

## **Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones**

Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 10.00am in Clones Courthouse, McCurtain Street, Clones Co Monaghan.

**Members Present**        The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Hugh McElvaney, presided

The following members were also present:-Cllrs:- Cathy Bennett, Seamus Coyle, Ciara McPhillips and Pat Treanor

**In Attendance**        Patricia Monahan, Acting/Director of Services, Paul Treanor, Head of Local Information Systems, Declan McKernan Senior Executive Engineer, Environment Section, Nial O'Connor, Environmental Education Officer, Kevin McNally, Municipal District Co-ordinator, Kieran Duffy, Executive Engineer, Angela Gallagher, Staff Officer, John McGahern, Graduate Engineer.

### **Amendment to previous minutes**

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to page 2, last paragraph of the October minutes, regarding the traffic calming measures and stated that the two areas he was referring to was the Clones Road and Scotshouse Road in Newbliss and the Newtownbutler Road in Clones.

#### **1. Confirmation of minutes of Monthly Meeting**

The minutes of the October monthly meeting with amendment were proposed by Cllr Seamus Coyle and seconded by Cllr Cathy Bennett.

#### **2. Matters arising from Previous Minutes**

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to a joint meeting which took place between the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Heather Humphreys TD, the Northern Ireland Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure, Carál Ní Chuilín MLA on the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2015. This meeting was also attended by Cllr Thomas O'Reilly Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and elected members from the Ballybay Clones Municipal District. Cllr Pat Treanor confirmed that they discussed the ongoing work which is currently taking place at Castle Saunderson, in County Fermanagh. Cllr Pat Treanor stated that Monaghan County Council proposed to set up a special task force for the development of the Ulster Canal and that the Ministers stated that there could be a possibility of expanding the existing Departmental task force to include representatives from Monaghan County Council.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred page 2 of the minutes regarding correspondence issued to Eoghan Ryan and asked if there had been any response. Mr Kevin McNally confirmed that the Municipal District had not received a response.

Cllr Cathy Bennett proposed the following:-

“That Ballybay-Clones Municipal office write again to the OPW and request the specifications are sent to the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District for the office of Social Protection in Ballybay. These specifications are highly relevant to securing a building in Ballybay and protecting jobs in Ballybay.”

This proposal was seconded by Cllr Pat Treanor and agreed by all.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to page 2 of the minutes regarding the appointment of a new engineer and enquired if this had happened. Mr Kevin McNally stated that Mr John McGahern had been appointed Graduate Engineer on a two year contract and a new Engineer would take up the position of Assistant Engineer on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015. Mr Kevin McNally stated that Roisin Moore, Assistant Engineer had received a promotion to Water Services and would not be returning to the Municipal District.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to Page 5 of the minutes regarding the Ulster Bank and asked if there was an update on this. Mr Kevin McNally stated that he will be viewing the premises very shortly and will provide an update once the property has been viewed. Mr Kevin McNally stated that a company in Dublin is involved with the viewing arrangements as there is an ATM machine on the premises and it is difficult to organise a suitable viewing date.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to page 7 of the minutes regarding Smithboro Playground and stated that it was great to see the additional items installed however the playground is unusable at the moment due to an issue with flooding. Mr Kevin McNally confirmed that the work to the playground has been completed, however due to the adverse weather conditions the ground has become very wet. Mr Kevin McNally confirmed that once the weather improves, arrangements will be made to rectify the drainage issues.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to page 7 of the minutes in connection with the Clones Town Enterprise Event and stated that it was a great success for the Town and wanted to congratulate Fionnuala Sherlock, Eileen McManus, Angela Gallagher and anyone else who was involved in organising this very successful event.

Cllr Seamus Coyle referred to page 8 of the minutes regarding two public lights that are not operating, at the Alders in Ballybay and asked for an update on this. Mr Kevin McNally stated that a separate application has been made to have these lights repaired and that this work would be done shortly.

Cllr Seamus Coyle referred to page 8 question 1 regarding the trees in Ballybay and asked if this work has started. Mr Kieran Duffy stated that the trees will be cut by the end of November 2015.

Cllr Seamus Coyle referred to page 8, question 2 of the minutes regarding the R190 Ballybay/Cootehill Road and expressed his disappointment that no funding had been made available to deal with this issue. Mr Kieran Duffy confirmed that he would follow this matter up with Monaghan County Councils road section.

Cllr Seamus Coyle referred to page 9, question 3 of the minutes regarding the playground at Cherry Park and repairs to the fencing. Mr Kevin McNally stated that he would arrange to have this area inspected with the view to having maintenance works undertaken.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to question 6, on page 9 of the minutes regarding the Low Cost Safety Improvements and queried why only 3 of the areas she suggested were put forward for this funding application. Mr Kevin McNally stated that accident data was used by the Councils road section when determining priorities for the County in relation funding proposals for the Low Cost Safety Improvements scheme. Other areas of the County were deemed to be a greater priority due to the number and severity of accidents that occurred at the particular sites.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to page 9, question 7 of the minutes regarding the footpath at Corlatt, Knockatallon and welcomed its inclusion the draft 2016 footpath programme. Cllr Cathy Bennett stated that she has requested that the Council consider installing traffic calming measures in the Village as the new football pitches are being used now and has concerns for the safety of children crossing the road.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to page 10 of the minutes regarding the funding through the new Village and Town renewal scheme and asked if this funding is now available. Mr Kevin McNally stated that details of the scheme have not yet been released.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to the launch of the Age Friendly Initiative which took place at the Peace Link on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2015 and stated that 15-16 businesses in Clones took part and is delighted that these businesses have agreed to undertake three initiatives to make their premises more age friendly.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney referred ongoing works in Threemilehouse. Mr Kieran Duffy noted that the scheme approved by the OPW was completed and that he had arranged to meet the Councils Consultant Engineer on site with the view to undertaking further works.

### **3. Correspondence**

Cllr Seamus Coyle referred to additional correspondence item no 3.63 from the HSE regarding the provision of Respite Beds and stated that although he welcomed the additional beds at St Mary's in Castleblayney and the refurbishment work in Oriel House, it still did not meet demand in County Monaghan.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney stated that Monaghan County Council has agreed to speak to the HSE directly on this issue after receiving the Municipal District's proposal on this last month.

Cllr Ciara McPhillips also referred to letter received from the HSE and welcomed the additional 90 respite beds in Monaghan.

Cllr Seamus Coyle stated that there is not an additional 90 beds in 2016 and that there is not enough beds for the current demand.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to Page 18 of the correspondence regarding the lights in Ard na Gaoithe, Knockatallon and asked if the lights have been fixed. Mr Kevin McNally stated that the Planning Section is speaking to the receiver regarding this as the receiver has agreed to fix these lights.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to Pages 21-26 of the correspondence regarding automatically adding 18 year olds to the Electoral Register to enable them to vote and stated that the response from Alan Kelly was not good enough and proposed the following:-

“That Ballybay-Clones Municipal office, write again to Minister Alan Kelly and ask him that 18 year olds are automatically added to the register of electors. This is particularly relevant with the election so close.”

This proposal was seconded by Cllr Pat Treanor.

The members agreed that the proposal be put to a vote with the outcome as follows:-

For: - Cllrs. Bennett, Coyle, McElvaney and Treanor  
Against:- Cllr. McPhillips

On the outcome of the vote, the proposal was passed.

Cllr Ciara McPhillips stated that she does not support the proposal as Minister Alan Kelly has agreed to look at this issue and stated that this he should not be forced into make any rash decisions before a general election.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to page 56, response received from Irish Water and stated that she had been dealing with issue now for 3 years and for Irish Water to issue a complaint reference number was not sufficient.

Cllr Cathy Bennett proposed the following:-

“That Ballybay-Clones Municipal District write again to Irish Water, to the Department and to all our TD’s in Cavan/Monaghan asking them to address the hard water in Scotstown, Ballinode and Smithboro. Athy in Co Kildare have a water treatment plant in their county to address the hard water issue. Ballybay Clones Municipal District request that a water treatment plant be installed to address the hard water in Monaghan or that Irish Water address the issue by blending water sources. The residents and businesses in these areas are constantly being charged additionally for their water. In addition to paying for water, these water users have to pay to soften their water and also pay for the constant replacement of damaged appliances.”

This proposal was seconded by Cllr Pat Treanor and agreed by all.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to Item No 3.56 from Bus Eireann and stated that this did not address the issue which was raised regarding children with special needs.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney stated that Monaghan County Council has agreed to pursue this issue with Bus Eireann and asked Cllr Pat Treanor to await the outcome of this.

#### **4. Wi-fi Update**

Mr Paul Treanor advised the Members that he had contacted his colleagues in a number of County Councils and stated that they feel there was not a sufficient demand to provide Wi-Fi in towns as mobile companies services have improved and can provide data packages to customers through their mobile phone networks.

Mr Paul Treanor stated that Dublin County Council had done a lot of work on this topic, however the footfall was already high in the areas provided with Wi-Fi. To provide Wi-Fi in Clones would require a substantial amount of investment.

Cllr Pat Treanor thanked Mr Paul Treanor and agreed that he was right that mobile communications had improved however there are still black spots and there needs to be solutions to deal with this.

Mr Paul Treanor stated that the Government will be rolling out the National Broadband Scheme and that this aims to provide everyone with broadband by 2020.

## **5. Brown Bin/Waste Management Plan Update, Declan McKernan Senior Executive Engineer**

Mr Declan McKernan advised the Members that the Monaghan area comes under the Connacht-Ulster Region along with 8 other local Authorities and that Mayo County Council is the lead partner. The Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2020 sets out a number of targets which has to be achieved by the Local Authorities.

Mr Nial O'Connor advised the Members that the requirement for householders to have a Brown Bin in a number of areas came into effect earlier this year and will be rolled out in other areas/towns in the County over the next few months. From 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016 customers will be charged per kg and stated that it is critical that everyone accepts the three bins.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney thanked Mr Declan McKernan and Mr Nial O'Connor for their presentation and attendance at the meeting.

## **6. Report by Municipal District Co-ordinator**

Mr Kevin McNally confirmed the following:-

### **Recently Completed 2015 Regional and County Roads Program Works:**

- Additional works on the LS6130 At Tattynagall in Greenans Cross
- Completion of outstanding Low cost safety improvement works on the R178 at Corcreegagh
- Completion of resurfacing works and entrance works on the R183 Aghadrumkeen to Swans Cross road.
- Substantial Completion of footpath Renewal works on the R183 Newbliss road out of Clones.
- Safety improvement works on the R188 at Abbott's Factory
- Ongoing patching works.
- Upgrade of traffic lights on the N54/R183 junction in Clones at Applegreen.

### **Works due to commence in November/December .**

- Works at Dernalug bridge on the R183 Ballybay Castleblayney road.
- Footpath works in Scotshouse Village.
- Safety improvement works at McCormacks lane on the R189 (awaiting confirmation from Eir Regarding relocation of pole)
- Footpath works on the R183 Castleblayney road in Ballybay (due to start this week)
- 2 no ramps in Ard Cluain and works at Fitzpatrick Square to provide improved parking arrangements.(due to start this week)
- Program of sign washing.
- Upgrade works on 2 No pedestrian crossings in Ballybay (On Main Street and on the R180 At secondary school)

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to recent works at LS 6510, the fence is in need of repair/replacement at the bridge and there are some bad patches on the road which need to be repaired. Mr Kieran Duffy stated that this work will be completed shortly.

Cllr Ciara McPhillips referred to the resurfacing work on the R183 and asked when the road markings would be carried out. Mr Kieran Duffy stated that he has arranged for the road markings to be done and cats' eyes will also be installed at this location.

Cllr Ciara McPhillips referred to the recent work which took place at Abbotts Factory and expressed concerns about the volume of traffic using Margaret's Lane and asked if the Municipal Office could have a look at this road to see if it can be repaired. Mr Kieran Duffy stated that the Council would look at this with a view to carrying out some remedial works at this location.

Cllr Ciara McPhillips enquired if there had been any feedback from the survey which was carried out by the National Roads Authority in Smithboro village regarding cars speeding in this area.

Cllr Ciara McPhillips proposed the following:-

“Ballybay-Clones Municipal District writes to the Roads Section of Monaghan County Council seeking update on the issue of speeding in Smithboro village. We understand the section was in discussions with Traffic Infrastructure Ireland regarding what works could be put in place. “

This proposal was seconded by Cllr Hugh McElvaney and agreed by all.

Cllr Seamus Coyle welcomed the decision by the Municipal Office to proceed with a sign washing programme and asked that the Council staff also arrange to cut back any growth which is covering these signs and also to straighten up any signs in the process.

#### **Clones/Ballybay Regeneration committee**

Mr Kevin McNally stated that the last meeting of the Clones Regeneration committee was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2015. The office had progressed the feasibility studies to examine suitability for social housing for a number of sites in Fermanagh Street and are in the process of arranging for the works to be costed. This information will allow a value to be determined for the sites in question.

The office had identified a number of other properties in Clones that are derelict – the Council is seeking confirmation of ownership and will be actively following these properties with the view to ensuring that they are no longer classed as derelict.

Mr Kevin McNally noted that the next meeting of the Ballybay regeneration committee is on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 6pm.

Mr Kevin McNally stated that as advised at the last meeting, arising from an application submitted to the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, Monaghan County Council has received grant approval of €75,000 for various works to Castleblayney and Ballybay Towns.

Mr Kevin McNally stated that it is proposed to undertake improvement works to historic buildings in Ballybay Streetscape. The sum of €13,000 was been awarded and the Planning section were working to develop a scheme to improve the aesthetic appearance of some sections of the streetscape.

Cllr Ciara McPhillips asked if there is any need for the Members to provide match funding towards derelict properties within the Municipal District. Mr Kevin McNally stated that this is not required at the moment, however if required in the future, this request will be brought before the Members if required.

### **Clones Enterprise Town Event**

Mr Kevin McNally stated that he would like to acknowledge the success of the Bank of Ireland Enterprise event that was held recently. 55 businesses took stands in the Peace Link – this event demonstrated that there is still a strong commercial sector in the Clones region.

### **Smithboro Playground**

Mr Kevin McNally stated that the installation of the playground equipment was completed as per programme prior to Halloween. Unfortunately the recent poor weather has left the site in a poor condition – Once weather improves, the Council will undertake drainage works and place additional grass sods to ensure that the facility can be used as intended.

The local children and parents have added their own touches to the playground. A Willow Workshop was undertaken during the for the Halloween break, which has enabled local children to build a den out of living willow.

### **Peace Link**

Mr Kevin McNally stated that he was delighted to accompany the Cathaoirleach's of Monaghan County Council, the Ballybay Clones Municipal District and the Chair of the Clones Erne East Sports Partnership to the 2015 Excellence in Local Government awards which were presented on 12<sup>th</sup> November at a ceremony in the Ballsbridge Hotel Dublin. The award was presented under the heading of Supporting Active Communities

Mr Kevin McNally noted that this award is further recognition of Monaghan County Councils ability and willingness to work with local communities to develop projects.

Mr Kevin McNally complimented the members for agreeing for the Council to act as lead on the project and also contributing substantial funding to ensure that the project was delivered. Mr Kevin McNally stated that he would also like to acknowledge the work of the Clones Erne Partnership who initiated the project and who were the drivers behind the project through the various stages of development.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney referred to a delegation from Bosnia and Herzegovina which recently visited the Peace Link and stated that they were very impressed with the new sports facility in Clones.

## **7. Questions**

Cllr Cathy Bennett asked:-

1. In relation to the new playpark at Mullaghduff, Smithboro. I welcome the new park and I highly value the works carried out there. It is such a great asset to have. The park is highly appreciated by the community. In order for the community to use the park to its full potential, Can Ballybay-Clones address the issue of very wet ground by adding new drainage to the park urgently?

Reply It is the intention of the Municipal District office to carry out supplementary drainage works in the vicinity of the play park once conditions on site allow.

2. In the interest of safety can street lights be erected out to Cluain Mhuire in Ballybay? The issue of complete darkness in this area is a danger to the pedestrians using this footpath and needs to be addressed as soon as possible.

Reply This location has been added to the proposed public lighting program. However, the public lighting program listing is substantial at this stage and with a minimal budget for new public lighting each year it is not possible to give a date as to when public lighting is likely to be erected on the R162 out to Cluain Mhuire.

3. I welcome the erection of village signs at Cremartin following my representations earlier in the year. In addition the following road signs at Cremartin are damaged and also require replacing

- a) Sign at Cremartin/McVicars crossroads
- b) Sign adjacent to Atkinsons Shamrock Bar at junction of Lislane - Scotch Corner Road and road to Cremartin Shamrocks GAA pitch/Annyalla.

Reply Monaghan County Council will assess these locations and order replacement signage as necessary.

4. In relation to a previous question that I have asked at County Council level and also at Municipal District level. Has any compulsory cleaning schedule being put in place to address the issue of dirty road signs? These signs provide vital information and a cleaning schedule should be created to address this issue.

Reply There is no compulsory sign cleaning schedule in place as such but the Municipal District does intend commencing sign cleaning on selected regional roads during the latter half of November and up to the Christmas break.

5. In relation to recent accidents on the Ballybay to Carrickmacross Road where two lorries fell into the verge at the side of the road. Has this Municipal District made any assessment of the accident spots and what do they intend to do about the narrowness and verge on the road that is so very dangerous presently?

Reply Monaghan County Council did attend the scene of the accident at Tossy Cross and following the accident council staff rebuilt and strengthened the verge at this location through cooperation with the landowner. It is the intention to renew the road markings on the R180 on the approach to Tossy Cross.

Cllr Seamus Coyle asked:-

1. Can Monaghan County Council give an update on the process/procedures for the taking in charge of the housing estate, Wylies Hill, Cornamuckaglass, Castleblayne Rd., Ballybay?

Reply Monaghan County Council held a plebiscite to ascertain the wishes of the home owners in the estate, the majority of homeowners requested that Monaghan County Council proceed to take the estate in charge.

Monaghan County Council shall now publish a notice in the press notifying the public of the intention to take the estate in charge.

2. Will Monaghan County Council outline the responsibilities of landowners/property owners for the cutting of hedges along public roads and the powers of the local authority for the enforcement of hedge cutting, where they are causing a danger to road users?

Reply Details are outlined in the 'Hedgecutting Policy document' as presented and adopted at the Meeting of Monaghan County Council on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2015.

3. What plans have Monaghan County Council to put in place traffic calming measures on the R188-7, at Boyher, Rockcorry, the Boyher housing estate and the entrance to Cranmore housing estate, traffic calming measures, a pedestrian crossing and additional footpaths are essential at this location, on a regional road, as there is a great health and safety risk to children, families and senior citizens have no safe route to and from the local schools, community facilities i.e., G.A.A. grounds, community hall, churches and shops?

Reply Monaghan County Council intend progressing the footpath on the R188 in 2016. It may be possible to incorporate some additional traffic calming measures on the R188 in 2016 as part of the footpath construction works. However, the scale of such works will be dependent on the availability of funding.

4. What plans have Monaghan County Council to carry out repair work on the bridge on the LT30002, known locally as Cormeen lane, Latton, as this road is currently closed to traffic due to the safety of the bridge?

Reply Monaghan Council has previously engaged a consultant to carry out design works but as yet we have yet to receive Section 50 approval to proceed with works at Cormeen Bridge.

5. Have Monaghan County Council any update/proposals to improved safety measures at the pedestrian crossing at Main Street, Ballybay (Bank of Ireland-Post Office), as there is great concern for safety at the crossing in the town?

Reply A Contractor (Ellmore Group) has been appointed to carry out works at the existing pedestrian crossing on Main Street, Ballybay. The proposed works include providing additional LED lighting and the provision of sleeve markers on the existing poles to make the crossing more visible to oncoming traffic. Works are also proposed at the crossing at the secondary school on the R180. 2 No radars are to be incorporated into the existing crossing infrastructure with the aim of slowing traffic on the approach to the crossing.

## **8. Notices of Motion**

Cllr Seamus Coyle proposed the following:-

"That Ballybay/Clones Municipal District views with disgust and contempt the interference in the planning process, of An Bord Pleannala, by the C.E.O. of the utility regulator of Northern

Ireland, Ms. Jenny Pyper, by her comments at the Eirgrid Annual Customer Conference in Belfast recently, saying the undergrounding option of the proposed North South 400kv Interconnector was a "MYTH" and that cost would be 5 times the over grounding pylons option, as these statements are totally misleading and incorrect, this Council corresponds with Eirgrid and Ms. Pyper demanding a retraction."

This proposal was seconded by Cllr Pat Treanor and agreed by all.

Cllr Seamus Coyle also stated that the next meeting of the Anti-Pylon Committee will take place on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2015 and the Cavan/Monaghan TD's have been invited to attend.

#### **9. Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy**

The members extended a Vote of Congratulations to the following:-

Largy Social Innovators on winning the All Ireland Pride of Place for their 'Lets get by together' project.

Ballybay Clones Municipal District recognises the works of Greenans Cross and Doohamlet Communities for Pride of Place. Their endeavours to improve their communities are greatly recognised and supported by the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District.

Louis Madden, c/o Largy College on winning Scifest 2015.

Aaron Gallagher, Latnamard, Smithboro on obtaining the highest marks and Gold Medal for his leaving certificate, Engineering results.

Scotstown GFC Seniors on winning the Ulster Semi-Final and congratulations on reaching the Ulster Senior Football Final.

Rockcorry GFC Juniors on winning the Ulster Semi-Final and congratulations on reaching the Ulster Junior Football Final.

Monaghan County Council on winning the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2015 for the Peace Link Facility in Clones. The award was presented under the heading of Supporting Active Communities.

The Peace Link, on winning the Ireland Active White Flag Award for Overall Fitness Centre of the Year 2016

The members extended a Vote of Sympathy to the following:-

The French Ambassador to Ireland and the French People on the tragic loss of 129 lives in Paris on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2015 and the injury of 350 persons and condemns all terrorist activities all over the world.

Mary McManus, 53 O'Neill Park and the Cush Family on the death of Eddie McManus

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Cathaoirleach

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Meetings Administrator

Date 14<sup>th</sup> December 2015