

## Municipal District of Monaghan

### **Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held in the Conference Room, County Offices, Monaghan on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 at 3.30pm.**

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Paudge Connolly presided.

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

**Apologies:** Cllr Raymond Aughey.

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

At the outset, Cllr Connolly complimented the Christmas Lights Committee and announced that Monaghan MD will contribute €5,500 towards the Annual Christmas Lights Switch On and wished them all the best on Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> November. He asked the public to shop local as businesses are employers who provide employment to so many local people including students. He added that Monaghan Town Vouchers are a great success, all shops are using the vouchers and now this has extended to villages. In conjunction, free parking has been extended from 10<sup>th</sup> December to 2<sup>nd</sup> January inclusive from 12 noon daily.

#### **1. Confirmation of Minutes:**

On the proposal of Cllr. Conlon, seconded by Cllr. Maxwell, it was agreed that the minutes of the Municipal District of Monaghan meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 be confirmed.

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

Cllr Conlon stated that the Haunting of Rossmore Park was an inaugural phenomenal event which was attended by approximately 1000 people, no negativity and was a great success. Most empowering was the participation of young people who volunteered their time, congratulations to all concerned. Cllr Connolly agreed with Cllr Conlon and stated that this will be a calendar event each year and thanked all the volunteers.

#### **3. Report from Municipal District Co-ordinator:**

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

Cllr Connolly welcomed the early finish by Irish Water Rehabilitation Contractor which was due to the members agreeing a change in the contract to work longer hours over the summer months. Snagging work is now being completed.

Cllr Maxwell added that there will be a six month settlement period and roads will be reinstated in Spring 2018.

Cllr Treanor asked had anyone investigated the trees in Beechgrove to which Mr Deeney responded that an Engineer is looking at this.

Cllr McKenna advised that a meter box in Dublin Street is loose and very dangerous to which Cllr Connolly responded that this will be included in the snag list.

Cllr Conlon advised that the road markings at Annyalla School are not helping the speed problem there. Cllr Treanor suggested speed cameras at this location.

Cllr Maxwell advised that there is a planning application submitted and Mr McElwain responded that he will liaise with the Planning Section in relation to this. There is also an application made under the Low Cost Safety Scheme for next year.

Cllr Conlon queried the road closure that was in place for Scotstown Road Junction to which Mr Deeney clarified that the road closure was required for works to the N54 at the this junction. Mr McElwain clarified that the realignment of this Junction is rescheduled to January 2018. Cllr McKenna question budgets and would the budget be available to complete the works in 2018. Cllr Treanor asked can anything be done about the stone throwing happening on the walkway at Horseshoe Bridge to which Mr McElwain advised that he will discuss the matter with An Gardai.

#### **4. Questions and Answers:**

##### ***Cllr Connolly asked:***

1) What plans are there to replace the rumble strips that were recently covered as a result of road resurfacing at Tydavnet Community Centre?

**Response: There are no plans to replace the yellow bar markings at Tydavnet Community Centre in line with the Department of Transport "guidelines for setting and managing speed limits in Ireland" published in 2015, which state, yellow bar markings shall only be used on high speed approaches to roundabouts. Due to the problems the transverse bar markings or rumble strips create with reduced skid resistance during wet weather, they shall not be used in an attempt to reduce speeds.**

2) In view of the fact that the Diamond Car Park is in a poor state of repair what plans are there to improve the surface in this car park?

**Response: Minor repairs will be carried out in this car park**

##### **Cllr Aughey asked:**

1) Can the MD investigate the implementation of Christmas Lights for other villages within the Municipal District especially Emyvale?

**Response: Monaghan County Council does not have any input into Christmas lighting in the villages in the County.**

2) Can the MD clarify the status of Town & Village Renewal Scheme projects within the Municipal District?

**Response: Emyvale Public Realm. Monaghan County Council have arranged a public consultation evening in the Emyvale leisure centre on Tuesday, 28th of November, 8:00 - 9:30pm to get the public's views on what improvements are required in the village. Monaghan town, creative hub. Monaghan County Council received a €100,000 grant towards this project and are currently investigating a suitable location.**

**Motions:**

Cllr Connolly requested that his motion be amended as follows:

“In view of the fact that Haemochromatosis is a lifelong condition affecting 1:83 people in Ireland and 1:5 Irish people carry the gene and that the people affected by the condition require ongoing lifesaving maintenance therapy on a 2/3 monthly basis that Monaghan M D calls on the Minister for Health Simon Harris to (a) reverse his decision to have the treatment now carried out as a day procedure thereby costing patients €80 per visit totalling €800 per annum and to re-establish dedicated Haemochromatosis clinics as a matter of urgency, (b) to ensure that Haemochromatosis is added to the Long Term Illness Scheme”

Cllr Paudge Connolly

The motion was seconded by Cllr Treanor and agreed by all members.

“That this Council write to the Minister for Finance, Pascal Donohue, to call on him to ensure that one of the leading banks which was bailed out by the taxpayers of this country is planning that, within the next year to offload their mortgages to a Vulture Fund, to make sure the mortgage holders are offered the knockdown price, which can be up to 50% discount that is offered to the Vulture Fund merchants”

Cllr Seamus Treanor

Cllr Treanor outlined his motion and all members agreed.

**6. Correspondence**

Email dated 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2017 from Irish Water Support outlining progress to date on the Monaghan Water Mains Rehabilitation Contract.

**7. Congratulations:**

Congratulations were extended to Fitzpatrick Coaches on winning National Coach of the Year.

**8. AOB**

Cllr McKenna queried who is responsible for the designation that is now applicable to County roads, what criteria is applied and can they be changed. Mr McElwain advised that he will investigate this.

The meeting concluded.

Dated this 20<sup>th</sup> Day of November, 2017

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Cathaoirleach

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Meetings Administrator