

Municipal District of Monaghan.

Minutes of Meeting of the Municipal District of Monaghan held in Mtek 1 Building, Knockaconny on Monday 21st September 2015 at 3.30 p.m.

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 Carmel Thornton, Administrative Officer, Dermot Deeney, Executive Engineer, Ms. Bernie McMahon, Staff Officer, Mr. Trevor Connolly, Town Co-Ordinator.

Urgent Business:

At the outset, Cllr. Gallagher stated that he had received a motion of urgent business from Cllr. Treanor. The motion was accepted and it was agreed that it would be dealt with during questions and notices of motions.

6. Introduction of Monaghan Town Centre Co-Ordinator

At the outset of the meeting, Cllr. Gallagher welcomed Mr. Trevor Connolly who has been newly appointed as Town Co-Ordinator. He also congratulated Mr. Connolly on his recent marriage and invited him to address the members.

Mr. Connolly thanked the members for their wishes and gave an update on his work to date and his role in promoting Monaghan town. As an example, he circulated a quote he received for potential targeted marketing in Northern Ireland. He recommended that the district consider the use of Footfall Counters in order to provide measureable data i.e. to highlight how successful/unsuccessful events are. He also suggested the use of outdoor display units and a town 'app' which is currently being used by some of our neighbouring counties. If used, the long term target of the 'app' would be Purple Flag recognition. This refers to a 'gold standard' and would indicate the area as being a vibrant town with a safe environment. Initial costs would be approximately €3,000 for the licence fee.

Cllr. Conlon requested if Mr. Connolly could ascertain from other Councils with Town Teams what their composition is. Mr. Connolly replied that he could do this.

Cllr. Gallagher thanked Mr. Connolly for his presentation.

7. To Consider submissions received under the Draft Polling Scheme

Cllr. Gallagher welcomed Ms. Carmel Thornton, Administrative Officer, to the meeting and asked the members if this item could be dealt with before the rest of the items on the agenda. Members agreed.

Ms. Thornton gave a brief outline on the Draft Polling Scheme which was circulated and discussed at the Municipal meeting in July. Two submissions were received, one requesting permission to vote in Tydavnet instead of Carrickroe and the other from 34 residents of Knockcor Lane, Tydavnet. In her opinion, Ms. Thornton believes that all residents affected should be contacted and has drawn up a draft letter to the residents of Killylough. The letter can be amended.

Ms. Thornton answered questions from the members and advised that the Council would try to facilitate everyone. A similar issue has arisen in the town land of Derry, Monaghan, where voters from that town land have to travel to Ardagh in order to vote whilst passing the polling station at the Scout Hall at Latlorcan. However no submissions were received in this regard. Ms. Thornton has agreed to look at this matter with a view to finding a solution.

Any amendments to the draft polling scheme is a reserved function of the elected members of the full Council.

1. **Confirmation of Minutes of the Municipal District of Monaghan meeting held on 28th July, 2015**
2. **Confirmation of Minutes of Finance Sub Committee meeting held on 28th July, 2015**
3. **Confirmation of Minutes of Roads meeting held on 28th July, 2015**

On the proposal of Cllr. Connolly seconded by Cllr. Treanor, it was agreed that the minutes be confirmed.

4. Matters arising:

Cllr. McKenna queried if there was any progress on the house at Lemaculla. Mr. McElwain advised members that he had spoken with the Roads Section and NRA Road Safety Inspector, who has looked at the site, but to date no funding was allocated. Cllr. Gallagher indicated that he had spoken with the Engineer on the matter and it was hoped that he would have further information from the NRA but nothing has been received yet. A sale has been agreed on the property with a private party.

Cllr. Conlon referred to a question on the previous agenda regarding speed controls at Tullyherim. Mr. Deeney replied that the road has been marked and pedestrian warning signs have been erected.

5. Representations from Bus Eireann:

Mr. McElwain advised members that, due to a bereavement in his family, Mr. David Lane was unable to attend the meeting. He will re-arrange this meeting.

8. Amendment of Standing Orders to increase the number of questions from 2 to 5:

On the proposal of Cllr. Sean Conlon, seconded by Cllr. Brian McKenna, it was agreed that the standing orders be amended.

The members were advised that the same timeframe will still apply for submitting questions. Cllr. Connolly enquired as to whether a cost was incurred when submitting a question. Mr. Murray advised the members that there are no cost implications.

9. Report from Municipal District Co-Ordinator:

Mr. McElwain gave a summary of upcoming works and events.

Cllr. McKenna welcomed the works at the northern approach to Emyvale and referred to an interview on local radio regarding a resident affected by a traffic island near her residence on the southern side of the village. He also queried an update on the fence at Clontibret which is a state of disrepair.

Mr. McElwain replied that the Roads Section is monitoring the traffic calming scheme. Also funding has been secured to replace the fence at Clontibret.

Cllr. Treanor queried if repairs could be carried out on the Broad Road and queried what works Irish Water are completing on the Mall Road. Mr. McElwain replied that the Broad Road will continue to be kept in a reasonable condition as a pipeline is due to be installed in 2016. Rehabilitation to a pipeline will be carried out on the Mall Road.

Cllr. Connolly enquired as to how many additional car parking spaces would be made available by the CPO. Mr. McElwain advised that approximately 97 spaces would be created.

Cllr. Connolly requested that an explanatory note be placed on the Monaghan Public Art Piece at Coolshannagh and also on the Hive of Knowledge located at the Courthouse. There is an information plaque for the public art piece site and it may already be in place. Mr. McElwain also responded that he will be in contact with the Arts Officer regarding the Hive of Knowledge. Cllr. Gallagher enquired if an information plaque could also be placed at the Diamond Monument.

Cllr. Conlon referred to the Taste of Monaghan Festival, the upcoming Style Fix event and the Halloween Festival and commended the various committees on their work in promoting Monaghan town. He also enquired as to how intrusive the Town Traffic Survey would be. Mr. McElwain replied that a comprehensive survey will be carried out for the town and the outer perimeter of the town and that in some areas the public will be asked some questions but not of a personal nature. The information gathered will be used to establish a traffic model for the town.

Regarding the upcoming events in the town, Cllr. Gallagher highlighted that the Monaghan Marathon is on the same weekend as the Taste of Monaghan and congratulated Mr. Leslie Crawford who will be running his 100th Marathon.

10. Questions:

Cllr Robbie Gallagher asked:

1. Can the council address the lighting in Woodlands Housing Estate as 4/5 lights have been out of operation for some time? **Response: Woodlands Estate is in the process of being Taken In Charge. Monaghan County Council will follow up and have these public lights repaired.**
2. In light of the positive developments regarding funding for the landscaping of the Annahagh and Clontibret roundabouts could the council explore funding for the Corlatt roundabout and the roundabout at the Education Campus? **Response: The Roads Section of Monaghan County Council will make a funding application to the NRA for the upgrade of these roundabouts at the first opportunity.**

Members expressed their concerns over the cost of the landscaping of roundabouts. Mr. McElwain advised that the roundabouts provide a positive image of Monaghan Town.

3. When will the council be in a position to seek funding for the final phase of work at Mullaghmatt and can we be assured that every effort will be made to seek funding as a matter of urgency? **Response: The Housing Section have prepared a design proposal for Phase 4 of the Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme to secure preliminary funding approval for the project. The project is intended to incorporate works to 76 no houses and remedial works to public**

spaces within and surrounding the estate. Further to the initial submission by the Housing Section the Department have requested additional details on the costings for the project and this information is being prepared presently by the Housing Agency on behalf of the Council.

4. Can the council contact the NRA with a view to installing traffic calming on the southern i.e. Monaghan town side of Emyvale with a view to slowing down traffic entering the village, similar to the northern side? **Response: Phase 3 of the Monaghan to Emyvale road realignment scheme is progressing and it is hoped that approval to go to tender will be granted by the NRA for 2016. The section of road referred to in this question is included within the scope of Phase 3 and it is anticipated that traffic calming measures will be incorporated into the Works at this location.**

Cllr. Sean Conlon asked:

1. What extent are negotiations advancing between Monaghan County Council and Coillte regarding potential leasing/management arrangements of Rossmore Park by the Council? Also, have Coillte responded to the Council regarding my previous request of July 2014 regarding the repair to the damaged wall, caused during tree felling, near the Park entrance on the Threemilehouse Rd. **Response: Negotiations are still on-going with Coillte. Progress has recently been made in that there is now no entry fee at Rossmore and the barriers at the main entrance have been raised. Coillte are also upgrading the pathways which are to be completed for the upcoming marathon.**

Cllr. Conlon expressed his disappointment with the delay in negotiations with Coillte. He requested that the MD write to Coillte to get an update on the Memorandum of Understanding to ensure that the District has a role in enhancing Rossmore Park. Mr. McElwain informed the members that a meeting has been held in the last few weeks and was hopeful that the outcome would be a positive one.

Cllr. Treanor highlighted the issue of rubbish being dumped at Rossmore Park and Cllr. Gallagher advised him that once the location of dumping is known, this can be logged with Coillte.

Notice submitted by Cllr. Robbie Gallagher

1. That this council, in order to promote organ donation would initiate a campaign through members, staff, extended families, community groups and sporting bodies to encourage signing up for organ donation.

Cllr. Gallagher proposed and Cllr. Maxwell seconded. The motion was unanimously carried. A brief discussion followed with all members expressing their support. Cllr. Gallagher requested that this item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of Monaghan County Council.

Motion submitted as Urgent Business by Cllr. Treanor

1. That this Council write to the Garda Superintendent of Cavan/Monaghan Division, requesting more guards on duty during the Halloween period in Monaghan Town to prevent bonfires being lit, and other forms of vandalism which occurred last year in some housing estates in the town.

Cllr. Treanor proposed and Cllr. Connolly seconded the motion. A brief discussion followed and all members expressed their support. Cllr. Gallagher advised members that issues can be raised at the JPC meetings. He wished the Chief Superintendent, Jim Sheridan, a happy retirement from the Cavan/Monaghan Division.

11. Correspondence

Letter from Cluain Lorcan Residents Association. Mr. McElwain advised members that as part of the Traffic Management Survey, this junction will be examined.

Letter from Charles Flanagan T.D., Minister For Foreign Affairs and Trade. Members welcomed the response.

Letter of acknowledgement from An Garda Siochana regarding Peters Lake.

Letter from the Financial Services Ombudsman. Correspondence will be redirected.

Letter from Mr. Leo Kinsella, Area Manager, Cavan Monaghan Area 1, HSE. With reference to the correspondence from Mr. Leo Kinsella, Cllr. Conlon expressed his disappointment at the lack of beds available for the elderly. He also proposed that we write to the HSE requesting that the access point at the Ulster Canal Greenway be reopened. Cllr. McKenna seconded. Cllr. Connolly proposed that we write to the HSE and request once again a meeting with Mr. Kinsella and the Estates Manager.

Card of acknowledgement from the family of the late Hugh Roche.

12. Votes of Sympathy and Congratulations

Votes of sympathy were extended to the following:

Ms. Rosemary McManus, Head of Human Resources, on the death of her mother of Mary (Mai) McManus, Dromore, Keadue, Roscommon.

Mrs. Marcella Gaynor and family on the death of her husband, Garda Mark Gaynor.

Votes of Congratulations were extended to the following:

Glaslough Tidy Towns Committee on their 50th Anniversary.

Ms. Ellen McAteer, Student St. Louis Secondary School Monaghan, and Ms. Lisa Rose McMahan, Student Our Lady's Secondary School Castleblayney, on their participation in the inaugural Junior Eurovision Song Contest.

Mr. Murray advised members that the Annual Budget will be an item on the agenda for the next meeting of the Municipal District. Members agreed to meet in committee on Monday 12th October at 10.00 am in the Mtek1 Building. The next meeting of the Municipal District will be on Monday 19th October at 3.00 pm.

The meeting concluded

Dated this the 28th July 2015

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Meetings Administrator