish Water on all Taking in Charge applications. The outcome for each site will depend on whether the estates are satisfactorily completed or not. Where sites are not satisfactorily completed local authorities shall be required to liaise with Irish Water to agree a resolution. On this basis it is not possible to provide a defined timescale for the conclusion of the Taking in Charge process for these sites at this stage.

(B) When will the footpath be completed to the village of Scotstown from the above estates on the Roslea Rd?

Reply It is the intention to complete works on the proposed footpath from Ferns Housing estate to Scotstown village in the latter half of 2015

(C) When will all public Lighting be completed for the above estates and to the village of Scotstown?

Reply Gola Crest and The Ferns have not yet been Taken in Charge. Regarding the provision of public lighting on the approach to the village from the Roslea Road this has been included in the draft public lighting program.

4. Can Ballybay-Clones M.D. investigate and put in place "Picnic/Public Seating", on the green/grass area, adjacent to the drainage works on the river at the Fairgreen car park and O.P.D.s, Fairgreen, Clones Rd, Ballybay?

Reply Monaghan County Council will investigate the possibility of providing seating in these areas.

5. Re: **Drumlane Cross, Tullynahinera, Castleblayney.**

As this is an extremely dangerous junction, with very restricted visibility for vehicles exiting the LP04200 (Tullynahinera P.O. road) onto the LP04201 (Tossey Cross-R181) and very

dangerous verges for traffic, school buses, H.G.V.s, etc. turning from the LP04201 into the LP03201(Drumhowan Rd.), with recent incidents involving a school bus and a load of meal, almost coping into the bog, as they turned into the Drumhowan side of the junction, what plans have Monaghan County Council for safety improvement works at this very dangerous junction, before there is serious injury or fatalities?

Reply On further investigation the actual junction including the section of each of the four roads immediately entering the junction are actually located within the Municipal District of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney. It is proposed to hold a meeting with Engineering staff from the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD to discuss how best to progress this issue.

7. Notice of Motions

Cllr. Seamus Coyle proposed the following:

“That the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District and Monaghan County Council, encourage/assist and support local communities to develop "1916 Gardens of Remembrance" in their local area, to provide for future generations a permanent reminder of the 1916 Rising, it's legacy to the Irish Republic and all of it's people. The main features of the Gardens being, a flag pole, for the flying of the National flag, the Tricolour, representing all traditions on the Island, the 1916 Proclamation and 7 trees, commemorating each of the Proclamation signatories”.

This proposal was seconded by Cllr Ciara McPhillips and agreed by all.

Cllr. Ciara McPhillips informed the members that €35,000 has been made available from Minister. Heather Humphreys office, The Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht for various projects for the 1916 commemorations. Cllr. McPhillips stated that application forms are now available from Monaghan County Council for funding and encouraged all community groups to apply.

Cllr. Ciara McPhillips proposed the following:

“That the motion of Cllr. Seamus Coyle regarding 1916 be forwarded to the 2016 Steering Committee”.

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

Cllr. Pat Treanor stated that the Proclamation should be somewhere where the public can read it but this the matter can be addressed over the next year.

Cllr. Seamus Coyle proposed the following:

“That the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District undertake an extensive "Clean Up" i.e. power hose washing, weed spraying, litter gathering etc., of the towns of Ballybay and Clones, encouraging and reminding all property owners of their responsibilities to maintain their properties, to portray the very best possible image of Ballybay and Clones, to shoppers, visitors/tourists etc., as we encourage all to "Shop Local", in support of local business and their proprietor's”

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

Cllr. Pat Treanor referred to grass cutting at Analore Street stating that grass at this area has not been cut as yet. Mr. McNally stated that this Municipal District does not have a block grant this year to cover the cost of other works but that this matter would be addressed.

8. Chief Executive Orders

Chief Executive Order Nos. BCMD 18/15 - BCMD 25/15 were noted by the members.

9. Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy

The members extended a vote of congratulations to the following:

- Maire Treanor and the Clones Lace Group on running the 25th Annual Clones Lace Summer School, attracting lace makers from all over the world to Clones.

10. A.O.B.

Cllr. Cathy Bennett proposed the following:

“That this Municipal District write to the Minister for Health and ask that the terms and conditions for under 6 free GP care be reconsidered. Presently the under 6 GP care programme is not offering equality in Ireland. Certain counties have seen Doctors uptake this scheme but others such as Monaghan have not seen a great uptake of this scheme. This has lead to a standard of inequality where only children in certain counties can avail of this scheme”.

This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Pat Treanor.

Cllr. Ciara McPhillips stated that the scheme is extremely welcomed and she hoped that the public would not abuse the system. She stated that she fully supported this motion but had reservations that Minister Leo Varadkar would revert to this Municipal District with reference to other counties.

Cllr. Hugh McElvaney informed the members that GPs are not a social service but a business. He stated that 60% of GPs in County Monaghan have signed up to this scheme and hopefully that the remainder of GPs will follow suit.

The members agreed that the proposal be put to a vote with the outcome as follows:-

For:- Cllrs. Bennett, Coyle, McPhillips and Treanor

Against:- Cllr. Hugh McElvaney

Abstention: Cllr. Eugene Bannigan

Cllr. Eugene Bannigan informed the members that meetings regarding Eirgrid North-South Interconnector are to take place as follows:-

22/06/15 - Aughnamullen

23/06/15 - Corduff

Cllr. Cathy Bennett enquired if all Councillors could be invited to these meetings. Cllr. Eugene Bannigan informed the members that it is up to the committee to decide who is invited to these meetings.

Cllr. Pat Treanor enquired if the netting at O'Neill Park, Clones is to be installed shortly. Mr. Duffy informed him that this is a housing matter and that a contractor has not been formally appointed as yet and that no timescale is in place to carry out this work.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____
Meetings Administrator

Date: 20th July 2015