

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

Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at 10.00am in Ballybay Civic Offices, Main Street, Ballybay.

**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:** Aidge King, Director of Services, Kevin McNally, Municipal District Co-ordinator, Angela Gallagher, Staff Officer and Ann Burke, Assistant Staff Officer, Monaghan County Council

**Apology:** Kieran Duffy, Executive Engineer, Monaghan County Council

### **1. Confirmation of minutes of monthly meeting**

The minutes of the February monthly meeting were proposed by Cllr Eugene Bannigan and seconded by Cllr Cathy Bennett.

### **2. Matters arising from the minutes**

Cllr. Pat Treanor referred to page 2 of the minutes regarding public lighting projects. Mr. McNally informed him that Roads Section had been written to regarding same. Cllr. Pat Treanor outlined associated risks and he hoped that by autumn issues would be addressed. Cllr. Seamus Coyle stated that there are areas in this Municipal District such as Coravacken Chapel, Rockcorry Community Centre that are special cases for the provision of public lighting

Cllr. Ciara McPhillips referred to page 2 of the minutes regarding progress of repairs to telephone lines in the Connons/Drumully area. Mr. McNally stated that Eircom had been written to on numerous occasions but to-date there has been no response.

Cllr. Ciara McPhillips proposed the following:

“That this Municipal District write again to Eircom and copy to the Communications Regulator Regarding phone lines in Drumully and Connons and Broadband in Scotstown and Knockatallan”.

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

Cllr. Hugh McElvaney referred to page 2 of the minutes regarding redevelopment of St. Tiernach's Park, Clones. He stated that there is a very deep interest in the development of this park and that same should be brought to the attention of the County Board and he proposed that a letter be written to the Chairman of the County Board, seconded by Cllr. Seamus Coyle. Cllr. Seamus Coyle said that St. Tiernach's needs to move forward as it is of great benefit to County Monaghan.

Cllr. Ciara McPhillips referred to page 3 of the minutes regarding this year's St. Patrick's Day Parades. She informed the members that Clones had been highlighted on TV3 and that any promotion for Clones is of great benefit.

Cllr. Pat Treanor referred to page 3 of the minutes regarding the closure of the Social Welfare Office in Clones.

Cllr. Pat Treanor proposed the following:

“That this Municipal District re-issue our letter to the Minister for Social Protection, Joan Burton pointing out the very limited access to officials from the Department of Social Protection”.

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

Cllr. Pat Treanor referred to page 4 of the minutes regarding Seachtana Na Gaeilge stating that a great effort has been made by the Chamber of Commerce and local people in Ballybay and Clones in the promotion of the Irish Language. He informed the members that the window displays will be judged later today.

Cllr. referred to page 5 of the minutes regarding the R190, Ballybay-Cootehill Road. The members commended Mr. McNally and Mr. Duffy for works carried out at this area and that push forward for a meeting with Paschal Donohoe, Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport.

Cllr. Hugh McElvaney referred to page 5 of the minutes regarding the bus shelter at Newbliss. Mr. McNally informed him that the Municipal District is responsible for same.

Cllr. Hugh McElvaney referred to page 6 of the minutes regarding an update on the ATM for the Bank of Ireland in Clones. Mr. McNally informed him that a letter had been issued to the Manager of Bank of Ireland.

Cllr. Pat Treanor referred to page 7 of the minutes regarding O’Neill Park, Clones. He informed the members that Cllr. Ciara McPhillips and himself had recently met with residents of O’Neill Park. where a number of issues were raised by the residents. Mr. McNally stated that the gateway staff could be assigned to carry out some of the works. The members were informed of the number of gateway staff allocated to this Municipal District as follows:

- Ballybay -2
- Clones - 14
- Scotshouse - 1

### **3. Correspondence**

Cllr. Ciara McPhillips referred to pages 9 to 12 stating that same had already been dealt with.

Cllr. Seamus Coyle referred to the proposed closure of the Department of Social Welfare Protection office in Ballybay. He enquired on the up to-date position with the OPW and DSP regarding same? He stated that there are 29 permanent and 7 part-time jobs at risk. Mr. McNally informed him that as yet there was no further lease signed for the retention of this office in Ballybay. He noted that Ballybay Development Association had submitted a proposal to the OPW.

The members agreed that a meeting be arranged with Minister Heather Humphreys and the Oireachtas Members as soon as possible to discuss the future of the Department of Social Welfare Protection office in Ballybay.

Cllr. Cathy Bennett referred to correspondence item 3.4 from Scotstown G.A.A. requesting financial support of €5,000 from Ballybay-Clones Municipal District.

Cllr. Cathy Bennett proposed the following:

“That this MD supports the application for €5,000 towards the development of ladies toilets at Kilmore”.

This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Pat Treanor.

Mr. McNally noted that at a previous meeting it was agreed that a policy would be put in place regarding the allocation of funding which is to be brought to the members at the April Municipal District meeting. Cllr. Cathy Bennett said that as there is no policy in place can this Municipal District not provide funding for this venture? Cllr. Ciara McPhillips referred to page 23 regarding email forwarded to the Secretary of Scotstown G.A.A. A discussion took place on the matter. Cllr. Seamus Coyle stated that Kilmore is a valued facility and that he is in full support of their application for funding but that same should be deferred until a policy has been put in place.

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

In favour of deferral:- Cllrs. Eugene Bannigan, Seamus Coyle, Hugh McElvaney and Ciara McPhillips

In favour of non-deferral:- Cllrs. Cathy Bennett and Pat Treanor

#### **4. Approval of Schedule of Municipal District Works**

Mr. McNally outlined the Schedule of Municipal District Works to the members stating that same is to be approved by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015, which is also subject to approval by the members.

Cllr. Hugh McElvaney proposed the following:

“The Schedule of Municipal District Works are approved subject to that in the event that emergencies arise or funds have to be re-allocated due to difficulties arising from non-progression of works, any such changes will be notified to the members as part of the monthly Co-ordinator’s report”.

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

Cllr. Cathy Bennett stated that there was no mention of Scotstown in the schedule and she felt that everyone should be treated equally, whether a town or village. Mr. McNally informed her that Scotstown had previously been allocated funding from Monaghan County Council.

#### **5. Establishment of Clones Regeneration Committee**

A discussion took place regarding the establishment of Clones Regeneration Committee. The members were informed of the following:

- Funding is for urban areas
- Regeneration of Clones is paramount
- Have a joint regeneration partnership - Municipal District members and community groups

Cllr. Hugh McElvaney paid tribute to the outgoing members of The Clones Regeneration Partnership.

Cllr. Hugh McElvaney proposed the following:

“That this Municipal District write to each community group asking for one representative from each group to form the new Clones Regeneration Committee”.

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

## **6. Establishment of Ballybay Regeneration Committee**

A discussion took place regarding the establishment of Ballybay Regeneration Committee. The members were informed of the following:

- Write to each community group asking for one representative from each group to form the new Ballybay Regeneration Committee
- Have a joint regeneration partnership - Municipal District members and community groups

Cllr. Seamus Coyle stated there were a number of empty properties within the town and he hoped that with the establishment of a new group that same could be rectified. Mr. King informed the members of the following:

- Success of any community will depend on the community itself
- Initiatives will have to start from ground level
- The Municipal District will support, lead and guide the community

## **7. Report by Municipal District Co-ordinator**

Mr. McNally outlined the following works since the last meeting:

### **Recently completed works**

- County Council has recently completed significant drainage works at Dumhowan Community Centre. A blockage in a bridge up stream of the centre has been unblocked and a number of collapsed drainage pipes along the centre were identified and repaired. Additional roadside drainage has also been provided.
- Scotstown footpath - 60 metre stretch of footpath has been completed
- Repairs completed at Lyslynchan bridge - Road now reopened.
- Ongoing patching and road maintenance including verge failure repairs in Drum and in Allagesh
- Ongoing works under the County roads restoration program

### **Proposed works**

- Road repairs at Harte Peat (Works delayed due to adverse weather) County Council. Works are due to start shortly
- Provision of ramps at Urbleshanny - Closing date for tenders is Friday March 13<sup>th</sup>
- Commence of drainage works on other roads as part of the roads program
- Provision of LED lighting in Ballybay Town Park (Civil works scheduled to start on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March)
- Ongoing road maintenance and patching works

- Bus shelter in Newbliss (hoping to do this during easter break - need to clarify issue regarding land ownership first though)

### **Retention of Department of Social Protection offices in Ballybay**

Mr. McNally noted that it is his understanding that the Department has not yet secured alternative accommodation in Monaghan Town.

The Department has noted that they are willing to examine the proposal submitted by Ballybay Development Association.

### **Bank of Ireland**

Mr. McNally stated that the Clones Branch Manager, Karen Shipley has confirmed that the bank are actively considering to install and ATM in their branch.

As yet the Council do not have a timescale for the installation of the ATM but understand that the bank is in the process of preparing planning application.

### **Wifi - Clones and Ballybay**

Mr. McNally informed the members that the cost of Infrastructure for both Ballybay and Clones is in the region of €19,000. This only provides coverage in Main Street area of Ballybay and also the Diamond and Fermanagh Street, Clones.

Provision of 5 number of outdoor dual radio access points - 3 in Clones and 2 in Ballybay.  
Annual maintenance fee of €1,900.

The estimated cost of connection to provide backhaul is in the region of €2,500 with annual service costs of €12,500 annually.

Further costs will be incurred arising from need provide electrical supply to the outdoor dual radio access points.

Permission for provision from private property owners of access points will be also required.  
Summary Capital Costs in the region of €27,000. Annual costs - €15,000.

## **8. Questions**

Cllr Cathy Bennett asked:

1. In relation to Cornacrieve and Cornaguillagh roads, Knockatallon, can I please have an update on future plans for upgrading of these roads?

**Reply:** The Cornacrieve to Cornaguillagh LT10042 road is not on the 2015 roads program. The nearby LS-5000 Derrynahesco road though is on the 2015 roads program and it is hoped that some basic repair works to the LT10042 can take place when works on the LS5300 are being carried out.

2. In relation to the Low cost safety scheme and a recent refusal from the LCSI to provide funding for very dangerous junctions at:

- A. The Old post office, Stranooden, Corcaghan
- B. At Greenfield eggs, at Mullandavagh L2032-0.

What other measures can Ballybay-Clones MD afford to complete, in order to help prevent accidents and therefore saving life's at these junctions in the near future?

**Reply:** No funding is available to carry out works at the above locations, under the LCSI scheme in 2015. The Municipal District engineering staff will review both locations and investigate the possibility of carrying some lost basic cost safety improvements such as additional road markings and/or additional signage.

3. With regards to safety measures planned for Urbleshanny School, have any dates been determined for commencement of works?

**Reply:** Tender documentation for the provision of 2 No. round top ramps at Urbleshanney school has been prepared by the Municipal District engineering staff and tenders are presently being sought via the LA Quotes system.

The last day for the receipt of tenders for this work was Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March. It is hoped that works could be carried out during the Easter break subject to contract availability. If not then it is the intention to get works completed as soon as is possible preferably during a period when the school is closed.

4. In relation to the addition of car-park facilities in Ballybay to help alleviate congestion in the town, is there an update?

**Reply:** Investigations into the provision of additional carparking in Ballybay are ongoing.

A number of possible locations have been reviewed and some initial discussions with landowners have also taken place. At one location just off Main Street it would be possible to develop a carpark area which could cater for approximately 25 additional spaces. It is estimated that the cost of the civil works necessary to develop this area would be in the region of €100,000. At present though there is no funding available to develop additional carparking in the town.

5. Have Ballybay-Clones MD investigated the possibility of obtaining better broadband service across the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District?

**Reply:** The Ballybay Clones Municipal District has previously written the Communications regulator highlighting the poor availability of both broadband and mobile phone reception in the Municipal District. The Communications regulator has noted that licences for the provision of telecommunications are awarded on the basis of achieving a particular nationwide coverage (which all service providers appear to be achieving). It is hoped that future initiatives being proposed by the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources may address the telecommunication deficits in the Municipal District.

## 9. Chief Executive Orders

Chief Executive Order Nos. BCMD 06/15 - BCMD 11/15 were noted by the members.

## 10. Votes of congratulations/sympathy

The members extended a vote of congratulations to the following:

Peter Sherry on his retirement as CE supervisor in Clones.

Largy College Young Social Innovators on the mock same sex wedding.

Jane Duffy, Ballybay Community College on winning an All-Ireland medal in running.

**11. A.O.B.**

Cllr. Pat Treanor referred to Carn Lane stating that this area is used as part of the Sli Na Slainte walking route. He informed the members of the following:

- Part of Carn Lane is in a bad state of repair with sections of same needing cleaning
- Residents have signed a petition

Cllr. Pat Treanor enquired if Carn Lane is included in the Schedule of Works? Cllr. Ciara McPhillips stated that Mr. Duffy, Executive Engineer had been out on site and that works will commence in May/June.

Cllr. Pat Treanor referred to Cranmore, Rockcorry stating that the entrance to the estate is a health & safety issue that needs to be addressed. Cllr. Seamus Coyle stated that the road leading to the Cranmore estate is a regional road.

Cllr. Seamus Coyle referred to the requirement of additional car parking spaces at Rockcorry National School. Cllr. Ciara McPhillips stated she had spoken to Adrian Hughes, Planning Officer, Monaghan County Council last week regarding same. Mr. McNally informed the members that Mr. Duffy had met with members of the school and that a solution is being worked on.

Cllr. Ciara McPhillips encouraged the members to attend the St. Patrick's Day parade in Clones and Ballybay.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cathaoirleach

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Meetings Administrator

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> April 2015