

Municipal District of Monaghan.

Minutes of Meeting of the Municipal District of Monaghan held in the Boardroom, Mtek 1 Building, Knockaconny on Tuesday, 26th May, 2015 at 2.30pm.

Cllr. Sean Conlon presided.

Present: Cllrs. David Maxwell, Seamus Treanor, Robbie Gallagher and Brian McKenna.

Apologies: Cllr. Paudge Connolly

In Attendance: Mr. John Murray, Director of Services, Mr. Donal McElwain, Municipal District Co-Ordinator, Mr Paul Clifford, Director of Planning & Economic Development, Ms. Bernie McElvaney, Senior Staff Officer, Dermot Deeney, Executive Engineer, Ms. Bernie McMahan, Staff Officer.

Cllr. Conlon welcomed all to the meeting and it was agreed to begin the meeting with item number 3 on the Agenda first in order to facilitate Mr Clifford.

Monaghan Town Retail Initiative – Town Centre Co-ordinator:

Mr Clifford gave a presentation on the Monaghan Town Retail Initiative which was circulated with the Agenda. Mr Clifford is recommending the appointment of a Town Centre co-ordinator, who will work with a 'town team' made up of Local Authority, business and community interests, and engage with retailers and service industry providers in an attempt to maximise commercial activity in the county capital and address a number of identified problem areas. The position has been advertised and a number of applications have been received but interviews will not be held until the approval of the members has been given. Cllr Conlon thanked Mr Clifford for the comprehensive presentation. A lengthy discussion followed and it was unanimously agreed to proceed with this appointment.

1. Confirmation of minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr. Maxwell, seconded by Cllr. Treanor, it was agreed that the minutes of the Municipal District of Monaghan meeting held on the 20th April, 2015 be confirmed.

2. Matters arising:

Cllr. McKenna asked was there any plans to repair the street in Ballinode and Emyvale village, and if there was any further progress on the house at Lemagulla. Cllr. Treanor asked was there any update on the town centre roads and approach roads at Corlat to Drumhirk. Cllr Gallagher expressed concern at the speed of traffic coming in at Tully and asked if Traffic Calming measures could be put in place. He suggested a Digital sign displaying the speed the driver is driving at and also displaying 'Slow Down'. Cllr. Treanor and Cllr. McKenna agreed and also expressed concern with the difficulty in gaining access onto the road at Tully and SMP Plant Hire.

3. Presentation on Energy and Public Lighting:

Mr Alan Hall was not available to make this presentation.

4. Consideration of proposed extension of Allotment:

The proposal of the extension of Allotment by Monaghan Community Allotments was proposed by Cllr. Maxwell, seconded by Cllr. Conlon, and unanimously agreed.

5. Report from Municipal District Co-Ordinator:

The Report was circulated and Mr Mc Elwain gave a brief report to the members.

Mr Deeney advised, in response to Cllr. McKenna's query on plans to repair the road in Ballinode village, that this patching would be included in item number 9 of Mr McElwain's report.

Mr Mc Elwain advised that the Municipal District are awaiting funds from the NRA for repairs to the road in Emyvale village. Cllr McKenna queried the new Regulations on the 30 km speed limits at housing estates and Mr McElwain responded that the number of signage required for this Municipal District had been referred to Roads Section.

Cllr McKenna asked for an update on traffic calming in Emyvale to which Mr McElwain responded that the NRA are satisfied with the drawings submitted and will now be going to tender.

Cllr Maxwell asked had the determination been made on the CPO on Emyvale Road realignment. Mr McElwain stated that he would have an update for the next meeting.

6. Date for Annual General Meeting:

Cllr Conlon requested that the date for the Annual General Meeting and the next Municipal District meeting be scheduled for Tuesday, 16th June at 2.00pm.

7. Questions:

Cllr Robbie Gallagher asked:

1.How much did Monaghan County Council raise in road tax in 2013 and 2014 and what percentage of this was actually spent in total in both those years on regional and local roads?

Response:

In 2013, €16,676,464.00 was received in Road Tax, 63% was spent on Regional and Local Roads.

In 2014, €17,343,502.00 was received in Road Tax, 43% was spent on Regional and Local Roads.

2.In order for the local authority to raise much needed funds what is the current position with regard to the sponsorship of roundabouts on the Monaghan bypass?

Response:

Currently there is no policy in place regarding such a scheme, however, this concept could be explored further if agreement can be reached among members and the executive as to the application of suitable criteria for the successful delivery of such a scheme.

3.Can the council provide an update with regard to the Knockcarraig estate in Annyalla with regard to the council's pursuit of the bond and can the council state when it expects a resolution?

Response:

The matter is currently with the Councillors solicitor for pursuit through legal mechanisms for payment of the bond, which will facilitate remediation. Our solicitor has prepared papers and is seeking for this matter to be heard in the High Court. It is not unfortunately possible to estimate a conclusion date for this action.

Cllr. Sean Conlon asked:

1. For the purpose of enhancing the Tidy Town appearance of Monaghan town, can a determination be made as to which agency or authority has responsibility for the upkeep of the litter blackspot located in the pedestrian alleyway connecting Market St. to Dawson St.?

Response:

The pedestrian alleyway referred to has not been taken in charge by Monaghan County Council and therefore the owner of the property is responsible for its upkeep and maintenance.

2. To improve pedestrian safety in the residential area of Tullyherim, which includes an entrance onto the Ulster Canal Greenway, will this Council proceed to erect public street lighting that has been given consideration at this location over many years?

Response:

The public lighting already extends along the LS 5512 to the access on to the Greenway and there are no plans to extend the public lighting in this location at present.

3. The regional road, R-214, more commonly known as 'The Green Lane' is not signposted off the main N2 at Castleshane to this effect. Will the Council undertake to erect appropriate signage that gives recognition to this traditional local heritage road name.

Response:

For signs along National Roads the signs can be the road number and townland. Any variation from this requires NRA approval.

8. Notices of Motion:

Motion No. 1:

"That this Municipal District write to the Minister for Education, Jan O Sullivan, calling on her to increase the number of teaching posts in the Primary School Sector, as it is totally unacceptable to have classes with up to 35 pupils".

Cllr Seamus Treanor

A discussion took place on the motion and it was unanimously agreed to amend and support the motion to include 'seek additional resources for North Monaghan'

Motion No. 2:

"That this Municipal District write to the Health Minister, Leo Varadkar, and the Dublin North East Health Board, asking them to immediately put plans in place to turn the Campus at St. Davnet's Hospital in Monaghan town into a retirement village, in light of the fact that 50% of the wards are unoccupied".

Cllr Seamus Treanor

A discussion took place on the motion.

Cllr McKenna suggested that this motion should be brought before the Health Forum and the North East Regional Health Board. All members agreed to rephrase the motion as follows:

"That this Municipal District write to the Health Minister, Leo Varadkar, and the Dublin North East Health Board, asking them to immediately put plans in place to provide nursing home facilities at the

St. Davnet's Hospital in Monaghan town, a large portion of which is unoccupied". It was also agreed to forward the motion to the Health Service Executive.

Motion Number 3:

"That Monaghan Municipal District, recognising the wide array of EU funding streams that have made positive contribution to our region, and additionally have the potential to provide further economic and social benefit to Co. Monaghan, requests of Monaghan County Council to explore methods to improve this Council's approach to applying for and securing funds, and that this would include the recruitment of staff to this specialised area".

Cllr. Conlon requested that this motion be placed on the Agenda at the next meeting of Monaghan County Council.

A lengthy discussion took place on the motion and it was unanimously agreed .

Motion Number 4:

"That Monaghan Municipal District commends the Comhairle na nÓg initiative on youth mental health titled, Let's Go Mental, and commits to giving every encouragement to the youth of Co. Monaghan to participate in the locally scheduled events; undertakes to providing necessary resources towards ensuring the optimum success of the Co. Monaghan event; and urges every support; including media coverage, for this very welcome initiative by Comhairle na nÓg".

Cllr Conlon commended Comhairle na nÓg who have a designated delegate to the National Executive, Ms Lily Chung who represents Monaghan. He added that everyone will benefit from this project which will coincide with Positive Mental Health Week in October.

It was unanimously agreed and supported.

9. Correspondence:

A letter from Mary McKenna, wife of the late Willie McKenna, thanking the members for honouring Willie RIP with the Memorial Cup for the best window display on St. Patrick's Day.

A letter dated 1st May 2015 from Office of the Minister for Social Protection acknowledging receipt of our correspondence regarding changes to the State Pension.

A letter dated 15th May 2015 from the Department of Finance regarding the Pension Fund Levy. A notice regarding a Public Consultation meeting on Ireland 2016 Commemoration to be held in the Glencarn Hotel on Wednesday, 27th May 2015.

An email from David Lane, Bus Eireann, informing the members that he will attend our June meeting.

A report on uncontrolled crossing on N54 at Heatons from Gareth McMahon, Roads Section. A letter dated 20th May 2015 from the Department of Social Protection regarding State Pension provision.

Meeting concluded.

Dated this the 26th day of May, 2015

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Meetings Administrator