

Municipal District of Monaghan.

Minutes of Meeting of the Municipal District of Monaghan held in Mtek 1 Building, Knockaconny on Monday, 9th March, 2015 at 2.30pm.

Cllr. Sean Conlon presided.

Present: Cllrs. David Maxwell, Seamus Treanor, Paudge Connolly, Robbie Gallagher and Brian McKenna.

In Attendance: Mr. John Murray, Director of Services, Mr. Donal McElwain, Municipal District Co-Ordinator, Ms. Bernie McElvaney, Senior Staff Officer, Dermot Deeney, Executive Engineer, Ms. Bernie McMahan, Staff Officer.

Cllr. Conlon welcomed all to the meeting.

1. Confirmation of minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr. Maxwell, seconded by Cllr. Treanor, it was agreed that the minutes of the Municipal District of Monaghan meeting held on the 16th February, 2015 be confirmed.

2. Matters arising:

Cllr Conlon updated the meeting on the progress to date on the organising of the St Patrick's Day Parade and thanked Bernie McMahan for her assistance in co-ordinating the event.

Ms McMahan gave an update on the Programme of Events being devised by Comhairle na nOg, the 'Monaghan Has It' group and the Transition Year Students helping businesses with their window displays. Ms McMahan added that a separate prize will be awarded for the use of the Irish Language as the Parade falls within the 'Seachtain na Gaeilge' week.

Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Conlon will give mention at the parade that a Cup in honour of the late Willie Mc Kenna will be awarded to the winner of the Best Window Display. Cllr Conlon advised that it is hoped that presentations will be made to the winners of Best Commercial Float, Best Community Float, Best Marching Band and Best Window Display at the April meeting.

3. Report from Municipal District Co-Ordinator:

This report was circulated and Mr Mc Elwain gave a brief report to the members. Cllr McKenna queried if Traffic Calming in Emyvale would be ready this week and advised the meeting that the public should be consulted in regard to this. He also requested that the street surface in Emyvale village and Ballinode be resurfaced as both areas are in poor condition.

A discussion took place on the Community and Environment funding and Mr McElwain clarified that this fund was separate from the Municipal District Community Groups Fund.

Cllr. Gallagher welcomed the hedge cutting in the town and queried the Cootehill Flood Scheme at Drumbear. He also queried if there was an update on the Retail Co-ordinator for Monaghan Town. Mr McElwain replied that there is no update yet.

A discussion took place on other issues arising from the Report. These included the Latlurcan development, Public Lighting Database, Gateway Scheme, Junction at Roundabout, 30% Sterling Exchange Initiative and Pay Parking Fine Headline in local paper.

In relation to the headlines on the pay parking fine, Mr Murray clarified that the appeal was upheld but unfortunately there was a cross over in communication. Mr Murray advised the members that the Latlurcan development is still in receivership, the receivers are carrying out the works.

Mr McElwain gave an update on the Cootehill Flood Scheme. He also informed the members that the Gateway scheme is for a period of 18 months, 2.5 days per week, and the work would involve community work, i.e litter picking, painting, tidy towns, working with Residents Associations.

Cllr McKenna asked was there any favouritism in relation to Traffic Warden patrol in the town. Cllr Maxwell proposed, seconded by Cllr. Treanor that the issue of Pay Parking be discussed at our Budget meeting for Community Grants.

In relation to the Schedule of Municipal District works, Cllr Connolly requested comparative figures from 2014. Mr Murray stated that this was not possible this year due to the changeover from Town Council to the Municipal District in 2014, but comparative figures will be available from next year. A discussion took place on the Schedule.

4. Questions:

Cllr. Sean Conlon asked:

1. With the recent publication of CFRAM Flood Maps providing specific detailed information on flood risk areas in urban locations throughout County Monaghan, will Council Executive take pro active steps in seeking grant aid from the Department that will enable overdue remedial works in flood prone areas such as Milltown and the Monaghan Shopping Centre locations?

Response:

The Council applied for funding to the OPW for a flood scheme at Milltown in March 2013 which was not successful. Although much work has been completed and the CFRAM Flood maps are detailed there is a lot of work to be completed before these two areas are fully assessed and hence a scheme cannot be prepared prior to this.

2. In an effort to enhance our Tidy Towns efforts and appearance of the town will the Executive invite the Monaghan Sub Aqua Club to work in cooperation with Council outdoor staff in a cleanup endeavour along the Ulster Canal linear park located near the Mall Rd.

Response:

The Municipal District contacted Monaghan Sub Aqua and they are to discuss this proposal at their next meeting.

Cllr Robbie Gallagher asked:

3. In the interests of road safety can the council state when repairs can be commenced at Shanmullagh Bridge, Clontibret which is in a dangerous state of repair?

Response:

One of the parapets was knocked off the bridge. Temporary barriers are in place to leave the bridge safe. Parapet to be replaced in the next three months.

4. Can the council give details of a time-frame for the completion of traffic calming measures at Garron National School in Tyholland?

Response:

Poles have been erected for the variable message sign and the sign manufacturer is expected to erect it within the next month.

5. Does the council have a plan to address potholes and poor road surfaces in the urban area of Monaghan Town?

Response:

Repair of potholes are continuously carried out throughout the urban and rural areas of the Monaghan District.

6. Can the council outline the grants available for community groups and the closing date for applications?

Response:

See attached correspondence.

5. Notices of Motion:

Cllr. Gallagher advised the meeting that he wished to discuss the following motion:

“That this council calls on the Government and the Minister for Education to act immediately to include all children with Downs Syndrome for access to resource teaching hours and adequate support in mainstream schools”.

A discussion took place on the motion and it was unanimously carried.

Cllr. Treanor advised the meeting that he wished to discuss the following two motions:

“As a referendum is to take place in May 2015, that this Council call on Minister Alan Kelly to ensure that the unemployed and students be given the opportunity to work at polling stations and the count that will follow”.

Cllr. Conlon proposed that the motion be amended to write to the Returning Officer, Joseph Smith instead of Alan Kelly and this was unanimously carried.

“That we write to An Garda Siochana asking what is the legal position regarding blacked out windows on motor vehicles where it is impossible to identify the occupants”.

Discussions took place on the motion and it was unanimously carried.

6. Correspondence:

Report from Helen McCourt, Assistant Planner on ‘Diselec’.

Mr Deeney advised that the Municipal District erected the scaffolding to make it safe because it was a dangerous building.

Request dated 24/2/15 from Cora Maguire, CMMC, for the use of the Upper and Lower Courthouse Car Park for the Annual Stages Rally to be held on the 26th April. Cllr Maxwell proposed to grant permission and it was unanimously agreed.

Letter from Minister for Justice and Equality dated 6th February advising that there are no current plans in place to extend the CCTV Scheme. Cllr. Connolly proposed that we should have plans, costings and decision made and ready to apply for funding when funding becomes available. Cllr Treanor suggested writing to the Department again and pointing out that it will be self-financing but it was agreed that Mr McElwain would meet up with the Gardai to discuss the requirements and then prepare costings for CCTV in the town.

Letter from Department of Children and Youth Affairs dated 20th February 2015 informing us of the funding provided in Monaghan to support the provision of youth services. Cllr Connolly noted that Castleblayney got the majority of the funding which shows the hard work put in by the Groups in the funding application. He added that the Killygoan Residents Association have similar projects and that they should be made aware and seek funding from this Department.

Mr McElwain stated that the MD would obtain the information and forward to the Killygoan Residents Association.

Letter from the National Transport Authority dated 23rd February 2015 advising that they are not currently in a position to provide funding and our letter has been forwarded to Bus Eireann to respond to our concerns regarding the scheduling of the 0315hrs service. Cllr Conlon proposed, seconded by Cllr McKenna, and unanimously agreed, that we write to Ann Phelan, Department of Rural Affairs, cc letter to NTA and Bus Eireann seeking her intervention to ensure both the NTA and Bus Eireann desist from reducing public transport routes servicing rural Ireland and supports, through her office, the call of Monaghan Municipal District, that for the purpose of enhancing transport accessibility, that a Real time Passenger Information Display is installed at the Monaghan Bus Station.

Letter from Department of Social Protection dated 10th February 2015 informing us that they are unable to send a representative in relation to Social Welfare for foreign nationals.

Letter from Department of Children and Youth Affairs dated 24th February 2015 acknowledging receipt of our correspondence in relation to the Adoption (Identity and Information) Bill 2014 and to advise that it is receiving attention.

Letter from Paul Clifford dated 26th February, including extract from the CE's report to the Council which updates all members on the activities of the LCDC on a monthly basis.

7. Sympathy:

A Vote of sympathy was extended to the following:

The family of the late Peter Sherry, Edenisland, Monaghan. Peter was a great community activist.

Cllr Conlon proposed that a Letter of Commendation be sent to the Kevin Bell Repatriation Trust commending the Trust on their assistance in providing funding for bereaved families to help alleviate the financial hardship of repatriating their loved ones who have died abroad in sudden or tragic circumstances back to Ireland.

Cllr. Connolly proposed, seconded by Cllr Treanor that we write to the Minister for Foreign Affairs to provide funding to the Kevin Bell Repatriation Trust who alleviate the financial hardship of bereaved families repatriating the body (bodies) of loved one(s) who have died abroad in sudden or tragic circumstances back to Ireland.

8. Congratulations:

Congratulations were extended to Erin Treanor, Emyvale G.F.C. on winning the “2014 Tesco Club Person of the Year”. Erin is a dedicated and tireless worker on behalf of the Emyvale G.F.C. Congratulation and Best Wishes were extended to Judge Sean McBride on his retirement.

The meeting concluded.

Dated this the 9th day of March, 2015

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Meetings Administrator