

Municipal District of Monaghan.

Minutes of Meeting of the Municipal District of Monaghan held in Mtek 1 Building, Knockaconny on Tuesday, 16th June 2015 at 2.30pm.

Cllr. Robbie Gallagher presided.

Present: Cllrs. David Maxwell, Seamus Treanor, Paudge Connolly, Sean Conlon 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, Municipal District Engineer, Ms. Bernie McMahan, Staff Officer.

1. Confirmation of minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr. Maxwell, seconded by Cllr. McKenna, it was agreed that the minutes of the Municipal District of Monaghan meeting held on the 26th May, 2015 be confirmed.

2. Matters arising:

Cllr. McKenna asked when would the roads in the village of Emyvale be completed. He added that the patching to the roads in Monaghan town were well done and reflect well on the Municipal District but requested that in future these works would be carried out quicker.

All members concurred with Cllr McKenna's comments.

Cllr. McKenna asked if the presentation by Alan Hall would be re-scheduled for the July meeting to which Mr McElwain responded that it would.

Cllr McKenna stated that he understood that there was an asking price for the house at Lemaculla and that this Municipal was to put in an offer. Mr McElwain advised that the owner was not willing to lower the base price. Mr Murray advised that there was no funding available in the Roads grant for the purchase of this dwelling. Cllr. McKenna suggested that we should write to the Department and lobby for the purchase of the house.

Cllr Gallagher asked for an update on traffic calming measures at Tully to which Mr McElwain responded that the matter had been referred to Roads Section and will revert in due course.

Cllr Conlon asked had the interviews commenced for the position of Town Manager to which Mr McElwain responded that the interviews will be held on the 25th June.

Cllr Connolly queried the difference in percentage allocation from the Motor Tax fund to which Mr Murray responded that the Motor Tax money goes into the Local Government Fund and the Road funding is determined by the level of grants from the Minister.

Cllr Gallagher asked if any progress had been made regarding his proposal to attract sponsorship for roundabouts in the area of Monaghan town. Mr McElwain replied that he intends to discuss policies and the engineering guidelines in relation to this with the Roads Section.

3. Report from Municipal District Co-Ordinator:

This report was circulated to the members. Cllr. Connolly stated that the paint work carried out by the Gateway employees gives a great lift to the town. He expressed concerns that the traffic calming works proposed for Emyvale may affect traffic coming to the Ulster Final and the Country Music Festival.

Cllr Connolly sought clarification on whether the drainage works were 98% complete or the budget 98% spent. Mr McElwain clarified that it is 98% of the drainage works outlined in the Fixed Roads Restoration programme as agreed by the members.

Cllr. Connolly asked what estates had been identified for the speed limits. Mr McElwain responded that this MD forwarded a list of all signs required for housing estates in the charge of the local authority to the Roads Section who collated information from all three MDs. A submission was made to the Department and the indications are that the Council will receive an allocation of one-third this year, two thirds next year.

Cllr. Treanor congratulated the Community & Development Section on the Down Syndrome exhibition organised for Social Inclusion week.

Cllr Mc Kenna asked had the traffic calming works for Emyvale gone to tender to which Mr Deeney responded that it will be tendered towards the end of June. Mr McElwain advised that the works are to be commenced in July and will not hinder the traffic going to the Ulster Final.

Cllr Maxwell requested that signage be erected for ESB car charging points located on the way to the Monaghan Harps GFC complex and that the bye-laws be amended accordingly. Mr McElwain responded that the company for road markings was due to return to complete works in the town and these spaces would be delineated then. Bye-laws to be amended also and brought before the members.

Cllr Conlon stated that there appeared there were not enough long term spaces in the Lower Courthouse Car Park, close to the Dublin Street while the short-term spaces are seldom used. He requested that a survey be carried out to establish if long-term spaces are used to capacity at 9-10am, and, if so, additional long-term spaces should be provided. Mr McElwain responded that there were spare capacity in the long stay in the McNally carpark but the MD can carry out a survey of the long-term spaces in the lower courthouse car park.

Mr Murray advised the members that in relation to the site at Latlurcan, a court case had taken place in Belfast for the appointment of an Administrator and the confirmation of the sale of lands there to the Council had been sought, but there was an objection to the appointment and the matter had been adjourned. Mr Murray advised that the former owner of the property was the objector.

A discussion took place on road funding and the need to write to the NRA /Dept for additional allocation. It was agreed that this was a Co Council function and any request should be on a county wide basis and be requested at county level.

Mr McElwain informed the members that the Public Arts Piece will be situated at Coolshannagh Roundabout between the Monaghan Bypass and the Armagh road over the coming weeks. The details of the art piece, consisting of a 3 metre high stainless steel loop and sphere and funded by the Blackwater Regional Partnership will be forwarded to members.

4. Questions:

Cllr. Conlon asked:

- 1) Considering the recent purchase of 100 acres of land along the Monaghan by-pass by Combilift for the construction of their new headquarters, have additional industrial zoned land banks been identified by the Council's Planning Section for the purpose of attracting and providing for potential industries to the area?

Response: It is the intention of the Planning Authority to review the existing Industry / Enterprise / Employment zonings in the County, so as to ensure that there is sufficient suitable lands available for employment uses. It is anticipated that this review will be completed before the end of the year.

- 2) Have the Council Executive made any further progress in negotiating the purchase of IDA lands at Knockaconny on the Armagh Rd? And for the purpose of enhancing the campus of agencies on both sides of the road at this location, have the Executive met with Cavan Monaghan Education and Training Board to create a shared vision for further development?

Response: Monaghan County Council has not pursued the acquisition of these lands.

- 3) With the recent completion of the latest phase of the Mullaghmart Remedial Scheme, what progress has been made in relation to advancing to Phase 4 specifically with design and tendering. Will all the remaining houses yet to be upgraded be completed in the next phase?

Response: Mullaghmart Remedial Works Scheme is of the highest priority for Monaghan County Council and the Department officials support the completion of the scheme in principle however increasing housing supply is being given higher priority nationally than Remedial Works Schemes at present. Following a series of meetings between Council staff and officials of the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government and representations by Councillors and T.D.s in 2014 and 2015 it was agreed that an application for preliminary approval for Phase 4 of the Mullaghmart Remedial Works Scheme could be made in April 2015. Following submission of the application on the 27th of April 2015 a response was received from the Department on the 20th of May 2015 seeking further detail on costs and the extent of work to be undertaken. A response containing the information required was sent to the Department on the 2nd of June 2015. The Council has applied for a preliminary budget of €3million and it is intended that all of the remaining houses will be included in Phase 4. The full design and tender cannot be undertaken until Department approval has been received however it is intended that the required survey work will be undertaken in the coming weeks. It is intended that Phase 4 will be the last phase of the Mullaghmart Remedial Works Scheme and it is hoped that the Department will approve funding for significant upgrade work to 13no Social Houses and for external works to, and in the environs of, 63no private houses and other estate wide improvement work.

- 4) Further to the following query I submitted last March 2014 and again in February 2015, please outline what is proposed regarding the recent allocation of €10,000 towards Road Safety Improvement Works on the R188 Cootehill Road at Drumbear Wood, what specific measures are to be implemented that will encourage a reduction in speed from traffic approaching this junction and The Corran?

Response: Two Driver feedback, digital warning signs are to be erected. One sign at the Drumbear Woods junction and one sign within the reduced speed limits on entering the urban area. Both signs to be in place in the coming weeks .

In relation to question number 2, Cllr Conlon implored the Executive to continue negotiations for the purchase of the IDA development at Knockaconny. Cllr Connolly asked if the site could be bought in sections and if there was dual access to the Fire Station. Mr McElwain responded that he would revert to the members at the next meeting.

In relation to question number 3, Mr Murray advised the members that he spoke to the Department at a meeting in Galway and they are looking at completing Mullaghmatt in phase 4.

A discussion took place on the St Davnet's complex and it was agreed by all members that a meeting be requested with Management of St Davnets to clarify the current usage of the buildings and their plans for vacant buildings and the future development of the site.

6. Correspondence:

Acknowledgement Letter from An Garda Siochana dated 3rd June 2015 in relation to traffic speed at Sloan's shop/Tully Estate.

Acknowledgement letter from Office of the Minister for Education and skills dated 3rd June 2015 in relation to pupil teacher ratio in primary schools.

Letter from Monaghan Town Country Music Festival dated 8th June 2015 requesting permission to have a number of roads closed in the town, use of bandstand, use of two car parking spaces and lower section of Lower Courthouse Car Park, over the festival period, 16th-19th July 2015. Positive comments were received from the members.

Cllr Conlon informed the members that a Health Care Worker had brought to his attention the need for provision of access for disabled people to and from the Festival, and was requested to optimise every opportunity for a proper unimpeded location.

Cllr Maxwell advised the members that he had brought correspondence in relation to this to the Festival Committee.

Acknowledgement letter from Department of Health dated 8th June 2015 in relation to St Davnet's Hospital.

Letter dated 9th June 2015 from Office of the Minister for Education and Skills in relation to pupil teacher ratio in primary schools.

Letter from Department of Health dated 12th June 2015 in relation to St Davnet's Hospital.

Cllr Gallagher informed the members that there was a retirement function for Paddy Gollogly, Bus Eireann Depot Supervisor on Tuesday 30th June at 4pm and wished him well on his retirement.

All members wished to be associated with this.

Cllr Conlon asked when was the meeting with David Lane re-scheduled for to which Mr McElwain responded that Mr Lane apologised for not being able to attend the June meeting and stated he will attend the July meeting.

7. Sympathy:

Votes of sympathy were extended to the following:

The families of the six young people who died tragically in Berkeley in America.

Bernie Bradley on the passing of her father, Gerard.

8. Congratulations:

Congratulations were extended to:

Louise McKenna, Drumully, Emyvale on winning 3 Gold Medals at World Power Lifting Championships in Telford, England.

The participants of the Coderdojo Coolest Competition, entry called "Freaky Friday", Lúí Shields, Rory McCleary and James McKinney, from Gaelscoil Ultain, Monaghan.

Dated this the 16th day of June, 2015

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Meetings Administrator