

Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on 20th November, 2017 at 10.00am in Clones Courthouse, McCurtain Street, Clones, Co Monaghan.

Members Present The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Seamus Coyle, presided

The following members were also present: - Cllrs: - Cathy Bennett, Sean Gilliland and Pat Treanor

Apologies Cllr Hughie McElvaney & Cllr Eva Humphreys

In Attendance Adge King, Director of Services, Kevin McNally, Municipal District Co-ordinator, Colin Murphy, Executive Engineer, Seamie Mc Mahon, Staff Officer

Cllr Seamus Coyle welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Confirmation of minutes of monthly meeting

The minutes of the November meeting were proposed by Cllr Cathy Bennett and seconded by Cllr Pat Treanor and were approved by all.

2. Correspondence

Cllr Sean Gilliland referred to page 11, item 2.2 of the correspondence regarding a response received from the Department of Rural and Community Development in relation to public lighting. Cllr Sean Gilliland asked if the members could review a list of the works that need to be carried out. Cllr Cathy Bennett proposed that this Municipal District write to the Department with the list of public lighting needs including costs and seek for the establishment of a specific national fund for public lighting projects. The members also requested that clarification to be sought from the Councils roads section regarding the TII duties in relation to public lighting. This was seconded by Cllr Pat Treanor and agreed by all.

Cllr Pat Treanor referred to page 12 and wished to congratulate Clones Film Festival on yet another successful festival over the Bank Holiday Weekend. Cllr Seamus Coyle also passed on his congratulations.

Cllr Seamus Coyle referred to page 13 items 2.4 and expressed his delight that we are getting closer to a new Fire Station in Ballybay; Cllr Sean Gilliland also welcomed this correspondence and thanked the staff in the Municipal District for all their hard work. Cllr Cathy Bennett also welcomed this. Mr Adge King stated that this project was a part of the Councils Capital Plan.

3. Presentation on Local Authorities Waters and Communities Office (Gretta McCarron – Community Water Officer)

Cllr Seamus Coyle welcomed Ms Gretta McCarron to the meeting who proceeded to give a detailed report.

Cllr Seamus Coyle thanked Ms Gretta Mc Carron for her report and he asked that her report be circulated to the members. A discussion was had on the report. Cllr Seamus Coyle asked Ms Gretta McCarron what were the negative contributors to the 2015 figures. Ms Gretta McCarron stated that

intensive farming was the main reason. Ms McCarron noted that Ireland is a big producer of beef and we face the challenge of how do we do this without effecting the environment.

Cllr Sean Gilliland raised the issue of Hollywood lake, and of banned chemical substances which historically were used to control weeds. Ms Gretta McCarron stated that the problems of excessive weeds in Hollywood are as a direct result of climate change. She also stated that she would investigate the chemicals that Cllr Sean Gilliland referred to.

Cllr Pat Treanor raised the issues of farmers needing incentives to tackle environmental issues, he also raised the issue of how problems are been dealt with on a cross border basis. Ms Gretta McCarron agreed with Cllr. Pat Treanor regarding incentives. She also stated that there are cross border initiatives currently on going under INTEREG funding.

Cllr Cathy Bennett raised the issue of Water Hardness within the Municipal District and also the issue of private Wells. Ms Gretta McCarron stated that the Border Regional Committee are aware of the water hardness issue and will respond. She stated that a large number of private wells are not fit for purpose.

4. Broadband in the Municipal District John McArdle Project Leader IS

Cllr Seamus Coyle welcomed John Mc Ardle Project Leader IS to the meeting. Mr John McArdle gave his report on broadband within the Municipal District.

Cllr Seamus Coyle thanked Mr McArdle for his report and asked him about 'Rural Hotspots. Mr McArdle stated they had been identified but were dependent on tenders being accepted for the NBP at a national level.

Mr McArdle spoke on broadband plans at a national level. Mr McArdle noted that Eir have promised to roll out broadband to 4649 households in Monaghan as of June 17 only 11 homes had been connected. A discussion was had on the figures.

Cllr Pat Treanor proposed that this Municipal District write to The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission and ask them to investigate what appears to be false advertising by telecommunication providers claiming to deliver fibre broadband to the home/premises for €20/€40 per month. This was seconded by Cllr Cathy Bennett and agreed by all.

Cllr Cathy Bennett asked about those areas that Eir wont service; Mr McArdle stated that these areas will be reliant on the National Broadband Plan.

Cllr Sean Gilliland proposed that this Municipal District write to Orlagh Nevin in relation to the letter and map sent to the Municipal District. Cllr Sean Gilliland requested that Eir immediately assess the status of 'Area 20' Tullynahinera which is shown as a 'Service Planned' status. This area is one of the largest industrial areas in Monaghan and it requires an active broadband service. This was seconded by Cllr Seamus Coyle and agreed by all.

5. Report By Municipal District Co-ordinator

Mr Kevin McNally updated the members on the following issues:

- **Redz Funding, Clones**

Linear Park

Contract for the construction of the linear park in Clones has been awarded to Sammy Wilkin and Sons. Works are well progressed and will be completed by end of the year.

Erne Cafe Parking

Contract for the construction of the car park in Clones has been awarded to Sammy Wilkin and Sons. Works are well progressed and will be completed by end of the year.

Heritage trail

Contractor has been appointed for the Heritage Signage in Clones and Ballybay. Signs have been delivered and will be erected in the coming weeks.

Ballybay

Last meeting of Ballybay Regeneration committee was held on 14th November.

Arising from the recently awarded funding under the town and village renewal programme it hoped to develop a comprehensive town plan for Ballybay. The scope of the appointment of the consultant was discussed with the committee. It is hoped to launch the procurement process for this study by the end of the month. The Ballybay committee will have an active role in this process.

Clones Regeneration

Last meeting of the Clones town team occurred on 14th November. The Town Team is in the process of preparing a short-term plan for the regeneration of the town. The Council has arranged for Ruth Daly to assist the town team in this process.

Clones Market House

Works for the refurbishment of the Clones Market House commenced on 6th November. The contact period is 6 months – with the MD occupying the building in early May.

Former Clones Post Office

Design Team being led by Keys and Monaghan have been awarded the contract for design team services for the refurbishment of the Former Clones Post Office. Draft proposals and costings for the works are programmed to be available shortly. It is programmed that this building will be operational in early 2019

Dereliction in the MD

Contract for painting the buildings on Fermanagh Street and the Health Centre in Ballybay has been awarded to John McManus – this work is ongoing. It has been delayed due to the recent poor weather.

Applications to the Department to seek funding to advance these projects – Davey's Butchers, Flower Shop and An Bionnian Bui are currently in hand.

Planning section currently actively pursuing the following buildings

- Abbey gate house
- Building at Fermanagh Street car park entrance

- 82/83 Fermanagh Street
- 2a Analore Street

The Council hopes to be in ownership of these properties by the end of the year.

The Council has received confirmation from Board Pleanala that they are consenting to the Council's compulsory acquisition of 12 church street and section of lands known as O Mahoney site in Ballybay. The Council will now proceed to vest these properties – these will be in the ownership of the Council by the end of the year

Ballybay Clones Erne East Partnership

Further to the public consultation was held in Knockatallon on 27th September and in Coonian on the 6th October the consultants are in the process of preparing a draft of the Master plan. It is hoped that this will be available in the coming weeks.

Mr Colin Murphy updated the members on the following issues:

Roads Programme

The Municipal Districts roads programme for 2017 is complete except for the small overlay at the roundabout in Ballybay on the Monaghan side of the town. Drainage works on the LP2202 at Analore have commenced. This is the first road listed on the 2018 programme.

Following flooding on the LS6301 at Kilmore East the MD carried out emergency works on this road and raised it by approximately 350-450mm at its lowest point.

Low Cost Safety Improvements

- Works are complete at Fairtahy and works are ongoing at Crossduff with completion of same expected in the next 2 weeks
- Works at Greenfield eggs junction are complete. The Council is waiting on Eir to move a pole.

Bunnoe River

Following the Bunnoe River Integrated Management (BRIM) Study Workshop at Doohat on Thursday 26th October 2017 RPS is currently reviewing all the information received at the event with a view to developing options for sustainable management of the Bunnoe River.

At the workshop it was very clear from the agricultural community that they would like the river cleaned and expect Monaghan Co Co to undertake this work immediately. In discussion with the attendees RPS were clear to emphasise that under the BRIM Study this was potentially part of an option for sustainable management of the river, however, this alone would not provide long term benefit for the river, which is very likely to silt up again in a matter of years.

Once feedback from the workshop has been assessed RPS will move into modelling and costing of options, which will take a few weeks. Following this, they should have an outline list of options for management of the river to take to the BRIM Study progress group, i.e. a select group of people and not everyone. If agreement with the progress group can be received then they can start pulling together information to take to the wider stakeholders / public. This is likely to be January 2018. Following this consultation period RPS will be compiling their report and recommendations around February / March 2018.

Cllr Seamus Coyle asked Mr Kevin Mc Nally about the Public Realm Plan for Ballybay and O Mahoney Site. Mr Kevin McNally stated that the review of the O Mahoney Site would be part of the plan. Cllr Pat Treanor praised the work at the Erne Cafe site and of the painting of derelicts sites on Fermanagh St.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to Mr Colin Murphy's report and commended the works at the Greenfield Eggs site, however road markings are needed. Mr Colin Murphy stated this would be done.

Cllr Pat Treanor thanked the staff for the work done on the Kilmore Rd. Cllr Sean Gilliland thanked the staff for the work done on the R181.

6. Questions

Cllr Seamus Coyle asked:

(1).Will Monaghan County Council further examine, what additional safety measures can be put in place on the Pedestrian Crossing at Main Street,Ballybay,adjacent to the Post Office and Bank of Ireland, as there is continuing concern locally for the safety of persons crossing the street, particularly elderly persons and children, as traffic, appears to be continuing to drive through the crossing, without stopping, particularly from the Castleblayney junction side, as they are approaching against the hill, and appear reluctant to stop on the hill, could a raised crossing/ramp type structure be examined?.

The Municipal District will examine if any additional safety measures can be put in place at the pedestrian crossing at Main Street Ballybay and revert back in due course.

(2).Can Monaghan County Council have a complete re-lining of Parking Spaces at the Fairgreen Car Park/Clones Road Car Park, Ballybay carried out immediately as all linings are worn off and this has resulted in damage to vehicles in recent times?.

The MUNICIPAL DISTRICT will examine the Parking Spaces at the Fairgreen Car Park/Clones Road Car Park, and if the car park requires relining we will have this works carried out.

(3).Can Monaghan County Council have immediate refurbishments i.e. resurfacing etc. and lighting installed on the rear access roadway to the Lisdarragh Housing Estate,Newbliss,otherwise known as Main St. and Clones Rd.,Newbliss,as it is currently potholed and very dark on winter evenings for residences accessing their properties?.

There is currently no funding available to carry out these works. The MUNICIPAL DISTRICT will carry out localised pothole repair on the estate.

(4).Will Monaghan County Council immediately erect Directional Signage for "NEWBLISS"at the junction of the R188-6 and the LP02331,in Rockcorry Village,at what is known locally as "Campbell's Corner",as it causes confusion for visitor's/tourist's to the area?.

Guidelines for Regional Road Signage Issued by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government states the following for directional signage:

Regional / Local Primary Road Junction

Direction signs should show the destinations on the advance direction signs and one of the following (where applicable):

- the nearest town on the route
- another town relevant to that junction.

Newbliss is not designated as a town and therefore under the guidelines cannot be placed on directional signage at these junctions.

Cllr Eva Humphreys asked:

What is the up to date position regarding the proposed drainage of the Bunnoe River to alleviate flooding along the route, in particular at Doapey Creamery and the environs?

Following the Bunnoe River Integrated Management (BRIM) Study Workshop at Doohat on Thursday 26th October 2017 RPS are currently reviewing all the information received at the event with a view to developing options for sustainable management of the Bunnoe River.

At the workshop it was very clear from the agricultural community that they would like the river cleaned and expect Monaghan Co Co to undertake this work immediately. In discussion with the attendees RPS were clear to emphasise that under the BRIM Study this was potentially part of an option for sustainable management of the river, however, this alone would not provide long term benefit for the river, which is very likely to silt up again in a matter of years.

RPS is currently looking at the feedback from the stakeholder workshop. Once assessed they will move into modelling and costing of options, which will take a few weeks. Following this, RPS should have an outline list of options for management of the river to take to the BRIM Study progress group, i.e. a select group of people and not everyone. If agreement with the progress group can be received then they can start pulling together information to take to the wider stakeholders / public. This is likely to be January 2018. Following this consultation period RPS will be compiling their report and recommendations around February / March 2018.

7. Notice of Motion

"That Ballybay/Clones Municipal District demands of the H.S.E. and H.S.E. Dublin North East the immediate waiving of all Car Parking charges of patients attending Beaumont Hospital, for Chemotherapy and Cancer Treatments, as this is adding great financial cost to patients and their families at an already stressful and difficult time for them."

This was proposed by Cllr Seamus Coyle, seconded by Sean Gilliland and was agreed by all. To be circulated to Monaghan County Council.

8. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Page 4 – Cllr Cathy Bennett welcomed the news of extra parking at Ballybay Town Park and raised the issue of further parking needed at Corlatt. Cllr Cathy Bennett also raised the issue of a 4 way all

stop at Barratoppy Cross. Mr Colin Murphy said that this would be investigated. Cllr Seamus Coyle was delighted with the official opening ceremonies of Ballybay Play Park and Mullinary Lough. Cllr Sean Gilliland welcomed the tidy towns funding of €12,000 for the Municipal District. Cllr. Seamus Coyle asked about lights in Rockcorry. Mr Colin Murphy stated that we are still waiting on ESB to make them live.

Page 5 – Cllr Pat Treanor asked for an update on a replacement engineer for Ms Donna Moran. Mr Kevin Mc Nally stated there was no further update but that Adge King had undertaken to follow this up with the Councils HR section.

9. Chief Executive orders

Chief Executive Orders 76/17 to 83/17 were noted by the members.

10. Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy

The members extended a vote of congratulations to the following:

- Urbleshanny School on winning the McGinn Cumann Na Mbunscoil 2017
- Arron Mulligan on his selection to the Ulster U 18s colleges soccer squad
- Corduff Ladies GAA on winning the 2017 Ulster Senior Football Championship and every good wish to them in the All Ireland final
- Katie Duffy on her selection to the Ulster Colleges 2017 All Star Team
- Latton Ladies GAA on winning the 2017 Ulster Intermediate Championship

Members extended a vote of sympathy to the following:

- The Phillips Family on the death of Hannah Phillips
- The Skeath Family on the death of Martin Skeath

11. A.O.B.

Cllr Seamus Coyle spoke on the recent meeting regarding the canal. Both Cllr Seamus Coyle and Cllr Pat Treanor felt this was a very positive meeting.

Cllr Pat Treanor raised the issue of a public meeting on Law and Order within Clones, issues raised at this meeting will be brought to the JPC. Cllr Pat Treanor also raised the issue of cyclists on footpaths. Cllr Pat Treanor Proposed that we as a Municipal District write to ABP and ask them to provide training to people who cycle to work and have received support under the Cycle to Work Scheme. This was seconded by Cllr Seamus Coyle and agreed by all. Cllr Seamus Coyle commented that perhaps this is something the Road Safety Officer could help with.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Next meeting scheduled December 18th at 11.00AM.

Signed _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed _____

Meetings Administrator

Date

18/12/2017