

## Municipal District of Monaghan.

### **Minutes of Meeting of the Municipal District of Monaghan held in Mtek 1 Building, Knockaconny on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2015 at 3.30pm.**

Cllr. Sean Conlon presided.

**Present:** Cllrs. David Maxwell, Seamus Treanor, Paudge Connolly, Robbie Gallagher 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, Executive Engineer, Ms. Bernie McMahan, Staff Officer, representatives from winners of St. Patrick's Day Awards.

Cllr. Conlon welcomed all to the meeting.

#### **1. Presentation of St. Patrick's Day Parade Awards:**

Cllr. Conlon commended the pupils of St. Louis Convent, Colaiste Oiriall, St. Macartan's College, and Monaghan Youth Reach on their involvement with the businesses in the town, giving them fresh ideas on how to approach their window displays. He also commended Ms. Fiona McEntee and the students from Comhairle na nOg for their help and support during the Parade. He thanked Bernie McMahan for her hard work in overseeing these awards. Awards were presented to representatives from each of the schools. Awards were also presented to the following:

Best Window Display – Rocks Shop, Park St, Monaghan

Best Commercial Float – Greenfingers, Milltown, Monaghan.

Best Community Float – Foroige

Best Marching Band - St. Patrick's Community Band, Keady, Co Armagh.

Cllr. Conlon welcomed Mrs Nancy McKenna, wife of former Town Councillor Willie McKenna to the meeting and invited her to present the inaugural Willie McKenna Cup to the winners of the Best Window Display competition.

#### **2. Confirmation of minutes:**

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Maxwell, it was agreed that the minutes of the Municipal District of Monaghan meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2015 be confirmed.

#### **3. Matters arising:**

Cllr. Treanor stated that the roads in the town are in very poor condition to which Mr McElwain responded that the Roads Section are meeting with the NRA next week to discuss the matter. Cllr. McKenna stated that the roads in Ballinode and Emyvale are in very bad condition.

Cllr. Gallagher requested clarification on who has the right of way at the ramp at Heaton's corner to which Mr Deeney responded that this is a courtesy crossing and not an official crossing.

Cllr. Conlon proposed, seconded by Cllr. Maxwell, that the matter be investigated with a view to providing a zebra crossing and a full report for our next meeting.

#### 4. Report from Municipal District Co-Ordinator:

This report was circulated and Mr Mc Elwain gave a brief report to the members. Cllr. McKenna queried when the traffic calming measures for Emyvale would go to tender. Mr McElwain responded that the drawings are on display in Emyvale Community Centre and notice of this was in the local paper. Cllr. Connolly asked was there any progress on the building at Lemaculla. He asked could road surfacing be carried out on the road used for the diversion of traffic through Killyneill to the Armagh Road.

#### 5. Questions:

Cllr. Conlon asked:

1. Further to repeated queries I have made regarding an accumulation of potholes on a recently tarred stretch of road in Dunaldron on the Ardagey road, what progress has been made to date regarding plans to repair this crater like surface?

**Response: There is an active badger sett beneath the road which is protected under the provisions of the Wildlife Act. An Environmental Consultant has been engaged and an application for removal of the badgers has been sent to the licensing unit of the National Parks and Wildlife Services.**

Cllr. Gallagher asked:

1. Can the council clarify the position in relation to pedestrians crossing at Heatons corner ie from front of Heatons onto Dawson Street - should traffic give way?

**Response: There is no controlled crossing at the bottom of Market Street and therefore pedestrians are advised to use due care and consideration when crossing at this location. Traffic has the right of way.**

2. Regarding traffic at Sloan's shop, Glen Road - in the interests of pedestrian safety, would the council consider traffic calming measures in advance of the traffic lights?

**Response: Existing traffic calming are in place in advance of the controlled pedestrian crossing at this location. Further measures will be considered.**

3. Can the council state what progress has been made with regard to traffic calming on the northern approach to Emyvale village and what is the expected completion date for same?

**Response: Detailed design and tender documents are being prepared and works are to take place in the summer period.**

4. Can the council state how many people are employed under the Gateway scheme and what projects they are involved in?

**Response: The Municipal District of Monaghan have 15 people employed under the Gateway Scheme and are involved in the following projects:**

**Greenway project – Bins, seats, and path cleaned and litter free,**

**Town walks project,**

**Clean up table sweep etc**

**Ulster bank > back courthouse**

**Town hall > car park > Dublin St**

**Shamrock bar > car park**

**Pound Hill steps project**

**Clean up + hedge cut**

**Traffic lights project**

**Footpaths > tabled cleaned etc**

Cinema car park project  
Clean up >litter etc  
St. Peters Lake project  
Clean up >Hedge cut litter etc  
Office block in new yard project  
Paint throughout + kick boards fitted  
St Davnets walk way project  
Clean up > litter etc  
Hospital Hill project  
Clean up >table sweep etc  
Belgium Park football club project  
Carpenter works /paint throughout  
Fix drainage/new PVC /new signs  
Stone decor at front / paint walls at front Surrounding fence > painting ongoing  
Emyvale play park + housing project  
Fence repairs throughout >painting ongoing  
N2 spring clean project  
Monaghan > Emyvale bike track >sweep  
+Clean up etc .

## **5. Notices of Motion:**

Cllr. Treanor advised the meeting that he wished to discuss the following two motions:

“That this Council write to the Minister for Social Protection asking for full details regarding changes to old pension payments which were introduced in September 2012. Could she give us a breakdown of today’s rate of pension at €230.30? What payment will retirees get who only have 10 years stamps, 15 years and 20 years? The Department of Social Protection must notify perspective retirees of what payment they can expect 10 years before their retirement date. Also, notices should be placed in national and local media of what these changes will mean to citizens of Ireland”.

“As most private pensions schemes have lost 70% of their value over the past 10 years, I am calling on the Minister for Finance, Michael Noonan TD, to stop raiding private pension funds and return the billions he has already taken out of these funds”.

A discussion took place on the motions. Cllr. Connolly seconded the motions and they were unanimously carried.

Cllr. Connolly advised the meeting that he wished to discuss the following motion:

“In relation to the "Hive of knowledge" which is located in front of the courthouse in Monaghan town and was constructed by the world's leading blacksmiths in June 2011 as part of the Monaghan International Forge festival that Monaghan Municipal District erect a plaque outlining the origin/history of this award winning construction”.

Discussions took place on the motion. The motion was seconded by Cllr. Conlon and it was unanimously carried.

## **6. Correspondence:**

Letter from Bus Eireann dated 13<sup>th</sup> April 2015 detailing operational data for the 31 operating days in March 2015. Cllr. Conlon stated that the 3.15am service was unreliable, he recently availed of the service and it was 20 minutes late. Such a service was not satisfactory and unnerving for someone going to the airport and requested operational data to be submitted for 2014. He requested a meeting with the Regional Manager, Mr David Lane to discuss this and other issues.

Email from Ms. Jenny Blackburn, the Farmer's Market dated 19<sup>th</sup> April 2015, requesting a weekend market on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> May to celebrate a "Love your local Farmers Market 2015". This was proposed by Cllr. Maxwell, seconded by Cllr. McKenna and unanimously carried.

Letter from An Garda Siochana dated 24<sup>th</sup> March 2015 acknowledging receipt of correspondence regarding blacked out windows in cars.

Letter from Charles Flanagan T.D., Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade acknowledging receipt of our letter dated 20<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

Letter from the Office of the Minister for Education and Skills dated 23<sup>rd</sup> March in relation to resources for children with Down Syndrome.

Letter from the Office of the Minister for Business and Employment dated 20<sup>th</sup> March 2015 acknowledging our letter to Mr Gerald Nash including a submission by Ballybay Enterprise Park Limited.

## **7. Sympathy:**

Votes of sympathy were extended to the following:

The family of the late Marven McCarthy, Miramichi and New Brunswick. Cllr Conlon recognised Mr McCarthy's work in promoting tourism links between Monaghan and Prince Edward Island. Prior to his passing, Mr McCarthy had been in the process of organising a trip to Monaghan which is still going ahead in August this year. There is still a great interest in twinning and the Cathaoirleach said that every opportunity should be taken to involve ourselves in this.

Mr. P.J. Holland on the passing of his wife, Marian.

At this stage, the Cathaoirleach advised the Press that they were returning to the Budget meeting and the Press left.

Cllr. Conlon requested that the next scheduled meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2015 be re-scheduled to the 26<sup>th</sup> May at 2.30pm. All agreed.

Dated this the 20<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2015

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cathaoirleach**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Meetings Administrator**