

## Municipal District of Monaghan.

### **Minutes of Meeting of the Municipal District of Monaghan held in the Boardroom, Mtek 1 Building, Knockaconny on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 at 5.00pm.**

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. David Maxwell presided.

**Present:** Cllrs. Sean Conlon, Brian McKenna and Seamus Treanor and Paudge Connolly.

**In Attendance:** John Murray, Director of Services, Donal McElwain, Municipal District Co-ordinator, Dermot Deeney, Municipal District Engineer and Bernie McMahon, A/Senior Staff Officer.

At the outset of the meeting, Cllr. Maxwell advised members that, should future Municipal District meetings be completed within a two hour period, he would be able to accommodate additional questions from members.

#### **1. Confirmation of Minutes:**

On the proposal of Cllr. McKenna, seconded by Cllr. Treanor, it was agreed that the minutes of the Municipal District of Monaghan meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2016 be confirmed.

#### **2. Matters arising:**

Cllr. McKenna requested an update on correspondence regarding property damaged during the recent Monaghan Stages Rally. He also stated the property owner fixed the hedge himself. Cllr. Maxwell confirmed that he had made enquiries and that damage had been rectified and all was settled. Mr. McElwain also confirmed he was in contact with the organisers of the Monaghan stages Rally and they had confirmed that the members of the club had visited the complainant and a settlement was reached.

Cllr. Treanor enquired if there had been any further response regarding CCTV for the town. Mr. McElwain advised that there was no response from the Dept. The engineer confirmed that the relocation of the portaloos for the upcoming Country Music Festival has been addressed.

#### **3. Presentation from Monaghan Town Team:**

A presentation on the objectives of the Town Team, key projects and ongoing projects was made to the members by the Town Centre Co-ordinator, Mr. Trevor Connolly and Mr. Alan Johnston, Chairperson of the Town Team.

Mr. Connolly thanked the MD for their support and answered questions from the members. Cllr. Conlon commended the work of the Town Team and also recognised the work done by the 'Monaghan Has It' committee prior to the setting up of the Town Team. A brief discussion followed and the members requested that the Town Team representatives attend the October meeting of the Municipal District to give a further update. Cllr. Maxwell asked the town team to consider the free parking at Christmas and advise the Municipal District on the effectiveness of this initiative. Mr. Connolly advised he would respond to all queries at the earliest convenience.

Cllr. Conlon updated members on Canada Day which is taking place on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2016. He wished to encourage participation from all members and welcomed their support for the event.

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

##### **May/June 2016 Update**

Mr. McElwain gave a brief overview on his report. Cllr. Treanor requested an update on Rossmore Park. Mr. McElwain responded to members questions and confirmed that the Memorandum of Understanding was signed last week by Coillte. He also confirmed that Coillte will provide a sum of approximately €15,000 p.a. and as per agreement, the MD will set aside €50,000 p.a.

The members requested that a photo opportunity be organised with the members at Rossmore in the near future in order to promote the signing of the document as Rossmore Park is a significant facility to the District and county and an issue that the members had been working on for some time. Cllr. Conlon requested that an action plan be devised so that there will be no delay involved in advancing the park.

##### **Road Programme**

Mr. Deeney confirmed that he will follow up with Roads Design Section all queries relating to Low Cost Safety Schemes.

##### **Actions – A Look Ahead**

Mr. McElwain outlined the upcoming events in the District. Cllr. Conlon informed members that he had been contacted by the Journal.ie resulting in a very successful online promotion of Canada Day. It is hoped that the event will be a success and will become more successful with each year.

Cllr. Treanor queried the availability of Residents Only signs. Mr. Deeney responded that it is extremely difficult to police. Cllr. Connolly expressed his disappointment at the recent vandalism of flower pots in the town. A brief discussion followed on the possibility of accessing CCTV from businesses in the town in order to see who is responsible for the damage. Mr. McElwain responded that we can report the vandalism to the gardai and they would have the authority to access private CCTV.

Cllr. Maxwell advised members that as he and Cllr. Treanor are on the Museum Committee, we could invite Mr. Liam Bradley, Curator to provide an update on the proposed joint location for the Museum and Library. All members agreed with this proposal.

#### **5. Questions and Motions:**

##### **Questions:**

Cllr. Sean Conlon asked:

- 1) Further to repeated requests to reduce the traffic hazard that exists on the N2 for vehicles turning right at Moyles (L5520, known locally as Larry Forde's) will a middle turning lane be installed on the N2 at this location?

##### **Response:**

This junction was investigated by MCC Roads Section and discussed with the Regional Road Safety Officer and based on current design, traffic counts and accidents statistics a Right Turn lane is not required at this location. It is not proposed to install a right turn at this location at this stage.

- 2) In the interest of optimising driver safety have Council a scheduled approach to the trimming of overgrown hedgerows that seriously impede visual sight distance at traffic junctions?

**Response:**

Trimming hedgerows and vegetation at all junctions on all National Roads within the Monaghan Municipal District are in progress at present. The necessary Regional roads will also be cut.

- 3) As per photo attached taken at the HSE building at The Diamond Centre, will the Executive forward a letter to the HSE to ask them to take a more responsible role in ensuring the upkeep of their premises and curtilage at this location?

**Response:**

The issue raised has been forwarded to the Environment Section to investigate and the Executive will forward a letter to the HSE to ask them to take a more responsible role in ensuring the upkeep of their premises and curtilage.

Cllr. Conlon suggested that the Environment Section should call to the Diamond Centre at appropriate times in order to fully appreciate the littering issue.

- 4) As per my request last January, will Council consult with relevant stakeholders to assess the potential of installing public street lighting at the location of the Pump Entry in Dublin St. This entry services rateable businesses and a residence.

**Response:**

This is a private entry and the Council do not consider installing public street lighting on private property.

Mr. Deeney advised members that this is a private entry and there would also be a cost to the Municipal District. Mr. McElwain advised that he would look into it further.

**Notices of Motion:**

Cllr. Conlon proposed:

That this Council write to all our Irish M.E.P.'s and the Department of Taoiseach for the purpose of raising concerns about the considerable negative impact of the proposed Transatlantic, Trade and Investment Partnership (T.T.I.P.) on our country, specifically seeking to:

- 1) Protect Irish interests in the ongoing T.T.I.P. negotiations between the EU and the U.S.
- 2) Take all measures to remove investor –state dispute settlements (S.I.D.S.) from the Agreement
- 3) Publish the findings of the Copenhagen Economics Study on T.T.I.P.'s potential impact on Ireland
- 4) Take all measures to protect Irish agriculture in T.T.I.P. negotiations

5) Take **all** measures to protect Ireland's environment, economy and food standards from unregulated trade imports.

This was proposed by Cllr. Conlon and seconded by Cllr. Treanor.

Cllr. Conlon gave a brief outline of this proposal. Members expressed their views on the subject and it was agreed that the MD write to all our Irish M.E.P.'s and the Department of the Taoiseach.

## **6. Correspondance:**

### **Temporary Closing of Roads – Country Music Festival**

There will be 13 more long term car park spaces used this year for the festival. Cllr. Treanor enquired if the road closing time could be changed to 7.00 pm. Mr. Deeney will investigate this. There were no objections to the road closing, proposed by Cllr. Connolly and seconded by Cllr. Treanor.

Letter from An Roinn Slainte regarding the Health Policy

Letter from Irish Water regarding connection to Monaghan Town Sewerage Scheme

Members expressed their disappointment regarding the letter and some confusion was expressed over tender documents due to be opened on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. It was agreed to wait until the documents were opened. Following questions from members, Mr. Murray confirmed that any capital works are carried out by Irish Water and any day to day repairs are done by Monaghan County Council staff.

Speed Limit Review – Progress Report as at 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2016

The Margaret Skinnider Appreciation Society have requested that a plaque be placed on the Margaret Skinnider Roundabout. Following a query regarding the correct Irish spelling on the current sign, Mr. McElwain stated he had contacted the Society and they confirmed the spelling was correct. Cllr McKenna ask that this be rechecked.

### **Notice of Urgent Business**

Cllr. Conlon proposed:

That this Council seeks from the Department of Environment and Minister Simon Coveney an annulment of the legislation introduced by former Minister Alan Kelly in relation to bin charges, due to commence on the first of July that is raising the costs to the consumers, in some cases double, of which they are currently paying.

A brief discussion followed and member expressed their views on the issue. All members agreed to support the motion.

**7. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations:**

Sympathy was extended to Ms. Marie Deighan, Administrative Officer on the death of her father in law, Mr. Shane Deighan, Ardaghey, Monaghan.

Sympathy was also extended to the family of Mr. Jerry Cormier, former Mayor of Miramichi.

The meeting concluded.

Dated this the 20<sup>th</sup> Day of June, 2016

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

**Cathaoirleach**

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

**Meetings Administrator**