

## Municipal District of Monaghan.

### **Minutes of Meeting of the Municipal District of Monaghan held in the Boardroom, Mtek 1 Building, Knockaconny on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> September 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 McMahon, Staff Officer, Mr. Damien Thornton, Engineer and Ms. Carmel Murphy, Assistant Staff Officer.

Cllr. Conlon began by proposing that a request be sent to Ms. Carmel Thornton, Administrative Officer, to ask that a hard copy of the agenda and additional information be made available at all Council meetings. Cllr. McKenna and Cllr. Maxwell advised Cllr. Conlon that a request could be made in writing to Ms. Thornton in advance of Council meetings. It was agreed that Mr. McElwain would request a hard copy of all correspondence for Cllrs. Sean Conlon, Seamus Treanor, Paudge Connolly, David Maxwell and Robbie Gallagher.

#### **1. Confirmation of minutes:**

On the proposal of Cllr. Maxwell, seconded by Cllr. Gallagher it was agreed that the minutes of the Municipal District meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> July 2014 be confirmed.

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

Cllr. Gallagher stated that while he was aware of the need to encourage wildlife and bio-diversity, the pathway along the Greenway was very overgrown. Mr. McElwain said that the pathway would be cutback. Cllr. Gallagher also raised concerns over the cycling lane along the N2 from the Creamery towards Emyvale where stones and debris were thrown onto the path are a hazard. While heartened to see many people walking in the evenings along the Bypass, he proposed that a letter be sent to the NRA to have the barriers removed on the bypass as previously requested. This was seconded by Cllr. Maxwell.

Following a discussion on the purchase of a canopy structure for the town, Mr. McElwain informed members that the engineer had received more details and would forward them to members for their information.

Cllr. Gallagher referred to Canal View and queried if the District had investigated this. Mr. McElwain replied that there was traffic calming requested in a number of areas. These would need to be brought before the members for consideration and a budget allocated.

Cllr. Treanor enquired if cameras could be placed at Killygoan Playpark due to anti-social behaviour. Mr. McElwain replied that this had not been provided for in the budget but that he would ask the Engineer to investigate this.

### **3. To discuss proposed Town Twinning with Mechelen and Chepelare**

Cllr. Conlon informed the meeting that there had been a withdrawal of the Mechelen twinning proposal. As members had met with a delegation representing the Municipality of Chepelare previous to the Municipal District meeting, Cllr. Conlon confirmed that the District will correspond with the Mayor of Chepelare stating our interest in being a co-applicant in sourcing European Union funding.

### **4. Request for funding for 'Taste of Monaghan' Festival from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> October**

Cllr. Maxwell proposed that as funding was approved at a budget meeting of Monaghan Town Council, then this should stand. Cllr. Brian McKenna seconded this. Mr. Murray confirmed that while nothing had been provided for separately for it, however an amount of €9,000 had been set aside for town events. Cllr. Treanor highlighted some concerns he had regarding the amount and after a brief discussion, members agreed that any applicants for funding from the District must provide a detailed set of accounts for the previous year and apply in a timely fashion.

Cllr. McKenna stated that he had heard comments relating to incomplete accounts submitted to the Council from festival committees. Cllr. Conlon requested from Mr. McElwain that a set of accounts be available at the next meeting from the Taste of Monaghan.

It was agreed that a vote be taken on the funding in the amount of €4,000.

<b>For:</b> Cllrs. Conlon, Gallagher, McKenna, Maxwell & Connolly	5
<b>Against:</b>	0
<b>Abstentions:</b> Cllr. Treanor	1

The Cathaoirleach declared the amount of €4,000 be granted to the Festival.

### **5. Extinguishment of Right of Way between 101-102 Mullaghmatt:**

Cllr. Conlon stated that while it was regrettable that this entrance had not been closed before now, he was happy to propose the extinguishment. This was seconded by Cllr. Treanor.

### **6. Questions**

***Cllr P Connolly asked:***

1. Can the members have an updated report on the six unfinished houses at Cnoc na Greine, Tydavnet?

**Response:**

**In response to Cllr Paudge Connolly question for the September Municipal meeting in relation to the status of the 6 unfinished housing units in the Cnoc Na Greine development in Tydavnet Village. The Unfinished Housing Co-ordinator was recently in discussion with Grant Thornton Receivers for Sean and Francis Mullen Bros. They have advised that there has been a "sale agreed" for units 7-12 (incomplete units off main Monaghan to Clogher Road R166)**

**The Council has requested that formal confirmation from the receiver's solicitor be provided as evidence that a sale has been agreed. Details of the closing date for the sale have also been requested for our records.**

**A Derelict Site Notice was issued to the receivers in March 2014. Any further action in relation to the Derelict Site notice has been suspended pending confirmation of the sale.**

2. Will this Municipal District consider erecting a traffic ramp at about 60 metres from the entrance from the road at the New Houses in Tyholland?

**Response:**

**Traffic calming measures have been requested in a number of locations. These will be assessed and costed and presented to the members for consideration.**

3. Can this Municipal District extend the no overtaking white lines from the entrance to the New Houses at Tyholland for a distance of 300 metres towards Monaghan town?

**Response:**

**This matter has been referred to the NRA inspector who has visited the site. We are awaiting his report and recommendation.**

4. Will the Monaghan Municipal District provide an update in relation to the N2 Upgrade from Monaghan to Emyvale

(A) Timescale for connection of 400/500metres of roadway between Phase 1 and phase 2?

**Response:**

**It is intended that works will commence in mid September and would be substantially complete by the end of November.**

(B) Timescale/progress report for final phase from Corracrin to Emyvale village? What speed limit will apply, outside standard village speed limits, on the main section of this improved roadway?

**Response:**

**The Council plan to publish the Compulsory Purchase Order necessary to acquire the lands for the Scheme by mid October.**

5. In view of the fact that property prices are at an all-time low and with a view of improving road safety have Monaghan County Council any plans to purchase the premises on the corner of Lemaculla crossroads on the Tydavnet Monaghan road?

**Response:**

**Currently no specific funding is in place for this proposal. It is proposed to review current budgetary commitment following consultation with the Municipal District members to examine the possibility of giving consideration to the purchase of this property.**

Cllr. S Conlon will ask:

6. For the Executive to provide an update on the issue of access to lands by local residents in the vicinity of Mullaghmart for the purpose of attending to their horses as has been their tradition at this location over many decades.

**Response:**

**It is understood that the land in question is that behind the boundary adjacent to house No. 37 and running to House No. 46 Mullaghmart. The original boundary consisted of a block wall and hedging. Access to the area could and still can, be gained by using the rear pathway behind house numbers No 2 to No. 37. NOTE; this does not provide any formalised granting of access to the land.**

**The now demolished 900-1200 block wall and the boundary of hedging/trees did not have a provision for access/egress built into them. It cordoned off Council land and privately held land. However, the block wall was partially demolished a long time ago by unknown persons. This resulted in unauthorised access into the land being made easier .**

**The area in question has been used for illegal dumping and burning since at least 2004 resulting in Monaghan Town Council having to often clear it using valuable resources- employees, JCB excavator/digger and trailer to dispose of the material. There is no permission for access to the land in question.**

7. For the benefit of enhancing the Tidy Town endeavours, can a programme of sign washing, or if necessary replacement, be initiated by Council to improve the streetscapes of the Municipal District area?

**Response:**

**A condition survey of signs around the town was carried out in July and a programme to replace or repair damaged signs has commenced and will continue as resources allow.**

8. Illegal dumping of refuse bags and litter into the stream between Beechgrove Lawns and Tully continues to be a problem creating a number of potential environmental hazards, can this be investigated by Council?

**Response:**

**This incident has been investigated by the Environmental Patrol Warden, however he was unable to examine or remove the bags as they are in a deep drain. This problem has been referred to the municipal area overseer and he is organising a digger to remove the bags this week. Once the bags have been removed from the drain they will be examined for personal evidence and then disposed of. The Environmental Patrol Warden has been liaising with the Beechgrove residents association in relation to this problem.**

9. What is Council policy regarding Council tenants painting exterior woodwork of their dwellings?

**Response:**

**In accordance with the terms of their tenancy agreement and the tenant handbook the Housing Authority welcome and encourage tenants to maintain their own properties. The painting and maintenance of exterior woodwork should be carried out by tenants and they should follow the**

**colour scheme as currently in place on the dwelling unless agreement is made with the Housing Authority for an alternative colour.**

10. Can the members have a report on the Knockroe Gleann housing development?

**Response:**

**The Knockroe site has been effectively resolved. Essential safety works were carried out to secure the built site from the building site in early 2013. The cash bond retained for the satisfactory completion of the Knockroe development has now been fully expended. The bond monies were used to rectify the water and waste water infrastructure, public lighting and to lay the final wearing course on the estate road.**

**The planning section last met with the residents in early 2014, the residents raised a number of issues These related to; the provision of ramps within the estate and associated traffic calming, the removal of an existing kerb line within the open space, taking in charge, the provision of an area for depositing grass cuttings and clarification in relation to the extent of the development site itself. The planning section responded to each of the issues raised, however some of these were outside the scope of planning. The planning section recommended that the residents submit a Taking in Charge application.**

**7. Notice of Motion:**

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

“That this Municipal District write to the Minister of Environment calling on him to introduce legislation to make it compulsory for homeowners to control the growth of trees on their property”.

Cllr. Treanor read out a short report reminding the members that this issue had been discussed a number of times and that the public should be much more aware of their neighbours. This was agreed with by all the members and Cllr. Connolly queried as to whether there are different rules for urban and rural areas. Mr. McElwain replied that he was not aware of any legal differentiation. After a short discussion on the complexities of this motion and how to define the extent of pruning, it was agreed to write a letter to the Minister requesting the introduction of legislation as detailed in Cllr. Treanor’s motion.

**For:** Cllrs. Conlon, Treanor, Gallagher, McKenna & Connolly 5

**Against:** 0

**Abstentions:** Cllr. Maxwell 1

The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

**8. Correspondence**

A letter was received from the I.D.A. in response to the members query requesting a five year analysis on jobs creation in the County. While disappointed with the response, members welcomed the news that the I.D.A. site at Knockaconny is being marketed for investment and employment opportunities.

Cllr. Gallagher proposed that a letter be sent to Mr. Barry O’Leary, Chief Executive of the I.D.A., requesting a strategic economic planning meeting with local representatives to explore how

collectively we can address the lack of investment opportunities in the county. A round table discussion should be held to discuss how we can package the county as an area for job creation. This was seconded by Cllr. Connolly.

A letter was received from the National Transport Authority in response to a request from the Municipal District to install a digital information display screen at the bus depot. Members were disappointed that funding is unavailable for this due to the difficulties being experienced by the public.

The members also discussed the correspondence received from Mr. Ken McPherson, Services Manager at Bus Eireann North East. Members agreed that we contact Mr. McPherson again and invite him to a meeting once again. The members also praised the work carried out by the local Bus Eireann Staff and expressed their disappointment at the lack of adequate response from Bus Eireann.

Cllr. Conlon circulated a letter received from the 'Monaghan Has It' committee requesting funding from the Municipal District to cover such events as a Halloween Festival and a Christmas Festival. Following a short discussion, it was agreed by members to meet with the Committee at their earliest convenience; members of the press will also be invited to attend.

Ms. Frances Matthews circulated a document requesting approval of payment of an Annual Allowance of €6,000 to the Cathaoirleach. This was proposed by Cllr. Maxwell and seconded by Cllr. Gallagher.

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

It was agreed by members to send a get well card to former Cllr. Willie McKenna, sending their best wishes.

Congratulations were extended to the Rally team of Daniel McKenna and Arthur Kierans who recently won the British Championships in the Isle of Man.

Congratulations were also extended to Teach na nDaoine Resource Centre and adjoining communities whose local supermarket has been reopened.

Cllr. Treanor asked if he could raise an issue under any other business relating to a parking fine. Cllr. Conlon requested clarification on Any Other Business. Mr. Mc Elwain responded that Any Other Business is not provided for in the Standing Orders and that the parking query should be brought to the Municipal District Executive.

The meeting concluded.

Signed

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**Cathaoirleach**

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**Meetings Administrator**

**15<sup>th</sup> September, 2014.**