

Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on 15th September 2014 at 10am in the Ballybay Civic Offices, Main Street, Ballybay.

Members Present The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Ciara McPhillips, presided

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

In Attendance Kevin McNally, Municipal District Co-ordinator, Kieran Duffy, Executive Engineer, Angela Gallagher, Staff Officer, Eileen McManus, Clerical Officer, Monaghan County Council

Apologies Adge King, Director of Services, Frances Matthews Senior Staff Officer, Monaghan County Council

1. Confirmation of minutes of July monthly meeting

The minutes of the July monthly meeting (with amendments) were proposed by Cllr Pat Treanor and Seconded by Cllr Eugene Bannigan.

2. Matters arising from Previous Minutes

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to Page 2 of the AGM, nominations of members to the Clones Erne East Partnership and proposed holding a meeting in Clones Courthouse on Monday 22nd September 2014, at 7.30pm this was seconded by Cllr Seamus Coyle. Cllr Hugh McElvaney cannot attend and submitted his apologies.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to page 3 of the minutes, Local Improvement Scheme and requested that the name of the lane be added which is the lane at Dernahesco in Knockatallon and Corragunt in Co Fermanagh.

Cllr Seamus Coyle referred to Q1 on Page 3 regarding the bridge on Scotshouse/Treehoo Cross and the weight restriction of 7.5 tonnes, he believes that this weight restriction was put on by Cavan County Council and that Monaghan County Council should be liaising with them.

Cllr Ciara McPhillips referred to Q13 on page 6 and asked when this work would be commencing. Mr Kieran Duffy advised that the work would be commencing at the end of the month.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to Page 6 under AOB regarding establishing Clones Town as a free Wi-Fi town and asked for an update on this. Mr Kevin McNally stated that he understood that there were such zones in Drogheda and Enniskillen. Arising from discussions with relevant people in Drogheda and Enniskillen it appeared that the wifi zones were funded via local donations and grant assistance from the Department of Social Development in Northern Ireland respectively.

In order to develop the proposal for Clones there is further work to be carried out, such as costing of equipment, preliminary investigations, preparing a priority list for the Clones Town Area, employing

a technical advisor to progress the scheme. It was noted that there was no funding available for schemes of this nature. It could cost in the region of €10,000 - €15,000. Cllr Hugh McElvaney stated that the funding should come from the Department.

Cllr Eugene Bannigan referred to Page 7 Flood defence work at Ballybay and asked if the temporary car park was opened, he also requested that if so could the workmen on site be advised to use the alternative car park to alleviate the parking difficulties currently being experience at the Fairgreen Car Park. Mr Kieran Duffy confirmed that the temporary car park was in use, he also stated that the contactor was seeking to take charge of the full car park to enable them to complete the work, however the Council were objecting to this. Cllr Seamus Coyle asked if the Council would consider looking at other alternative parking in Ballybay while this work is ongoing to alleviate the parking difficulties on the Main Street. He also requested that the Council ensure that this work is completed by the end of November at the latest to ensure that this work does not have an adverse affect on the businesses in the town leading up to Christmas.

3. Correspondence

Communication Regulator

- 3.1 In relation to the response received from the Communication Regulator, the Members expressed their dissatisfaction with the reply and instruct that further letter be issued to the Communication Regulator advising them that they did not address the issues raised at the last meeting. They also requested that a letter be issued to the Planning Section suggesting that when a company wishes to install a mast that they are required to specify what area will be covered by the mast, the Town lands that this will benefit and that the company should be required to talk to and work with the Communities affected. The members requested that a letter is also issued to the Minister of Communications regarding these issues. This was proposed by Cllr Pat Treanor, seconded by Cllr Seamus Coyle and agreed by all.

3.2 GAA

A discussion took place amongst the Councillors regarding the letter received from the GAA. The overall consensus was that all the Members encourage and support the GAA, they commended Malachy O'Rourke and his team and are proud of their performance and wish them well in the future.

3.3 Irish Water

The Members expressed their disappointment in the response from Irish Water regarding hard water supplies in the Scotstown and Smithboro Area. The Members requested that a further letter issued to Irish Water expressing their dissatisfaction with their reply and noting that the people of Scotstown and Smithboro should not have to incur additional expenses in relation to hard water supplies. There should not be a charge for hard water and that all water supplies need to be of the same quality if Irish Water intend to charge. This was proposed by Cllr Cathy Bennett, seconded by Cllr Hugh McElvaney and agreed by all the members.

3.4 **Winter Maintenance**

The Members expressed their disappointment with the response from the Road & Transportation Section of the Council in relation to the salting of roads in the Knockatallon Area and requested a further letter to be issued requesting for their decision to be reconsidered. Cllr Cathy Bennett advised that salting part of the road was a dangerous practice and Cllr Ciara McPhillips advised that sometimes water springs up on the bog road and when this freezes it can make for dangerous driving conditions.

4. **Approval of Standing Orders**

This was proposed by Cllr Hugh McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Pat Treanor and agreed by all.

5. **Approval of Payment of Annual Allowance to the Cathaoirleach in accordance with circular LG12/2014 (Page 17)**

This was proposed by Cllr Hugh McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Eugene Bannigan and agreed by all.

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

Mr K McNally confirmed Monaghan County Council had transferred the operation and maintenance of the Peace link facility to the Community Group who originally initiated the project.

The contract for the fit out of the gym was awarded in early August to Expert Leisure based in Dublin. Delivery of some equipment is scheduled to commence tomorrow and will be completed by the end of the month.

The official opening of the facility will be undertaken by the President and will take place on Friday 26th September 2014. The invites have been issued and the Council is working in conjunction with the projects steering committee in order to finalise details for the opening.

Engineers Update

Mr Duffy gave an update on the works programme in the area. The engineer indicated that the County roads Improvement programme was approx 85% complete with works expected to be fully completed by the end of September. In addition, members were informed that the local and regional surface dressing program was completed as were the regional road strengthening works on the R189 at Swans Cross, the R188 on the approach to Swans cross, and the R183 Main Street Newbliss.

The engineer also informed the meeting 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.

In relation to flooding in Threemilehouse, Mr. Duffy advised that the Fisheries Board had raised concerns regarding the scheme design. The Council and its technical advisors were hoping to meet with the Fisheries Board shortly to resolve outstanding design issues. Commencement of this scheme was likely to be delayed.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney requested that the Council provide the Members with a follow up report after Mr Duffys meeting with the Fisheries Board.

Cllr Seamus Coyle raised a query regarding broadband in Ballybay and was advised by Mr McNally that an announcement had been made by Eircom which stated that Ballybay would be in the 1st quarter of 2015. Cllr Coyle welcomed this decision.

Cllr Cathy Bennett asked if there had been any confirmation that fibre optic cable went out as far as Knockatallon. Mr McNally advised that he understood that the Eircom fibre optic cable stopped at Scotstown Village. He was unaware if any such cable was in the Knockatallon area.

Cllr Eugene Bannigan raised the issue of potholes in some roads stating that roads were impassable particularly in Sreenty. Mr Duffy confirmed that this issue would be attended to. Cllr Ciara McPhillips advised all to raise such complaints directly with the office.

7. Town Twinning Osterhofen-Gergweis/Ballybay

Cllr Ciara McPhillips proposed that a representative from each party form a sub-committee and that the committee be provided with a report on what is involved with this and a meeting be arranged. The subcommittee also to consist of local community members from Ballybay. The following Councillors were nominated, Cllr Eugene Bannigan, Cllr Cathy Bennett, Cllr Seamus Coyle & Cllr Ciara McPhillips, this was proposed by Cllr Hugh McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Pat Treanor and agreed by all.

8. Questions

Cllr Cathy Bennett asked:

1. In relation to the cutting of hedges along roads where land is owned by Coillte. Has the Ballybay-Clones municipal district sent a letter to Coillte and what response was received? Have Coillte addressed the issue of overgrown hedges on the roads in the Ballybay-Clones MD, if not, when will this happen in the Ballybay-Clones electoral area. Are Coillte responsible for cutting all their land hedges each year? Hedges are particularly overgrown at Dernahesco and at the Rock bridge in Knockatallon where Coillte own both lands.

Reply This office wrote to Coillte on 21th July 2014 in connection with this issue and have followed this up reminders. It is the responsibility of all landowners to maintain their hedges so as not to impact on road safety. Coillte have advised the Council that this work will be carried out in the immediate future, however if it is not satisfactorily resolved The Council will use its statutory powers to ensure that the matter is addressed.

2. With regard to the Road at Dyan and Cornwall, Smithboro (L61603-0). Have Ballybay-Clones MD, examined this road and determined a suitable way to make improvements? This road is extremely dangerous at present and needs upgrading as soon as possible.

Reply This road at present is not on the Ballybay-Clones Municipal Districts multi-annual roads program. It will be possible to carry out some basic repair works such as

patching but as regards complete upgrading, the road would need to be placed on the Municipal Districts future multi-annual program and agreed to by the Municipal District elected members.

3. In relation to a previous question I submitted regarding sight visibility and the road speed at Corcaghan/Stradnooden crossroads at the old post office has any suitable resolution been sought to help with traffic calming here?

Reply This location may be suitable for a Low Cost Safety Improvement (LCSI) Scheme and will be added to a list of locations to be considered when LCSI funding becomes available.

4. As Dernahesco road, Knockatallon was previously on the roads plan, can Ballybay-Clones MD guarantee that this road will still be completed in same timeframe?

Reply It is the intention of the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District that any roads from the former electoral areas of Castleblayney, North Monaghan and Carrickmacross which were previously on a multi-annual roads program will be included for consideration in any subsequent Ballybay-Clones Municipal District multi-annual program. However, Ballybay-Clones Municipal District cannot guarantee that the Dernahesco Road will be completed within the same timeframe until the roads program has been approved by the Municipal Districts elected members and funding for the works has been secured.

5. In relations to traffic calming measures at Urbleshanny School, Scotstown, has Ballybay-Clones MD made any further inquiries to a suitable safety initiative?

Reply There have been a significant number of requests for similar type works throughout the Municipal District. Although there are existing traffic calming measures at the school this proposal can be added to the list of locations for consideration for additional measures when LCSI funding becomes available.

Cllr Ciara McPhillips asked:

6. Will Monaghan County Council consider works in Smithboro village in order to slow traffic travelling through the village? Can Monaghan County Council also raise this matter with An Garda Síochána?

Reply There are currently traffic calming measures in place in Smithboro village. As this is a National Secondary road this issue has been referred to the Roads Section of Monaghan County Council for consideration for additional traffic calming measures.

7. Can Monaghan County Council carry out remedial works to footpaths in the Mulladuff OPD estate in Smithboro and The Boyher estate in Rockcorry? I understand that such works are weather dependent and may not be suitable to do during the winter months.

Reply An inspection of the footpaths in Mullaghduff and Boyher estate will be carried out. Subsequent to completion of inspections and depending on the nature of the works it may be possible to carry out some remedial repairs at both locations.

8. Will Monaghan County Council provide an update or seek an update from Irish Water regarding the connection of houses on the Castleblayney road in Ballybay to the public sewerage system? I understand that households paid their contribution some months ago.

Reply The extension to the public sewer at this location should be complete by the end of November 2014 and at that stage all households who have paid their contributions will be allowed to connect to the sewer subject to standard conditions.

9. Does Monaghan County Council intend to erect a bus stop in Newbliss village for school students waiting on the bus to Largy College? I am advised that this was previously proposed in 2012 and was to be erected on the left hand side of the Clones road.

Reply Currently Monaghan County Council has no plans to erect a bus stop in Newbliss village as there is no funding stream at present to carry out such works.

Cllr Pat Treanor asked:

10. What is the current update on the 8 new houses to be constructed on Mc Curtain Street, Clones? When will construction begin? When will they be complete?

Reply Due to insurance bond issues Monaghan County Council could not appoint the contractor that submitted the lowest tender. The Council received approval from the Department to appoint the contractor placed second however the second placed contractor has no bond in place yet which is leading to a further delay. When a bond is provided it is the Council's intention to appoint the second placed contractor. It is hoped that the contractor will be appointed before the end of September 2014 and that construction will commence in October 2014 with completion by September 2015.

11. Has the Council or a Housing Association tried to buy the new houses at An Eanaigh, Millbrook, Clones, which have been unoccupied for a number of years? What progress has been made?

Reply Oaklee Housing Trust has made an application for funding to purchase 6no houses at An Eanaigh, Lissegerton, Clones. Monaghan County Council submitted an appraisal to the Department on 12 August 2014 in support of the Oaklee Housing Trust application. The Department's decision on the application is awaited and it is hoped that approval to proceed with the purchases will issue before the end of September 2014.

12. Will Monaghan County Council clean up the back lane to the left going up O'Neill Park, Clones? This would alleviate parking problems on the road in front of the houses.

Reply Although Monaghan County Council can carry out some basic works on this laneway the council would recommend against upgrading the back lane at O'Neill Park to facilitate vehicular access. The width and layout of this lane would not facilitate such traffic movements on health and safety grounds.

13. When can Scotshouse Close, Scotshouse, be taken in charge? What is the process involved and how is it started? What do the residents need to do? In the absence of the developer, can the Council address safety issues in the estate, like lights being off and speeding traffic?

Reply An application to have the application taken in charge may be made to the Council by the developer, or the majority of house owners. Details of this process are contained in Monaghan County Councils document 'Taking in Charge Procedures for Private Housing Developments'

The Planning Authority has not to date received an application to have this development taken in charge.

The responsibility for the maintenance of infrastructure within a development remains with the developer until such times as it may be taken in charge.

14. When will Monaghan County Council erect lights and a footpath between Bawn cross and the new handball alley along the R162, in the interest of public safety?

Reply Due to funding constraints there are no plans to provide a footpath and public lighting at this location. Regarding footpaths and public lighting in the Municipal District as a whole it is the intention to draw up listing of such works required in the District and to seek agreement at a subsequent roads meeting on the prioritisation of such works.

9. Chief Executive Orders

Chief Executive Order No 14/2, 14/3 & 14/4 were noted by the members

10. Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy

The members extended a Vote of Sympathy to the families on the death of the following:

Liam Rooney, Clonkeencole

Bobby Sheering, Clonmore Clones

Congratulations

Congratulations to the following:-

Latton O’Rahilly GAA Club on winning the minor league Div 3 title. U14 Sheild and U12 double

Aughnamullen Ladies GAA Club on winning the Junior Championship 2014 title

Daniel McKenna and Arthur Kierans on winning the 2014 Official MSA British Rally Championship

11. AOB

It was proposed by Cllr Seamus Coyle, seconded by Cllr Cathy Bennett and agreed by all that the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones calls in writing to An Taoiseach Enda Kenny T.D., the minister for Energy and Communications and the Government to direct Eirgrid to fully underground the proposed North-South 400 Kv interconnector.

It was agreed by all that after the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District meeting in October which will be held in the Courthouse in Clones, that a meeting to discuss the 2015 Roads Programme will take place directly after this.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney raised concerns regarding the ramp at the Secondary School in Ballybay on the Carrickmacross Road. He stated that signs are covered by trees, the ramps need to be repainted, the red lights shows green and the signs are not visible at night time and could the Council consider electronic signs. Mr Kieran Duffy advised that the Council would investiage these issues.

This concluded the business of the meeting .