

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

Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 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, Kieran Duffy, Executive Engineer, Ann Burke, Assistant Staff Officer, Monaghan County Council

**Apology:** Angela Gallagher, Staff Officer, Monaghan County Council

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

The minutes of the April monthly meeting were proposed by Cllr. Seamus Coyle and seconded by Cllr. Cathy Bennett.

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

Cllr. Pat Treanor referred to page 1 of the minutes regarding Seachtana Na Gaelige week. He stated that the winner of best window display in Clones was St. Tiernach's National School and not Largy College as stated in the minutes. He also thanked Northern Sound for their advertisement of this event.

Cllr. Pat Treanor referred to page 2 of the minutes regarding the establishment of a Regeneration Committee in Clones. He stated that there was a good representation from Clones Chamber of Commerce and Clones Credit Union and that the community need to visualise and support a practical way forward for Clones.

Cllr. Hugh McElvaney referred to page 3 of the minutes regarding the closure of the Ulster Bank in Clones and he enquired if there was any further update on same. Mr. McNally informed him that to-date there has been no response from Ulster Bank but that he will follow up on this issue. Cllr. Hugh McElvaney requested that a copy of correspondence to Ulster Bank and Magheraveely Football Club be made available to him. It was noted that all correspondence be issued to the members prior to each Municipal District meeting.

Cllr. Pat Treanor referred to page 5 of the minutes regarding the Community Grants Scheme. Mr. McNally noted that to-date fourteen applications for funding had been received.

Cllr. Cathy Bennett referred to page 6 of the minutes regarding village signs to be erected at Cremartin. Mr. Duffy noted that signs had been ordered and will be put in place when received.

Cllr. Cathy Bennett referred to page 7 of the minutes regarding McCaheys corner, Carrickinare and she enquired if this area could be considered for the Low Cost Safety Improvement Scheme. Mr. Duffy noted that this corner may be considered for this scheme next year. Mr. McNally stated that there is a limited amount of funding available to cover all projects.

Cllr. Eugene Bannigan referred to page 7 of the minutes regarding Tossy Cross and he stated that the road surface is not suitable for the large volume of lorries that use this road. Mr. Duffy noted that the matter will be looked into.

### **3. Correspondence**

Cllr. Seamus Coyle referred to the forthcoming meeting to be held with the Oireachtas members this afternoon in the Ballybay Civic Offices and stated that he was disappointed that Minister Humphreys would not be in attendance. Cllr. Seamus Coyle understood and that no formal lease has yet been signed. Mr. McNally noted that the lease was probably imminent. A discussion took place on the matter.

Cllr. Hugh McElvaney proposed that the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District members postpone the meeting with the Oireachtas members this afternoon, seconded by Cllr. Pat Treanor.

Cllr. Ciara McPhillips stated that this Municipal District should still meet with the Oireachtas members and that it would be very short notice to postpone the meeting at this stage.

Cllr. Seamus Coyle proposed that the meeting go ahead as arranged and that this Municipal District seek a meeting with Minister Humphreys on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> May at 8.30 a.m. as the Minister is attending a conference in the Wetlands, Ballybay.

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

In favour of deferral:- Cllrs. Hugh McElvaney and Pat Treanor

In favour of non-deferral:- Cllrs. Ciara McPhillips, Eugene Bannigan, Cathy Bennett and Seamus Coyle

The following agenda was agreed by the members for the proposed meeting with Minister Heather Humphreys on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015.

1. Ulster Canal
2. Department of Social Protection
3. North-South Interconnector (Anti-pylon group to be invited)

Cllr. Seamus Coyle referred to item 3.3, email received from Kevin Lynch regarding redevelopment of St. Tiernach's Park in Clones and welcomed the fact that the Municipal District was being kept in the loop. Cllr. Seamus Coyle stated that St. Tiernach's Park is a premier centre that is based in Clones. Cllr. Pat Treanor stated that this park is falling into disrepair and that necessary works are required and informed the members that the British Government had offered funding for the development of Casement Park. Cllr. Seamus Coyle stated that St. Tiernach's Park can facilitate a crowd of thirty-six thousand people and was disappointed that in particular better lighting facilities were not updated some years ago.

Cllr. Seamus Coyle proposed the following:

“That the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District arrange an immediate meeting with representatives of the Monaghan G.A.A. County Board, Clones St. Tiernach's G.A.A. Club and Monaghan County Council, to discuss/outline facilitation by Monaghan County Council of St. Tiernach's Park, Clones (as included in Clones Town Development Plan 2013-

19) re-development as the venue for all Ulster G.A.A. Finals, provincial and national fixtures in the future”.

This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Eugene Bannigan and agreed by all.

Cllr. Pat Treanor referred to additional correspondence received from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government regarding additional monies for public lighting in the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District. He stated that he was disappointed with the contents of the letter.

Cllr. Seamus Coyle referred to lack of lighting at The Alders and he hoped that Airtricity would proceed more quickly to rectify the matter. Mr. McNally advised that he would revert with a programme for public lighting in this area for the June Municipal District meeting.

Cllr. Seamus Coyle referred Item 3.2 regarding the North/South Interconnector and to the large attendance at the recent Eirgrid meeting held in Aughnamullen. He stated that Eirgrid were putting public adverts in a national paper this week and that it was disappointing that the Oireachtas members had not brought this issue to the attention of the Dail.

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

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

#### **Recently Completed Works in the area**

- Drainage works on a number of roads under the 2015 Restoration Improvement Works
- Preparatory works on roads included in the 2015 surface dressing program
- Road lining works in the Municipal District
- Ongoing road maintenance and patching works
- Relocation of bike shelter in Smithboro
- Gateway staff have undertaken considerable work in Drum and Scotshouse

#### **Works scheduled to start in the Municipal District**

- Surface dressing program due to commence within the coming week
- Re-surfacing works under the 2015 County road restoration program
- Drainage works on the R190 and removal of dangerous dip in the R181 on the approach to Shantonagh village.
- Erection of bus shelter in Newbliss

Cllr. Hugh McElvaney referred to local road names and he enquired what roads are assigned to category numbers 1 - 10. Mr. Duffy stated that a road condition survey map within this Municipal District area will be distributed to the members.

#### **Bank of Ireland**

Mr. McNally noted that letter received from new Branch Manager had been circulated to all members. The Municipal District office will liaise with Bank of Ireland to ensure that they are assisted in this process as much as possible.

### **Ballybay-Clones Municipal District Community Support Fund**

Mr. McNally stated that further to the last Municipal District meeting, adverts were placed in the press and on the Council's website seeking applications for funding. The closing date was today, Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2015 and as at last Friday 14 no. applications had been received.

Mr. McNally suggested that the members agree a date to meet and review the applications and allocate funding within the limits agreed. Mr. McNally suggested that the applications received for funding be discussed after the June Municipal District meeting. All members were in agreement.

### **Clones-Ballybay Regeneration committee**

Mr. McNally noted that the first meeting of the Clones Regeneration committee was held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May last. Ms. Catherine McGuigan gave an excellent presentation on the merits of Clones being an age friendly town and how this project could contribute to increasing economic activity in the town.

It was agreed at the meeting that Clones Regeneration Committee would meet again on the 10<sup>th</sup> June and that the only item on the agenda for the meeting would be Fermanagh Street and it's regeneration. The lack of available parking on the street has been highlighted. This Municipal District is currently examining if it is feasible to extend the current parking bays.

Mr. McNally noted that the meeting with Ballybay Regeneration committee is organised for Wednesday next, 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015. Invites have been issued to various local community groups.

### **Gateway Staff**

Cllr. Hugh McElvaney stated that some members of the Clones outdoor staff had some issues with work duties of the Gateway staff. Mr. McNally noted that all outdoor staff are assigned to the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District area. He informed the members that the Gateway staff are not assigned to sweeping, cleaning duties or filling potholes. Mr. McNally noted that these jobs are core duties of the outdoor staff. Cllr. Pat Treanor stated that the employees of this scheme had issues in relation to their extra payment being taxed and a PRSI contribution to be paid.

Cllr. Cathy Bennett enquired what benefit the Gateway employees are getting from this Scheme and will they get any full time employment. Mr. King noted that the moratorium regarding employment of staff is still in place and confirmed that the work carried out by Gateway employees is of economic benefit to the community and does not impinge on outdoor staff duties. Mr. McNally stated that the Gateway employees are in the process of completing a Fetac Level 5 course in gardening and were contributing positively to the area.

## **5. Questions**

Cllr. Cathy Bennett asked:

1. In relation to Kilmore football grounds outside Scotstown village, can some traffic calming measures such as rumble strips be added at the entrance? Presently this is a very dangerous junction for traffic exiting and also for oncoming traffic.

**Reply** Monaghan County Council will review the site and investigate the possibility of providing road markings at the location.

2. In relation to a previous question submitted, has any further investigations occurred with regards to a new car-park and new footpath at Corlatt, Knockatallon?

**Reply** A survey of the area was carried out within the past week and a costing on the works is being prepared.

3. With regards to potholes on Ballybay Main Street and at the Riverdale hotel, have these potholes been addressed as yet?

**Reply** Potholes at the roundabout at the Riverdale hotel and on Main Street at the junction with the Castleblayney road have been filled.

4. In relation to potholes on the Drummons road and the Roslea road out of Scotstown. Can these roads be added to an emergency road repair list as constant pot hole filling is a waste of time on both roads as they are in an extremely bad state of disrepair?

**Reply** Engineering Staff from the Municipal District had visited both roads with a view to carrying out remedial works.

5. Has Ballybay-Clones MD a lawn cutting schedule in place for Loch Mor Avenue in Ballybay? How often and when does lawn cutting occur there?

**Reply** A contract for the cutting of grass in the Municipal District including Loch Mor Avenue had been awarded within the past 2 weeks. Under this contract it was proposed to cut the grass every 10 days.

## **6. Chief Executive Orders**

Chief Executive Order Nos. BCMD 14/15 - BCMD 17/15 were noted by the members.

## **8. Votes of congratulations/sympathy**

The members extended a vote of congratulations to the following:

- The Old School Boxing Club Members - Terry McEntee, Zach Mallon and Stephen McKenna on their recent wins at European Level Boxing
- Largy College, Clones on winning the All-Ireland Young Social Innovators 2015 for their "Let's get by Together" Project
- Alan Gilliland and Martin Gilliland, Aughnamullen, Gerry McArdle, Bawn, Joseph Durkin and Owen Finnegan, Killanny on representing Ireland in the World English Clay Shooting Championships 2015 and winning individual awards as well as the ten persons Irish Team finishing fifth in the world.

The members extended a vote of sympathy to the following:

- Family of the late Fr. Gerard Jennings, Ballybay
- Walter Pringle, former County Council staff member on the death of his mother-in-law, Isobel Fox.

A minute's silence was observed.

**9. A.O.B.**

Cllr. Ciara McPhillips proposed that the AGM of the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District meeting be held on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> June at 4.00 pm. Cllr. Ciara McPhillips informed the members that they are cordially invited together with staff members to the Creighton Hotel, Clones for refreshments at 6.00 p.m. after the June meeting. All members were in agreement.

Cllr. Hugh McElvaney referred to the pedestrian crossing on the Main Street in Ballybay and he enquired if a controlled pedestrian crossing could be put in place with a red light in operation when button is pressed, seconded by Cllr. Eugene Bannigan. Mr. Duffy noted that the matter will be investigated.

Cllr. Eugene Bannigan proposed the following:

“That Ballybay-Clones Municipal District write to Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District regarding ESB’s premises in Lough Egish, L8050. In recent weeks signage has been put up on the side of the road, with a concrete slab fence put on the left hand side of the road. This road is in serious need of patching and in the last two weeks cars have lost mirrors due to avoiding the potholes and hitting the signs. Both the signage and fence are very dangerous on this road, and it needs to either be taken down or seriously looked at again”.

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

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed: Cllr Ciara McPhillips**  
**Cathaoirleach**

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

**Date: 16<sup>th</sup> June 2015**