

**Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, Mtek Building, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 at 10.00 a.m.**

**Chair:** Cllr C. Bennett, Cathaoirleach

**Present:** Cllrs. Aughey, Campbell, Carthy, Conlon, Connolly, Coyle, Crowe, Gilliland, Keelan, Maxwell, McElvaney, McKenna, McNally, O'Hanlon, P. Treanor and S. Treanor.

Mr. E. O'Sullivan, Chief Executive, Mr. P. Clifford, Director of Service, Mr. A. King, Director of Service, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Ms. P. Monahan, A/Director of Service, Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner, Mr. F. McEntee, Senior Engineer and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

**Apologies:** Cllr. Humphreys.

### **Canada Day Launch**

The members of the Council and the Canada Day Committee attended for a photograph to launch the 2018 Canada Day Celebrations planned for July 1. Following the photograph, the Cathaoirleach welcomed all present, including Blaithin O'Donnell (Air Canada), Brian Clerkin, Brenda Clerkin, Enda Galligan, Peadar McMahon, Donal McElwain and Carmel Murphy (Canada Day Committee). She stated that the Chief Executive and herself had visited PEI in May and had received a great welcome from the Fort Augustus Committee members and friends.

Cllr Sean Conlon, Chair of the Canada Day Committee thanked the Cathaoirleach and members for allowing the launch to take place prior to the Council meeting that morning. Cllr Conlon stated that international interest in the second Canada Day festival had been prolific and the event had grown considerably since it was initiated. He outlined the programme of events and confirmed that Leonard Cusack, the author of the book - 'Owen Connolly - The Making of a Legacy' would attend and speak at the celebrations.

The members were addressed by Ms. Blaithin O'Donnell, a representative from Air Canada, who are providing sponsorship funding for the event. She stated that Air Canada was delighted to again involved with the festival. Blaithin acknowledged the links between Canada and Monaghan and confirmed that Air Canada had now 20 direct flights a week from Dublin to Canada.

A number of members spoke on the matter and complimented the Canada Day committee on their plans for the event, as did the Chief Executive, Mr. O'Sullivan.

Cllr Bennett thanked all involved in the Canada Day Festival 2017 and wished the event every success.

*On the proposal of Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr Conlon it was agreed that this Council writes to Charlottetown City Council and ask them to become involved in the PEI twinning with County Monaghan, Ireland. Monaghan County Council and for Fort Augusta Irish Descendants Committee have strong linkages and have twinned for 28 years, we in County Monaghan would like to see theses linkages strengthened and that Charlottetown City Council become more involved.*

### **Urgent Business**

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that she had received two notices of urgent business from the Sinn Fein members as follows:

## **Motion 1:**

*That Monaghan County Council supports paragraph 49 of the agreed Joint report of December 2017 (re Brexit) which is an approach that will ensure that there is no hardening of the border in Ireland and wants to see the 'backstop' option as defined in paragraph 49 included in the legally binding Withdrawal Agreement. In addition, this Council wants the full EU rights of citizens protected as proposed in the current draft Withdrawal Agreement.*

## **Motion 2:**

*That this Council calls on the Irish Government to take the required decision to appeal the recent ruling of the European Court of Human Rights not to view the treatment of 14 Irish internees in 1971 as torture. The appeal to be lodged with the Grand Chamber of the ECHR before the 20<sup>th</sup> June.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Conlon seconded by Cllr McKenna it was agreed that the Council go into committee to discuss whether to take both motions of urgent business.*

It was agreed to take Motion 1 at the end of the meeting.

Regarding Motion 2 – a vote by show of hands resulted in 7 for, 6 against, 1 abstention – the Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried and stated that this motion would also be also discussed at the end of the meeting.

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor seconded by Cllr C. Cathy it was agreed that the Council revert to public session.*

## **1. Confirmation of Minutes**

### **(i) Minutes of Council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

*On the proposal of Cllr D. Maxwell seconded by Cllr B. McKenna, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2018, be confirmed.*

## **2. Correspondence.**

**The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda for the meeting:**

- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Mr. Eoghan Murphy regarding Redress scheme for homeowners.
- Letter from the Minister for Health, Mr. Simon Harris regarding occupational first aid training for teachers and SNA's.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Mr. Michael Creed regarding outstanding farm payments.
- Local Government Funding Review – Methodology for the Allocation of Local Government funding – Consultation Document.
- Letter from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government regarding training needs of elected members.
- Letter from the Chairperson Monaghan County Council's Joint Policing Committee regarding additional Garda resources.

- Email from Brendan Smith, T.D regarding the roads damaged by flooding.
- Email from Niamh Smyth, T.D regarding unfinished housing estates.
- Email from Cllr Sean Conlon regarding motions discussed at the Monaghan Municipal District May meeting in relation to the commemoration of the centenary of the establishment of the Monaghan Lunatic Asylum Soviet of 1919 and the Milltown Residents efforts to establish a group sewerage scheme.
- Resolution from Waterford City & County Council regarding Free Style Libre to sufferers of Type 1 Diabetes.
- Resolution from Waterford City & County Council regarding Occupational First Aid training to be provided to all teachers and SNA's.
- Resolution from Waterford City & County Council regarding Cervical Check age of eligibility.

The following additional correspondence was circulated at the meeting:

- Letter from Fáilte Ireland regarding the regional experience brand that serves Co. Monaghan.
- Letter from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport confirming an allocation of €186,000 under the Community Involvement Scheme.
- Resolution from Donegal County Council regarding the slaughter of more than 60 Palestinians and the wounding of thousands of others in Gaza by the Israeli Defence Forces.
- Letter from the Disability Federation of Ireland circulated by Cllr Conlon regarding Make Way Day a campaign that brings the disability and wider community together to consider the needs of people with disabilities in the public spaces we all share.

#### **Proposals arising out of correspondence:**

*On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that this Council supports the efforts of Disability Federation of Ireland in joining local authorities across Ireland in creating a "Make Way Day" scheduled for September 26<sup>th</sup> and established as an annual event.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr McKenna, it was agreed that this Council writes to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government imploring of the overdue need for requisite supports and resources to the Milltown residents in their efforts of establishing a group sewerage scheme.*

*Cllr Conlon proposed, Cllr McKenna seconded, that aligned to the motion submitted regarding the commemoration of the establishment of the Monaghan Soviet of 1919, that this Council re-instate the committee established to facilitate events during the "Decade of Centenaries scheduled from 2012-2022"*

Following a brief discussion on this motion Cllr Conlon agreed to defer the matter pending a report being brought back to the Council. It was also agreed that the submission made in relation to the Decade of Centenaries would be circulated to the members.

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna it was agreed that Monaghan County Council supports the motion from Donegal as follows:*

*Donegal County Council deplores the slaughter of more than 60 Palestinians and the wounding of thousands of other Gaza by the Israeli Defence Forces. We call on the government to immediately expel the Israeli ambassador in protest at this massacre of unarmed civilians. We applaud the recent decision of Dublin City Council to support the Boycott, Divestment and*

*Sanctions movement. We reaffirm our solidarity with the Palestine people and commit the Council to implementing a policy of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel until there is freedom for the Palestinian people. Support the holding of an international enquiry into the killings. To be circulated to all Local Authorities.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that the Council supports the resolution from Waterford City and County Council calling on the Department of Education and Skills and the Department of Health to introduce a scheme to provide all teachers and Special Needs Assistants (who are physically able) with Occupational First Aid training, encompassing CPR.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed that Monaghan County Council writes again to Irish Water and requesting that they spend money on acquiring a softer water supply for the people of Scotstown, Ballinode and Smithboro. A solution to this issue has been investigated by Monaghan County Council. Can this issue please be resolved as soon as possible.*

### **3. Part VIII of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000**

- (i) To consider granting planning permission to construct a new play area with play equipment and all associated site works at Rossmore Forest Park, Kilnamaddy Monaghan (Ref 18/8002)

The members considered the report from the Senior Planner which recommended that planning permission be granted subject to the conditions included in the report.

*On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr McElvaney, it was agreed that the Council approve the granting of planning permission for the construction of a new play area with play equipment and all associated works as per planning application 18/8002, to comply with the report from the Senior Planner, in accordance with Part VIII of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2001 (as amended).*

### **4. To consider Material Contravention to the County Monaghan Development Plan 2013-2019**

The members considered the report from the Senior Planner recommending that outline planning permission is granted, in accordance with Section 34 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), to erect a dwelling house, connect to existing public sewer, open a new entrance onto public road and all associated site works at Gortakeegan, Monaghan (Ref 17/275).

*On the proposal of Cllr S. Conlon, seconded by Cllr D. Maxwell, it was agreed that the Council approve a Material Contravention to the County Monaghan Development Plan 2013-2019 to grant planning permission, subject to the conditions specified, for the erection of a dwelling house at Gortakeegan, Monaghan (Ref 17/275).*

**5. To consider recommendation from Twinning Committee**

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr H. McElvaney, it was agreed that the Council approves the recommendation from the Twinning Committee that Monaghan County Council enters into a Memorandum of Friendship with the City of Alytus, Lithuania.*

**6. To consider recommendations and minutes from Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 15/05/2018**

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor seconded by Cllr D. Maxwell it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 15 May 2018 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.*

**7. To receive the Management Report – May 2018**

The members noted the Management Report for the month of May which had been circulated with the agenda. The Chief Executive responded to a number of queries from the members in relation to the report.

**8. To receive reports from Members attending Conferences/Training events**

The members noted the reports from Cllrs. Carthy, Conlon, Coyle, Keelan, Maxwell, McNally, O'Hanlon, & P. Treanor in relation to their attendance at the following conferences/training events:

- Rural Society in Transition, Co. Louth
- AILG Module 2 Training Day, Co. Mayo
- AILG Training, Co. Carlow
- AILG Spring Seminar, Co. Waterford
- LAMA Conference, Co Donegal
- Annual Conference 2018, Co Louth

**9. Business submitted by the Chief Executive.**

The Chief Executive informed the members that the Council had received Stage 4 approval from the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government for the construction of 43 houses at Latlorcan. He anticipated that construction would commence circa August 2018.

**10. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

Cllr Maxwell confirmed that he was awaiting confirmation from the Minister for Health that he would visit Monaghan Hospital before the end of June.

In anticipation of a meeting being confirmed, the following delegation was selected to meet Minister Harris: Cllr P. Connolly, Cllr B. McKenna, Cllr R. Aughey, and Cllr S. Gilliland and the incoming Cathaoirleach.

**11. To receive update on North South Interconnector project.**

Cllr Keelan updated the member on this item.

*On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that this Council agree that it is critical that the members of this Council meet with the Taoiseach as soon as possible to discuss the proposal North South Interconnector.*

*On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Bennett, it was agreed that the Council writes to Minister Denis Naughten, T.D., seeking his opinion on the independent reports that had been commissioned by him last year.*

**12. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project.**

Cllr Gilliland welcomed the recent announcement by the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in Clones and Minister Humphreys of the development of a marina and associated works in Clones on the site of the Ulster Canal. The development will bring great benefits for Clones and he congratulated both Ministers on the announcement.

Cllr P. Treanor also welcomed the announcement but stressed that unless funding is announced for the project then it won't happen. There is still 13 km of the canal between Castle Saunderson and Clones to be developed. He asked that the Planning Section would work closely with Waterways Ireland to progress the planning permission for the marina so as to get the next phase started.

The Chief Executive welcomed the announcement and stated that it was an important step on the way to the delivery of the Ulster Canal to Clones. He suggested that the Council would invite Waterways Ireland to a future meeting to outline how they will deliver the project.

It was agreed that officials from Waterways Ireland would be invited to the September meeting of the Council.

**13. Questions:**

**Cllr P. McNally asked:**

1. How much land is available for recreational purposes in and around the running track and the proposed soccer development site, Carrickmacross, still in the ownership of Monaghan County Council?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council has retained 11.4 acres of land as parkland and walks/cycleway for recreational use at the Tullynaskeagh West, Carrickmacross connecting the Ardee Road to Lough na Glack and the Convent Avenue. The Council has sold 4.54 acres of adjoining land to Carrick Rovers FC to host two playing fields and previously leased 5.07 acres to Carrick Aces who have constructed a running track.**

**Cllr P. Connolly asked:**

2. How many houses have been built in Monaghan town in the past 10 years ie from May 1st 2008 on a year by year basis?

**Reply: It is estimated that there were 29 houses built with the development envelope of Monaghan Town since 2008. A yearly breakdown of this figure is not available.**

**Clr C. Carthy asked:**

3. On foot of the recent, significant, increases in the cost of road surfacing, has the roads section called on the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport for more funding to be allocated this year?

**Reply: Yes, an application for more than €5m was made in April 2018.**

4. When is it expected that the new Monaghan County Traffic Calming Policy will be made available to the members?

**Reply: The Monaghan County Traffic Calming Policy will be made available for members in Q4 2018.**

5. What is the current up-to-date position of the Carrickmacross Group Home; has the HSE confirmed if they have started the process of allocating a management structure for the facility; has the snags referred to previously now been completed by Respond! Housing Association?

**Reply: The HSE has advised to date that it has not commenced the process of allocating a management structure for the facility and that the running of the development will be contingent on funding availability at the time of completion.**

**Respond! has advised to date that a contractor will commence the additional works specified by the HSE on 28<sup>th</sup> May and that those works are anticipated to be completed by mid-June.**

**The involvement of Monaghan County Council in relation to Carrickmacross Group Home has now ended upon completion of the construction of the building.**

6. When is it expected that works will commence on the Drummond Ross/Magheross estate in Carrickmacross?

**Reply: Tuath Housing Association are to provide 33 Units at Drummond Ross/Magheross, Carrickmacross. Monaghan County Council have been advised by Tuath Housing Association that this development is expected to commence in June 2018 and to be completed and made available in a number of phases throughout Quarters 1 to 3 2019.**

7. In a breakdown of Municipal Districts, how many housing units have been allocated to tenants on the social housing list since the start of the year and how many successful applications have been added to the list since the start of the year?

**Reply: The following number of new tenancies per MD area commenced or are about to commence during 2018 as at 01/06/2018:**

Castleblayney/Carrickmacross	Ballybay/Clones	Monaghan	TOTAL
33	21	25	79

*\*above figures include 10 allocations from the housing list by Approved Housing Bodies in Castleblayney-Carrickmacross MD and 4 allocations pending from the housing list by an Approved Housing Body in Ballybay-Clones MD*

*\*above figures include 4 tenancies pending in Castleblayney-Carrickmacross MD and 3 pending in Ballybay-Clones MD and 1 in Monaghan MD.*

**The above figures include transfer of Council tenants as follows:**

Castleblayney/Carrickmacross	Ballybay/Clones	Monaghan	TOTAL
5	4	5	12

**In addition to the above, one succession of tenancy occurred during 2018 to date in Castleblayney – Carrickmacross Municipal District.**

**The number of new applicants who have been added to the housing list during 2018 to date is 130.**

**This number of new applicants comprises of the following categories:**

Category of New Applicants Year 2018 to date	Numbers
Applicants on HAP Scheme	33
Applicants on RAS Scheme	1
Applicants in Voluntary Housing (Transfer Applic)	2
Net Need Figure	94
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>130</b>

**Clr S. Conlon asked:**

- Following the December 2017 HSE presentation, and my request at the January monthly meeting that I agreed with the Chief Executive to defer, I ask again that this Council write to Gerry Tully seeking relevant maps and details relating to all state-owned lands at St. Davnets and to ask is there a master plan outlining currently proposed developments on the undeveloped land at this expansive campus that would be ideally suited for accommodating social and affordable housing.

**Reply: Monaghan County Council is in active communication with the HSE Estates Department regarding the development potential of HSE lands in Monaghan town.**

**Clr N. Keelan asked:**

- In the interest of public safety, what is the up to-date position in relation to the provision of a 60km speed limit on the access ramps off the N2 into Carrickmacross town, in particular adjacent to the bus stop / shelter given the large numbers of buses and pedestrian activity at this location?

**Reply: The national road speed limits have been drafted and are scheduled to be presented in September. The 60km/hr proposed will be in close proximity to the MD aggregate store, thus capturing the bus shelter within the speed reduction confines.**

- What is the up-to-date position in relation to the upgrading and proposed improvement works to be carried out at the very dangerous Tullyvaragh junction on the N2 and also what plans, if any, have Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to put in place a shadow



lane at the next junction north of Tullyvaragh at the townland of Drumharriff given the number of serious accidents that have happened at this location?

**Reply: Funding has been secured from the TII for the Tullyvaragh junction short term counter measures as outlined in the N2 Drumgeeny to Castleblayney Scheme Feasibility Report dated May 2017. Lands for such measures now need to be acquired and a delivery programme finalised. Discussions with the landowner are ongoing.**

**Referencing Drumharriff, a junction assessment report will now be commissioned and findings communicated once completed.**

**Cllr N. Keelan asked:**

11. In relation to this Councils regional and county road network, how many road reconstruction / re-surfacing projects had to be removed from the 2018 programme as a result of greatly increased tender prices etc? What is the breakdown by MD area?

**Reply: Castleblayney /Carrickmacross MD had 3 regional and 2 local roads suspended from the 2018 programme.**

**Ballybay Clones MD had 4 regional and 2 local roads suspended from the 2018 programme.**

**Monaghan MD has suspended 1 local road from the 2018 programme.**

12. How many housing loan applications have been received by the Council in the last 12 months; how many have been approved; how many have been refused?

**Reply: Between January 2017 and May 2018 - 26 applications have been received by the Council. Of this number, 18 applications have been approved to date, 3 are with the Housing Agency for assessment and the remaining 5 have been refused.**

13. In order to enhance the fantastic work being carried out by the tidy towns and village associations across the county, what is this Councils policy in relation to ensuring that shop fronts complement town and village streetscapes?

**Reply: Section 15.1.3 of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2013 – 2019 acknowledges the important role good quality shops front play in enhancing the towns and villages within which they are located. This section of the Plan contains related polices in respect of design, signage, advertising and illumination, which ensure that all new shop front developments make a positive contribution to their surrounding streetscape.**

**Cllr R. Aughey asked:**

14. In an effort to promote the "More to Monaghan brand" can Monaghan County Council investigate the feasibility of having a countywide tourism roadshow and liaise with Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Ireland in this regard.

**Reply: Monaghan County Council will liaise with Failte Ireland and Tourism Ireland in promoting the More to Monaghan brand.**

**Cllr R. Aughey asked:**

15. Under the new GDPR guidelines can Monaghan County Council clarify how does this affect the enforcement of litter, dog warden and parking by Monaghan County Council officials.

**Reply: The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force on the 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2018 replacing the existing data protection framework under the EU Data Protection Directive. GDPR is a new harmonised law that regulates the processing of personal data relating to individuals in the EU. GDPR emphasis transparency, security and accountability by data controllers and processors while at the same time standardising and strengthening the right of citizens to data privacy.**

**Monaghan County Council may collect process and use certain types of personal data to comply with regulatory or legislative requirements. Under Article 6 of the GDPR the processing of this data is lawful and is necessary for the performance of tasks carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the Council by virtue of its statutory functions set out under the relevant legislation.**

**Monaghan County Council has organised GDPR training for elected members on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2018.**

**Cllr A. Campbell asked:**

16. With the recent announcement of funding for over 110,000 EURO for the additional fishing facilities as the South Lodge in Castleblayney.
- a) When will this work commence?
  - b) How long will this work take to complete?
  - c) How many additional fishing stands will be available?

**Reply: Campbell Utilities are scheduled to commence the contract to construct access and approx 35 fishing pegs at South Lodge, Lough Muckno later this month. It is anticipated that works will be completed by September 2018.**

17. In welcoming the recent news about the Market House in Castleblayney being exhibited at the Venice Biennale, the event which is visited by architects from all over the world and indeed gets coverage from all parts of the world.
- a) What input has Monaghan Council had with this?

**Reply: Through the engagement of the relevant council staff we facilitated the visit of the Free Market Irish Pavilion team of architects to Castleblayney on a number of occasions, where we briefed them with regard to the architectural significance, social and cultural history of the town.**

**The Castleblayney Public Realm & Economic Plan is currently under preparation by a team of expert architects, planners, urban designers and engineers, led by GVA Planning. A number of public consultations have taken place.**

- b) What is the Council doing to enhance the media coverage that the Market House and the open spaces which is being exhibited at the Venice Biennale for Castleblayney and Monaghan.

**Reply: The Council sections that were directly involved in this collaboration have had much input in their respective social media accounts (mainly twitter) however the Architectural Team who have been responsible in curating this exhibition have been very active in the world of print media.**

- c) What engagements with the team of architects has Monaghan Council had and what plans has the Council to bring the fruits of the exhibition to Castleblayney?

**Reply: The Free Market group of Architects and designers have visited Castleblayney on many occasions, have conducted research into Castleblayney's past and current status, and have made proposals for the future.**

**Clr A. Campbell asked:**

18. When will the work commence on the new houses in Bree in Castleblayney?

**Reply: On 30 May 2018 Monaghan County Council received Department approval to proceed with the Contractor appointment process. The Contractor is now required to produce a Contract Guarantee Bond, this process can take up to 4 weeks, following which a Letter of Acceptance can be issued to the Contractor which in effect executes the Contract for the construction of the 8 social houses. Monaghan County Council is required to demonstrate compliance with the Building Regulations for all new social housing and is required to use the Building Control Management System (BCMS) which requires the submission of a Commencement Notice.**

**The information required for the Commencement Notice includes information that must be provided by both the Contractor and the Designer of the houses. It is envisaged that the Commencement Notice will be submitted within the first two weeks of June 2018. Following submission of the Commencement Notice the statutory time period prior to commencement of work is a minimum of 14 days. Subject to compliance with the statutory time period required and subject to the Contractor successfully securing the required Bond it is expected that construction will commence in late June or early July 2018 as previously reported.**

19. With an ever-increasing volume of traffic on the N2. What is the update on the road safety on the N2 on the Kinnigan Junction?

**Reply: A junction assessment was carried out in May 2018 by consultants for Monaghan County Council. We since submitted the assessment report to the TII and we await an official response.**

#### 14. Notices of Motion:

Cllr P. Treanor proposed, Cllr Carthy seconded,

1. Noting that:

- *Vast amounts of land and property, especially agricultural land, have been seized from Palestinians and transferred to the exclusive use of Israeli settlements, having a devastating effect on Palestinians' way of life;*
- *Through their control of the West Bank's water resources, Israeli settlers (of which there are approximately 600,000) use six times more water than Palestinians living in the West Bank (of which there are approximately 2.8 million) having a severe impact on the availability of water as a resource to Palestinian farmers;*
- *Israel's ongoing building of settlements in the Palestinian West Bank is a War Crime under international criminal law and makes the establishment of a viable Palestinian state impossible;*
- *Goods and services currently produced in Israeli settlements, including agricultural produce grown and harvested on stolen Palestinian land, are freely tradeable in Ireland;*
- *The Seanad will shortly consider the Control of Economic Activity (Occupied Territories) Bill, 2018 introduced by Senator Frances Black which would prevent such goods and services being sold in Ireland;*

That Monaghan County Council urges Senators to support the Control of Economic Activity (Occupied Territories) Bill, 2018.

Following a debate on the motion, the Cathaoirleach put it to the meeting. A vote by show of hands resulted in 7 for 8 against and 1 abstention. The Cathaoirleach declared the motion defeated.

Cllr Connolly proposed, Cllr P. McNally seconded, and it was resolved:

2. That further to the recent announcement by the Minister for Education of an additional 800 Special Needs Assistants (SNA's) for schools nationally to commence work in September of this year and the fact that Co Monaghan will have the lowest per capita rates nationally i.e.
- a) At primary school level Co Monaghan has 100 SNAs which equates to 1.6 SNAs per 1000 of population in the county whereas the national average is 1.94 per 1000 of population thus leaving Co Monaghan 20% below the national average i.e. 20 SNAs short and below average.
  - b) Overall numbers for Co Monaghan including Primary Schools, Post Primary and Special Schools a total of 131 SNAs which equates to 2.1 per 1000 of population in the county whereas the national average is 3.1 SNAs per 1000 of population thus leaving Co Monaghan 45% below the national average i.e. 58 SNAs short and below average and in view of the fact

That as Co Monaghan has similar demographics to the rest of the country that Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Education to use the forthcoming announcement

between September and December of this year of an additional 140 SNAs positions to bring Co Monaghan SNA levels up to the national average.

Following a debate on the motion, the Cathaoirleach put it to the meeting and it was agreed unanimously.

**15. Votes of sympathy/congratulations.**

It was agreed that the sympathy of the Council be extended to the following:

- The Tormey and Marray families on the death of Martina Tormey, Doohamlet, RIP
- The Smyth Family Ballybay and former County Council member Dr. Rory O’Hanlon on the death of Dr. Maeve Smyth, Ballybay RIP.
- Bridie Ward and family on the death of Paddy Ward RIP, former member of Monaghan County Fire Service.
- The family of the late Seamus Bell, Carrickmacross RIP
- Fiona McCaffrey Jones on the death of her father.

It was agreed that a vote of congratulations would be extended to the following:

- Carrickmacross Festival Committee on a very successful festival on the June Bank holiday weekend and An Garda Siochana for the way the town was policed.

**16. Conferences/Training**

*On the proposal of Cllr Gilliland seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was agreed that the Council be represented at the following conferences by the members listed.*

<b>Promoting Authority</b>	<b>Subject/Theme</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Members Selected</b>
<b>AILG</b>	<b>Single Public Water Utility</b>	<b>Bundoran, Co. Donegal</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup> June 2018</b>	Cllr. A. Campbell Cllr. D. Maxwell Cllr. S. Gilliland Cllr. S. Coyle Cllr. P. McNally Cllr. PJ O’Hanlon Cllr. C. Carthy Cllr. S. Conlon Cllr. B. McKenna Cllr. N. Keelan Cllr. J. Crowe Cllr. C. Bennett Cllr. P. Connolly

**Urgent Business:**

**Motion 1**

Cllr McKenna proposed, Cllr P. Treanor seconded

*That Monaghan County Council supports paragraph 49 of the agreed Joint report of December 2017 (re Brexit) which is an approach that will ensure that there is no hardening of the border in Ireland and wants to see the 'backstop' option as defined in paragraph 49 included in the legally binding Withdrawal Agreement. In addition, this Council wants the full EU rights of citizens protected as proposed in the current draft Withdrawal Agreement.*

Following a debate on the motion, the Cathaoirleach put the motion to the meeting. A vote by show of hands resulted in 11 for 2 against 1 abstention. The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

**Motion 2:**

*That this Council calls on the Irish Government to take the required decision to appeal the recent ruling of the European Court of Human Rights not to view the treatment of 14 Irish internees in 1971 as torture. The appeal to be lodged with the Grand Chamber of the ECHR before the 20<sup>th</sup> June.*

Following a debate on the motion, the Cathaoirleach put the motion to the meeting and it was agreed unanimously.

The meeting then concluded.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Meetings Administrator

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_