

Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on 20th October 2014 at 10am in the Courthouse, MacCurtain Street, Clones.

Members Present The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Ciara McPhillips, presided

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

In Attendance Adge King, Director of Services, John Murray, Head of Finance, Kieran Duffy, Executive Engineer, Angela Gallagher, Staff Officer, Roisin Moore, Assistant Engineer, Frances Matthews Senior Staff Officer, Monaghan County Council

Apologies Cllr Eugene Bannigan, Kevin McNally, Municipal District Co-ordinator,

1. Confirmation of minutes of September monthly meeting

The minutes of the September monthly meeting were proposed by Cllr Hugh McElvaney and Seconded by Cllr Pat Treanor.

2. Matters arising from Previous Minutes

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to the first paragraph under matters arising of the minutes and confirmed that the meeting of Clones Erne East Partnership took place and the next meeting has been arranged for Tuesday 21st October 2014 at the rearranged time of 8pm in Newtownbutler. Cllr Treanor stated that it was important that Mr McNally attend, Mr King stated that if Mr McNally could not attend that he would attend meeting.

Cllr Seamus Coyle referred to paragraph 3 under matters arising regarding the bridge on Scotshouse/Treehoo Cross and the weight restriction of 7.5 tonnes. He asked if the Engineer had spoken to Cavan County Council in relation to this matter. Mr Duffy advised that he would hope to have an update on this for the next meeting.

Cllr Seamus Coyle referred to paragraph 2 on page 2 of the minutes regarding the temporary Car Park in Ballybay. Mr Duffy advised the Members that the flood works were on target to finish by the end of November 2014.

Cllr Ciara McPhillips referred to paragraph 2 Engineers Report on page 3, Low Cost Safety works in Threemilehouse, Mr Duffy advised that this work was due to be completed today.

Mr Duffy also confirmed in relation to the flood relief works in Threemilehouse that a compromise had been reached with the Fisheries Board regarding the revised design and stated that this work on the project is due to commence in late October/early November.. The engineer indicated that a requirement of Fisheries Board derogation was that the works should be completed by the end of November. Cllr Hugh McElvaney stated that he was happy that issue was resolved and that work would be starting shortly, however he stated that the road surface on the Monaghan side of the village needs to be sorted out before the machinery leaves the area. Mr Duffy stated that work on

this stretch of the R189 in Threemilehouse had been carried out the previous week. It was the intention to carry out testing of the road surface following completion of these works.

Cllr McElvaney confirmed that there is already one ramp in place and asked if there were any plans to install more. Ms Roisin Moore stated that she had been contacted by the Tidy Towns from the area and that she will look into their requests.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to page 3 of the minutes regarding the Official Opening of the Peace Link which took place on 26th September 2014 and said it would be remiss of the Members not to congratulate everyone involved including the Board of Directors and Cllr Ciara McPhillips.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to Q3 on page 5 of the minutes and asked if there is any funding available under the Low Cost Safety Improvement Scheme. Mr Duffy confirmed that they had recently received a request for submissions for 2015 and this particular road was submitted along with other submissions.

Cllr Ciara McPhillips referred to Q6 on page 5 of the minutes and asked if there had been any word back from the Roads Section. Mr Duffy stated that there had been no word back from them at this time but that he would follow up on this matter.

Cllr Ciara McPhillips referred to Q7 on page 5 of the minutes regarding remedial works to footpaths in Boyher Estate, Rockcorry & Mulladuff OPD's in Smithboro. Mr Duffy confirmed that some works had already been carried out to footpaths in Boyher, however in Mulladuff he stated that the footpaths were not in a bad condition. There were some holes on this footpath and he would arrange to have them filled.

Cllr Seamus Coyle advised that there was a need for additional car parking in Boyher, Rockcorry and at Cran Mor Housing Estate. The children had to cross over main roads to get to school. Mr Duffy said he would investigate these issues and get back to the Members.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney referred to page 8 of the minutes under AOB regarding the ramp and signs at the secondary school in Ballybay. Mr Duffy confirmed that the ramp had recently been repainted however he would investigate the issue regarding the light. Cllr McElvaney asked if they would consider an electronic sign warning of the ramp. Mr Duffy said he would review this matter and report back at the next meeting.

3. Correspondence

3.1 Response from Office of An Taoiseach regarding North South Interconnector

In relation to the response received from the Office of An Taoiseach, Cllr Coyle expressed his disappointment with the reply stating that this is probably the usual response. Cllr Coyle stated that a Planning Application was imminent and he had huge concerns regarding this. Cllr Pat Treanor stated that the letter was a non response and that this was a vitally important issue for the people living in Mid Monaghan.

3.2 Clones Community Forum

A request for funding of €250.00 from Clones Community Forum was received for a

Halloween Fun Day. This was proposed by Cllr Pat Treanor, seconded by Cllr Cathy Bennett and agreed by all the members.

3.3 Notice of Motion from Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District

The following Notice of Motion was supported on the proposal of Cllr Seamus Coyle and Seconded by Cllr Pat Treanor and agreed by all.

“That this Municipal District Authority calls on the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Ms Heather Humphreys to examine the possibility of the introduction of an adequate high level grant aid scheme for buildings that are listed both commercial and residential.”

4. Budget 2015

Mr John Murray, Head of Finance advised the members of their budget allocations as recommended by the Chief Executive and agreed by the Members. At the County Council LPT Budget Meeting the Council decided not to change the Local Property Tax. Mr Murray advised the Member that they would have an allocation of €200,000 discretionary spend, however they did not have to agree how to spend this now and stated that the allocation is for economic development. Community Grants for 2015 were ring fenced and would be dealt with centrally but the allocation for 2015 would remain the same.

The Roads Budget is County Council funded and it was proposed at the CPG meeting that this would be based on road length and this means that the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District would get 42% of this budget. In relation to the Road Grant a proportion of the block grant to be spent within the town in 2015. Allocation retained by Clones & Ballybay Town and is ring fenced for 2015. In relation to the Roads own resources they agreed to come up with a model to ensure the Towns would be as well off as previous years, therefore it is to be split 36% in Towns & 64% in the County.

Housing Budget will be dealt with centrally by the Housing Section of Monaghan County Council. Staff running costs for the office would be covered by the County Council Budget.

Cllr McElvaney asked about money raised through the LPT and why Monaghan County Council paid €784,000 to an equalisation fund. Mr Murray explained that all Local Authorities have to pay 20% to the equalisation fund and this enabled Monaghan County Council to received €7.113m shortfall that was required. Mr Murray also stated that the Rate base will be decided at the County Council Budget Meeting which will take place at the end of the year.

Cllr Cathy Bennett asked what kind of projects could the €200,000 be used for? Mr King circulated a list of suggestions that could be considered. Mr King also stated that depending on the project selected some element of match funding may also be required. He stated that there was a deficit of quality projects that will have economic value. There may be planning permission required which could be time consuming and this will be a challenge for Members to agree the projects. Mr King stated that they could struggle to spend the money within the timeframe, there is a lot of work involved and costs involved to progress the projects.

Cllr Pat Treanor agreed that the Members need to spend some time thinking about this to enable them to come up with good ideas.

5. Report by Municipal District Co-ordinator

Engineers Update

Mr Duffy stated that the Roads Programme was fully completed. Mr Duffy also informed the Members that works were due to commence shortly on a number of Low Cost Safety Initiatives including Threemilehouse Village, Annalore Bridge, and at the junction of the LT21424/R183 regional road at Aghadrumkeen Church. Work is also due to commence on the R178/LT49052 junction on the Shercock Road.

In relation to signs at Annalore, this may need more design and Ms Moore will be looking at this. This relates to the Ballybay side of the bridge and there will be consultation with the land owners very soon. Mr Duffy also stated that there will be work carried out to the footpath at Newtownbutler Road, and construction of stonewall at Monaghan Rd/98 Avenue junction will be carried out before the end of the year. The lights at Largy College and at Ballybay Park were recently upgraded.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney raised the issue of public lighting in Corcaghan and was advised by Mr Duffy that this would be discussed at next meeting.

Town Twinning

Mr Duffy confirmed a public meeting took place in Ballybay last week and a sub-committee was formed to progress the Town Twinning between Ballybay and Osterhofen-Gergweis. Cllr Ciara McPhillips stated that at the meeting it was agreed to move forward with the Twinning and to renew the Charter. It was agreed that Ballybay-Clones Municipal District write to Monaghan County Council to ensure they have funding made available for this in their budget. This was proposed by Cllr Seamus Coyle, seconded by Cllr Ciara McPhillips and agreed by all.

Ballybay Chamber of Commerce

Mr Duffy stated that a number of meetings have taken place with the newly formed Ballybay Chamber of Commerce and staff will continue to work with and support the Chamber.

6. Amendment to Standing Order

Cllr Ciara McPhillip advised the Members that in line with Monaghan County Council's Standing Orders that Ballybay-Clones Municipal District should remove AOB from the Agenda as it is not specified in the Municipal Districts Standing Orders. However after agreement the Councillors stated that AOB should remain and the Standing Orders need to be amended to reflect this. This was proposed by Cllr Hugh McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Cathy Bennett and agreed by all.

Cllr Ciara McPhillips queried whether or not they should restrict the number of times that a Member can contribute however after discussion amongst the members they agreed to leave it open. This was proposed by Cllr Seamus Coyle, seconded by Cllr Hugh McElvaney and agreed by all.

7. Questions

Cllr Seamus Coyle asked

1. Can Monaghan County Council outline at what stage is the process of taking in charge of Wylies Hill Housing Estate, Corrnámuckglass, Castleblayney Road, Ballybay and when residence can expect the process to be completed and to be living in a fully "Taking in charge estate"?

Reply *Monaghan County Council have not received a request to have the Wylies Hill development taken in charge.*

2. Can Monaghan County Council outline at what stage is the process of taking in charge of Clairemount Rise Housing Estate, Rockcorry, and when residence can expect to be living in a fully "Taking in charge estate"?

Reply *The Planning Authority wrote to the developer in April 2014 seeking the submission of information, and is currently awaiting a response to that correspondence. The application to having this development taken in charge will be progressed upon receipt of the requested information.*

3. Can Monaghan County Council examine what traffic calming measures can be put in place on the Annalore Road, Clones as residence's are very concerned, i.e. Oakview. Lager Crescent etc., at speeding traffic and the great dangers to pedestrians, school pupils etc,?

Reply Monaghan County Council will examine different options for traffic calming at this location and determine whether traffic calming is appropriate at this location. Works are subject to funding being available.

4. Can Monaghan County Council present a full waiting list with estimated costings etc., of all 'Public Lighting Waiting Lists' for the Ballybay/Clones M.D. to members?

Reply The Engineering staff of the Ballybay Clones Municipal District are currently preparing a public lighting waiting list for the district which will be presented at a subsequent monthly Municipal District meeting.

5. When do Monaghan County Council plan to complete works on 'Sra Bridge' (R180-1-LT71001), on the Ballybay-Carrickmacross Road, as it is currently a very dangerous open waterway and particularly as water levels will rise during the coming winter months?

Reply It is the intention to complete works on this bridge during November 2014.

Cllr Cathy Bennett asked

6. In regards to the road at Dyan and Cornwall, Smithboro (L61603-0). As the annual roads program has not yet been agreed, when will basic repair works be carried out on this road in the interim?

Reply Basic patching works will be carried out on L61603 road before the end of October 2014.

7. In relation to a previous question I submitted, with regards to St. Dympna's Terrace, Scotstown. Has Ballybay-Clones secured any money yet that could be used to upgrade the common area within the estate as it is in an extremely bad condition presently and it is hazardous to both drivers and pedestrians?

Reply No additional money has become available that would facilitate resurfacing of St Dympna's Terrace in Scotstown (Road No LT20101). Subject to available funding this road can be considered for works in 2015.

8. In relation to Corlatt housing estate, Knockatallon. Could Ballybay-Clones MD, revisit the need for car parking within the estate? A large green presently exists and this could be converted partly or fully to a very useable car park. Presently the residents of this estate are being forced to park on kerb sides.

Reply The possibility of increasing carparking space within Corlatt housing estate can be examined. Currently though there is no funding in place to carry out such works. Any proposal to increase parking within the estate would also be subject to planning permission.

9. In relation to a previous issue I submitted regarding the absence of road markings at Knockatallon crossroads and Barratitoppy crossroads, Knockatallon. Can Ballybay-Clones MD provide an update on proposed dates to upgrade both these crossroads?

Reply Renewal of various road markings have been taken place in the Municipal District in recent weeks. Road marking works at Knockatallon and Barratitoppy crossroads are due to be completed the week ending 17th October 2014.

10. In relation to the proposed footpath from Gola Crest housing development, Scotstown into Scotstown Village. Has there been any further updates? Could Ballybay-Clones MD examine the need for signposts approaching and exiting both housing developments on this road, as it unsafe presently?

Reply It is the intention of Municipal Engineering staff to meet the relevant landowners before the end of October with a view to seeking agreement regarding finalising design details for the proposed footpath. A review of the signage requirements will

also be undertaken. The construction of the footpath again will be subject to funding being in place.

Cllr Pat Treanor asked

11. How often do the street lights in our towns and villages be checked? It is important for public safety, coming into the dark nights that all street lights are properly working.

Reply The Council does not undertake a formal inspection of public lighting network. Any details with regards to defects in County Council operated public lighting are reported directly to Airtricity who are responsible for the maintenance of the public lighting in the county.

12. When will the Council repair the fence round Bawn playground?

Reply Fencing repair are due for completion the week ending 17th October 2014

13. When will the Council upgrade the footpath and extend the lights on the Analore road, Clones R183?

Reply Under the current works program it is intended to commence upgrade works on the footpath of the R183 Newtownbutler road. Works are due to start before the end of October 2014. There is unlikely to be sufficient funds in this year's program to extend the works to the R183 Annalore road.

14. What is the update on the new houses at Mc Curtain Street, Clones?

Reply The contract for construction of nine houses at McCurtian Street has been awarded to Sammon Builders County Leitrim. The Contractor is programmed to take possession of site on 17th October 2014.

15. Who will be responsible for letting the houses at An Eannaigh, Millbrook, Clones? Do they have to offer them to families on the current waiting list?

Reply The approved housing body Oaklee Housing Trust will have responsibility for letting the houses at An Eanaigh, Millbrook, Clones and the associated management and maintenance. The houses have to be offered to applicants on the current housing waiting list. The Council has responsibility for ensuring that the houses are offered to applicants with the greatest need and that they are fully occupied.

8. Notice of Motion

The following Notice of Motion was put forward in the name of Seamus Coyle Cllr Coyle

“That the members of the Ballybay/Clones Municipal District seek an immediate meeting with all Oireachtas members for the Cavan/Monaghan constituency to seek the assurance of An Tainaiste and Minister for Social Protection, Joan Burton T.D. of the future of the Department of Social Protection Offices in Ballybay and all associated jobs.”

It was agreed that if a meeting took place with the TD's that it would also be an ideal opportunity to discuss the Ulster Canal and Interconnector. This was proposed by Cllr Seamus Coyle, seconded by Cllr Hugh McElvaney and agreed by all the members. It was also agreed that a meeting be arranged in Ballybay Civic Offices for Friday 31st October 2014 and that two members of Ballybay Chamber of Commerce also be invited.

9. Urgent Business

Cllr Cathy Bennett and Cllr Pat Treanor submitted the following proposal

That Ballybay-Clones MD electoral area engineers re-investigate the frequently occurring offensive smell on St. Patricks Street in Ballybay, as it is unfair to expect residents to live in these conditions.

This was proposed by Cllr Cathy Bennett, seconded by Cllr Pat Treanor and agreed by all.

Mr Duffy stated that he had been liaising with the Councils Water Services section and Irish Water in relation to this issue which has been raised at previous meetings and that investigations into this particular issue are ongoing. Cllr Pat Treanor stated that a Service Level Agreement exists between Monaghan County Council and Irish Water and that the problem needs to be resolved. It was suggested that Irish Water be billed if Monaghan County Council carry out the work. Cllr Seamus Coyle stated that he had raised this issue previously and Businesses in the Town of Ballybay were being affected by it. The Members stated that people living in the area should be able to identify where the issues lie. Mr Duffy stated that he would reinforce the issue with both Water Services and Irish Water.

10. Votes of Sympathy

Sarah Mohan, Mullandava Smithboro

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed _____

Meetings Administrator

Date 17th November 2014