

Municipal District of Monaghan

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held in the Boardroom, MTek1 Building, Knockaconny on Monday 16th January, 2017 at 3.00pm.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. David Maxwell presided.

Present: Cllrs. Sean Conlon, Raymond Aughey, Brian McKenna, Seamus Treanor and Paudge Connolly.

In Attendance: John Murray, Director of Services, Dermot Deeney, Municipal District Engineer, Matthew Lambe, Assistant Engineer, Bernie McElvaney, Senior Staff Officer, Bernie McMahan, Assistant Staff Officer, Monaghan Municipal District.

At the outset, Cllr Maxwell informed the members that An Gardai would like to meet to discuss proposals for a CCTV Scheme in Monaghan Town. Wednesday, 25th January at 10.30am, at the Garda Station. All agreed.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Municipal District Meeting

On the proposal of Cllr. Brian McKenna, seconded by Cllr. Seamus Treanor, it was agreed that the minutes of the Municipal District of Monaghan meeting held on 19th December, 2016 be confirmed.

2. Matters Arising

Cllr Conlon asked when the lights at Beech Hill Pedestrian Crossing would be switched on to which Mr Deeney responded that lights are now on.

Cllr Connolly asked with regard to the Watermain Rehabilitation works in Monaghan Town had we approached the Contractor in relation to extending the working hours to which Mr Murray responded that we have no influence over the contractor but we will write to Irish Water regarding the matter.

3. Report from Municipal District Co-Ordinator

In the absence of Mr McElwain, Cllr Maxwell asked the members to read the report and raise any points with the Executive. Cllr Conlon asked in relation to the Activation Scheme, are there any plans in place for the transition when this scheme ends. Mr Deeney responded that the Scheme will finish in July and hope that two seasonal staff will be employed.

Cllr McKenna requested that the minutes of the Rossmore Stakeholders meetings be forwarded to them so that they know what is going on. Cllr Maxwell responded that himself and some of the stakeholders had met with the Consultants last Saturday to examine different locations in the Park on bikes. The Consultants, Paul Hogarth Company, is hoping to bring the Masterplan to our MD meeting in April.

Cllr Conlon asked had the Tenders for the Trails been finalised and was there an allocation of €50,000 this year to which Mr Deeney responded that works are commencing on the 23rd January. Mr Murray responded that the Municipal District has provided €50,000 in this year's budget, the same as last year. A provisional letter of offer for funding of €300,000 has also been received for the development of a playground there.

Cllr Aughey welcomed the Monaghan Town Business Awards night to be held on Thursday, 19th January, 2017.

Cllr Connolly asked could a sign be erected for the public to see the Garden of Remembrance location. He also asked was there any feedback on the free WiFi in the town.

All members agreed a date for the St Patrick's Day committee meeting to be held on Thursday, 2nd February in the Town Hall at 7.30pm.

Cllr Treanor asked could ownership of the area behind Europa be checked as it is covered in the Japanese Knotweed. Mr Murray responded that ownership will be established and owners contacted.

Cllr Connolly advised that there are a lot of accidents at Skinnagin due to the oil seeping from the Japanese Knotweed and asked could a track be dug to let oil escape. Mr Deeney responded that the weed at this location was sprayed is dead.

Cllr Maxwell informed the members that Glaslough has been nominated to enter the 2017 Edition of Entente Florale and that funding will be required at a later stage. All agreed that this is a great honour and should be supported.

Cllr Maxwell commended the outdoor staff on going out in the cold conditions in the New Year. Cllr Connolly asked what precautions are taken when shower of rain falls after salting then freezes after, and queried the policy on salting housing estates. Mr Deeney responded that it is the Duty Engineer who decides if salting is required who is linked to the weather station. Cllr Maxwell responded that if estate is private, the residents buy the salt.

Cllr Conlon asked that road numbers LT32001 and LS7420 be placed on the Agenda for Roads meeting. Mr Deeney responded that the Roads Programme is already adopted until 2018.

Cllr Connolly asked had any action been taken on property owners allowing water to run off their site onto the public road to which Mr Deeney responded that if we identify or are informed of such issues, we will write to the owners to regularise the situation.

Questions and Motions

Cllr Aughey asked:

1. In light of the most recent IBAL report and the progress made in regaining the town's previous high standing in the anti-litter league what plans does the council have to address sites that have received a lower grade - such as the Diamond Car Park, Peters Lake and particularly areas around recycling bins and bring banks which have become a persistent problem?

Response: The Municipal District carries out extensive sweeping and scavenging throughout the town. The Tidy Towns also have carried out works through the town. It is welcome to see that areas that received lower rating in the past have received higher ratings, six sites with Grade A ratings with an overall standard of clean to European norms. Again the Municipal District will target any area receiving lower grades and appeal to the general public not to litter our town.

2. What is the current state of affairs with regard to the Watermain Rehabilitation Contract and when will Monaghan County Council be in a position to start work on the roads around Monaghan Town which are in an unacceptable state of repair?

Response: Irish Water are currently progressing contract award for the Monaghan Water Rehabilitation contract. Contract award is scheduled to be completed in Q1 2017. Under the contract Irish Water will be requested to carry out full lane reinstatement. The Road section will be again seeking TII funding to relay roads that are not part of the Irish Water reinstatement.

3. With regard to Clar funding for the car park at Emylough when does the council expect to be in a position to proceed with the project?

Response: The Municipal District has met with the Emylough Development group to agree works.

It is planned to have works completed by Q1 2017.

4. Has the Roads Section made a funding application to the NRA for the Corlat Roundabout since the completion of landscaping at the other two roundabouts on the Monaghan Town Bypass?

Response: An application will be made for funding for landscaping works on N2 Corlat roundabout. Our application for funding in 2016 was unsuccessful.

Cllr Conlon asked:

For the purpose of enhancing Tidy Town endeavours, will Council Executive correspond with the owners of the derelict petrol station on the Dublin Rd seeking reinstatement, and effective anchoring, of security fencing that regularly collapses?

Response: The Municipal District will contact the owners of this site to ensure the security fence is properly anchored and the site is cleaned up.

Motions:

Cllr Seamus Treanor advised that the following motion was passed at the County Council meeting and withdrew the motion:

“That this Council write to Dublin North HSE asking for an explanation as to why no ambulance service in the Cavan Monaghan area was available on the 28th December, 2016. A lady received serious injury in her home where she lay for nearly 2.5 hours waiting for an ambulance which had to travel from Longford. This is totally unacceptable and this issue needs to be addressed, so no other family will face the trauma they suffered”.

Cllr Connolly proposed:

“That in view of the fact that Emyvale is the only town or village that is not bypassed on route from Dublin and the fact that speeding traffic entering and passing through the village is problematic that Monaghan Municipal District calls on the TII to introduce traffic calming measures on the Monaghan side of the village and the introduction of speed activated traffic lights at both entry points to the village”.

Cllr. Connolly gave a brief outline of this proposal. A discussion took place on the motion and it was unanimously carried.

Cllr Sean Conlon proposed:

“In anticipation of the commencement of the final phase of the Mullaghmatt Remedial Scheme, that the Council’s Housing Section make a presentation of proposed works at the next Municipal District meeting”.

Cllr Conlon gave a brief outline of his proposal and it was unanimously carried. Mr Murray informed the members that a Presentation will be given at the next meeting and the Housing Agency will attend.

7. Correspondence

Motion dated 22nd December, 2016 regarding a grant programme for the installation of public lighting from Ballybay-Clones Municipal District.

Letter dated 20th December, 2016 from Department of Finance in relation to our motion regarding private pension funds.

Letter dated 9th January, 2017 from the Minister from Justice and Equality regarding the case of Brian Hennessy.

8. Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to Marese McCarra, Mullaghmore Equestrian Centre on winning a recent Award and to wish her well in the future. All members wished to be associated with the sentiments.

Congratulations were extended also to all the Co Monaghan students who took part in the young scientists event during the week, especially Caólan Maguire whose project to assist Alzheimers sufferers was highly commended.

9. Sympathy

Sympathy was extended to the family of Charlie Cassidy, Tyholland.

Other business:

Cllr McKenna referred to correspondence circulated at a meeting in June 2016 in relation to an anti-litter pilot signage programme and asked for it to be placed back on the Agenda.

Cllr Connolly asked for the pedestrian lights on North Road to be checked as they seem to be red all the time.

Cllr Maxwell referred to a post on social media voicing annoyance that the Municipal District hired out Belgium Park to Monaghan Rugby Club. Mr Deeney responded that this is a public amenity that anyone can rent the Park and the use is not tied to any particular sport, signage on site to this affect. Booking the Park is by first comes first served. Cllr Conlon stated that the sentiments of the original post were acceptable but the follow on comments on broader issues is not acceptable. Cllr Conlon added that the use of social media to denigrate others and to show lack of respect to our members is not acceptable when there are great efforts made by our members to ensure there is ample space to enjoy activities for both young and old.

Urgent Motion:

Cllr Conlon proposed:

“That Monaghan Municipal District seek of the Minister for Transport, Deputy Shane Ross, The National Transport Authority and Bus Eireann to desist from downgrading rural bus links such as the Expressway Service. Please circulate to all Local Authorities”.

Cllr Conlon outlined the motion and referred to a report by consultants Grant Thornton and their recommendations which give serious rise for concern. A discussion took place on the motion.

The motion was seconded by Cllr McKenna. All members agreed that the motion should be circulated to all Local Authorities.

Mr Murray advised the members that the Chief Executive asked that any motions discussed and agreed at MD level would not be forwarded to the County Council for a similar debate as this was a duplication.

The meeting concluded.

Dated this 16th Day of January, 2017

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Meetings Administrator