

Municipal District of Monaghan

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held in the Boardroom, MTek1 Building, Knockaconny on Monday 21st November, 2016 at 3.00 pm.

Leas Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Paudge Connolly presided.

Present: Cllrs. Sean Conlon, Raymond Aughey, Brian McKenna and Seamus Treanor.

Apologies: Cathaoirleach David Maxwell

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

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Municipal District Meeting

On the proposal of Cllr. Brian McKenna, seconded by Cllr. Sean Conlon, it was agreed that the minutes of the Municipal District of Monaghan meeting held on 17th October, 2016 be confirmed.

2. Matters Arising

Cllr Conlon again asked for a souvenir package to become available as a keepsake brand of our location to take home, to enhance our tourism and liaise with relevant Tourism Agencies, Failte Eireann and Tourism Ireland to flagship areas such as Castle Leslie.

Cllr McKenna welcomed the road surfacing works on Main Street, Emyvale and thanked all concerned.

Cllr Treanor queried if the wall at Beech Hill College had been investigated to which Mr Deeney responded that weeds had been sprayed on it. Cllr Treanor asked could signs be erected on the Greenways requesting Control of Dogs by Owners.

Cllr Aughey asked could the provision of a Disabled Bay be investigated in the location of the hall in Emyvale.

Cllr Treanor advised that the road at Enagh is very dangerous and asked for an anti-skid surface to be considered to which Mr Deeney responded that he would ask the Roads Section to look at it. Cllr Treanor expressed his disappointment at no response from Minister Shane Ross in relation to the pension issue and asked for a reminder to be issued.

Cllr Conlon requested an update from Mr David Lane in relation to Bus Eireann Depot and also Alma House in relation to the old signage being re-instated.

Cllr McKenna asked for a report on Emy Lake to which Mr McElwain responded that an application has been made for CLÁR funding. Cllr McKenna requested a copy of CLÁR Applications to be forwarded to all members.

Cllr Aughey queried the provision of CCTV for the town to which Mr McElwain responded that there is no current funding available.

3. Report from Municipal District Co-Ordinator

Mr. McElwain gave a brief overview on his report.

Cllr Treanor congratulated all concerned with the switch-on of the Christmas lights. Cllr Connolly added that he received good comments from the business people in the town.

Cllr McKenna stated that the litter in the Courthouse area on Monday morning after this event was a disgrace and asked for additional bins to be provided when events are taking place in the town. Cllr Connolly supported this request. Mr McElwain advised that he will work with the committees concerned and the Monaghan Town Team and have additional bins in place for future events. Cllr Aughey called on all businesses, big and small, to support the Town Voucher Scheme. Cllr Connolly added that this is a no commission scheme and keeps jobs in our town, to shop local and buy Irish.

Cllr Connolly stated that there was a very short window for applications for the Town and Village Grant and appealed to communities to have project planning done and ready if and when the Grant Scheme comes available.

Cllr Aughey commended the good work carried out on the walks and trails at Rossmore Forest Park by Gateway staff.

Cllr Conlon asked if road markings could be re-painted at the Rehab building on the Mall Road and also requested that consideration be given of a further disabled parking space at this location.

He welcomed the pedestrian lights in the Tully area and the commencement of work at Beech Hill College Road Junction. Cllr Conlon asked that the Old Machinery Yard be considered as a Free Parking area to attract people and the public lighting be upgraded to accommodate the people.

Cllr Treanor called a STOP sign to be erected at the side road from the Credit Union approaching Old Cross Square.

Cllr Treanor highlighted the problems being experienced in the town with the reception of the Saorview digital television reception signal and asked for a letter to be issued to RTE to see if anything can be done about it.

Cllr Aughey asked for a footpath to be provided from the entrance to St Davnet's to Old Customs building and suggested we apply to TII for funding.

Cllr Connolly stated that the public should be made aware of the 30km/h in housing estates.

Cllr Connolly stated that the Japanese Knotweed at Skinnagin remains dangerous. He was informed that this area of Knotweed was treated.

4. Questions and Motions

Cllr Connolly asked:

1. What plans are there to take the public lighting from Ballyalbany crossroads toward Dernagrew in charge?

Response: There are two locations on either side of the road at Dernagrew with Street lighting. The council will investigate these lights to ascertain what works are required to bring them up to an acceptable standard. Subject to funding and the member's agreement the council can take them in charge.

2. Can Monaghan Municipal District report in relation to the recent concerns expressed regarding the efficiency/increased traffic build ups of the recently upgraded traffic lights at Dawson Street Cootehill Rd junction?

Response: The Traffic Signals at Dawson Street adjacent to Dunnes Stores were upgraded in September 2016 and the upgrades are as follows

- **Traffic Signal Controller was replaced**

- Kerbside detection was added for the pedestrian phase which ensures that the pedestrian phase is not called if pedestrian walks away even if button pressed
- Traffic Signals are now LED
- Radars were added to the signals that activate the signals to red after 15 seconds if no further traffic present on the approaching lane

There were initial delays after installation but from observation traffic is currently moving well at peak times. However the traffic lights have went down twice in recent weeks owing to a communication issue with the controller which has now been solved. Monaghan County Council will continue to monitor the operation of the these traffic signals over the coming months, however if a particular problem becomes apparent Monaghan County Council can reassess the phasing of the lights to see if further improvements can be made.

Cllr McKenna asked:

1. In January 2016 I had a question on the Municipal District agenda asking that the Municipal District would ensure that the hedges along the R186 at Drumreask would be trimmed by the landowner. Almost twelve months later and 'not a blade of grass has been cut' at this location. Will this M.D. please contact the landowner and ensure that these works are carried out as a matter of urgency in the interest of road users and for the safety of the public in general?

Response: The Municipal District staff met with the landowner at Drumreask and identified all dangerous trees along his boundary on the R186. These trees were all duly removed in April 2016. The Municipal District will contact the land owner to ensure the hedges are trimmed.

2. Will this Municipal District examine the feasibility of installing a right turning lane at the main entrance to Silver Hill Foods as you head north out of Emyvale? There are significant number of traffic movements at this location on a daily basis and without question the potential for a serious accident.

Response: Silver Hill Foods received Planning Permission in 2014 for new office accommodation and further developments within the site. As part of the planning application, a Design and Access Statement and a Road Safety Audit were submitted by Silver Hill Foods. Both of these reports did not identify the need for a Right Turn Provision for the N2 Access entrance to Silver Hill. In addition in the last 10 years there has been one recorded collision (2006) within the vicinity of this junction.

Cllr Treanor asked:

1. Will the Municipal District take charge of the cutting of overgrown trees at Beechgrove lawns, which are causing problems for the residents, and are in danger of coming down in high winds, and are affecting TV reception for many?

Response: The Municipal District will investigate these trees and carry out pruning if necessary.

2. Will the Municipal District investigate the trees at the Horseshoe Bridge which are blocking light from the surrounding houses?

Response: The Municipal District has already investigated trees in this location and no defects were observed. The Municipal District has no plans for cutting back these healthy trees.

3. The persistent dumping of rubbish at the Back Lanes of Killygoan between Fairview Crescent and Woodview is causing serious problems for residents. Can anything be done to apprehend the people responsible?

Response: The Environment Section investigates all instances of illegal dumping. The waste is examined for personal evidence and fines issued accordingly. The waste is then removed. To date no personal evidence has been found and therefore no fines have been issued. It is believed that the persons responsible live in the area and we understand that persons do not want to report their neighbours, but they could leave a message on our confidential phone number 1800200014 and say they believe what house number is dumping their waste in the area. In the meantime the Environmental Patrol Warden will continue to monitor the area and examine waste for personal evidence.

Cllr Conlon asked:

1) From my question at the July meeting, will Executive provide an update on my proposal in seeking the cooperation of the Courts Services and relevant agencies that seeks 'community service' hours being allocated towards litter retrieval and supporting the Tidy Towns efforts?

Response: A request has been submitted to the Manager of the Probation Service, Ms Irene Gilmore in relation to this matter, a response will be issued in due course.

2) With the increasing deterioration of surface and inadequate drainage in the municipal car park located at the traffic lights, referred to as McNally's car park, what measures are being considered to reduce potential of flooding and damage to vehicles?

Response: Minor surface repairs were carried out on this carpark in October. Under the flood alleviation works substantial clearing of the drainage systems, both the Shambles River and the canal pipes was carried out including removing debris from the Shambles river at the lower Courthouse car park.

3) For the purpose of enhancing both pedestrian and road user safety, can frequent passive surveillance be undertaken by council staff, and appropriate action taken, in ensuring road side gullies and drainage infrastructure remain unblocked to prevent flooding? The Milltown area is especially impacted by blocked drains along with various other locations throughout the Municipal District.

Response: Maintenance of gullies and drainage throughout the Municipal District is an ongoing operation and any additional locations reported will be investigated and attended to as required.

Notice of Motions:

Cllr Aughey proposed:

“Can the Council contact the Department of Communications regarding the poor mobile phone coverage available in many parts of the county to ascertain the reasons for same and the potential actions that may be taken to alleviate the problem”

A discussion took place on the motion and all members agreed.

“That this council states its appreciation for the work completed by staff on the Gateway scheme and in particular the work related to the Tidy Towns effort in Monaghan Town”

A discussion took place on the motion and all members agreed and also a letter to issue to all Tidy Towns.

7. Correspondence

Letter from Courts Service, Monaghan dated 1st November regarding cleaning and maintenance of front of Courthouse.

Letter from Courts Service, Monaghan dated 1st November regarding shutters at Monaghan Courthouse.

Letter from Regional Manager, Courts Service, regarding shutters at Monaghan Courthouse.

Letter from Minister Shane Ross dated 11th November regarding N2 Junction at Moyles L5520.

1. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations:

A vote of sympathy was extended to the family of Bernadette Keelaghan, Tranquilla House, Clones Road, Monaghan.

Congratulations were extended to:

Conor McKenna of Gaeil Trúícha Hurling Club on being selected on the “Nicky Rackard” All-Star Team for 2016.

Silverhill Farm on the opening of their new state of the art “Centre of Excellence” last Friday and to wish the company continued growth and success for the future.

The Truagh Gaels Ladies football team on completing the Intermediate double by defeating Corduff in the League Final.

Ciara McAnespie and Grainne McNally on receiving All-Star Awards at the Ladies Football All-Star event in Dublin recently.

Emergency Motion:

Cllr Treanor proposed:

“That this Council write to the Minister for Justice regarding the case of Brian Hennessy who raped and murdered Sharon Whelan aged 30 and her two daughters, aged 2 and 7, by setting fire to the house. We ask the Minister to review this case and ensure that he serves at least twenty years for these horrific murders”

The motion was discussed and all members agreed that it should also be copied to our TD’s and forwarded to other Councils.

The meeting concluded.

Dated this 21th Day of November, 2016

Signed: _____

Leas-Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Meetings Administrator