

Municipal District of Monaghan.

Minutes of Meeting of the Municipal District of Monaghan held in the Boardroom, Mtek 1 Building, Knockaconny on Monday, 18th July, 2016 at 3.00pm.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. David Maxwell presided.

Present: Cllrs. Sean Conlon, Paudge Connolly, Brian Mc Kenna , Seamus Treanor and Raymond Aughey.

In Attendance: Patricia Monahan, A/Director of Services, Donal McElwain, Municipal District Co-ordinator, Dermot Deeney, Municipal District Engineer and Bernie McElvaney, Senior Staff Officer.

At the outset of the meeting, Cllr. Maxwell extended his sympathy to Mr McElwain on the death of his father, Packie. All members associated with this vote of sympathy.

Cllr Maxwell congratulated and welcomed Cllr Aughey, replacing Cllr Gallagher, to the Municipal District. All members and the Executive joined in the welcome.

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 20th June, 2016 be confirmed.

2. Matters arising:

Cllr Connolly asked was there a possibility of accessing CCTV for the vandalism in the town to which Mr Mc Elwain responding that he has referred this matter to the Gardai.

Cllr Conlon requested that the correspondence received in relation to T.T.I.P be brought before the September meeting.

Cllr McKenna confirmed that the Irish translation of 'The Margaret Skinnider' roundabout is correct, following his consultation with Conradh na Gaeilge.

Cllr Treanor requested a stakeholder's meeting with the Council in relation to the Monaghan Town Sewerage System. Mr McElwain responded that the Group and the Council are awaiting details of funding from the Department. Cllr Conlon added that he had previous proposals, latest one in 2014, for a Public Forum Opportunity for the residents of Milltown. It was agreed to hold out on a meeting until a response was received from the Department.

3. Report from Municipal District Co-Ordinator:

Mr. McElwain gave a brief overview on his report. Cllr Conlon suggested that the Stakeholders Group should be assembled as soon as possible that would have an input into upgrading facilities at Rossmore Park. This Park has huge potential and referred to an article named 'Magic Monaghan' in The Irish Times. It is currently considerably overgrown. Cllr Maxwell responded that a ' Friends of Rossmore' Group will be set up. Cllr Connolly stated that the Park is a tremendous asset for the Town and added that the potholes need to be repaired as 1st impressions last, and a Play Area is needed. Cllr Treanor asked if hedges could be trimmed at Tirkeenan, Cornacassa and at Atkinsons on the Emyvale Road to which Mr Deeney responded that he will investigate these areas. Cllr Connolly congratulated the organising committee of the Monaghan Town Country Music Festival on another fantastic event. All members concurred with this sentiment.

Cllr Conlon stated that The Canada Day was a great event and thanked all involved, in particular, Carmel Murphy and Mr McElwain and the MD, Liam Bradley from the Museum. He added that twenty four more visitors are coming on the 27th July and appealed to members and all staff to come out to meet and greet them.

Cllr Treanor asked what was the purpose of the Car Parking Strategy to which Mr McElwain responded that the strategy was needed to look at the overall car parking needs of Monaghan town and see how the town would develop over the next five-ten year horizon.

Cllr McKenna asked, what were the road cuttings on the N2 for? Mr Deeney responded it is site investigation for bridge rehabilitations.

Cllr Treanor advised that the hedge cuttings remain at Tullyhirm. He queried the outcome of the Road Safety Audit for Latlurcan to which Mr Deeney responded that it is recommended to install a Controlled Pedestrian Crossing. Cllr Conlon requested site of the proposals to be brought before the members to which Cllr Maxwell responded that the Drawings will be coming to the members.

Cllr Conlon advised that the hedges at the Junction of the Ballybay/Ardaghy roads are in need of urgent cutting. He expressed his disappointment at the response from TII for no right turning lane at Moyles.

Cllr Maxwell suggested that we write to the full Council requesting them to write to TII, that in the interest of safety, a right turning lane be installed at Moyles (L 5520, junction known locally as Larry Forde's) and cc the Oireachtas members and Seanad.

4. 30km Speed Limits for public housing estates:

Cllr Maxwell went through all the drawings and outlined the public housing estates due for the implementation of the 30 km speed limit and advised the members that submissions should be made to the Speed Limit Committee, meeting to be held on wed 20th July.

5. Questions:

Cllr Sean Conlon asked:

1. With the upcoming publication of the Speed Limit and Traffic Calming strategy for housing estates, will this Council engage with Residents Associations, where appropriate, to give joint consideration to proposed actions?

Response: An initial advertisement was placed in the Northern Standard on 25 Feb 2016 inviting submissions and a notice was also issued via the PPN. A 30km/h Speed limit proposal for public roads within housing estates in the county will be the subject of discussion at a Meeting of the Speed Limit Committee to be held on 20th July 2016. Any changes agreed will be included in a Draft copy of the Bye laws. Notification that a Draft copy of the Bye Laws are available for viewing at various locations will be published in the Northern Standard and the Council's website and via the PPN as soon as is convenient following the Meeting of the Committee.

2. In a measure towards assisting the efforts of Tidy Towns and litter pick campaigns, will Executive liaise with Courts Services and relevant agencies requesting 'community service' hours are allocated towards litter retrieval?

Response: The Municipal District will liaise with the relevant agencies to seek community Service hours to assist the efforts of Tidy Towns and the council against littering.

6. Notices of Motion:

Cllr. Connolly proposed:

“That in order to compliment the recent improvements and increased usage of facilities at Emy Lough, Monaghan Municipal District seek to resolve issues which will enable the Municipal District to take the necessary steps to resurface the car park”.

The motion was seconded by Cllr Treanor. Mr McElwain advised the members that he had met with Emy Lake Committee and they are discussed improvement works such as Surfacing the car park, provision of litter bin and new signage. It was suggested that the group should apply for Leader Funding. The MD would assist with the application and the group would be approaching the members for match funding. All members agreed.

Cllr Sean Conlon proposed:

“In an effort at seeking the implementation of Action 2.1.5 in the recently launched Local Economic and Community Plan to ‘Develop Centre of Excellence for Engineering through provision of workspace ...’ that this Council explores the opportunity that exists for such a facility at the vacated former Customs and Excise building, Armagh Rd”.

This motion was seconded by Cllr McKenna. A discussion took place on the motion and all members agreed that we write to Customs and Excise/OPW regarding the current use of the premises and flag up its current condition.

Cllr Treanor proposed:

“That this Council write to the Minister for Finance requesting that he lowers the 12.5% tax on new start-up businesses in county Monaghan and the border regions”.

This motion was seconded by Cllr Connolly. A discussion took place on the motion and all members agreed.

“That this Council write to RTE imploring them to continue their long wave radio service to the Irish Community across the UK”.

This motion was seconded by Cllr Connolly. A discussion took place on the motion and all members agreed.

7. Correspondence:

Letter dated 14th July 2016 from Office of the Taoiseach in relation to TTIP and advising us that it had been referred to the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation.

Letter dated 12th July 2016 from Deirdre Clune MEP in relation to TTIP.

Letter dated 7th July 2016 from Mairead McGuinness MEP acknowledging receipt of our letter in relation to TTIP.

Letter from Jamboree Committee dated 30th June 2016.

Email dated 12th July 2016 from Marion Harkin MEP in relation to TTIP.

8. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations:

Sympathy was extended to the French Ambassador on the Nice Tragedy.

Sympathy was extended to Mr McElwain on the death of his father, Packie.

Congratulations were extended to the Country Music Festival committee on another great event

Congratulations were extended to the Tyrone Team on winning the Ulster Senior Football title.

The meeting concluded.

Dated this the 18th Day of July, 2016

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Meetings Administrator