

**Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, Mtek Building, Monaghan on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2017 at 2.00 p.m.**

**Chair:** Cllr P.J. O’Hanlon, Cathaoirleach

**Present:** Cllrs. Aughey, Bennett, Campbell, Carthy, Conlon, Connolly, Coyle, Crowe, Gilliland, Keelan, Maxwell, McElvaney, McPhillips, B. McKenna, McNally, P. Treanor and S. Treanor.

Mr. E. O’Sullivan, Chief Executive, Mr. P. Clifford and Mr. A. King, Directors of Services, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr. A. Hughes, Mr. C. Flynn, Senior Engineer, Mr. G. McMahon, A/Senior Executive Engineer and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

**Urgent Business:**

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that he had received a Notice of Urgent Business from the Sinn Fein members, as follows:

*That this Council supports recent calls for accountability and explanations from the National Ambulance Service, the HSE and the Minister for Health regarding the inadequate ambulance cover and resulting delays recently, and regularly, experienced by citizens in Monaghan.*

In accordance with Standing Order 14(2) it was agreed that this matter would be discussed at the end of the meeting.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes**

**(i) Minutes of Council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2016**

*On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna seconded by Cllr C. McPhillips, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2016, be confirmed.*

**2. Correspondence.**

**The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda for the meeting:**

- Letter from TII giving details of the 2017 National Road Grant allocations for County Monaghan.
- Letter from the Office of Tanaiste and Minister for Justice in relation to the re-establishment of the Cavan-Monaghan Garda Divisional Drugs Unit.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Garda Commissioner’s office in relation to the re-establishment of the Cavan-Monaghan Garda Divisional Drugs Unit.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Garda Commissioner’s office in relation to the Council’s resolution regarding the award of a posthumous award of a Scott Medal to the family of the late Garda Michael Clerkin.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Office of the Tanaiste and Minister for Justice in relation to the Council’s resolution regarding the Mary Boyle inquiry.

- Letter from TII in relation to the early announcement of the annual road grant allocations.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in response to the Council's letter regarding public lighting.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in response to the Council's letter regarding funding for the Local Improvements Scheme.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in response to the Council's letter regarding the allocation of annual road grant funding.
- Letter from Cavan County Council inviting representatives from the Council to a meeting with Cavan and Louth County Council to discuss the Cavan/Dundalk road.
- Letter from the Minister for Agriculture in response to the Council's resolution regarding the provision of grant aid for specific security items on farms.
- Email from the office of the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment in relation to the council's letter regarding the imposition of a levy on the disposal of coffee/tea cups.
- Resolution from Sligo County Council proposing the introduction of legislation to control over-grown trees in housing estates and built up areas.
- Resolution from Sligo County Council proposing the refund of water charges to the people who paid and to put proper compensation in place for all group water schemes.
- Resolution from Tipperary County Council proposing the establishment of a new Agency to acquire and manage all domestic housing mortgage arrears accounts (plus two years in arrears) from the existing Lending Agencies within the State.
- Resolution from Tipperary County Council calling for support for both increased awareness and increased funding for services in the areas of both Dyspraxia and Dyslexia.
- Resolution from Tipperary County Council proposing that Councillors are represented on the All Island Civic Forum on Brexit by their representative bodies LAMA and AILG.

The following additional correspondence was circulated at the meeting:

- Letter of acknowledgement from the Office of An Taoiseach in response to the Council's letter regarding the inclusion in the new Coroner's of the requirement for an automatic inquest into every maternal death.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Office of An Taoiseach in response to the Council's letter regarding the delivery of an enhanced range of services through the Post Office network.
- Letter from Office of the Tanaiste and Minister for Justice in response to the Council's letter regarding a posthumous award of a Scott Medal to the family of the late Garda Michael Clerkin.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs in response to the Council's resolution calling an inquiry into the disappearance of Mary Boyle in Donegal.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Coroner for the District of Donegal in response to the Council's resolution calling an inquiry into the disappearance of Mary Boyle in Donegal.
- Letter from Most Rev. Liam MacDaid, Bishop Emeritus, Clogher thanking the Council for their good wishes on his retirement.
- Resolution from Donegal County Council calling for support for a vote of no confidence in the HSE and asking that the HSE revert to the old health board model.

### **Annual Ethics /Political Donations Declarations:**

The members were advised by the Meetings Administrator that the Ethics Registrar had circulated the Annual Ethics Declaration Form; Guidance Notes; Appendix 5 to Circular LG2/2015 and the Code of Conduct for Councillors to each member by email.

A copy of the Guidelines and Donation Statement in relation to the annual reporting of political donations by elected members had also been issued by email.

The members were advised by the Meetings Administrator of the importance of reading these documents before completion of the annual ethics declaration form which should be returned to the Ethics Registrar before the last day of February 2017. The deadline for the receipt of the Political Donations Statement is the 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2017. She advised that if members required guidance on completing the forms they could contact the Ethics Registrar for assistance.

### **Meeting with Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation:**

The Meetings Administrator informed the members of a provisional date for a meeting with the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2017 at 10.00 a.m. in the Minister's Office in Kildare Street. The following members were selected:

Monaghan County Council reps - Cllrs D. Maxwell, Cllr P. Connolly and Cllr S. Conlon

Carrickmacross-Castleblayney - Cllrs C. Carthy, A. Campbell and P. McNally.  
M.D. reps.

It was agreed that the delegation would be led by the Cathaoirleach and accompanied by a Council official.

### **Proposals arising out of correspondence:**

*On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Carthy, it was agreed that this Council expresses its disappointment at the vagueness of response from the office of Tanaiste and Minister for Justice and lack of clarity regarding this Council unanimously supported, requesting for the re-establishment of a Garda Divisional Drugs Unit for Cavan Monaghan. We once again seek confirmation that this unit will be re-established and not be left isolated as the only division in the country, bar one, without a dedicated unit.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr McNally, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council demands from the Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine, Michael Creed T.D and the Government, an immediate review of the TAMS grant claims processing and procedures, as farmers are finding the drawing down of TAMS grants bureaucratic causing mayor delays in receiving payments, at a time of financial crisis in farming.*

*On the proposal of Cllr S. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Connolly, it was agreed that the Council adopt the resolution from Sligo County Council calling on the Department of the Environment to introduce legislation as is in force in other European countries for the control of over grown trees in housing estates and built up areas.*

*On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that the Council writes to Cavan County Council and request that they stop referring to the Cavan to Dundalk road as the East-West Link.*

It was also agreed that the Council would accept the invitation from Cavan County Council to participate in a joint delegation (Louth/Monaghan/Cavan Councils) to Minister Shane Ross, T.D. in relation to the Dundalk/Cavan road. In addition to the Cathaoirleach, Cllrs McNally, Keelan and Maxwell were nominated to represent this Council if a meeting with Minister Ross is secured.

*On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that this Council requests the office of An Taoiseach to ensure that local authority elected representation is included as part of the membership of the All-Island Civic Forum on Brexit.*

*Cllr Coyle proposed, Cllr B. McKenna seconded, that the Council adopt the resolution from Sligo County Council calling on the Oireachtas Committee on water charges and the Minister, to return all water charges collected to the people who paid, and to put proper compensation in place for all group water schemes.*

A vote by show of hands resulted in 14 for 1 against, 3 abstentions. The Cathaoirleach declared the proposal carried.

**3. To consider Section 183 Notice relating to the following disposals:**

Cllr McPhillips declared an interest in item 3(1) and withdrew from the meeting while the matter was being considered.

**(i) Disposal of land at Mall Road, Monaghan:**

*On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal of 450m<sup>2</sup> of land at Mall Road, Monaghan in accordance with the terms of notice dated 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2016 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.*

**(ii) Disposal of land at 73, Killyconnigan, Monaghan**

*On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal of 280m<sup>2</sup> of land at the rear of 73, Killyconnigan, Monaghan in accordance with the terms of notice dated 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2016 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.*

**4. To receive Report on the Capital Programme 2017-2019**

The members considered the Report on the Capital Programme which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting. The report which had been prepared in accordance with Section 135 of the Local Government Act 2001 had also been circulated to members of the Council in advance of the Statutory Budget meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2016. The Chief Executive responded to queries from the members in relation to the report. He stated that Capital Programme is based on a realistic and prudent assessment of the information

currently available, and has regard to the measures available to the local authority to raise funding.

The programme includes a total of 53 projects, which will require funding of some €97 million over the three year period. The inclusion of a particular project in the programme does not confer approval on that project. In line with the Public Spending Code, appropriate planning and approval, including the securing of funding, must be carried out in advance of committing to any project. Conversely, if a project arises in the period for which funding is available, and which is not currently included in the capital programme, this will not prohibit the Council from proceeding with the project, subject again to the necessary preparatory work being completed.

The Capital Programme is a rolling programme, and will be reviewed and updated annually. The Council is committed to a programme of continuous development and improvement of the county's capital infrastructure and will continue to work to identify projects for development, source funding, and implement capital projects that contribute to economic and social progress for the county. The Budget for 2017 included provision for the Civil Defence H.Q., and the Peace Campus.

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr McKenna, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council makes a submission to the COMREG Draft Strategy 2017/2019, identifying the lack of a proper broadband infrastructure in County Monaghan and seeking an audit on the benefits achieved through the National Broadband Scheme, the Rural Broadband Scheme and the Kelvin Project.*

*Cllr Keelan proposed, Cllr Crowe seconded, that this Council notes the ongoing issues on the N2, and in particular the stretch of road from Aclint bridge to Castleblayney. We call on TII and the Government as matter of urgency to develop plans for a re-design and re-construction of the roadway to possibly dual carriageway standards.*

It was agreed that the Council would await the outcome of the safety audit on this road before making a decision on this proposal.

**5. To consider entering into Section 85 Agreement with Westmeath County Council for the management of invasive alien plant species (IAPS) on national/regional road network**

This item was deferred pending further clarification the proposed agreement with Westmeath County Council.

**6. Audit Committee:**

**(i) To receive the Audit Committee Report on the Annual Financial Statement 2015, and Local Government Auditors Report 2015**

The members noted the Audit Committee Report on the Annual Financial Statement 2015 and the Local Government Auditors Report 2015 which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting.

**(ii) To adopt the Audit Committee Charter:**

*On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed that the Council adopt the Audit Committee Charter, as circulated.*

**(iii) To adopt the Audit Committee Work Programme:**

*On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr McNally, it was agreed that the Council adopt the Audit Committee Work Programme for 2017, as circulated.*

**7. To fix date for Muckno Community Partnership Meeting.**

It was agreed that a meeting of the Muckno Community Partnership would be scheduled for 5.00 p.m. on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2017 in the Gate Lodge, Hope Castle, Castleblayney.

**8. To receive Report on Water Services:**

The members noted the report circulated by Cathal Flynn, Senior Engineer, Water Services in relation to Water Hardness in County Monaghan. The report gave information relating to hard water formation, the role of Irish Water, water quality limits, the requirement of the Drinking Water Regulations in terms of hard water; water hardness in the Scotstown/Ballinode areas and outlined four options to address hardness. The report concluded with the following recommendations:

*Irish Water is responsible for the investment decisions and implementation of the capital programme delivery in County Monaghan. In discharging its role as the national water services utility, responsible for water services operations and investment, Irish Water is accountable to:*

- a) The economic regulator, i.e. the Commission for Energy Regulation (CER), which is charged with protecting the interests of the customer, while approving an appropriate funding requirement sufficient to enable the utility to deliver the required services to specified standards in an efficient manner;*
- b) The environmental regulator, i.e. the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which sets standards and enforces compliance with EU and National Regulations for drinking water supply and wastewater discharge to water bodies. The EPA liaises with the HSE in matters of public health.*

*Investment decisions relating to resolving customer issues in the Scotstown/Ballinode area is not a matter for Monaghan County Council. Such capital investment decisions can only be made by the national utility. While treatment to reduce hardness in water supply is not currently a priority for Irish Water, it may be considered in severe cases by the CER when priority compliance issues have been addressed.*

Cllr Keelan requested that a report be prepared on the possibility of blending water supplies to address the hard water problem in the South Monaghan area.

Following his presentation of the report, which a number of members welcomed, Mr. Flynn responded to queries from the elected members. He again confirmed that any decision regarding capital investment in water services in the county is a matter for Irish Water.

**9. To receive Management Report – December, 2016**

The members noted the contents of the Management Report for December, which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting. The Chief Executive responded to queries from the elected members.

*On the proposal of Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed a report would be prepared for the Council on the Taking in Charge process, specifically to address the current number of housing estates waiting to be taken in charge; the proposed time-frame for each, the number of applications on hand and any issues such as delays, etc.*

**10. To approve Minutes and recommendations from CPG meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2017**

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed that the minutes of the CPG meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2017 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.*

**11. To receive reports from Members attending Conferences/Training events.**

The members noted the reports from Cllrs Carthy, Conlon, McPhillips and P. Treanor in relation to their attendance at the following conferences/training events:

- AILG Training (Emergency Planning) Sligo.
- Irish Council for Social Housing, Dublin.
- Waterways Ireland Conference, Clonakilty, Co. Cork.
- Revitalising local towns on the Island of Ireland, Monaghan Town.

**12. Business submitted by Chief Executive.**

There was no business submitted by the Chief Executive.

**13. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2016.**

Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2016 were responded to by the relevant officials.

**14. To receive update on North South Interconnector project.**

There was no discussion under this item as the matter had been discussed at a Special Council meeting held earlier that day.

**15. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project.**

There was no discussion on this item.

**16. Presentation from HSE Officials Cathal Hand Primary Care Manager and Paul Hayden, Estates Manager:**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed HSE officials Cathal Hand, Primary Care Manager and Paul Hayden, Estates Manager and invited them to address the members.

Mr. Hand and Mr. Hayden gave a joint presentation to the members during which they outlined, in detail, the process that had been undertaken in relation to the development of a primary care facility on the grounds of St. Davnet's Hospital. This facility had originally been proposed for the Monaghan Hospital site but due to problems with that site and the costings, the decision had been taken in late summer 2016 to re-locate Primary Care Centre to the St. Davnet's site. They confirmed that the new Centre would be located in the Blackwater House building which will be re-furbished to accommodate it. They stated that they expected that the new facility would be completed by 2020.

They also gave details relating to the refurbishment of Oriel House, a centre for the elderly on the St. Davnet's campus. This refurbishment is necessary following its non-compliance with HIQA standards. The residents were transferred to St. Mary's Hospital in Castleblayney where they will remain or be relocated by the HSE to other facilities in the North Monaghan area if they wish. They explained that the new Primary Care Centre would also include 20 beds, for the most appropriate use at any given time, so there would be no loss of bed numbers for this area. It was expected that refurbishment work would commence later this year. Following the refurbishment, vulnerable residents of the Blackwater Building would be relocated into the Oriel House building, which would be renovated to meet the standards of the Mental Health Commission.

Following the presentation a number of members expressed concern at the delay in bringing the Primary Care project to construction stage. The HSE officials acknowledged their concerns and stated that they were not happy with the delays either, which were due to the reasons that had been outlined in their presentation.

Cllr Maxwell suggested that the Council would obtain an update in relation to progress on the Primary Care Centre in May/September 2017. This was agreed.

The Chief Executive thanked the officials for their presentation. He assured them of support from the Council in terms of planning etc., and suggested that they would contact the Council as early as possible in the pre-planning stage.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. Hand and Mr. Hayden for attending the meeting and for the comprehensive and frank way in which they imparted information to the members.

**17. Questions:**

**Cllr. C. Carthy asked:**

1. Is Monaghan County Council prepared, and does it intend to apply for funding to the EU Free Wi-Fi initiative (WIFI4EU) for all of Monaghan's towns and large villages in early 2017.



**Reply: Monaghan County Council implemented Free Wi-Fi in the towns of Monaghan and Carrickmacross in December 2016 and intends to proceed with its implementation in the towns of Castleblayney, Clones and Ballybay in early 2017 as planned. Monaghan County Council is investigating the roll-out of Free Wi-Fi to additional locations throughout the County and will be ready to submit its application for EU funding for the equipment and installation costs.**

**Cllr. C. Carthy asked:**

2. How many individuals have been taken off the Council housing list in 2016 and can we have a breakdown in terms of:
- HAP Scheme Tenants
  - Those who have been housed by the council or a Housing Association
  - Those who have been removed

**Reply: The outcome of the Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) exercise conducted between June to September of this year was reported to the Housing SPC in October. The number of housing applications that were closed this year outside of the HNA exercise is as follows:**

HAP Accommodated applicants	5
Applicants housed by Housing/Care Assocs. or Trusts	61
Applicants Ineligible by Income	14
Applicants housed by RAS Scheme	49
Applicants - No Contact & whereabouts unknown	6
Applicants deceased	5
Applicant Change in Circumstances*	<u>40</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>

*\*Includes applicants who: have left local authority area - are providing accommodation from own resources or otherwise no longer in need of social housing support.*

The above figures do not include applicants who were allocated Council housing during 2016 as such applications are not closed but processed into tenancies. The total number of tenancy allocations for 2016 is 103.

Applicants who are in receipt of accommodation under the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Scheme have the option of transferring on to the Council social housing list. The total number of HAP accommodated applicants who have opted not to transfer to the social housing list between October 2014 and end 2016 is 27.

Applicants housed under the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) prior to 2011 were retained on the housing list in accordance with housing legislation. Applicants housed under the RAS scheme after 2011 may apply for transfer to the Council social housing list and are assessed on a case by case basis. There are currently 73 applicants on the housing list who are housed under the RAS Scheme.

**Cllr. C. Carthy asked:**

3. How many reports of homelessness has Monaghan County Council to deal with/ review in 2016 and how did it compare to 2015.

**Reply: The number of person who presented as homeless during the years 2015 and 2016 is as follows:**

**2015 - adults 43 Adults & 18 Children                      2016 - adults 81 Adults & 72 Children**

4. Would Monaghan County Council consider fitting solar panels (heating and or electricity) to any future housing developments under its management.

**Reply: In 2016 Monaghan County Council provided solar panels in a newly constructed development at Crosmaol, McCurtain Street, Clones (occupied January 2016). For new dwellings Part L of the current Building Regulations requires that a reasonable proportion of the energy consumption to meet the energy performance of a dwelling is provided by renewable energy sources. Solar technologies can be used to help meet this contribution as can Heat Pumps and other renewable technologies. For future housing developments under its management Monaghan County Council will consider the use of solar panels and/or where appropriate Heat Pumps or other renewable technologies in compliance with the Building Regulations.**

5. What is the current average waiting time for a person on the housing waiting list in Co. Monaghan to be offered a home (with a breakdown of house size: 2 bed, 3 bed etc).

**Reply: The following figures are based on from the time persons have been on the waiting list to December 2016. It includes all applicants, persons in RAS (qualifying), HAP applicants who have indicated they wish to be on the transfer list, and all current tenants looking for transfer (report 88 – 1 House).**

**The average time for all current households on the waiting list is 38.81 months**

<b>For persons qualifying for 1 / 2 bed dwellings</b>	<b>44.60 months</b>
<b>For persons qualifying for 2 bed dwellings</b>	<b>40.80 months</b>
<b>For households qualifying for 3 bed dwellings</b>	<b>31.9 months</b>

**Cllr. R. Aughey asked:**

7. What measures does Monaghan County Council have in place with regard to cyber security to safeguard both funds and sensitive and confidential information, and has there been a full review of the council's internal control and security measures since the cyber attack on Meath County Council?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council has up-to-date robust security technologies in place to protect against cyber attacks. We are currently reviewing our information security policies and developing a staff awareness training programme. ICT staff continuously skill-up on security technologies and threat detection and prevention measures. We also seek guidance from the Local Government Management Agency in this regard.**

**Cllr. R. Aughey asked:**

8. What is the current status with regard to Peace IV, and when is the fund likely to open for applications?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council has received a draft letter of offer from SEUPB with a number of pre commencement conditions attached. These have to be completed by the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2017. Once these have been approved by SEUPB we will then be in a position to open our small grants programmes. The Peace Partnership Board will administer two small grants programmes:**

- **Shared Spaced and Services for capital projects in line with programme objectives, maximum grant available €30,000, total programme budget €180,000.**
- **Building Positive Relations for community projects in line with programme objectives, maximum grant available €75,000, total programme budget €400,000.**

9. With regard to the welcome extension of the Ulster Canal Greenway, what is the likely timeline for planning, construction and completion of the facility?

**Reply: The project will start immediately in the new year, with recruitment of a Project Manager (at Executive Engineer level) and a Finance Administrator (at Clerical Officer level). It is envisaged that detailed design of the route, public consultation on same and Part 8 planning will be completed by early 2018, land acquisition will start shortly thereafter, and construction will start in 2019 with completion by end 2020.**

**18. Notices of Motion:**

**Cllr. P. Mc Nally proposed, Cllr S. Coyle seconded**

1. *That this Council calls on the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, Simon Coveney TD, to amend the housing legislation to allow tenants of voluntary housing agencies purchase their homes.*

A debate took place on the motion during which a number of members expressed concern that this would have a negative impact on the voluntary housing sector. Cllr McNally made the point that young individuals with families in voluntary housing did not have the option to purchase their homes. Any disposal would be in accordance with the Council's Tenant Purchase Scheme. He was not suggesting that houses let to elderly or special needs tenants would be eligible for purchase.

Cllr Conlon stated that the matter had been raised at a recent event hosted by the Irish Council for Social Housing and he suggested writing to that body to see if there was any room for flexibility. This was agreed.

It was agreed to await the outcome of the clarification from the ICSH before making a decision on the motion.

## 18. Notices of Motion (contd):

**Cllr. D. Maxwell proposed, Cllr Campbell seconded**

2. *That Monaghan County Council will investigate the options of installing wheelchair friendly play equipment in Council play parks in the county.*

Following a short debate on the motion, the Cathaoirleach put it to the meeting and it was agreed unanimously.

## 19. Votes of sympathy/congratulations.

It was agreed that a vote of sympathy would be extended to the following:

- Dr. Michael Clarke, Castleblayney and his family and the Duffy family on the tragic death of his wife Mona in an accident while out walking on the N2 near Castleblayney.
- The McNally family, Dundrum House, Castleblayney on the death of Madge McNally, wife of former County Council member, Patrick McNally.
- Eileen Cadden, Council employee and the Sherry Family, Threemilehouse on the death of Mary Sherry, RIP.
- The family of the late Gabriel McCague, RIP, Scotstown.

It was agreed that a vote of congratulations be extended to the following:

- Catriona Balfe, Tydavnet on her Golden Globe nomination for a Best Performance by an actress in a TV series.

## 20. Conferences/Training

There were no Conferences or Training events approved at this meeting.

### **Urgent Business:**

Cllr Conlon proposed, Cllr McKenna seconded

*That this Council supports recent calls for accountability and explanations from the National Ambulance Service, the HSE and the Minister for Health regarding the inadequate ambulance cover and resulting delays recently, and regularly, experienced by citizens in Monaghan.*

In moving the motion Cllr Conlon referred to a list of questions that he was proposing should be put to the Ambulance Service, as follows:

- 1) What is the reason for regular and occasionally inordinate delays of ambulances arriving to the patient?
- 2) Given recent and ongoing experiences of ambulance delays, why are ambulances no longer stationed at the Monaghan location at St. Davnet's established over five years ago?

- 3) For County Monaghan, what percentage of response times, from emergency call received to arrival to patient, meet within the HIQA recommended time frame of 19 minutes for cardiac and respiratory life threatening (ECHO) cases, and similarly with other cases that fall into the DELTA category?
- 4) Due to the lengthy delays associated with transitioning patients between ambulance and emergency department personnel, up to three hours during the current trolley crisis where ambulance personnel must remain on site, will an alternative process be established by the NAS to streamline this process?
- 5) In relation to staffing levels, provide a three year analysis of staffing levels of ambulance personnel.
- 6) In relation to the ambulance fleet, provide a three year analysis of number of emergency vehicles acquired or decommissioned within the fleet covering the Monaghan area.
- 7) Regarding the use of emergency ambulances for routine inter-hospital patient transfers, have NAS developed a dedicated non-emergency patient transport system, for routine transfers.
- 8) For the NAS to provide outcomes of the review of ambulances services initiated by former Health Minister James Reilly TD for the purpose of identifying the volume and location of resources required to achieve optimal effectiveness and efficiencies, improve performance, and deliver a better service to the patient.

The Cathaoirleach put Cllr Conlon's motion to the meeting and it was agreed unanimously. It was also agreed that the eight questions listed above should be issued to the National Ambulance Service for response.

The meeting then concluded.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Meetings Administrator**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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