

Municipal District of Monaghan.

Minutes of Meeting of the Municipal District of Monaghan held in Mtek 1 Building, Knockaconny on Tuesday 28th July 2015 at 2.30 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, Dermot Deeney, Executive Engineer, Niall Murray, Assistant Engineer, Ms. Carmel Murphy, Assistant Staff Officer.

Urgent Business:

At the outset, Cllr. Gallagher stated that he had received 2 motions of urgent business. He referred to standing orders where it states that urgent business should be to do with the business of the Municipal District. After discussion it was agreed to take the motions and Cllr. Gallagher stated that these would be dealt with before the end of the meeting. In future urgent business should be in accordance with Standing Orders.

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 16th June 2015 be confirmed.

2. Matters arising:

Cllr. McKenna queried if there was any progress on the house at Lemaculla. Mr. McElwain stated that there was no further advance on this. The Department were contacted but no funding was allocated to this. Cllr. McKenna asked that we write again to the Department outlining the dangers of this junction and seek funding. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Connolly.

Cllr. Maxwell referred to the grass cutting currently being undertaken by a contractor at the roundabouts and asked what measures were in place to ensure that the contractor abides by the health and safety requirements stipulated in the contract. Mr. McElwain replied that spot checks are carried out by council staff to ensure compliance but contractors are signed up as Project Supervisor Design Stage and Construction Stage, therefore they design and implement their own traffic management plans.

Cllr. Connolly queried the ongoing maintenance costs of roundabouts in the town which he felt could be very high and was informed by Mr. McElwain that part of the purpose of the upgrade to roundabouts was to reduce ongoing maintenance costs. Cllr. Gallagher asked if any progress had been made in relation to his previous proposal for seeking sponsorship for the roundabouts in town. Mr McElwain replied that the council were currently looking at their policy in relation to private sponsorship of roundabouts. He informed the members that the National Roads Authority had allocated funding for the upgrade of the Fire Station and McPhillip's roundabouts in the region of €30,000 for each. Cllr. Treanor remarked on the overgrown condition of some of the approach roads to Monaghan Town and suggested that flower planting take place on approach roads to improve

their appearance. Mr. McElwain responded that the verge maintenance along national roads would be completed in the coming weeks and this would include the approach roads into town

The members were informed that traffic calming works on the northern approach to Emyvale Village are due to commence on the 10th August. Cllr. Connolly stated that traffic calming through the centre of the village should be considered.

Cllr. Treanor expressed his dissatisfaction at progress on the Latlorcan site which was being held up by court proceedings. Mr. Murray informed the members that the case was not back up again for hearing until October.

Cllr. Conlon informed the members that Coillte are currently updating their Forest Plans for the period 2016-2020 and a Public Consultation Notice had been issued inviting submissions up to the 28th August 2015. He asked that the executive would make a submission particularly in relation to Rossmore Park. Cllr. Connolly noted that the Council were currently in discussions with Coillte but that we should make a submission anyway to make sure that we were covered.

Cllr. Treanor stated that the canal area at the rear of Teach Na Daoine was littered with rubbish and asked if it could be removed. Cllr. McKenna proposed that we write to Packie Kelly in the Resource Centre and request them to clean this area up. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Maxwell.

In relation to response to Question No. 3 of June minutes regarding the Mullaghmart Remedial Scheme, Cllr. Conlon expressed his alarm that increasing housing supply is being given higher priority than remedial works. He requested that the council would write back to the Dept seeking urgent approval for the works to proceed. It was also agreed that clarification would be sought from Housing Section in relation to survey works.

In relation to response to Question No. 4 of June meeting regarding the Road Safety Improvement Works on the Cootehill Road at Drumbear Wood, Cllr. Conlon stated that signs were to be in place in the coming weeks but that hadn't happened and he queried if there was a deadline on this. Mr. McElwain responded that the signs were purchased by the council and was not under a contract.

Cllr. Conlon requested that the Municipal District outdoor staff would do regular checks regarding public lighting in housing estates. He asked if an assessment could be carried out in Mullaghmart and lights not working referred to Airtricity.

Cllr. Treanor referred to a recent presentation done by Aisling Costello from Age Friendly regarding the lack of suitable nursing home accommodation in Monaghan town. He felt that the St Davnets complex would be ideal for this. Cllr. Connolly referred to the councils previous request regarding a meeting with Property Management in the HSE to discuss this matter and it was agreed to follow up with another letter to the HSE to arrange a meeting.

Cllr. Treanor stated that the camera at Mullaghmart had been taken down. Mr. Murray agreed to refer this matter to Housing Section.

3 Draft Polling Scheme for the Monaghan Electoral Area

Cllr. Gallagher welcomed Ms. Carmel Thornton to the meeting. She outlined the terms of the new Draft Polling Scheme which reflected the changes made to the various electoral areas in the county. She informed the members that the draft scheme would be placed on public display for a period of 5

weeks during which submissions would be invited from the public and the adoption of the scheme would be on the agenda for the October council meeting. Cllr. McKenna asked if all the polling stations in the county were wheelchair accessible. Ms. Thornton replied that the polling stations were a matter for the Returning Officer. Cllr. McKenna proposed that the council write to the local Returning Officer and make particular reference to the St Louis Convent where 4 of the polling booths are not wheelchair accessible. Cllr. Conlon stated that we should also ask the Returning Officer to carry out an accessibility audit on all polling booths in the county and ask that St Macartans Hall be made more readily available for voting.

Cllr. Gallagher thanked Ms. Thornton for her informative presentation.

4 Report from Municipal District Co-Ordinator:

This report was circulated to the members. Cllr. Connolly referred to the CPO at Dublin St and asked how many additional car parking spaces would be made available. Mr. McElwain informed him that 97 additional spaces would be provided.

The members expressed very positive comments on the Monaghan Social Inclusion Week and the Down's Syndrome Exhibition which were held recently.

Cllr. Conlon congratulated all concerned with the success of the Country Music Festival and said that it had been a great success. This was unanimously agreed by all the members.

Cllr. Conlon referred to the use of long term car parking spaces at the rear of the courthouse and requested that a survey be carried out to determine usage. Mr. McElwain informed him that the long term car park is generally full with many vacant spaces in McNally's car park.

Cllr. McKenna referred to an article on arts activity in County Monaghan which was recently published in The Sunday Times and praised the Council's Arts Officer, Somhairle MacConghail on this initiative and also his contribution to the annual Harvest Blues Festival

Cllr. Conlon said that the road from Tullyherim to St Davnets was covered over by overgrown trees and this is interfering with the public lighting. He asked that an update be provided on increasing lighting in Tullyherim and speed controls put in place towards Canal Bridge to slow down traffic

5. Questions:

Cllr Robbie Gallagher asked:

- 1) With a view to aiding emergency services, when does the council plan to have a site map indicating numbers and layout of houses on the estate at Mullaghmatt, as previously discussed, ready?

Response: There is an Ordnance Survey map available on the GIS viewer and the Health Service have the same GIS system. Also, as part of the next phase of the Mullaghmatt RWS it is intended that new signs will be provided.

- 2) Can the council explore appropriate forms of traffic calming for the junction where Coolshannagh Road joins the N2 at Smugglers Warehouse as it is particularly challenging for

motorists seeking to access the N2 from Coolshannagh and especially those turning right towards the town centre at peak times.

Response: The capacity of the Coolshannagh Junction with the N54 will be examined in the context of the traffic model currently being developed by the roads section for Monaghan Town.

Cllr. Connolly asked if a slip lane could be provided for the junction where the Coolshannagh Road joins the N2 and it was agreed that the engineer would investigate.

- 3) Can the council attend to the heavy growth of weeds on the shrubbed bank between the entrances to Coolshannagh View and Coolshannagh Walk?

Response: The Gardener is aware of this problem and will attend to it as soon as the summer bedding plants have been installed around the town.

- 4) Can the council install a concrete base for the summer seat opposite the OAP houses at Rope Walk as previously discussed?

Response: The base has been installed and the seat secured.

Cllr Sean Conlon asked:

- 1) As with the hedge trimming that the Council undertakes at the pedestrian walkway from the Mall Rd to Dr. McKenna Terrace, will Council similarly undertake overdue trimming along the pedestrian walkway leading Coolshannagh Walk to Montfort? Photo enclosed.

Response: The roads, footpaths and green areas in Coolshannagh Walk and Montfort estates have not yet been taken in charge.

Cllr Conlon queried that fact that the council had not taken the roads and pathways in Coolshannagh Walk in charge. He proposed that the Council would cut the pedestrian walkway and this was seconded by Cllr. Maxwell.

Cllr. Conlon proposed that this Municipal District initiates a discussion with the relevant Residents Associations. Cllr. Gallagher felt that we should write to Monfort Residents Group to see if they would clean up the area.

- 2) For the purpose of ensuring the long term preservation of the wooden windows in Council houses in Killygoan, will this Council undertake an assessment of the condition of the windows and give consideration to providing a solution in preventing further deterioration?

Response: As part of Monaghan County Council's cyclical inspection programme the houses at Killygoan are to be inspected before the end of 2015 and any preventive maintenance measures that are identified will be noted for action when required under the Planned Maintenance Programme. The Monaghan County Council and Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government combined budgets for maintenance, upgrade and adaptation of Monaghan County Council owned houses in 2015 is €2million and it has been fully committed with the exception of the Response Maintenance budget which is required for minor repairs and urgent work arising throughout the year. To report specific repair or maintenance issues please call 047 30515.

- 3) In an effort to improve water pressure for dwellings along the Mall Rd. and improve supply efficiencies, what is the timescale for the proposed water main pipe replacement works on the Mall Road under the Water Conservation Stage 3 Rehabilitation Contract. A previous response to a query I presented in April 2014 stated 'tenders for this contract are being assessed at present and approval to award the contract will be sought from Irish Water in May'. Also, is there a budget allocated for the road overlay works required after the water mains replacement is completed?

Response: Irish Water, in partnership with Monaghan County Council, have reviewed the scope of work and carried out an assessment of the water mains in Monaghan Town and Clones to identify the worst performing sections in relation to burst frequency, water quality and leakage. As a result of this assessment, sections of water mains have been identified for replacement in order to reduce leakage rates, maintenance costs and to increase reliability and quality of service to our customers.

The project will involve upgrading 4.8km of the distribution network at various locations in Monaghan Town found to be in poor condition including the Mall Rd. An additional 3.2km of the distribution network at Scotshouse Road in Clones will be included as part of the works given the recent high burst frequency, repair costs and significant disruption to Clones Town each time a burst occurs along this section of the network.

It is anticipated that a Site Investigation Contract will be completed in 2015 and Construction work will commence in Q4 2016 with project being completed in Q4 2017.

Cllr. Conlon felt that there was undue delay by Irish Water in dealing with road replacement works and asked if some patching could take place in the meantime. Cllr Maxwell welcomed the news that Irish Water would be carrying out upgrading works at locations in Monaghan town and Clones.

- 4) In an effort at improving pedestrian, resident and road user safety at Drumhirk, a short distance from Latlurcan Cemetery, will this Council install traffic hazard signage indicating a 'hidden entrance' or 'blind summit' on the dangerous corner at this location?

Response: The Council will investigate the location referred to and erect appropriate signage as required.

Cllr. Paudge Connolly asked:

- 1) Will Monaghan MD consider using yellow box junctions in Monaghan town at:
 - A. Exiting from Market St through to Church Sq ?
 - B. Exiting from Church Sq through The Diamond to Dublin St ?
 - C. At top of Glaslough St to facilitate traffic merging from the North Rd ?

Response: The Municipal District will examine the locations referred to and liaise with the NRA to establish the need for yellow box junctions at them.

- 2) To ask Monaghan Municipal district for an update in relation previously proposed safety improvements at the convent roundabout?

Response: Line markings were renewed at the roundabout crossings recently.

- 3) In order to reduce the likelihood of reducing late night gathering/antisocial behaviour what plans have Monaghan MD to lock the children's play park at Oriel Way opposite Teach na Daoine at the end of normal children's playtime?

Response: The Municipal District will investigate if resources can be made available to lock the gates at night and open them again in the mornings

Cllr. Brian McKenna asked:

- 1) When is it expected that the height restrictor, which was vandalised on the underpass at Glenyhorn, Clontibret, will be replaced?

Response: The height restriction barrier has been repaired and re-erected.

Notices of Motion:

Notice submitted by Cllr. Conlon

- 1) *Following on from requests from this Council and previously from the members of Monaghan Town Council, and supported by residents of the Latlorcan area, that this Council initiates the installation of traffic calming measures similar to multiple locations throughout all urban centres that will enhance pedestrian safety at the Dublin Rd / Old Armagh Rd junction.*

Cllr. Conlon proposed and Cllr. McKenna seconded and the motion was unanimously carried

Notice submitted by Cllr. Conlon

- 2) *That this Council request of An Garda Siochana for an increase in patrolling of the Peters Lake area, only a short distance from their station, in an effort at enhancing the security and safety of this popular amenity and the protection of our citizens.*

Cllr. Conlon proposed and Cllr. McKenna seconded and the motion was unanimously carried. Cllr. Conlon asked if the Council would ensure that access points to the lake are locked each evening. Cllr. Maxwell proposed that we request the Gardai to meet with the Municipal District members at least once a year to discuss such problems

Notice submitted by Cllr. McKenna

- 3) *That this Municipal District calls on Monaghan County Council to ensure that appropriate measures are put in place at the entrance to the walkway along the N2 at the underpass in the townland of Glenyhorn, Clontibret so as to put an end to the use of the walkway by tractors and cars at various times since the opening of the Castleblayney by-pass.*

The Motion was unanimously carried. The members were informed by Mr. McElwain that a bollard had now been put in place at the walkway to prevent vehicular access. Cllr. Gallagher requested that the matter be kept under review.

Motion submitted as Urgent Business by Cllr. Maxwell and Cllr. Treanor

That this Municipal District calls on the Irish Government to suspend all and future payments to the U.K. Government for any upgrade or works to the A5 Road in N.I. until Irish Road Hauliers receive an exemption from paying the U.K. road levy on this vital transport link. It is unsatisfactory that freight vehicles transiting from Ireland into N.I. on the A5 on route to Donegal with freight being subject to this charge

A lengthy discussion took place on the above motion with some of the members strongly voicing their opposition to the proposal as they felt that the two issues should be divided. A roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:-

FOR (3) – Cllr. Connolly, Cllr. Maxwell and Cllr. Treanor

AGAINST (3) – Cllr. Conlon, Cllr. Gallagher and Cllr. McKenna

The Cathaoirleach Cllr. Gallagher then exercised his casting vote against the motion and it was declared not carried

Motion submitted as Urgent Business by Cllr. Connolly

(a) That in view of the recent announcement by 2 insurance companies that they will not insure vehicles registered pre 2000, despite the fact that these vehicles are fully NCT'd, that Monaghan MD calls on the insurance Ombudsman to ensure that this proposal will not be implemented

(b) That Monaghan MD calls on the Insurance Ombudsman to ensure that car/house and commercial insurance price increases are kept in line with the CPI and general inflation

Discussion took place on both items and this motion was unanimously carried

6. Correspondence:

Acknowledgement Letter dated 8th July 2015 from Office of the Minister for Skills, Research and Innovation in relation to “Whither the Furniture Industry”

Acknowledgement letter from An Garda Siochana dated 6th July 2015 in relation to traffic speeding in Carrickroe.

Letter from An Garda Siochana dated 2nd July 2015 regarding traffic speed at Sloans Shop/Tully Estate

Acknowledgement letter from Bus Eireann in relation to meeting with Municipal District members

Correspondence from Ms. Carmel Thornton, Corporate Affairs, dated 10th July 2015 in relation to Draft Polling Scheme 2015

7. Sympathy:

Votes of sympathy were extended to the following:

Cllr. Connolly on the death of his aunt Susan McKenna.

8. Congratulations:

Congratulations were extended to:

Monaghan Senior Football Team on winning the Ulster Final

Monaghan Handballers wishing them good luck in the upcoming World Championships in Canada in August – Peter Larkin, Darren Doherty, Sean Callan, Eoghan McGinnity, Martin McEntee, Conor McDonald, Louise McGinnity, Gillian Coyle, Paul Cassidy and Connor McDonnell.

Con McCrossan on his recent retirement from the Council

Monaghan United U-15 Team on winning the Shield event at a recent soccer tournament in Copenhagen

The members of the Irish Team who were competing in the Special Olympics in Los Angeles

The meeting concluded

Dated this the 28th July 2015

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Meetings Administrator