

Municipal District of Monaghan.

Minutes of Meeting of the Municipal District of Monaghan held in the Boardroom, Mtek 1 Building, Knockaconny on Monday, 18th January, 2016 at 3.30pm.

Cllr. Robbie Gallagher presided.

Present: Cllrs. David Maxwell, Paudge Connolly, Sean Conlon, Brian McKenna and Seamus Treanor.

In Attendance: Mr. John Murray, Director of Services, Mr Donal McElwain, Municipal District Co-ordinator, Mr. Dermot Deeney, District Engineer, Ms. Bernie McElvaney, Senior Staff Officer, Ms Bernie McMahan, Staff Officer and Mr Trevor Connolly, Town Centre Co-ordinator.

Cllr. Gallagher welcomed all to the meeting and wished everyone a Healthy, Happy and Prosperous New Year.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr. Treanor, seconded by Cllr. McKenna, it was agreed that the minutes of the Municipal District of Monaghan meeting held on the 14th December, 2015 be confirmed.

2. Matters arising:

Cllr Conlon expressed disappointment at receiving correspondence from the NTA stating that no funding was available to carry out upgrading and enhancement works at the Bus Depot. He added that the presentation given by Bus Eireann at our November meeting has fallen asunder. He proposed that one member from each party attend a meeting with NTA to press the issue. All agreed that the Executive would arrange the meeting and the Agenda will be decided by the members. Cllr Maxwell asked for a response on the fence height issue at Clontibret and the severity of the ramp installed on this stretch of road. Mr Deeney responded that the Council Engineers have no issue with the height of the fence and the ramp was installed within the regulations, but would look at it again.

Cllr Gallagher advised that the ramps towards the Community Centre are too severe to which Mr McElwain stated that they would be looked at and a report done for next meeting.

Cllr Treanor asked if salt boxes could be installed at estates in town with steep inclines. Mr McElwain advised that salt boxes will be checked and the Policy in relation to same. Mr Deeney responded that the Policy is that the Council fill for the first time only and it is the responsibility of the public after that.

All members concurred that the slippery footpaths and carpark surfaces were a big problem and asked could they be taken under the Road Scheme.

3. Report from Co-ordinator:

The Report was circulated to the members and Mr McElwain outlined the program and the events ahead. A discussion took place on the CFRAM Consultation. It was stressed how important it is that the public should be made aware of the consultation dates and the support that is available to them. Cllr Maxwell proposed that signage should be erected at Market House, traffic lights and approach roads to town highlighting ' Monaghan Town Flooding' as the public may not know what CFRAM is about.

Cllr Gallagher asked the Town Centre Co-ordinator to promote/highlight the survey.

Cllr Conlon requested that the Traffic Survey be emailed to all members. Mr Deeney advised that the Survey is on the County Council Website and Facebook.

Cllr McKenna asked had a Town Team been formed for the Retail Strategy Team Meeting to be held on the 26th January to which Cllr Gallagher responded that Mr Connolly would be giving his presentation next.

Mr McElwain advised that the St Patrick's Committee will be meeting on Wednesday, 3rd February, 2016 in the Market House and asked Mr Connolly to highlight this meeting to the business community.

4. Report from Town Centre Co-ordinator:

Mr Connolly gave a presentation on his report which was circulated at the meeting and answered questions from the members. Cllr Gallagher thanked him for his comprehensive report.

5. Questions:

Cllr. Paudge Connolly asked:

1. In view of the fact that the bottle bank has been removed from the site at SAMs Bridge what efforts are being made to find a new site or to increase capacity elsewhere in Monaghan town?

Response: The bottle banks at Sams Bridge was removed at the request of the landowner. An upgrade to bottle banks in Monaghan Town is currently out to Tender, once these works are completed, the Environment Section will review existing capacity at existing sites. There may be scope to increase capacity in Lower Courthouse car park bottle banks. The Environment section is looking for a replacement site elsewhere in the Town, but no suitable site has so far been identified. The Environment Section welcomes any suggestions.

Cllr. Brian McKenna asked:

1. Will this Municipal District include in our list of public lighting the provision of an additional light on the Monaghan side of the Tydavnet Community Centre?

Response: The Monaghan Municipal District will investigate the need for public lighting in this and other reported locations throughout the District. A prepared works schedule will be submitted for the approval of the Municipal District Members.

2. Will this Municipal District install low profile ramps on the approach road (North & South) at the entrance to Tydavnet N.S. as there is serious speeding of traffic at this location despite this being in a controlled speed zone?

Response: The road referred to is the R186 and ramps are not considered on Regional roads. Other traffic calming measures can be investigated.

3. Has this Municipal District been able to identify and make contact with the owner of lands at Quiglough in relation to trimming hedges?

Response: Contact has been made with the land owner to request the roadside hedges to be trimmed.

4. What measures can be taken to remedy the flooding of the Regional R186 road which occurred over the Christmas period?

Response: The owner of the adjacent lands has been contacted and measures will be investigated when the flooding subsides and the land can be accessed.

Cllr. Sean Conlon asked:

- 1 For the purpose of enhancing pedestrian safety, will Council undertake resurfacing of footpath to the southern side of the Beech Hill College entrance?

Response: The footpath will be inspected and minor repairs carried out as required.

2. What plans are there for the implementation of traffic calming/pedestrian crossing measures at this busy intersection?

Response: The Monaghan Municipal District is awaiting the outcome of the Land Use & Transportation Study (LUTS) and analysis of traffic and pedestrian movements will be carried out in January and February. A report on proposals will be prepared for the March MD meeting.

3. What plans have the Housing Section in undertaking remedial works at Rope Walk, Kilnacloy?

Response: Following analysis that was undertaken in 2015, it is intended that planned maintenance work will be carried out in Quarter 3 of 2016 to the Local Authority houses at Rope Walk to enhance the overall estate. The work proposed includes the following:

- **Replacement of timber fascia and soffits with uPVC fascia and soffits throughout estate.**
- **Replacement of rainwater goods throughout estate.**
- **Removal of vegetation from gable ends to properties.**
- **Cleaning of facades, re-painting of concrete sections of building facades, sills and plinths throughout estate.**
- **Cleaning up of some overgrown back gardens.**
- **Upgrading of safety hand rails at stepped approaches to improve access/egress safety to estate on both ends of estate.**
 - **Erection of new timber gates and fencing where required.**
 - **Pruning back of overgrown shrubbery.**
 - **Cleaning of pavements throughout estate.**
 - **Repair/improvement to rainwater gullies as required.**

4. Following the series of road traffic accidents on the Clones Rd on the outskirts of Monaghan, has application been made to the Department seeking funding for a programme of works that will eradicate the dangerous bends on this heavily trafficked road?

Response: Monaghan Co Council are developing a road realignment scheme in consultation with the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to remove this sequence of bends. The TII has approved the appointment of consultants to carry out the design. The planning and design of the scheme will take place in 2016. It is hoped that approval to proceed to construction will be granted for 2017.

Cllr Robbie Gallagher asked:

1. In light of the recent IBAL report can the council draw up a coordinated action plan to address: a. food related litter at the court house and Peter's Lake area b. persistent and serious littering in the Diamond Car Park c. littering around bring banks in the town with a view to regaining Monaghan town's previous consistent good standing in relation to IBAL.

Response: Substantial sweeping and scavenging works already take place in the locations referred to and these can be further investigated for improvements.

2. Can the council request that the ESB carry out an audit of the quality of street lighting in Mullaghmatt as residents are concerned that it seems to be of poor quality

Response: There are no plans to carry out an audit of the existing lighting in this estate at this time. Over the past number of months MCC has carried out extensive repairs at two locations that had faulty lighting in Mullaghmatt. The second of these repairs was completed in Oct 2015. These works rectified a long-standing problem with faulty underground cable that had existed for many years. Additionally, all other locations that

had “lights out” have been repaired and there are currently no faults reported for this estate. MCC has now in place a web-based fault reporting system [deadsureapp.com] for the reporting of Public Lighting faults. This has resulted in a more rapid repair time on faulty lights. It is believed that with all the extensive repairs recently carried out along with the new fault-reporting system to ensure timely response to light-out faults, that the lighting in Mullaghmatt is much improved over what was previously in place in 2015.

3. With regard to persistent and increasing rainfall, does the council have a coordinated plan to ensure that all manholes and grates in our town and villages are fully operational and clear of debris?

Response: Resources are not available to monitor all gullies and manholes in the District on a full time basis but problem areas are attended to on a regular basis and any other reported problems are also attended to.

4. Can the council a. outline the total cost of providing Christmas lights, tree and crib b. state what income there was from pay parking in the town for the month of December in comparison to December 2014?

Response: a. The total cost of providing Christmas lights and crib amounted to €39,018.34.

b. Income for pay parking in December 2014: €49,858.15

Income for pay parking in December 2015: €61,415.76

6. Motions:

Notices submitted by Cllr. Treanor:

“That this Council write to Irish Water regarding a connection to the main sewerage system in Monaghan Town for the Residents of the Scotstown Road, Milltown, and that Rafeenan be connected to the Ballinode system”.

A discussion took place on the motion and all agreed to support the motion. Cllr. Maxwell suggested that we also write to the Department in relation to this motion.

“That this Council write to Joan Burton, Minister for Social Protection, regarding the changes made to the Old Age Pension in 2012, which has left people who have worked up to 40 years, being left short by anything up to €40 -€50 per week”.

A discussion took place on the motion and all agreed to support the motion. It was also agreed to write to Mary Robinson and Mary McAleese on the urgency of the matter.

“That this Council write to the Returning Officer in the Cavan Monaghan Area, that on Election Day 2016, the unemployed and students are given the opportunity to gain employment on that day”.

A discussion took place on the motion and all agreed to support the motion. Cllr Connolly asked that we also write to the Department requesting them to avail of the Community Centres in lieu of schools for the purpose of voting.

7. Correspondence:

A letter dated 14/1/16 from the Margaret Skinnider Appreciation Society proposing to name the Magic Roundabout after Margaret Skinnider. On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr. Connolly and agreed by all members to initiate the process of the name change. Cllr Maxwell asked

the Executive to expediate the process before Easter to which Mr McElwain responded that the process will commence immediately.

A letter from NTA dated 5/1/16 expressing availability to meet with the members to discuss Monaghan Bus Depot. The members agreed a date of Tuesday, 2/2/16 at 12 noon and Cllrs Gallagher, Conlon, Connolly and Maxwell to attend.

An email from HSE dated 8/1/16 stating that the meeting date of 18/1/16 is not suitable due to Management meetings. The members proposed an alternative date of 27th or 29th January at 11am. Cllr Connolly asked could the March meeting date be rescheduled for the 14th March. All members agreed.

8. Sympathy:

The family of Jerome Savage, staff member of Monaghan County Council, on the death of his mother, Ann.

9. Congratulations:

Catriona Balfe, Tydavnet, Co Monaghan on being nominated for the Golden Globe Awards.

Meeting concluded.

Dated this the 18th day of January, 2016

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Meetings Administrator