

Municipal District of Monaghan.

Minutes of Meeting of the Municipal District of Monaghan held in the Boardroom, Mtek 1 Building, Knockaconny on Monday, 20th October 2014 at 3.30pm.

Cllr. Sean Conlon presided.

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

In Attendance: Mr. John Murray, Director of Services, Mr. Donal McElwain, Municipal District Co-Ordinator, Ms. Frances Matthews, Co-Ordinator of Municipal District Meetings, Ms. Bernie McElvaney, Senior Staff Officer, Ms. Bernie McMahan, Staff Officer, Mr. Dermot Deeney, Engineer .

Cllr. Conlon welcomed all to the meeting.

At the outset, Cllr. Conlon requested that an emergency motion signed by Cllr. Conlon and Cllr. McKenna in relation to drug abuse in Monaghan be discussed. It was agreed to discuss the motion at the end of the meeting.

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 15th September 2014 be confirmed.

On the proposal of Cllr. Maxwell, seconded by Cllr. McKenna, it was agreed that the minutes of the Twinning Meeting of the Municipal District held on the 15th September 2014 be confirmed.

2. Matters arising:

Mr McElwain confirmed that the Municipal have got permission from the NRA to remove the barriers on the N2, Monaghan by-Pass. This was welcomed by all members in the interest of road safety.

Cllr. Maxwell requested that the Municipal secure funding for a footpath along the by-pass and linking with the Greenway.

Cllr Treanor commended the Municipal on the great project at Killygoan Playground.

Cllr Conlon requested an update on the canopy structure for the Bandstand. Mr McElwain advised that he had been in contact with Dun Laoghaire Council and circulated a brochure on canopies to the members. He stated that it would take approximately € 15,000-20,000 to provide a canopy.

Cllr. McKenna welcomed the details of accounts from the Taste of Monaghan and stated that account details should be sought from all groups requesting funding.

Cllr. Connolly requested an update on the housing development known as 'Cnoc na Greine' for the next meeting.

The members were advised that a letter had been issued to the Mayor of the Municipality of Chepelare stating our interest in being a co-applicant in sourcing European Union Funding for this project and no response has yet been received.

3. Budget 2015

Mr Murray briefed the members on the Budget 2015. He advised that a discretionary spend of €200,000 is available for Economic, Social and Community Development. Ms. Matthews circulated a list of Economic, Tourism Projects and Social and Community Development that could benefit from this extra funding for the District.

Mr Murray explained that the profit from the Pay Parking is part of the County Council Budget. This money is ring-fenced and spent through recommendations from our Engineers on how our town can be enhanced.

Cllr. Conlon requested a report on the Budget 2015 from Mr Murray and a list of Groups that were funded last year.

Cllr Maxwell proposed a motion that any money left over from the discretionary fund at the end of a year be carried forward to the next year, seconded by Cllr. Connolly.

Cllr. Treanor queried can some of the fund be spent on supplying broadband in the North Monaghan area. Mr Murray suggested that a presentation on Broadband by Paul Treanor should be given to the full County Council meeting.

Mr McElwain advised that a list of projects are currently being drafted and invited members to submit projects.

4. Report from Municipal District Co-Ordinator

Mr McElwain read his report and a brief discussion followed.

Cllr Maxwell enquired about Christmas lights and stressed that action is required now for the supply and installation of this year's lights. It was decided to hold a meeting on 3rd November at 1.30pm to finalise Christmas lights.

Cllr. Conlon thanked Mr McElwain for his report.

5. Questions

Cllr. R. Gallagher asked:

1. Would the Council, in the interests of pedestrian safety, consider traffic calming measures or a pedestrian crossing on the Dublin Road at the entrance of Beech Hill College and on the Scotstown Road approach to Monaghan town?
Response: In the interest of pedestrian safety the Council will investigate these two locations on the approach roads to Monaghan.
2. Can the Council outline the reasons for the delay in taking in charge of Annahagh Close and would the Council consider the provision of a sign or nameplate for said estate?

Response: The Taking in Charge application was made by the residents of Annahagh Close. The pumping station serving the development is not working and the residents are not in a position to pay for the remedial works to address the issue. Monaghan County Council are currently preparing a report outlining the options and costs of a solution to this issue.

Cllr. Sean Conlon asked:

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 last April 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: This query was forwarded to Irish Water for a reply. They have now replied as follows:

"I am following up in relation to queries raised in relation to Irish Water for the Monaghan Municipal District Meeting. Currently, Irish Water only have the resources to respond to motions/resolutions passed by the Full Council at their monthly meetings. It is not possible to provide responses to Council Questions from the 31 local authorities at their respective meetings.

Queries from individual councillors are dealt with via the dedicated Local Representative Support Desk which has been set up for this purpose. For this reason, if a councillor wishes to progress a query, we would ask that you advise him/her to submit same directly to the Local Representative Support Desk where it will be dealt with appropriately. This can be done via email localrepsupport@water.ie or calling 1890 278 278 and asking for the Local Representative Support Desk.

In this instance, I have passed the query raised by Councillor Sean Conlon in relation to the main pipe replacement works on the Mall Road on to our Local Representative Support Desk. They will respond directly to the Councillor."

Cllr. Paudge Connolly asked:

4. In view of the potential hazard /safety issues (lorry wing mirrors etc) involved by pedestrians waiting at the edge of the footpath at the pedestrian lights on the Glen Rd, Monaghan, will Monaghan County Council consider erecting a safety barrier to improve the safety of pedestrians waiting to use the crossing?

Response: These lights were upgraded as part of the Greenway scheme from the existing Pelican Crossing to the Toucan Crossing which facilities bicycle users. Monaghan County Council is currently working with the appointed consultant to close out this scheme. This concern will be brought to the attention of the appointed consultants for the Greenway Scheme.

7. Notice of Motion:

Cllr. Treanor advised the meeting that he wished to discuss the following motion:

“That this Council write to the Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government asking him to make funds available to develop the land at O’Neills Farm and Latlorcan Glen to build social housing, and subsidised sites for private dwellings”

Mr Murray informed the members that contracts are being signed for the landbank and houses at Latlorcan Development. Cllr Connolly welcomed this kick start to development in the town. A discussion took place on this development and Cllr Gallagher proposed that we request the Senior Planner to come forward with plans to develop the said lands and all members agreed. Mr McElwain advised that the lands at O Neill’s Farm are not zoned for Housing . The motion was not carried.

Cllr. McKenna advised the meeting that he wished to discuss the following motion:

“That this Municipal District convene a meeting of all the relevant educational stakeholders in Monaghan town to discuss possible solutions or alternatives to dealing with the serious traffic delays in the town during opening and closing times of the different educational facilities”

Cllr. McKenna highlighted the huge problems with traffic queues on the approach to the town at the N2 roundabout. All members supported any action to alleviate the traffic problems approaching the town. Cllr. McKenna suggested the possibility of a shuttle bus being introduced and members supported this. Mr Murray informed the members that it was proposed at a Budget meeting by the Chief Executive that an engineer would be engaged to review a Traffic Plan for the town and a meeting with the Educational Stakeholders will then be considered.

Cllr. Gallagher advised the meeting that he wished to discuss the following motion:

“That this Council calls on the Government to immediately re-instate the citizens statutory right to complain to the Ombudsman’s Office with regard to Irish Water.”

A short discussion followed and all members supported this motion. This motion was carried.

Cllr. Conlon proposed and seconded by Cllr. McKenna the following emergency motion:

“ That this Council request the Minister for Justice to increase resources within An Garda Siochana in the Monaghan Area aimed at tackling drug abuse and similarly request the Minister for Health to instruct the Primary Health Care Services in Monaghan/Cavan to enhance their co-operation with the Teach na Daoine Resource Centre in a collaborate approach in combating drug abuse in Monaghan”

Cllr Conlon advised that the purpose of this motion is to make resources available from the Government, the Gardai and other Agencies. He continued to say that the Municipal’s role is to share with the residents and all other agencies to call for positive urgent action.

Cllr Treanor stated that a proper Law and Order system is required.

Cllr. Maxwell thanked Sharon McQuaid and her family for ‘speaking out’ to the community.

A lengthy discussion took place on the motion.

All members fully supported the motion which was carried.

On the suggestion of Cllr. Maxwell, it was agreed to write to our Northern Ireland counterparts, Jim Wells to have substances listed matching the Republic.

On the suggestion of Cllr. Maxwell, it was agreed to write to An Garda Siochana requesting clarification on the Legislative Framework (on substances) surrounding the ingredients contained within so called 'legal highs'.

8. Correspondence

A letter was received from James Campbell in relation to the trundling of lorries down Dublin Street. Mr McElwain advised that this letter was treated as a complaint and referred to Roads Section as it is the N54.

A letter was received from Department of Environment, Community and local Government in relation to growth of trees on homeowners properties advising that he has no plans to develop legislation at present and that the matter can be dealt with under civil law.

A letter was received from IDA Ireland advising that they have ongoing engagement with the County Council Executive and now with the creation of Economic and Community Development, it would be a useful forum to have representatives from the full County Council, County Council Executive and IDA to explore how we could collectively create opportunities for job creation in Monaghan and into the North East Region.

9. Votes of Sympathy

Votes of sympathy were extended to the following:

Nancy McKenna and her family on the passing of Willie McKenna

The Crotty Family on the passing of Stephen Crotty

Sharon McQuaid on the death of her son, PJ.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Dated this the 20th day of October 2014

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Meetings Adminsitrator