

Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on 20th June 2016 at 4.15pm in Ballybay Civic Offices, Main Street, Ballybay Co Monaghan.

Members Present Cathaoirleach, Cllr Pat Treanor, presided

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

In Attendance Adge King, Director of Services, John McKernan, A/Senior Engineer, Kevin McNally, Municipal District Co-ordinator, Colin Murphy, Assistant Engineer, Angela Gallagher, Staff Officer.

Apologies Mr Paul L'Estrange, Acting Chief Fire Officer

1. Confirmation of minutes of Monthly Meeting

The minutes of the May monthly meeting were proposed by Cllr Ciara McPhillips and seconded by Cllr Cathy Bennett.

2. Matters arising from Previous Minutes

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to page 2 of the previous minutes regarding the masts at Corcaghan and asked if the Planning Section provided an update on this item. Mr Kevin McNally stated that Planning Section had not sent any correspondence in relation to the Masts and that the Municipal District would continue to seek an update on this issue.

Mr Kevin McNally referred to page 2 of the previous minutes regarding speeding in the area and confirmed that the Garda Speed Detection Van was recently located on the Newbliss road from Clones and 51 drivers would be receiving fines for speeding in this particular area.

Cllr Ciara McPhillips stated that the Garda Speed Detection Van was also in the Smithboro Area and confirmed that a number of drivers speeding in this area would also be receiving fines. Cllr Ciara McPhillips thanked the Gardai for monitoring the speed in this area.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to page 3 of the previous minutes regarding the Age Friendly Initiative. The Councillor welcomed the installation of an Age Friendly parking space in the Peace Link and thanked the staff in the Municipal District for continuing to progress this project.

Cllr Seamus Coyle referred to page 4 of the previous minutes regarding the Public Lighting programme and asked if this was available. Ms Angela Gallagher agreed to circulate this programme to the Members as soon as possible.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney referred to page 8 of the previous minutes regarding the vote of congratulations which was sent to his son Emmett on his recent engagement and stated that Emmett was delighted to receive the congratulations of the Members.

3. Correspondence

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to Page 27, correspondence received from Minister Heather Humphrey T.D. and additional correspondence Item 3.39 from Chris Hazzard MLA, Minister for Infrastructure regarding the restoration of the Ulster Canal. Cllr Pat Treanor advised that a further meeting has been sought by Monaghan County Council to progress this issue. Cllr Seamus Coyle referred to the dispute between Waterways Ireland and the contractor. Cllr Pat Treanor stated that it is his understanding that the area which was in dispute has been put out to retender and work should continue to progress on the restoration of the Canal at this location.

Cllr Seamus Coyle referred to pages 10-12 of Correspondence regarding emails received from Irish Water regarding double billing and stated that they have not answered the question. Mr Kevin McNally confirmed that it is his understanding that domestic billing is now being dealt only by Irish Water but that the Municipal District would seek clarification from Irish Water on any outstanding matters relating to this issue.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to pages 16-20 regarding Irish Water extending the water pipe to include the Teehill area and stated that this question has not been answered by Irish Water. Mr Kevin McNally stated that it was his understanding that Irish Water will rectify any problematic pipe work in this location.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to page 22 regarding an acknowledgement received from the Minister for Communication, Energy and Natural Resources and stated that the roll out of Broadband has been put back for 2 years and stated that he would like an update from the Minister on this. Mr Kevin McNally noted that the Municipal District would seek further clarification on this issue from the Department.

Cllr Cathy Bennett stated that work is ongoing in Scotstown at the moment to provide Broadband in this area and welcomes this progress.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to page 24 of correspondence, letter received from the HSE regarding Dental Services in Clones and noted that appointments are being made for pupils currently in 6th Class in Clones.

Cllr Cathy Bennett stated that 6th Class is too late for a child's first dental appointment and proposed the following:-

“That the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District call on the Minister for Health and the HSE to offer a better dental service to National School Children. Presently National School Children are not offered a free check up until they reach 6th Class. This service needs to be revised and addressed. Children should receive free dental check-ups once they grow any of their adult teeth.”

This proposal was seconded by Cllr Hugh McElvaney and agreed by Cllrs Coyle, Gilliland and Treanor. Cllr Ciara McPhillips abstained noting that there may be a particular medical reason for providing a review at this age.

This Notice of Motion to be circulated to Monaghan County Council.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to Page 26 of the correspondence regarding the request from Clones Community Forum for a donation towards the Rose or Rosebud. Mr Kevin McNally confirmed that the Members donated €50 last year. Cllr Pat Treanor proposed that the Municipal District to donate €50 to this event, this was seconded by Cllr Hugh McElvaney and agreed by all.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to the Canal Capers event which took place last weekend and congratulated everyone involved in this event.

4. Update on proposed site for Ballybay Fire Station

Mr Kevin McNally stated that the Acting Chief Fire Officer was unable to attend the meeting due to a family commitment. It was agreed by the Members to include this item on July's agenda.

5. Speed Limit review – Mr John McKernan

Mr John McKernan provided the Members with an update on the progress of the speed limit review following on from the Guidelines issued last year. Mr John McKernan stated that a 30km/h has been proposed for all public housing estates and it is anticipated that draft bye laws will be brought before the Speed Limit Committee in July.

In connection with the National, Regional and local roads Mr John McKernan stated that once all the information has been received it is proposed to submit this information to the Speed Limit Committee in September/October and the draft byelaws will be published in the press and following submission the byelaws will go before a full Meeting of the Council for adoption.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to private estates and asked if the speed limit will be introduced on these estates. Mr John McKernan stated that only estates that have been taken in charge by the Council will have a 30km/h speed limit installed.

Cllr Pat Treanor stated that only ramps and Garda Cars are the best solutions to reduce speeding.

Mr John McKernan stated that ramps are no longer viewed as the preference option for reducing speed. Other options to reduce speed including narrowing of carriageways, on street parking, build outs and chicanes should be considered first.

Cllr Sean Gilliland stated that certain types of ramps located at strategic locations and enforcement would reduce the speed of the traffic.

Cllr Pat Treanor thanked Mr John McKernan for his report and attendance at the meeting.

6. Report by Municipal District Co-ordinator

Engineers Report – June 2016

Mr Colin Murphy confirmed the following:-

The county roads restoration program is well underway and is likely to be completed significantly earlier this year. All drainage works have been completed apart from some outstanding works on the LP4905 at Raferagh. Bitmac works have commenced with works completed on the LP2031 Killatten-Seloo road and on the LS6131 Lisarilly-Drumallan road. Bitmac works are due to commence on the LP2700 Corravackan-Mullanagore road and on the LP3001 Mountain Lodge-Money road this week.

Resurfacing works have also been completed on a section of the LP1003 outside Sliabh Beagh Hotel which had deteriorated significantly recently. It is likely that the county roads Restoration works and surface dressing works will be completed by mid July. Works on the regional roads restoration program will commence when all of the proposed county roads restoration improvement works have been completed in each of the three Municipal Districts. When the roads program was agreed at the beginning of the year three no additional county roads were agreed in the event of additional monies becoming available or savings made these being the :

- 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)

The Municipal District office can confirm that works on the LP2021 (Bog Road) and the LS6291 (Killeevan) will be taking place as part of the current Bitmac contract. A further review will take place during July to determine whether it will be possible to also incorporate the LS-6510 (Loyst Dundrannan road) into the bitmac works.

Similarly, it may be possible to carry out some additional restoration improvement works under the Regional Roads Program. Recent months has seen a visible deterioration in Nart hollow on the R188 and it is recommended that works be carried out on this section of the R188 subject to member approval. A review during July should help determine the nature and scale of any additional works in this regard.

Regarding the R162/R190 regional work significant preparatory work has been progressed. Consultants FJ Coyle has the scheme design works substantially completed and following what was a very positive public meeting on Thursday 9th June works on the scheme are due to commence this week. Works have to be completed by November 2016 which is a particularly tight deadline considering the nature of the works involved.

Regarding repair works identified following the storms earlier this year the Municipal District are progressing these and to date and have completed repairs at various locations throughout the area. Under the storm repair works allocation a number of tender processes have been carried out and works are due to commence shortly on Formil bridge and on Drumsnatt bridge. More significant remedial works are required for Caddagh bridge. Remedial design measures for Caddagh bridge have been completed and it the intention to appoint a contractor to commence remedial works during July.

In relation to the proposed 2016 footpath program works have been completed in Scotshouse and at Corlatt in Knockatallon. Lands have been secured on the Roslea road out of Scotstown and a meeting was arranged with locals on Thursday last to discuss the proposals. It is hoped to commence works on this footpath during July. Engineering staff are presently progressing design work on the proposed footpath from Rockcorry to the Church of Ireland National school.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to the footpath in Rockcorry at Cran Mor and asked what would the Council be installing at this location. Mr Colin Murphy confirmed that a safety audit would be carried out to determine what measures should be installed.

Cllr Seamus Coyle referred to the Boyher Estate in Rockcorry and stated that residents have asked that additional parking spaces be installed. Mr Kevin McNally stated that the Municipal District would investigate this.

Cllr Seamus Coyle commended the staff on the work on the R190/R162 and the information meeting which took place last week.

Cllr Seamus Coyle asked if the Municipal District staff would inspect the road through Doohamlet Cross to the School. Mr Colin Murphy stated that he had already looked at this road, however an assessment will have to be carried out to determine the nature of works required.

Cllr Cathy Bennett thanked the Municipal District staff for the recent works carried out in Corlatt, Knockatallon and progressing the new footpath in Scotstown on the limited resources available and is delighted to hear that money is available to carry out much needed repairs on the Bog Road in Scotstown.

Mr Kevin McNally confirmed the following:-

Clones Regeneration committee

At the April meeting of the Clones Regeneration committee it was agreed that a subcommittee would be established to investigate and develop tourism projects for Clones Town. This committee met recently with John Toland of Leader to ensure that the project being developed meets with their requirements.

Mr Kevin McNally stated that he had met with representatives of the Cashandra Hand Centre along with Ms Angela Gallagher and Minster Humphreys regarding the possible development of the Cassandra Hand Centre as a focal point for heritage trails in Clones and the wider Municipal District.

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

Ballybay Clones Erne East Partnership

Mr Kevin McNally stated that the next meeting of the Ballybay Clones Erne East Partnership Sliabh Beagh sub group is scheduled for 28th June in the Sliabh Beagh Hotel. It is clear that there is a large deficit of development plans in the area. Any of the available plans are many years out of date – in some cases 20 years.

The Council has met with its counterparts in Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and it is recommended that a consultant be employed to prepare a development plan for the Slieve Beagh Area.

The indicative budget for this appointment is €15,000 and it is recommended that the cost be split equally between the two Councils.

Cllr Pat Treanor proposed that the Municipal District contribute €7500 towards this project, this proposal was seconded by Cllr Cathy Bennett and agreed by all.

Mr Kevin McNally stated that his colleagues in Fermanagh and Omagh District Council will have to seek approval from their Members for their share of this cost.

Ballybay

Mr Kevin McNally noted that the next meeting of the Ballybay regeneration committee will be held on Tuesday 5th July 2016. The Council has appointed the contractor for the streetscape improvement works and awaiting confirmation of a start date. The new website for Ballybay was launched at the

Municipal District awards night on 8th June and everyone was encouraged to submit local news to EventsInBallybay@monaghancoco.ie.

Mr Kevin McNally congratulated Ballybay Chamber of Commerce and the 18 businesses that participated in the Ballybay Age Friendly Business Recognition Programme each of these businesses received their charters on 8th June.

Age Friendly

Mr Kevin McNally stated that the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones together with Monaghan Youth Council (Clones Branch) are delighted to unveil Monaghans 1st Age Friendly Parking Space on Wednesday 22nd June 2016 @ 2pm in the Peace Link in Clones.

Clones Tidy Towns Committee in conjunction with The Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones are pleased to announce the Official Opening of the 1916 Memorial at The Carpark, McCurtain Street, Clones, County Monaghan on Thursday 30th June 2016 @ 6.30p.m.

Scotshouse Playground

Mr Kevin McNally confirmed that tender documentation for the procurement playground equipment had been prepared and the project advertised on 17th June. Return date for tenders is 4th July. It is hoped to have a contractor appointed during August.

Ballybay-Clones Municipal District Online Brochure

Mr Kevin McNally referred to the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District Online Brochure which was recently submitted to the Members for their comments and advised that approval from the Members is required before it can be launched on the website. Mr Kevin McNally stated that all comments received from the Members will be forwarded to the Tourism Section prior to the launch. Based on this Cllr Pat Treanor proposed that the Brochure be approved in principal, this was seconded by Cllr Cathy Bennett and agreed by all.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to Fermanagh Street in Clones and asked what progress is being made on this. Mr Kevin McNally confirmed that this is receiving top priority not only from the Municipal District but by Monaghan County Council too. Mr McNally confirmed that there are ongoing negotiations with the owners concerned and confirmed that Derelict Site Notices have been issued by the Planning Section.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney asked if the Municipal District could look at the access in Ballybay Town Park as ambulances are unable to enter the park. Mr Kevin McNally confirmed that the Municipal District would have a look at this and revert back to the Members with proposals.

7. Questions

Cllr Bennett asked:-

1. In relation to road safety for pedestrians and drivers, can the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District please investigate the possibility of widening the drive into Lough Mor Avenue. Presently the drive is extremely narrow. The width of the drive could be easily increased by moving the current kerbs by 1 metre.

Reply: The Ballybay Clones Municipal District will carry out an inspection at Loch Mor Avenue to assess the possibility of carrying out widening works on the driveway into the estate.

2. Has Ballybay-Clones investigated the possibility of suctioning or dredging the Dromore river system?

The river basin in Lough major is presently only 8 feet deep. This same river basin was recorded previously as being 31 feet deep, hence the river basin is just not deep enough to be hold large volumes of water. This could be a wonderful resource for Angling and fishing in Ballybay and surrounding areas.

Can this information please be investigated and a price sourced to undertake suctioning/dredging of the river?

Reply: The CFRAM study commissioned by the Office of Public Works has estimated that the cost of dredging the Dromore river system is in the region of €16 Million. The possibility of this level of funding being made available is extremely unlikely. It is also most likely that such a large scale dredging project would require an Environmental Impact Statement and planning approval and possibly other statutory approvals before any major dredging works could commence.

3. In relation to health and safety and the large wall on the Castleblayney road out of Ballybay. Can the Municipal District please determine if this wall is structurally sound, as it is partly eroding in places?

Reply: The Ballybay Clones Municipal District will arrange for an inspection of the wall on the Castleblayney road to determine if there are any structural issues relating to the wall.

4. Can more car parking spaces please be constructed at the play park in Ballybay? This play park is a wonderful facility but it presently lacks enough car parking spaces to accommodate its users.

Reply: The Ballybay Clones Municipal District will assess the possibility of providing some additional carparking spaces along the entrance roadway into the play park area.

5. Can the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District cut and trim the large trees around the Ballybay play park as they are presently in danger of falling?

Reply: The Ballybay Clones Municipal District will carry out an inspection and arrange for the cutting/trimming of any trees deemed to be in danger of falling.

Cllr Coyle asked:-

1. As the surface of the road, through Doohamlet Village(Ballybay/Castleblayney Rd.R183-13) is in very poor condition, particularly in the vicinity of All Saints Church, Connolly's Bar, Golden Jubilee Hall and All Saints National School, will Monaghan County Council give immediate priority to the resurfacing of this stretch of road, as it is very dangerous, with motorists pulling out to avoid potholes/broken surface?

Reply: The Ballybay Clones Municipal District has carried out an inspection of the R183 through Doohamlet village and it is the intention to carry out some repair works on this section of road during July.

2. Will Monaghan County Council immediately carry out fencing repairs, upgrading of equipment and overall improvements to the playground at Cherry Park, Clones?

Reply: The Ballybay Clones Municipal District has carried out an inspection of the Cherry Park Playground and surrounding area. The Play Park area is securely fenced; the fence outside the play area will be removed in the coming weeks as it serves no purpose and is in a poor condition. All equipment is in perfect working order as per weekly inspection report. The Municipal District is working on tender documents to have the equipment re-sprayed. Works will be subject to funding becoming available.

3. As Gransha National School, Clones is located on the very busy National Road, N54, will Monaghan County Council immediately undertake a review of the current safety measures in place at this location, as the Parents Association are expressing serious concern at the current warning signal lights in place?

Reply: Ballybay Clones Municipal District will write to the roads section of Monaghan County Council requesting that a review of safety measures on the N54 at Gransha School be undertaken.

4. When do Monaghan County Council propose to carry out resurfacing works on the Clones Road, Newbliss(R183-6) as the surface is totally broken and is very dangerous as traffic is pulling to the opposite side of the road to avoid the rough surface?

Reply: Ballybay Clones will be carrying out resurfacing works on the R183 Clones road as part of the 2016 regional road restoration improvement works program. It is hoped that these works will be completed during August.

Cllr McPhillips asked:-

1. I understand funding has been secured for some works on the Bunnoe river system, with a view to alleviating flooding. What studies are planned and what steps have been taken to date?

Reply: Monaghan County Council has received an allocation of €40,000 to carry out a hydrological study of the Bunnoe. A tender documentation is presently being prepared with a view to appointing an environmental consultant to undertake the study. It is envisaged that the study will encompass an ecological study and modelling of the River along a 13km stretch from Doapey Creamery to Coppanagh on the Cavan border. It should be noted that significant additional funding would subsequently be required to undertake significant works of the river system.

2. I recently raised the issue of speeding in the Magherarney area. What are the results of traffic monitoring tests? What steps are being considered to combat the speeding, within what is essentially a housing estate?

Reply: The Ballybay Clones Municipal District erected its Traffic Count camera at Magherarney from Tuesday 10th May until Monday 16th May. The results of the traffic study indicated that 33% of the traffic exceeded the 50km/hour speed limit whilst the highest speed recorded was 93km/hour. This information will be submitted to the Gardai. The Ballybay Clones Municipal District has received numerous representations regarding the implementation of traffic calming measures at various locations throughout the Municipal District. It is proposed to prepare a priority listing of these locations and initiate the design of traffic calming measures at these locations. It should be noted that the actual implementation of such measures will be determined by the availability of funding.

3. The issue of traffic speeds in the vicinity of Gransha NS has recently been highlighted? What steps might be taken to slow traffic and make the area safer for traffic entering/exiting the school?

Reply: The Ballybay Clones Municipal District will write to the Roads Section of Monaghan County Council requesting that a review of safety measures on the N54 at Gransha School be undertaken.

4. I understand signs have recently been ordered to designate the "Aghabog/Acadh Bog" area, when is it anticipated that same will be erected?

Reply: The signs for Aghabog have recently been delivered to Monaghan County Council and will be erected shortly.

Cllr Treanor asked:-

1. What is the update on the houses at Eanaigh Ealta (Coyle's field), Millbrook, Clones, bought by Oaklee Housing Association? Will the Council have a say in who is offered these houses? When will they be ready for occupation?

Reply: Oaklee Housing Trust has procured a consultant to carry out surveys and prepare tender documents for the completion of six houses at Liseggerton, Clones. Oaklee intend to procure a Contractor to commence the work required before the end of 2016. The Council will provide Oaklee with a list of housing applicants. It is envisaged that the houses will be ready for occupation in early 2017.

2. Will Monaghan County Council consider widening River Lane at the Roslea road end, as cars are forced to reverse out onto the Roslea road if they meet other cars, causing a major traffic risk?

Reply: The Ballybay Clones Municipal District has carried out a preliminary assessment at River Lane. Our preliminary assessment would suggest that localised widening of River Lane may be possible subject to agreement with the local landowners and the availability of funding.

3. When will speed ramps be erected on the Clones road, Newbliss?

Reply: The Ballybay Clones Municipal District will be carrying out resurfacing works on the R183 Clones road as part of the 2016 regional road restoration improvement works program. It is hoped that these works will be completed by August. Following completion of these works consideration will be given to the provision of appropriate traffic calming measures. The Ballybay Clones Municipal District has received numerous representations regarding the implementation of traffic calming measures at various locations throughout the Municipal District. It is proposed to prepare a priority listing of these locations and initiate the design of traffic calming measures at these locations. It should be noted that the actual implementation of such measures will be determined by the availability of funding.

4. Will Monaghan County Council investigate traffic calming measures on the Roslea road to slow traffic coming from Roslea towards the entrance to Gaelscoil Eóis and St Tiernach's Primary School?

Reply: The Ballybay Clones Municipal District has received numerous representations regarding the implementation of traffic calming measures at various locations throughout the Municipal District. It is proposed to prepare a priority listing of these locations and initiate the design of traffic calming measures at these locations. It should be noted that the actual implementation of such measures will be determined by the availability of funding.

8. Notices of Motion

Cllr Seamus Coyle proposed the following:-

"That the Ballybay/Clones Municipal District demands greater supports/assistance to people with a disability in County Monaghan and Nationally from government and all state agencies, especially in the areas of education and employment opportunities."

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

Cllr Seamus Coyle requested that this proposal be forwarded to Monaghan County Council and the Minister of State for Disability Issues Finian McGrath.

Cllr Seamus Coyle proposed the following:-

"That Ballybay/Clones Municipal District demands of the government and the Minister for Education and Skills, Richard Bruton T.D., a full and proper, school transport scheme, providing school bus transport to all pupils in County Monaghan and throughout rural Ireland."

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

Cllr Seamus Coyle requested that this proposal be forwarded to Monaghan County Council and the Minister for Education and Skills, Richard Bruton.

9. Chief Executive Orders

Chief Executive Order No's BCMD 19/16-34/16 were noted by the Members.

10. Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy

The members extended a vote of congratulations to the following:-

Rory McAtavie, Ballybay Chamber of Commerce on organising the 1916 Commemoration Event in Ballyay.

Mr Martin O'Brien on his redeployment to Louth/Meath ETB.

Terry McEntee, Old School Boxing Club, on winning bronze medal in the European youth Championships in Russia.

Conor McGovern, Corconnolly, Clones on a landmark success in the Prix Longines Future Racing Stars event in Chantilly

Gary McKenna, Old School Boxing Club on winning the silver medal in the Harringey Box Cup in London

The members extended a vote of sympathy to the following:-

The British Ambassador, the Labour Party and family of the Labour M.P. Jo Cox on her tragic death on Thursday last.

The Keenan Family, Doohamlet on the death of Liam Keenan former Member of Monaghan County Council.

John McArdle and the extended McArdle family on the death of his mother Nancy McArdle, Drumhowan.

A minutes silence was observed.

11. AOB

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed _____

Meetings Administrator

Date 18th July 2016