

Municipal District of Monaghan

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held in the Council Chamber, M-Tek building, Knockaconny, Monaghan on Monday, 17th July, 2017 at 3.00pm.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Paudge Connolly presided.

Present: Cllrs. David Maxwell, Brian McKenna, Seamus Treanor, Sean Conlon and David Maxwell.

Apologies: Cllr. Raymond Aughey

In Attendance: John Murray, Director of Services, Donal McElwain, Municipal District Co-ordinator, Dermot Deeney, Municipal District Engineer, Bernie McMahon, Staff Officer.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr. McKenna, seconded by Cllr. Maxwell, it was agreed that the minutes of the Municipal District of Monaghan meeting held on 19th June, 2017 be confirmed.

2. Matters arising:

Cllr Connolly congratulated the I.T. Section on providing live streaming access to the Country Music Festival via the Monaghan County Council website.

Mr. Murray advised members that he had been in contact with the Housing Section regarding the delay on the return of documents from Wells & O'Carroll Solrs and had requested that documents be returned in a more timely fashion.

3. Report from Municipal District co-ordinator:

Mr McElwain outlined his report which was circulated to the members and answered questions raised.

Cllr. Connolly congratulated the organising committee, volunteers, Gardai, Civil Defence, Monaghan Municipal District and Monaghan County Council for another successful Country Music Festival.

Members congratulated the organising committee and people of Glaslough on their participation in the Entente Florale competition. Awards will be decided in September. Mr. McElwain advised members that RTE's Nationwide programme will highlight the event on Monday evening, 17th July 2017.

Cllr. Conlon gave an update on the recent successful Canada Day Event and advised that a large contingent of Canadian visitors will be in Monaghan at events in September and October.

Members requested if the car parking strategy could be revisited, particularly in relation to the number of long term parking spaces.

Mr. McElwain updated members on the current activities of the Town Team, in particular the status of the town voucher scheme and gave a brief outline of their achievements to date. Cllr. Connolly reiterated that the town voucher scheme is a year round scheme. Members congratulated the team on their success at the ATCM UK & Ireland National Awards.

Mr. McElwain gave members an update on the Roads Program for 2017 and responded to questions raised.

Members queried delays in minor road repairs that had been reported. Mr. McElwain responded that he would investigate these. Mr. Deeney advised members that the council is still negotiating with land owners at Dundian and that the design is available for viewing. Cllr. Treanor requested an update on Japanese knotweed. Mr. Deeney replied that letters were sent to all landowners. Cllr. Seamus Treanor also requested that hedges at the Cathedral and at Cornacassa are cut.

Mr. McElwain distributed sample pouches for holding parking tickets. Cllr. Connolly queried if these would be provided free of charge and the MD could possibly look for sponsorship in the future. Members agreed.

Cllr. Treanor requested an update on a manhole in Dublin Street and near St. Macartans College and queried if the repairs could be expedited. Mr. McElwain replied that the MD is unable to repair the manhole on Dublin Street as it belongs to Enet but that the MD would contact Enet again to get these works completed.

4. Questions and Answers:

Cllr Connolly asked:

1) Following on from the recent study in relation to parking in Monaghan town and in order to increase car parking volumes closer to retail outlets in Dublin St will Monaghan MD consider relocating long stay car parking in the Lower Courthouse car park directly behind Dublin St to an area closer to the lower exit from the car park between the bottle bank and the rear of the Credit Union?

Response:

Monaghan MD is awaiting the final publication of the Monaghan Car Parking Strategy document and this request will take the recommendations from it into consideration.

2) To ask Monaghan M D for an update in relation to the Water Mains Rehabilitation works programme being carried out in Monaghan town?

Response:

This question has been forwarded to Irish Water for an update; to date no formal response has been received. In general the contractor is ahead of program for the pipe laying element of the works. A detailed update will be available for the next meeting.

3) To ask Monaghan MD for an update in relation to the works schedule/commencement date for the proposed N54 Clones Road Pavement Scheme and whether it is hoped to have the scheme completed prior to the return of school traffic in September?

Response:

Phase 1 - R186 to Monaghan Retail Park Junction works to commence 20th July approx. 5 weeks duration.

Phase 2 - R186 to Margret Skinnadar Roundabout to be tendered yet with potential start date in September.

Cllr Conlon asked:

1) Further to the question I submitted last September that sought improvement of pedestrian safety along one of the busiest walkways in Monaghan at the location of the Courthouse and St Patrick's Church in Church Square, will Council relocate the current sub standard speed ramps to the southern side of this archway that will ensure safer access for both pedestrian and vehicle users?

Response:

Additional road markings were installed on the existing ramp recently which is on the southern side of the archway and safety has been improved. The MD will also investigate locating an additional ramp on the northern side of the archway.

2) Following the meeting held between this Council and residents of Knockroe Glen, what processes have been agreed between the site developer, residents, and Council that will ensure estate management issues such as grass cutting and maintenance will be effectively managed?

Response:

"The Planning Authority highlights that condition no. 9 of permission references 15/381 & 16/420 (which grant permission for the dwellings as currently under-construction in Knockroe) requires the developer to agree details with the Planning Authority relating to the private management of the housing development specifically in relation to ongoing maintenance of the roads, services and open spaces in the period prior to the taking in charge of the development by the local authority or as otherwise agreed in writing with the Planning Authority.

Cllr. Conlon queried if the item could be put back on the agenda to ensure grass cutting and maintenance is addressed.

The Planning Authority has requested details regarding management of the estate from the developer under the requirements of the aforementioned conditions and will ensure management details regarding open space are agreed and put in place".

3) Following the unsuccessful Clar application submitted by Annyalla National School seeking installation of road safety and traffic calming measures, will Council undertake to install speed ramps and signage at the earliest opportunity and further, provide support to the school in additional steps required to optimise student safety and increasing population in the area?

Response:

The MD will refer the proposals for the installation of road safety and traffic calming measures to the Roads Department for consideration for funding under the 2018 low cost safety scheme.

4) Considering the multi-agency approach required in tackling the scourge of littering and the exorbitant costs and taxpayer burden associated with preventative measures and retrieval, will this council once again seek the cooperation and participation of the

Department of Justice Community Services Scheme with a view to creating additionality to efforts coordinated through Monaghan County Council?

Response:

The Municipal District has been in contact with the Community Service Scheme and the necessary paperwork is in place to enable commencement of community service work.

Cllr. Conlon replied that he looked forward to this being addressed at the September meeting of the Municipal District.

Cllr Aughey asked:

1. Can the council give an update on the current work being done on the water mains in the town and state whether it is on schedule?

Response:

This question has been forwarded to Irish Water for an update; to date no formal response has been received. In general the contractor is ahead of program for the pipelaying element of the works. A detailed update will be available for the next meeting.

2. Can the council look at signage in the vicinity of the Coolshannagh Roundabout and Montfort housing estate to provide clarity to motorists who are mistaking the entrance to the estate for the Four Seasons Hotel on a regular basis, in some cases due to sat nav errors.

Response:

The MD will investigate the need for a fingerpost sign at the entrance to this estate.

3. Can the council

a. describe the current regime in Monaghan Town and the approach roads with regard to the collection of litter on a daily basis and b. Can the council deal with litter, including cans, bottles and schoolbags in the water under the bridges along the Greenway?

Response:

a. The road sweeper attends to the roads in the urban environs 3 days a week and there are two staff engaged in sweeping and scavenging in the town on a full time basis.

Additional staff are included as required or when the resources are available.

b. Litter was removed from the water under the bridges along the greenway.

Motions:

"That in view of the historic significance of the road T junction known locally as "The American Cross" dating back to the mid 1800's and the fact that it was a meeting point for people prior to emigrating to America and to ensure that the name lives on into the future that a plaque and citation be erected at the junction of the L1000 & R186 Clontycasta, Tydavnet formally naming this junction as "The American Cross". Cllr Paudge Connolly

This was seconded by Cllr. Brian McKenna and all members agreed.

"That this Council consider the request from Fr McGuinness, parish of Tyholland to grant €15,000 for repairs to Car Park and road at St Patrick's Church, Tyholland" Cllr Seamus Treanor.

Cllr. Treanor referred to correspondence from Monsignor McGuinness requesting €15,000 for repairs to the car park at St. Patrick's Church, Tyholland. Members were advised that

this is privately owned land and therefore the Municipal District would not be able to grant funding. A brief discussion followed however, agreement was not reached. Cllr. Treanor requested for a roll call vote to decide the matter. The result was as follows; For: Cllr. Connolly and Cllr. Treanor. Against; Cllr. Conlon, Cllr. Maxwell and Cllr. McKenna. The motion was defeated.

5. Correspondence

Letter dated 22nd June, 2017 from Annyalla National School, Parents Association seeking assistance with improving road safety at the school. Following a brief discussion, Cllr. McKenna queried if members could meet with the school representatives. This was seconded by Cllr. David Maxwell. Members requested that the meeting is organised for the same date that they meet to speak about the improvement works to Scotstown Road Junction. Mr. McElwain agreed to arrange and clarified that an Engineer from the Municipal District had already been in contact with the Parents Association.

6. Sympathy/Congratulations:

Congratulations were extended to Sliabh Beagh Swimming Club on the recent achievements in Holland.

Best wishes were extended to the Monaghan football team on their upcoming match.

Other business:

Cllr. Treanor referred to anti-social behaviour that he had recently been made aware of in some of the housing estates in the town. Mr. Murray replied that he was unaware of it in his capacity as Director of Housing and that a recent meeting of the JPC had not highlighted it either. He also advised that should he be able to establish that it was one of our tenants that was responsible, this would be passed to the Gardai immediately.

Cllr. Maxwell advised that he wished to highlight the issue of rip-off car insurance and would be bringing it to the next meeting of the Municipal District.

The meeting concluded.

Dated this 17th Day of July, 2017

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Meetings Administrator