

Municipal District of Monaghan.

Minutes of Meeting of the Municipal District of Monaghan held in the Boardroom, Mtek 1 Building, Knockaconny on Monday, 18th April, 2016 at 3.00pm.

Leas- Cathaoirleach, Cllr. David Maxwell presided.

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

Apologies: Cllr Gallagher, Dermot Deeney

In Attendance: Mr. John Murray, Director of Services, Mr Donal McElwain, Municipal District Co-ordinator, Ms. Bernie McElvaney, Senior Staff Officer,

1. St Patrick Day Parade Awards:

Cllr Maxwell welcomed all to the meeting and congratulated all the winners on another successful St Patrick's Day Parade. The Awards presented were as follows:

Best Commercial Float – Monaghan Coral Leisure Centre and Monaghan Tang Soo Do

Best Band – O' Neill Pipe Band

Centenary Award – Scoil Rince Ní Bhrogáin

Best Window Display – Veritas

Best Window Display incorporating Irish Language - Rocks

Cllr Maxwell thanked the winners, the Municipal District Staff, Trevor Connolly, the new Town Manager and Fiona McEntee for her involvement with the youth on the window displays.

2. Town Team:

A list of the members of the Town Team was circulated to the members. He added that the team are in the process of preparing a Town Team Plan and hope to present it to the members at the May or June meeting.

3. Presentation by Monaghan Garda Youth Diversion Project:

Brenda McMorrow and Paul Smyth gave a presentation to the members highlighting the work they are doing to divert young people from crime and anti-social behaviour. This was followed by a Question and Answer session. Cllr Maxwell commended them on their good work and thanked them for the presentation. All members concurred with his sentiments.

4. Confirmation of Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr. McKenna, seconded by Cllr. Treanor, it was agreed that the minutes of the Municipal District of Monaghan meeting held on the 14th March 2016 be confirmed.

5. Matters arising:

Cllr Conlon asked had a questionnaire been drafted for the business/residents of the town to which Cllr Maxwell responded that it was agreed at the last meeting to hold off on a questionnaire until

our meeting with An Gardaí. Cllr Maxwell asked that a letter be re-issued to an Gardaí requesting a meeting. Cllr Conlon stated that CCTV cameras should be discussed at the meeting with an Gardaí.

6. Report from Co-ordinator:

The Report was circulated to the members and Mr McElwain outlined the program and the events ahead. He thanked the Monaghan Motor Club for their help with the St Patrick's Day Parade and Fiona Mc Entee for her help with the youth in setting up the window displays. Cllr Conlon asked how many General Operatives had been recruited to which Mr McElwain responded that the 2 no who retired last year will be replaced. Cllr Conlon queried had the Grass Cutting Contract been awarded to which Mr McElwain responded that the contract had been awarded to Paul Loughran and works will continue as was previous. He also advised that a new Ride-on Lawnmower had been purchased. Cllr Connolly stated that the contractor must meet the requirements of the Tender. Mr McElwain advised that the contractor was the responsible for the implementation of their Health and Safety Health and Safety and Audits are carried out by MCC staff. Cllr Connolly asked had drainage works commenced and stressed how effective drainage is, money very well spent. Mr McElwain responded that Drainage works will be completed within the next six weeks. Cllr McKenna stated that Drainage is critical and that the Council are not pro-active in their approach to the public allowing water to emanate from their property onto the public road.

Cllr Treanor stated that manholes in the town that had been fixed by Irish Water are rattling again three weeks later.

Cllr McKenna asked will works be carried out to the road through Emyvale village to which Mr McElwain responded that the Council had made an application to TII and will write to TII again and provide the members with an update.

Cllr Maxwell stated that there are two big events coming up, the Monaghan Stages Rally on the 24th April, and The Centenary Event on the 30th April. He commended the Monaghan Motor Club on this event which brings a large crowd to the town.

Cllr Maxwell outlined the programme for the 1916 Commemoration Event and advised that parking will be free on that day from 12 o'clock.

7. Questions and Answers:

Cllr. Seamus Treanor asked:

1. What does Monaghan County Council intend to do with the ghost estate 'Forest Walk' at Cortolvin, Monaghan town and can they put a Compulsory Order on it?

Response: Monaghan County Council is aware that the unfinished development known as Forest Walk has recently been acquired by a local developer. The Planning Section of the Council has engaged with the developer and his technical representatives on a number of occasions and has agreed a site resolution plan. The Planning Authority is expecting the submission of a planning application for the remediation and completion of the site in May 2016. Given the anticipated resolution of the site by the developer, the Council does not intend to attempt to acquire the site.

2. When is Monaghan County Council going to start work on the roads around Monaghan town which are in a totally unacceptable state of repair?

Response: Maintenance repairs of the roads around Monaghan Town are ongoing. Water Services Section expects to appoint a contractor by December 2016 for the Watermain Rehabilitation Contract and the contract period is for 12 months. It is expected that road overlay works will commence when these works are completed.

Cllr Robbie Gallagher asked:

1. Would the council consider contacting the Tourism Officer with regard to updating the heritage trail in Monaghan Town and the possible inclusion of QR codes and associated web site information for important sites around the town?

Response: The information in the existing Heritage Trail is of a kind that does not require updating. However, technology has changed significantly since the original trail was developed and a Smartphone App is now the preferred medium. The trail would certainly benefit from being available in this format but this is subject to funding being available.

2. Can the council repair and if necessary replace damaged or broken street signs in the Killygoan / Pound Hill area?

Response: An inventory of all signs that need to be replaced will be compiled and a quotation sought for their replacement.

3. What is the position regarding the lighting of the sculpture at the Coolshannagh roundabout?

Response: The sculpture was funded by the NI Arts Council under their 'Building Peace through the Arts: Re-imagining Communities' programme, which was funded by PEACE III. There is no further funding available from this source and the Municipal District will investigate the costs involved in providing lighting to the sculpture.

4. Can the council repair wooden fences at Ulster Canal Park and at the Clones Road entrance to Tom Young's Wood?

Response: The extent of damage to the fencing will be investigated and repair works incorporated into the Municipal District works schedule.

Motions:

Notices submitted by Cllr. Conlon:

"Following the failure of Tesco Ireland to fully implement the terms of the recent Labour Court recommendation, that this Council makes contact with Tesco Ireland seeking of them to withdraw their threat to unilaterally cut pay and conditions of employment for Tesco workers and further implores them to accept the invitation to attend the Labour Court for a full hearing on the dispute".

Cllr McKenna seconded the motion. A discussion took place on the motion and all agreed to support the motion.

Notices submitted by Cllr. Treanor:

"That this Council write to the Department of Health regarding the long delays that young children have to suffer while waiting to have their tonsils removed, some have been on a waiting list for 18 months".

Cllr Connolly seconded the motion. A discussion took place on the motion and all agreed to support the motion.

7. Correspondence:

Letter from TII dated 30 March 2016 regarding road markings on N2 between Castleblayney and the Border.

Notice of Motion dated 4 April 2016 from The Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones in relation to Broadband Service within County Monaghan.

Cllr Connolly supported the Motion. A discussion took place on the motion and all members endorsed the motion.

Correspondence dated 4 April 2016 from the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones from the NTA in relation to the provision of a bus stop at Monaghan General Hospital.

A letter from the HSE dated 24 March 2016 in relation to the status of the Primary Care Centre, Monaghan.

A letter from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government dated 6 April 2016 acknowledging receipt of our letter in connection with the main sewerage system in Monaghan town.

A letter for An Garda Síochána dated 7 April 2016 acknowledging receipt of our letter regarding our request for a speed van at Shaw's Corner, Emyvale.

An Expression of Interest Form from the Monaghan Gospel Choir to hold their festival in Church Square on Sunday, 5th June 2016. No objections to this.

A list of the members on the Monaghan Town Team

An email from Irish Water explaining the current position on connection requests.

8. Congratulations:

To Orna Colton on winning An Comdhail Under 15 World Champion Dancing.
The Under 21 Monaghan Team on winning the Ulster Title.

The members wished Cllr Gallagher all the best in the Seanad Election.

9. Sympathy:

Cllr Sean Conlon on the death of his Aunt Mary Conlon.

Mr Dermot Deeney on the death of his Aunt Kathleen.

Ms Samantha Leslie and family on the death of Sir Jack Leslie.

Meeting concluded.

Dated this the 18th day of April, 2016

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Meetings Administrator