

Municipal District of Monaghan

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held in the Conference Room, County Offices, Monaghan on Monday, 18th September, 2017 at 10.00am.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Paudge Connolly presided.

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

In Attendance: John Murray, Director of Services, Donal McElwain, Municipal District Co-ordinator, Matthew Lambe, Municipal District Engineer, Bernie McElvaney, Senior Staff Officer.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr. McKenna, seconded by Cllr. Aughey, it was agreed that the minutes of the Municipal District of Monaghan meeting held on 17th July, 2017 be confirmed.

2. Matters arising:

Cllr Conlon enquired of the status of Dummies Lane to which Mr McElwain responded that Barry Healy solicitor has taken over and will progress the matter.

Cllr McKenna advised that there is still a delay with the Council's solicitor to which Mr Murray responded that he will follow up on cases.

Cllr Treanor asked for an update on the Japanese Knotweed to which Mr McElwain responded that letters were issued but problems with finding the owners.

Cllr Conlon advised that there is also a problem of Japanese Knotweed at Jackson's corner, Ardaghy.

Cllr Conlon asked had the 1st phase of Knockroe Glen been taken in charge. He added that there should be measures in place to ensure proper maintenance and cutting of grass. The tenants there need an area of recreation and activity. He added that the cutting of grass in the town is inadequate and should be cut more frequently.

Cllr Connolly stated that additional staff is required for grass cutting. Mr McElwain responded that weather was a major problem this year with a very wet summer; also staff were diverted to roads during surface dressing and advised that a new Lawnmower has been ordered. Cllr Treanor stated that spraying of weeds is also required more frequently to which Mr McElwain responded that there is a spray is carried out twice a year.

Cllr Conlon asked for update on the Community Service Scheme to which Mr McElwain advised that it has commenced. Cllr Conlon will forward a report to be sent to the Courts Service. Mr Murray to check with the Union regarding works that can be done by Community Scheme.

Cllr Connolly stated that the members met with the Annyalla School Board of Management and witnessed on site the speed of traffic at the school. Mr Lambe confirmed that road markings have commenced. Cllr McKenna asked could the planning application be expedited which will add parking that will relieve some of the problems.

3. Community Facilities Scheme 2017

Cllr Maxwell informed the members that LCDC had set up a committee and there is €66,000 in the fund. He proposed that we accept their recommendations and this was seconded by Cllr Connolly. All members agreed.

4. Report from Municipal District co-ordinator:

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

Cllr Connolly congratulated Glaslough Tidy Towns on their tremendous achievement to win Gold in the Entente Florale Competition in Slovenia. It shows the culture and pride in the community. He added that nine European countries took part. All members joined in the congratulations and added that it was a tribute to all the Stakeholders. It was proposed that Monaghan County Council arrange a Civic Reception.

In relation to the Car Parking Strategy, Cllr Conlon would like to see a specific Policy in place around replacement arrangements to compensate for the loss of spaces that occur because of marquees and amusements associated with festivals.

Cllr Maxwell requested that the Car parking Strategy be circulated to the members and a Special meeting be convened to consider the Strategy. He added that the LUTS report was to be ready in April and still no sign of it in September and queried the delay. Mr McElwain responded that they have sent back comments to the consultants in relation to the Car Parking Strategy and sections of the report need recommendations. He added that McNally's Car Park can be used.

Mr Murray stated that the LUTS was presented to the Management Team and was sent back to Roads Section for additional investigation. He added that the decision on the Peace Campus is due in December will be a huge factor for the Strategy.

Cllr Treanor stated that the amusements should be in McNally's Car park.

Cllr Maxwell asked that Amusements at Festival time be discussed at the meeting in October. Cllr Aughey also asked that we look at the provision of facilities for Motor homes. In relation to Scotstown Road Junction, Cllr Conlon sought clarification and confirmation to future proof access to Elliot's lands, that it be put to creative use to benefit the community. He asked that Mr McKernan be referred and Mr McElwain and Mr Lambe to study and access potential for this project.

Cllr Treanor asked could dangerous trees at Beechgrove Lawns be checked. He asked for public lighting to be installed from Mullaghdun to Cornacassa with the new footpath.

Cllr Aughey praised the works carried out on Dawson Street area and said that the removal of overhead cables on the North Road should be the next 'port of call'.

Cllr Treanor asked that the MD Executive contact the Planning Authority and request that the Derelict Sites Act legislation be invoked to have the situation at Forest Walk, Cortolvin resolved.

5. Questions and Answers:

Cllr Connolly asked:

1) What plans have Monaghan M D to upgrade Oriel Play Park an amenity which is heavily used by the people of the Cortolvin/Mullaghmatt area?

Response: The Monaghan MD will continue to seek funding for the upgrade of this amenity and other amenities within the district.

2) To ask Monaghan M D for an update in relation to Phase 2 of the proposed the N54 Clones Road Pavement Scheme and the Tydavnet Road Junction?

Response: Phase 2 - R186 to Margret Skinnadar Roundabout Pavement scheme to be tendered with a potential start date in late October.

Works to commence in late October on the new layout for the Scotstown road/ Clones road junction. The junction to be re aligned to join the Clones road at right angle.

3) In view of the damage caused during heavy storms in Monaghan town what plans have Monaghan M D to ensure that dredging of the Shambles River is undertaken to help reduce the impact of flooding in Monaghan town?

Response: The Monaghan MD made an application for Funding to the OPW to carry out maintenance works to this channel. As this application was unsuccessful it is to be revisited and a further application made. Substantial works were carried out late last year to clear the drainage system from the McNally Car Park to the open channel of the Shambles River.

Cllr Treanor asked:

1) Are Monaghan County Council still willing to buy houses in and around Monaghan town and the North Monaghan area?

Response: Monaghan County Council has purchased 21 houses to date in 2017 and is in the process of purchasing a further 27 houses throughout County Monaghan one third of which are in the Monaghan Municipal District. In addition in 2017 Monaghan County Council has purchased 16 newly built houses under Turnkey contracts in Monaghan Town and a further 23 social houses are currently under construction; 18 in Monaghan Town and 5 in Smithborough. It is intended that a further 12 vacant unfinished houses will be purchased in the North Monaghan area under additional Turnkey contracts and, in the week ending 15 September 2017, Monaghan County Council will be making a Part 8 Planning Submission for 43 Social Houses at Latlorcan. Given the shortage of supply of new private houses Monaghan County Council will be forced to reduce the number of houses being purchased for social housing purposes and increase supply through Turnkey Contracts / New Builds. Subject to Department funding a small number of houses will probably continue to be purchased in and around Monaghan Town and the North Monaghan area to address specific housing needs that may not be addressed through Turnkey contracts / New Builds.

Cllr Aughey asked:

1) Can the MD state if there are any plans to upgrade the public lighting in Mullaghmatt?

Response: Subject to Department approval it is intended that public lighting at Mullaghmatt will be upgraded under Phase 4 of the Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme. At the Monaghan County Council Meeting on 4 September 2017 Part 8 Planning was approved for

Phase 4 of the Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme. An application for approval to proceed to Tender Stage for Phase 4 of the Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme including public lighting upgrade was submitted to the Department in August 2017. Monaghan County Council expects to get a response from the Department before the end of September 2017.

2) Can the MD clarify if there are any plans in place to upgrade the Astro-pitch and Play Park in Mullaghmatt?

Response: The Monaghan MD will continue to seek funding for the upgrade of this amenity and other amenities within the District.

3) Can the MD clarify how often Council owned houses are inspected in Monaghan MD and what is the schedule/procedure for same?

Response: Monaghan County Council Housing Section has responsibility for the maintenance of 1,500 social houses in County Monaghan including 540 social houses in Monaghan MD. Housing Staff & Contractors visit up to a 340 properties in each municipal district per year and during the visit undertake a visual inspection of the property.

4) With regard to traffic measures in Monaghan town

a. Can the MD investigate the implementation of traffic calming measures in the 50km zone from the Corlatt Roundabout into town and in the opposite direction?

Response: The MD will undertake a review of the Dublin Road from the Corlatt Roundabout into town to identify areas of concern with a view to developing potential traffic calming measures.

b. Can the MD clarify the current position in regard to the delay at the pedestrian crossing at Dinkin's Corner to Dawson Street and if there are any plans in place to get this fixed?

Response: The traffic light contractor carried out repairs to these pedestrian lights which has reduced the delay for pedestrians using the crossing.

Cllr Conlon asked:

1) With increasingly high volumes of business, residential and pedestrian related traffic movements on the Dublin Rd near the Corlatt roundabout, will Council undertake the installation of traffic calming measures in an effort at enhancing road traffic safety?

Response: The MD will discuss the implementation of additional traffic calming measures in the vicinity of the N2 Corlatt Roundabout with the Roads Section as any potential proposals will need to be agreed with and approved by the TII.

2) Following on from works at Rossmore Park earlier this year in upgrading trails and paths, what measures are scheduled in an effort at controlling extensive grass and weed overgrowth and restore the landscaped improvements that have regrettably deteriorated?

Response: Works have commenced on trimming the smaller trails and the verges and branches are to be trimmed back along the main paths within the next 3 weeks. The council are currently working on a signage scheme for the park and it is planned to commence installation by end September.

3) With the Council recently acquiring lands and houses at Latlorcan, what progress is being made on the publication of a design and development plan, and scheduling of a public consultation opportunity for this extensive site?

Response: Monaghan County Council has procured consultants to prepare a Draft Master Plan for land in the ownership of the Council at Latlorcan. It is intended that the Draft

Master Plan will include 43 Social Houses, open/recreation space, a crèche and potential sites for private houses. A separate Part 8 Planning submission for 43 Social Houses at Latlorcan is currently being prepared and will be submitted in the week ending 15 September 2017. The feasibility of developing private sites for sale to individuals who wish to construct their own houses is also being considered. It is intended that a Draft Master Plan will be available for consultation before the end of 2017.

4) Further to my question from November 2016 seeking for the optimum standards of road user safety and layout prevails at the Tyholland chapel junction on the N12, what response have the Roads Section received from Transport Infrastructure Ireland regarding a Road Safety Assessment being undertaken at this busy junction?

Response: The Roads Section has requested a site visit from the new TII safety inspector to discuss the issue and is currently waiting on a date.

5) With a lapse of several years since the Council carried out any improvements works at the Oriel Play Park, will Council Executive initiate steps towards securing funds for new play equipment and pitch surfacing?

Response: The Monaghan MD will continue to seek funding for the upgrade of this amenity and other amenities within the District.

Motions:

“That the Monaghan Municipal District call on the Minister of Finance not to increase the duty on diesel fuel as it would be detrimental to rural areas and the border counties especially now as sterling is almost on par with the euro”

Cllr Seamus Treanor

Cllr Treanor outlined his motion which was seconded by Cllr Conlon. All agreed

“In an effort to improve the lives and wellbeing of our Deaf and Hard of hearing citizens, that this Council calls on the Government to give official recognition status to ISL, Irish Sign Language”

Cllr Sean Conlon

Cllr Conlon outlined his motion and requested it to be circulated to all Local authorities in the country. It was seconded by Cllr Maxwell. All agreed.

6. Correspondence

Email from Emer Brennan, Monaghan Tidy Towns requesting a Presentation at our October Meeting

Email from Longford delegation to meet on 20th September

Email from Irish Water advising a member of their team will respond in relation to Monaghan Town Water Mains Rehabilitation works.

7. Sympathy:

Sympathy was extended to the following:

The Askin family on the death of their son Gary Askin.

John Murray, Director of Services, on the death of his mother, Ann

The Crudden family on the death of their father, Thomas

The meeting concluded.

Dated this 18th Day of September, 2017

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Meetings Administrator