

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, Mtek Building, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday 3 April, 2017 at 2.00 p.m.

Chair: Cllr P.J. O'Hanlon, Cathaoirleach

Present: Cllrs. Aughey, Bennett, Campbell, Carthy, Conlon, Connolly, Coyle, Crowe, Gilliland, Keelan, Maxwell, McElvaney, B. McKenna, McNally, McPhillips, P. Treanor.

Mr. E. O'Sullivan, Chief Executive, Mr. P. Clifford and Mr. A. King, Directors of Services, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Ms. P. Monahan, A/Director of Service, Mr. J. McKernan, Head of Roads, Mr. N. O'Connor, Environmental Education Officer and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

Apology: Cllr S. Treanor

At the outset, Cllr P. Treanor extended a vote of sympathy to the wife and family of the late Martin McGuinness RIP. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Carthy and agreed unanimously.

A number of members paid tribute to the late Mr. McGuinness's contribution to the peace process and power sharing in Northern Ireland. The Chief Executive associated himself and the staff with the vote of sympathy.

Urgent Business

The Cathaoirleach referred to the minutes of the Standing Orders and Procedures Committee meeting held on 28th March which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The Committee recommended the following amendment to Standing Order 14.2, for a trial period of 12 months –

“That where, at a monthly Council meeting, Notice(s) of Urgent Business have been received by the Meetings Administrator the decision on whether to accept them as Urgent Business will be taken “in committee”. Such decision(s) to be taken prior to the consideration of Item No. 1 on the Council agenda.

The decision to take the Urgent Business must receive the support of at least one half of the total membership of the Council (9 members).

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed that the Council approve the recommendation of the Standing Orders and Procedures Committee as outlined above.

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that one notice of urgent business had been submitted by the members of the Fine Gael group, as follows:

That Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Social Protection Mr Leo Varadkar T.D. to issue a directive under Section 9 of the Citizens Information Act 2007 to the Citizens Information Board directing it to abandon proposals to abolish the local MABS and CIS companies delivering very important services to the most vulnerable on our society and to replace them with Regional Companies far removed from, and unfamiliar with, local issues further propose that this motion be circulated to each local authority for consideration.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna, it was agreed that the Council discuss the decision to take urgent business 'in committee'. Following a short discussion on the matter it was agreed on the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Keelan to return to public session.

It was unanimously agreed that the Council discuss the motion of urgent business. The Cathaoirleach confirmed that he would take the urgent business at the end of the meeting.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

(i) Minutes of Council meeting held on 6th March, 2017

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor seconded by Cllr N. Keelan it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 6th March, 2017, be confirmed.

2. Correspondence.

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

- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine acknowledging the Council's resolution regarding the outstanding GLAS & AEOS payments.
- Letter from the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment acknowledging the Council's resolution regarding the impact of inappropriate disposal of coffee cups on litter levels and its proposal for consideration of a levy on these items.
- Letter from the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment in relation to PV (Photovoltaic) Solar Panels.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport regarding public lighting needs for Monaghan stating that the Department does not have a grant for the installation of public lighting.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the HSE in relation to the refurbishment of Oriel House.
- Letter from the Valuation Office regarding the revaluation of the county under Valuation Act 2001.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government regarding the Tenant Purchase Scheme.
- Email acknowledgement from the Minister Naughten's Office.
- Email from Senator Robbie Gallagher noting his support to motion submitted at the March Council meeting.
- Proposal from the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones regarding the removal of car parking charges for cancer patients at Cavan Monaghan Hospital.
- Email from the Municipal District of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney regarding the Imposition of Shirley Grounds Rents.
- Proposal from the Municipal District of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney regarding the establishment of an Angling Development Committee.
- Motion from South Dublin County Council regarding social and economic inequality and the inadequacy of both social Welfare and Taxation Law.

The following additional correspondence was circulated at the meeting:

- Invitation to 'Brexit and the Ireland/N Ireland Border Corridor together with the Agenda for the conference.
- Letter from the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment in relation to the North-south 400kV Interconnector project.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government in relation to the resolution Rebuilding Ireland – Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness.
- Circular LG 05/2017 in relation to the revised Representational Payment for Elected Members.
- Email from Senator Robbie Gallagher circulating response to Parliamentary Question in relation to the relocation of a department agency to Ballybay as well as the retention of the 30 plus jobs lost.
- Letter from TII to Niamh Smyth, in relation to safety measures along the N2 between Carrickmacross and Castleblayney.
- Letter from TII to Niamh Smyth, in relation to the N2 Monaghan to Emyvale Phase 3 Scheme.
- Letter from TII to Niamh Smyth, in relation to the Government's capital investment plan, "Building on Recovery - Infrastructure and Capital Investment".
- Email from Niamh Smyth, TD circulating response to Parliamentary Question enquiring if there are any planned IDA or FDI visits to counties Cavan or Monaghan in 2017.
- Email from Niamh Smyth, TD circulating response to Parliamentary Question in relation to the Local Improvement Scheme.
- Email from Niamh Smyth, TD circulating response to Parliamentary Question in relation to the North-South Interconnector.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that the Council writes to the Department of the Environment and requests additional funds to be allocated to local authorities to enable them purchase additional mobile cameras to monitor littering and illegal dumping.

On the proposal of Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that the Council writes again to Minister Shane Ross and ask him to consider a Public Lighting grant for County Monaghan as a matter of urgency. Presently we have 60 different lighting projects in Ballybay-Clones MD and the €10,000 yearly allocations will not complete these for 60 years at least.

It was also agreed to raise the matter of public lighting at the next meeting with the Oireachtas members.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that Monaghan County Council demands of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Michael Creed T.D. the immediate payment of all outstanding GLAS, AEOS and TAMS payments to farmers, and demands an immediate review of the bureaucratic critical payment measures, introduced by the government and department, with a view to simplifying the procedures for all. (Circulate to Oireachtas Members)

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Keelan, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation Mary Mitchell O'Connor T.D.

to ensure that quarterly reports on IDA site visits and/or FDI enquires to County Monaghan are circulated to Councillors when they are made available.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed that Monaghan County Council writes to the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport and TII requesting that funding be made available to finish phase 3 of the N2 Monaghan to Emyvale Road Realignment Scheme.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Gilliland, it was agreed that officials from the Valuation Office be invited to the July meeting of the Council to give a presentation on the new re-valuation process taking place in County Monaghan in the near future.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Bennett, it was agreed that the Council adopt the resolution from the Ballybay-Clones M.D. calling on the management of the Cavan-Monaghan Hospital Group to ask that efforts are made to ensure free car parking for cancer patients or a designated family member or carer during their treatment.

It was agreed that Cllr Conlon's Notice of Motion 20(2) would also be taken at this point.

Cllr S. Conlon proposed, Cllr Maxwell seconded, and it was agreed,

- 1. That this Council writes to the management of Cavan Monaghan Hospital to ask that efforts are made to ensure free car parking for cancer patients or a designated family member or carer during their treatment.*

Resignation of Chair of Housing, Fire and Civil Protection SPC:

The Chief Executive informed the members that he had received a letter from Cllr Ciara McPhillips announcing her resignation as Chair of the Housing Fire and Civil Protection SPC and from the membership of that committee.

Cllr McPhillips informed the members that due to work commitments she was not in a position to continue as Chair of this SPC.

Cllr Maxwell thanked Cllr McPhillips for her work to date as Chair of the SPC.

On the proposal of Cllr Gilliland, seconded by Cllr Campbell, it was agreed that Cllr Maxwell transfer to the membership of the Housing Fire and Civil Protection SPC and replace Cllr McPhillips as Chair of that committee with immediate effect.

It was further agreed that Cllr McPhillips would replace Cllr Maxwell on the Environment and Transportation SPC.

- 3. Part VIII of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000** - To consider granting permission to construct a linear park of approximately 275 metres in length to include greenway and landscaping at Crossmoyle Clones (Ref 17/8001)

The members noted the report dated 27th March, 2017 from the Senior Planner in relation to planning permission for the construction of a linear park at Crossmoyle, Clones.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr McPhillips, and it was agreed that the Council approve the granting of permission for the construction of a linear park of approximately 275 metres in length to include greenway and landscaping at Crossmoyle Clones (Ref 17/8001) to comply with report dated 27 March, 2017 and in accordance with Part VIII of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2000.

4. To consider raising loans for the following projects:

The members considered the report from the Head of Finance outlining the proposal to borrow money for three projects – the Clones Market House, the Civil Defence HQ and for enterprise and industrial development. He responded to queries from the members in relation to the proposal.

- (i) On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllrs P. Treanor and Coyle it was agreed that the Council approve the raising of a loan of €850,000 for the Market House, Clones in accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001.*
- (ii) On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that the Council approve the raising of a loan of €800,000 for the Civil Defence HQ in accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001.*
- (iii) On the proposal of Cllr Campbell, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that the Council approve the raising of a loan of €2,500,000.00, for the purpose of enterprise and industrial development in the county in accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001.*

5. To approve minutes and recommendations from CPG meeting

The members noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on the 13th March, 2017.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr McKenna it was agreed that the minutes of the CPG meeting held on 13th March, 2017 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

6. Diospoireacht as Gaeilge

- (i) Cur i láthair – Fearghal Mac Thréinfhir, Oifigeach Forbartha Gaeilge, Muineachán le Gaeilge. (Presentation - Feargal Mac Thréinfhir Development Officer, Muineachán le Gaeilge.)*

D'fháiltigh an Cathaoirleach roimh Fhearghal Mac Thréinfhir, Oifigeach Forbartha Gaeilge, Muineachán le Gaeilge agus thug cuireadh dó labhairt leis an gComhairle. Mhínigh Mac UíThréinfhir na haidhmeanna agus cuspóirí atá ag an ngrúpa, orthusan tá úsáid na Gaeilge a chur chun cinn i dTuaisceart Mhuineacháin. D'fhógair sé freisin go dtionólfar Comhdháil Náisiúnta Chonradh na Gaeilge 2019 i Muineachán. Beifear ag súil le thart ar 400 toscaire ag teacht go Muineachán mí Márta 2019.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Feargal MacThréinfhir, *Development Officer*, Muineachán le Gaeilge and invited him to address the Council. Mr. Treanor outlined the aims and objectives of his group which includes promoting the use of Irish in the North Monaghan area. He also announced that the Conradh na Gaeilge National Conference will take place in Monaghan in 2019. It is expected that over 400 delegates will converge on the Town in March 2019.

- (ii) Plé ar Dhréachtscéim na Gaeilge 2017 - 2020 (Scéim Oifigiúil Teanga 2017-2020) (*Niall Ó Conchúir, Oifigeach Gaeilge MCC*) (To consider the Dreacht Scéim na Gaeilge 2017 - 2020 (Official Language Scheme 2017-2020) (*Nial O'Connor, Oifigeach Gaeilge, MCC*))

Mhínigh Niall Ó Conchúir, Oifigeach Gaeilge Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin, an Dréachtscéim Gaeilge atá i gceist ag Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin don tréimhse 2017-2020. San áireamh tá tiomantas Chomhairle Contae Mhuineacháin maidir le seirbhísí trí Ghaeilge a sholáthar do shaoránaigh an chontae.

Thóg na baill ceann den Dréachtscéim agus mhol go gcuirfí í faoi bhráid an Aire Ealaíon, Oidhreacht, Gnóthaí Réigiúnacha, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta lena ceadú.

Ina theannta san mhínigh Niall an Scéim Scoláireachtaí Gaeilge don bhliain 2017. Mar a tharla go dtí seo, bronnfar 36 scoláireacht i bpáirt ar dhaltáí meánscoile sa chontae ionas gur féidir leo freastal ar Choláiste Gaeltachta. Bronnfar na scoláireachtaí orthusan ar éirigh leo ar 7pm 18 Bealtaine in Amharclann an Gharáiste, Muineachán.

Ghaibh an Comh. P. Mac Thréinfhir, Cathaoirleach Coiste na Gaeilge, buíochas le Niall agus Fearghal as a raibh ráite acu agus an saothar a bhíonn ar bun acu chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn.

Nial Ó Conchúir Oifigeach Gaeilge with Monaghan County Council outlined the draft Scéim na Gaeilge (Irish Language Scheme) for Monaghan County Council for the period 2017-2020. Included in the scheme are the commitments Monaghan County Council is making to provide services through the medium of Irish to citizens of the county.

The members noted the draft Scheme and recommended that it be presented to the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs for approval.

Nial also outlined the Gaeltacht Scholarship Scheme for 2017. As in previous years, 36 part-scholarships will be awarded to secondary school students in the county to enable them to attend a Gaeltacht College. The presentation of the scholarships to the successful students will take place on 18th May at 7pm in the Garage Theatre, Monaghan.

Cllr P. Treanor, Chair of the Coiste Gaeilge thanked Nial and Fergal for their presentations and for the work they are doing in promoting the Irish language.

7. To note Submission of Monaghan County Council on the N2 Clontibret to the Border Scheme for the mid-term review of the Infrastructure and Capital Investment Plan 2016-2021

The members noted the submission of Monaghan County Council on the N2 Clontibret to the Border Scheme for the mid-term review of the Infrastructure and Capital Investment Plan 2016-2021 which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting.

8. To adopt the Monaghan County Council Draft Annual Report for the year 2016.

On the proposal of Cllr McPhillips, seconded by Cllr McKenna, it was agreed that the Draft Annual Report for 2016, as circulated, be adopted.

9. To adopt the Monaghan Local Community Development Committee Annual Report for 2016

On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed that the Monaghan Local Community Development Committee Annual Report for 2016, as circulated, be adopted.

10. To approve two nominations from the Public Participation Network to the Social, Cultural and Community Strategic Policy Committee.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed that the Council approve the nomination by the Public Participation Network of Alex Watson and Brian McDonald to the Social, Cultural and Community Development SPC.

11. To receive Management Report – March 2017

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

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that this Council writes to Irish Water Requesting they desist from sending water bills to individuals, groups, and residents associations, who are not their customers.

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that the Council writes to Irish Water requesting they desist from sending water bills to the residents of Forth View Lisdoonan and Lisdoonan Housing Association.

12. To receive reports from Members attending Conferences/Training events

The members noted the reports from Cllrs Coyle and McNally in relation to their attendance at the following conferences/training events:

- AILG Module 1 2017 (National Planning Framework) Waterford.
- Tax Entitlements and Relief (Celtic Conferences) Cork.
- AILG Module 1 2017 (National Planning Framework) Cavan.

13. Business submitted by the Chief Executive.

Mr E. O'Sullivan, Chief Executive referred to the correspondence circulated from the East Border Region in relation to the seminar on Brexit and the Northern Ireland Border Corridor to be held at the Lough Erne Resort, Enniskillen on Thursday 4th May, 2017. He highlighted the importance of a strong attendance by the elected members at the seminar.

14. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 6th March, 2017.

There were no matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 6th March, 2017.

15. To receive update on North South Interconnector project.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that Monaghan County Council requests Minister Heather Humphreys T.D to arrange an immediate meeting with the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Denis Naughton T.D. for this Council and County Monaghan Anti-Pylon committee to discuss the implementation of the Oireachtas Motion passed on the North South Interconnector recently.

16. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project.

Cllr P. Treanor informed the meeting that a new contractor had been appointed for the section of the Ulster Canal from Castlesaunderson. It was expected that work would commence on this section in early June

17. To receive update on Brexit.

A discussion took place on this item during which the following proposals were put forward:

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was agreed that in light of the success of our meeting with a number of MEPs last Thursday 27th April that we invite our constituency MEPs who were not present as well as our main party's spokesmen/women to discuss our Brexit concerns. If necessary this meeting should be an evening meeting and can be tied in with a special meeting of the Council.

Cllr Coyle proposed, Cllr McNally seconded, that Monaghan County Council facilitate a forum/discussion of Cavan, Louth, Leitrim, Donegal, and Sligo County Councils to highlight, initiate positive actions for the region due to the unique situation of Counties due to our proximity/frontier with Northern Ireland/United Kingdom post Brexit.

Cllr Coyle agreed to put this proposal on hold until after the Brexit Seminar on the 4th May, 2017.

18. To receive presentation from Failte Ireland officials – Ruairi Deane, Programme Manager and Martina O'Dwyer, Project Officer - Ireland's Ancient East

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ruairi Deane Programme Manager and Martina O'Dwyer Project Officer, Ireland's Ancient East and invited them to address the members.

Mr. Deane outlined the benefits that would accrue to Co. Monaghan from the Ireland's Ancient East initiative. The initiative was offering overseas visitors 5,000 years of history and a relaxing off the beaten tract journey of discovery. The concept was to put stories at the heart of the experience. The country had monuments, heritage and landscape but Ireland's

Ancient East was about a lot more than that and they needed to include living culture into the brand. He stated that overseas holidaymakers were more valuable to the tourism economy. They were trying to increase the share of visitors that Ireland's Ancient East got. They had introduced some signage programmes for Co. Monaghan including a county boundary signage scheme. Signs had also been introduced in Carrickmacross and at Monaghan County Museum promoting different things to do in the county. Mr. Deane stated that there is no reason at all why the county can't do well from the brand and stated that there was huge potential for it to work really well. He said that they would support the Council in progressing a sustainable tourism product for Hope Castle and Lough Muckno and a cluster of tourist experiences around Carrickmacross and Inniskeen. He referred to the fact that the Council's Tourism Officer was working on new themed tourism measures for the county which would be a great fit for Ireland's Ancient East. He also pledged support for the Monaghan Peace Campus and for developments to Rossmore Park in Monaghan Town.

Following the presentation, Mr. Deane and Ms. O'Dwyer responded to comments and queries from the elected members.

The Chief Executive thanked Mr. Deane and Ms. O'Dwyer for the presentation and discussion. He also thanked Dymphna Condra and the staff of the Tourism Section for the good work being done there. He stated that they had a unique and beautiful county with lots of attractions for international visitors.

The Cathaoirleach also thanked them both for a very informative discussion.

19. Questions:

Cllr P. Connolly asked:

1. To ask Monaghan County Council for:
 - (a) An update in relation to the current status of The Monaghan Way?

Reply: The National Trail Office inspects the route every 2 years. It passed the 2015 Inspection and is an accredited Way Marked Way on the National Trails Register.

- (b) What level of maintenance is carried out on this route?

Reply: The Outdoor staff of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD carry out maintenance (clearance of vegetation etc) on the route twice a year. If an issue arises, it is dealt with on a case by case basis.

- (c) What plans are there to upgrade this route?

Reply: A re-routing proposal (to take a section of the route off-road) has been suggested by a walking group. This is being reviewed.

Cllr P. McNally asked:

2. Further to a question from me in 2016, I understood the members were to get the plan of the link road between the Castleblayney By-pass (N2) and the Dundalk road, circulated to them. Is this plan available for circulation?

Reply: Dundalk Institute of Technology (DKIT) in collaboration with Monaghan County Council has developed a draft preliminary design for the link road from the N2 Castleblayney by-pass to the N53 Dundalk Road which is available for circulation.

Cllr P. McNally asked:

3. When is it expected that the safety measures proposed for the N2 between Castleblayney and Aclint will be put in place as outlined by the T11 at a recent meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney MD.

Reply: The consultants working on the safety improvement scheme are finalising their report at present and it is envisaged that the tendering process will commence in May with construction works to begin in June.

4. In order to prove a need for housing in all our rural areas in County Monaghan, will this County Council accept Applications with the Applicant's preference being their closest village or settlement.

Reply: The application form for social housing support is to allow applicants indicate where they would accept an offer of accommodation, and not a means of proving a need for housing in a certain area. Given the importance of the application form to the individual household involved it would be misleading for the council to incorporate an option in the choices section to include other villages or settlements where the authority do not have housing to offer the applicants.

Cllr S. Conlon asked:

5. Further to assurances provided by Minister Damien English TD six months ago that state agencies in ownership of land banks would cooperate with local authorities in the provision of sites for social housing, what progress has been made between Monaghan County Council and relevant stakeholders in at securing lands at St. Davnet's for much needed housing for the Monaghan Town area?

Reply: Discussions with the HSE and other landowners are ongoing in relation to securing lands in the Monaghan Town area.

Cllr C. Carthy asked:

6. Has Monaghan County Council plans to (or will it consider) adding wheelchair accessible equipment to public playgrounds throughout the county?

Reply: The development of an Accessible playground policy is part of the social inclusion programme for 2017. The process of developing this policy began with a public consultation in January 2017. The consultation examined accessibility for all children and families, including children with physical, sensory and intellectual disabilities. The key issues and requirements regarding accessibility for children and families accessing and using the playgrounds throughout the county were documented and will be incorporated into a policy that will inform the development and redeveloping of playground facilities

in the future. The redevelopment of Ballybay Town Park due to take place this year will use the recommendations identified in this public consultation process.

A draft copy of the Accessible playground policy will be presented to members for consideration in September 2017. Copies of the public consultation report are available from the Community Development office.

ClIr C. Carthy asked:

7. Has Monaghan County Council any plans in place to commemorate/celebrate the 50th anniversary of Community Games in 2017 and, if not, would the executive consider organising activities to mark this event?

Reply: It is the function of the elected Council to approve the award of Civic Honours. The members may decide to recognise the event under the Annual Awards Scheme for 2017 or by a Civic Reception.

8. Will the Housing Section (MCC) make contact with all publically funded Housing Associations working throughout Co. Monaghan to remind them of the need to fill vacant units as quickly as possible?

Reply: Housing Section is very aware of this issue and has been in contact with all of the Approved Housing Bodies in relation to rates of vacancies and allocations. The performance of the Housing Bodies in this regard is deemed to be satisfactory at present, with the exception of one Approved Housing Body where some housing vacancies have remained unfilled for an excessive period. Housing Section is in contact with this particular Housing Body at a senior level for the purposes of ensuring that this issue is resolved as quickly as possible and does not re-occur in future.

9. Will Monaghan County Council consider automatically adding those on the HAP scheme to the Council's Housing Transfer List?

Reply: When HAP tenants commence their HAP tenancy they are offered the opportunity to complete a request form to transfer to another form of social housing support other than HAP accommodation, i.e. to remain on the social housing waiting list. This is explained in detail to all HAP tenants and they are advised and encouraged to complete the Application to Transfer to other forms of social housing at the time of signing forms to commence HAP. The majority of HAP tenants complete the form. However, some opt not to for their own reasons.

ClIr R. Aughey asked:

10. Can the Council contact Irish Water regarding the current level of THMs (trihalomethanes) in our drinking water with a view to ascertaining the level of same in our water supplies throughout the county and what actions they have taken or intend to take at treatment plants to deal with the issue?

Reply: There are no current THM exceedances on any public water supply scheme in County Monaghan. However in 2016, compliance samples were collected from 79 locations throughout the county under the Drinking Water Sampling Programme on public water supplies. 6 of the 2016 samples exceeded the Maximum Allowable

Concentration (MAC) for THM's of 100ug/l (microgrammes / litre). The limit for total THMs is based on a level of exposure (through inhalation and ingestion) that is acceptable over a lifetime (70 years) and safety factors are built into the calculations.

Exceedances were recorded at the following sites:

	THM	
Emyvale	18.08.16	146.16 ug/l
Glaslough	18.08.16	144.87 ug/l
Lough Egish	14.07.16	102.14 ug/l
Lough Egish	08.08.16	121.25 ug/l
Newbliss	11.08.16	118.29 ug/l
Newbliss	10.11.16	113.8 ug/l

In the cases of Emyvale, Glaslough and Newbliss (above) the THM exceedances were resolved following local unidirectional flushing. The effectiveness was verified by way of repeat samples, all of which were below the MAC of 100ug/l. In the case of Lough Egish, for which an open EPA file exists, Irish Water working in partnership with Monaghan County Council commenced upgrade works to the Lough Egish RWSS treatment plant at Kilkit. The upgraded works will improve water treatment process efficiency and reduce the likelihood of further THM exceedances in the future. Full details of all drinking water supply results on both public and private supplies are available at www.monaghan.ie

Cllr R. Aughey asked:

11. Can the Council outline the proposals for the roads network for Monaghan Town?

Reply: Additional traffic modelling has been undertaken by AECOM consulting as part of the Monaghan Town LUTS project for future traffic growth scenarios. The additional modelling is due for completion in mid April and its outcomes will be used to develop proposals for the town's road network.

12. Can the Council outline the plans for the National Spring Clean across the county?

Reply: Spring Clean is a Nationwide anti litter initiative that is held during the month of April. As in previous years, Monaghan County Council will be encouraging local groups to participate by organising a "Spring Clean" in their area. Monaghan County Council will support these groups by providing resources such as litter collection, litter pickers and bags. If any group wishes to participate they should contact Monaghan County Council's Environmental Services section on 042 9661240.

20. Notices of Motion:

Cllr P. Connolly proposed, Cllr R. Aughey seconded

1. That in view of the impact that Brexit will have on the people of Ireland and more particularly in the border communities and the fact that each County Council have within their gift the ability to establish, under section 4.3 of the Local Government Act 2001, an SPC where it may be necessary in some limited circumstances to form an ad Hoc or specialist committee" that Monaghan County Council take the necessary steps to investigate the setting up of a dedicated EU SPC.

The Cathaoirleach put the proposal to the meeting. A recorded vote was taken which resulted as follows:

For: Cllrs Aughey, Connolly, Coyle, McNally, O’Hanlon.

Total 5

Against: Cllrs Campbell, Carthy, Conlon, Crowe, Gilliland, Keelan, Maxwell, McKenna, McPhillips and P. Treanor.

Total 10

Abstentions - Nil.

The Cathaoirleach declared the motion defeated.

21. Votes of sympathy/congratulations.

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

- Carol McMahon, Council employee and her mother Genevieve and family on the death of her Paddy Crotty, RIP (Carol’s father)
- Gerry Traynor, former Ballybay town Councillor and the Traynor family on the death of May Traynor, RIP
- Sean Haughey, TD on the death of his mother Maureen RIP, wife and daughter of two Taoisigh.
- Fionnuala Mulligan, Council employee on the death of her uncle, Joseph Mulligan, RIP

22. Conferences/Training

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

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members Selected
LAMA	Annual Spring Training Seminar	City North Hotel, Gormanston Co. Meath	28 th & 29 th April 2017	Cllr. J. Crowe Cllr. S. Conlon Cllr. N. Keelan Cllr. C. Carthy Cllr. B. McKenna Cllr. P. McNally Cllr. PJ O’Hanlon Cllr. S. Coyle Cllr. P. Connolly
AILG	Realising our Rural Potential (Module 2)	Westport	13 th May 2017	Cllr. C. Bennett Cllr. N. Keelan Cllr. B. McKenna Cllr. C. Carthy Cllr. J. Crowe Cllr. S. Coyle Cllr. P. McNally

				Cllr. PJ O’Hanlon Cllr. P. Connolly Cllr. A. Campbell Cllr. D. Maxwell Cllr. S. Gilliland
East Border Region	Border Corridor Brexit event	Lough Erne Resort, Enniskillen	4 th May 2017	Cllr. B. McKenna Cllr. N. Keelan Cllr. J. Crowe Cllr. P. Treanor Cllr. S. Coyle Cllr. A. Campbell Cllr. S. Gilliland Cllr. P.J. O’Hanlon Cllr C. Carthy

Urgent Business:

Cllr Gilliland proposed, Cllr. Campbell seconded,

The Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Social Protection Mr Leo Varadkar T.D. to issue a directive under Section 9 of the Citizens Information Act 2007 to the Citizens Information Board directing it to abandon proposals to abolish the local MABS and CIS companies delivering very important services to the most vulnerable on our society and to replace them with Regional Companies far removed from, and unfamiliar with, local issues further propose that this motion be circulated to each local authority for consideration.

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

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____
