

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, Mtek Building, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday 5th February, 2018 at 2.00 p.m.

Chair: Cllr C. Bennett, Cathaoirleach

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

Mr. E. O'Sullivan, Chief Executive, Mr. P. Clifford Director of Services, Mr. A. King, Directors of Services, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Ms. P. Monahan, A/Director of Service, Ms. O. McConnon, Financial Management Accountant, Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner, Mr. C. Flynn, Senior Engineer, Mr. J. McKernan, A/Senior Engineer, Ms. A. Condra, A.O. Roads, Ms. M. McGarvey, Senior Staff Officer, and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

LAMA Awards 2017

At the outset the Cathaoirleach congratulated Bernie Bradley and members of the Latch On Group on winning the *Best Disability Access & Inclusion Initiative Awards* at the LAMA Awards Ceremony on the 3rd February for the video production 'A Minute Matters'.

Suspension of Standing Orders

Notice in the names of Cllrs Aughey, Coyle, McNally and O'Hanlon

That Standing Orders be suspended to discuss the following priority items –

- (1) *"The crisis situation at present of our local and regional roads in County Monaghan as serious damage is being caused to vehicles, businesses are at breaking point due to the poor condition of roads leading to their premises; school buses refusing to travel roads; poultry and agricultural produce being damage in transit; carers unable to access residences with many roads impassable in County Monaghan at the moment."*

Notice in the names of Cllrs Aughey, Coyle, McNally and O'Hanlon

That Standing Orders be suspended to discuss the following priority items –

- (2) *"In view of the chaos of the disastrous handling by the government and the Minister for Communications, Climate Change and the Environment, Denis Naughten TD, of the delivery of the National Broadband Plan to County Monaghan and the withdrawal of Eir from the bidding process, leaving 540,000 households nationally, without any guarantee of when this essential service of broadband for study, business, etc. etc., will be available to their homes."*

The Cathaoirleach put the motions to the meeting. A recorded vote was called for which resulted as follows:

For: Cllrs. Aughey, Connolly, Coyle, McElvaney, McNally, O'Hanlon, and S. Treanor. **Total 7**

Against: Cllrs Bennett, Campbell, Carthy, Conlon, Crowe, Gilliland, Humphreys Keelan, Maxwell, McKenna, P. Treanor **Total 11**

The Cathaoirleach ruled the motions had been defeated as the necessary three quarters majority had not been achieved in accordance with Standing Order No. 25.1.

Cllrs McNally and Coyle challenged the ruling of the Cathaoirleach and stated that the members had only voted on one motion and that the second motion should be put to the meeting. The Cathaoirleach stated that as both motions referred to the suspension of Standing Orders she had put both to the meeting at the same time. Cllrs McNally and Coyle stated that both motions should have been put separately and requested the Cathaoirleach to put the second motion to the meeting.

A period of disorder followed, as a result of which, the Cathaoirleach adjourned the meeting for five minutes.

On resumption the Cathaoirleach put the second motion to the meeting. A recorded vote was called for and resulted as follows:

For: Cllrs. Aughey, Connolly, Coyle, McElvaney, McNally, O’Hanlon, and S. Treanor. **Total 7**

Against: Cllrs Bennett, Campbell, Carthy, Conlon, Crowe, Gilliland, Humphreys Keelan, Maxwell, McKenna, P. Treanor **Total 11**

The Cathaoirleach declared that the second motion had been defeated.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

(i) Minutes of Council meeting held on 8th January, 2018.

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 8th January, 2018, be confirmed.

2. Correspondence.

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

- Circular RW 1/20018 regarding 2018 Regional and Local Grant Allocations.
- Letter from the Office of Minister for Health, Mr. Simon Harris, T.D, regarding Dyspraxia funding.
- Letter from the Minister for Health, Mr. Simon Harris, T.D, regarding Monaghan Hospital upgrade.
- Letter from the Minister for Health, Mr. Simon Harris, T.D, regarding births that lead to premature death or catastrophic injuries due to hospital negligence.
- Letter from the Office of the Director General of the Health Service regarding births that lead to premature death or catastrophic injuries due to hospital negligence.
- Letter from the Director of the National Treasury Management Agency regarding clinical negligence cases.

- Letter from the Minister for Health, Mr. Simon Harris, T.D, regarding the National Ambulance Service.
- Letter from the Office of the Director General of the Health Service regarding the National Ambulance Service.
- Letter from the Office of Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Mr Michael Creed, T.D, regarding Tax & Carbon Levies
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Ms Josepha Madigan, T.D, regarding Tax & Carbon Levies on farmers.
- Letter from the Office of Minister for Communications, Climate Action & Environment, Mr Denis Naughten, T.D, regarding Tax & Carbon Levies on farmers.
- Letter from the Office of Minister for Rural and Community Development, Mr Michael Ring, T.D, regarding Carbon Tax Levy.
- Letter from the Chief Executive of the National Transport Authority regarding Bus Éireann Expressway services.
- Resolution from Wexford County Council regarding guidance note for Data Controllers on the release of personal data to Public Representatives.
- Resolution from Waterford City and County Council regarding the introduction of legislation for persons entering water (sea/river(s)) during a status Red weather warning.

The following additional correspondence was circulated at the meeting:

- Circular LG01/2018 regarding Expenses and Allowances for Local Authority Members.
- Appendix 1 - Allowances and expenses incurred by elected Members of Local Authorities.
- Circular 07/2018 regarding Housing (Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans) Regulations 2018 (S.I. No 25 of 2018) together with Appendix 5 – FAQ’s – Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan.
- Letter from the National Ambulance Service responding to Council resolution re response times.
- Letter from the Office of Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Mr Michael Creed, T.D, regarding Tax & Carbon Levies.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Keelan, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council asks our Roads Engineer in each MD to estimate how much funding and other resources they need to bring our county and regional roads up to an acceptable level, so that we can then seek a special allocation for County Monaghan.

On the proposal of Cllr Aughey, seconded by Cllrs O’Hanlon, McNally and Coyle, it was agreed that a letter issue from Monaghan County Council to the Junior Minister for Health, Jim Daly TD, to thank him for agreeing to visit Monaghan Hospital.

On the proposal of Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed that one person from each political grouping would be nominated to meet with Senator Daly.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Keelan, it was agreed that having regard to correspondence from the State Claims Agency regarding the need for statutory ‘duty of candour’ that this Council seeks outcomes of analysis and reviews the Open Disclosure Policy introduced by Minister James Reilly TD in November 2013 and to state what hospital/care settings are participating in the ODP schemes.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna it was agreed that Monaghan County Council ask the National Ambulance Service –

- (i) What additionality of resources specifically ambulance personnel, vehicles and technology is planned for the Monaghan and Castleblayney Stations during 2018 and 2019?*
- (ii) What agency is responsible for collaborating the efforts of the Community First Responder Schemes throughout County Monaghan that will raise awareness of CFR services and locations among our citizens?*
- (iii) What measures are being undertaken in addressing the issue of ambulance response times to life threatening (ECHO and DELTA) emergency calls that currently stand at an average of 24 minutes, falling far short of the HIQA recommended 8 minute response time.*

Garage Theatre Board nominee:

Cllr D. Maxwell notified the members that, due to a conflict of interest, he was resigning from the Board of the Garage Theatre with immediate effect.

On the proposal of Cllr Humphreys, seconded by Cllr Campbell, it was agreed that Cllr Sean Gilliland would be nominated to the Board of the Garage Theatre to replace Cllr Maxwell.

3. To approve borrowing of €5,000,000 from the Housing Finance Agency for Housing Loan purposes to be drawn down as required

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was agreed that, in accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001, the Council approve borrowing of €5,000,000.00 from the Housing Finance Agency for housing loans purposes, to be drawn down as required.

4. Part VIII of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000

To consider granting permission to renovate and restore the former Monaghan Town Hall, 1 Dublin Street, Monaghan. (17/8011)

The members considered the report from the Senior Planner recommending the granting of permission for this development.

On the proposal of Cllr Aughey, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed that the Council approve the granting of planning permission for the renovation and restoration of the former Monaghan Town Hall, 1, Dublin Street, Monaghan (17/8011) 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).

5. To consider proposed taking in charge of Telaydan Heights, Monaghan and associated roads, footpaths, public lighting, sewerage services and open space areas

Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner referred to the report which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting. The report recommended that the Council proceed to formally take in charge the Telaydan Heights Estate and associated roads, footpaths, public lighting, sewerage services and open space areas.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Aughey, it was agreed that the Council approve the taking in charge of the Telaydan Heights Estate together with associated roads, footpaths, public lighting, sewerage services and open space areas, pursuant to Section 180 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2010 and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.

6. To approve Newspapers in accordance with Part 4 Article 18 (2) of the Planning & Development Regulations 2006

The members noted the list of newspapers for approval in accordance with Part 4 Article 18(2) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2006.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that the Council approve the list of newspapers, as follows, in accordance with Part 4, Article 18(2) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2006 for giving notice of the intention to make a planning application –

*The Northern Standard
Anglo Celt
The Dundalk Democrat (Carrickmacross/Castleblayney MD Area only)
Irish Independent
Irish Daily Star
Irish Times*

7. To consider the Monaghan County Council - Fire & Emergency Operations Plan

Mr. D. Brannigan, Chief Fire Officer gave a detailed presentation to the members on the Section 26 Fire & Emergency Operations Plan, which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting. The Plan fulfils Monaghan County Councils statutory obligation as a Fire Authority as outlined in Section 26 of the Fire Services Act 1981. The Plan sets out current arrangements within Monaghan Fire Authority and it also sets out targets for the next five years in relation to the operation of the fire service. The draft plan had been presented to the SPC and the CPG and had been discussed in detail at both committees.

Cllr D. Maxwell as Chair of the Housing, Fire & Civil Protection SPC endorsed the draft plan.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed that the Council adopt the Monaghan County Council Fire and Emergency Operations Plan, in accordance with Section 26 of the Fire Services Act 1981.

8. Audit Committee –

(i) Chairperson’s Statement and Annual Report on Performance and Effectiveness for 2017

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Dermot McCrystal, Chair of the Audit Committee to the meeting and invited him to present the Audit Committee Annual Report to the members.

Mr. McCrystal thanked the members for the opportunity to address them. He was taking the opportunity to meet the members so as to outline the work that the Audit Committee performs annually. He explained that the Audit Committee has an independent role in the provision of assurance to the Council as well as oversight responsibilities for a number of areas. He referred to the Annual Report on Performance and Effectiveness for 2017 which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. McCrystal and the members of the Audit Committee for the work undertaken by them.

The members noted that Audit Committee Annual Report on Performance and Effectiveness for 2017.

(ii) To receive the Audit Committee Report on the Annual Financial Statement 2016 and the Local Government Auditors Report 2016

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was agreed that the Audit Committee Report on the Annual Financial Statement 2016 and the Local Government Auditors Report 2016, be noted.

(iii) To approve the Draft Audit Committee Charter for 2018

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Bennett it was agreed that the Draft Audit Committee Charter for 2018 be adopted, as presented.

(iv) To approve the Draft Audit Committee Work Programme for 2018

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Bennett it was agreed that the Draft Audit Committee Work Programme for 2018 be adopted, as presented.

9. To consider recommendations and minutes from Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 16/01/2018

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna, it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 16 January 2018 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

10. Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee No 1 – invitation for submissions

Mr. A. King, Director of Services referred to the circular letter from the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee No. 1, enclosing the Terms of Reference for the Committee. The letter also invited submissions in relation to the review of local electoral areas as outlined in the circular. He stated that the closing date for receipt of submissions was Monday 19th February, 2018 at 5pm.

It was agreed that the matter would be discussed at Monaghan M.D. level and that if any member wished to make an individual submission they could do so before the closing date.

11. To receive Management Report – January 2018

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

12. To fix date for a meeting of the Twinning Committee.

It was agreed that a meeting of the Twinning Committee would be held on Tuesday 27 February at 10.00 a.m. to discuss the request from the Lithuanian Ambassador to discuss co-operation between Monaghan and Alytus, Lithuania.

Cllr Conlon informed the members that the Canada Day celebrations were scheduled for Sunday 1st July and that the Canadian Ambassador, His Excellency Kevin Vickers had confirmed that he would attend the celebrations.

13. Business submitted by the Chief Executive.

Mr E. O’Sullivan, Chief Executive stated that he wished to update the members in relation to two matters and he suggested that they should be discussed in committee.

On the proposal of Cllr Campbell, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed that the Council discuss the matters in committee.

The Chief Executive then updated the members in relation to the following:

- (i) The Syrian Refugee Resettlement programme
- (ii) The setting up of an Office Accommodation Working Group.

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed that the Council return to public session.

14. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 8th January, 2018.

There were no matters arising out of the minutes of the 8th January 2018.

15. To receive update on North South Interconnector project.

Minutes of meeting with Oireachtas Members held on 8th January, 2018 were circulated and noted.

Cllr Bennett gave an update to the members on the meeting with Minister Denis Naughten TD which took place on 30th January, 2018, in relation to this matter. Cllrs, Keelan, Coyle and Gilliland also contributed.

A debate took place on this item during which the following motions were put forward and agreed.

On the proposal of Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr Keelan, it was agreed that Minister Naughten be requested to meet the Council delegation when the reports commissioned by the Minister on the North-South Interconnector project become available.

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr Bennett, it was agreed that this Council seeks a meeting with An Taoiseach and Leader of Fine Gael, Leo Varadkar TD in order to discuss all aspects of the North South Interconnector. That this Council requests our local Minister, Heather Humphreys, TD to help facilitate this meeting. That the members of the MAPC be invited to attend.

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that this Council writes to the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Denis Naughten TD and to An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD requesting a complete review as to the need for the North South Interconnector given what we have learned in recent days re the closure of the Kilroot Power Station in Northern Ireland and given that the Utility Regulator has reassured everyone there is no danger to security of supply.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr McNally, it was agreed that with the imminent closure of Kilroot power station and part of Ballyhamford power station in Northern Ireland; the total lack of community consultation and acceptance; no planning approval for the 584 access routes required; Eirgrid's total incompetence to deliver the project, Monaghan County Council demands of the Government and the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Denis Naughten TD to formulate an independent review of the North South Interconnector project, preferably under the European Commission, as to the requirement now for the project and also a truly independent and trustworthy analysis of undergrounding versus overgrounding.

16. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project.

Cllr P. Treanor noted that the planning permission was in force until 2023 and stated that it was important to keep a focus on getting funding for the project.

17. Questions:

Cllr C. Carthy asked:

1. How many private housing units were purchased by Monaghan County Council in 2017?

Reply: As part of the Rebuilding Ireland Programme, in 2017, Monaghan County Council has successfully purchased a total of 44 private individual properties (23 properties purchased in 2017 plus 21 properties agreed in 2016 with keys received and renovation works completed in 2017), 5 Part V properties in Carrickmacross, 16 Buy & Renew properties located in Monaghan town (renovation works to be completed by Q3 2018) and taken ownership of 34 houses built and acquired under turnkey construction projects. Out of the 99 private housing units purchased/constructed in 2017 a total of 74 properties have been occupied, 16 buy & renew will be completed in Q3 2018 and the remaining 9 properties will be occupied by Q1 2018 after renovation works.

Monaghan County Council has targets approved for 2018 & 2019 within the Rebuilding Ireland programme to be achieved through House Construction (8 Houses in Castleblayney and 43 in Monaghan town) and Part Vs, Turnkey Acquisitions and with a significantly reduced number of individual house purchases to avoid competing with families and first time buyers. Monaghan County Council has achieved its targets for individual house acquisitions and is presently only purchasing properties for people in cases of exceptional circumstances / exceptional needs in specific areas.

Cllr C. Carthy asked:

2. Has design started on the proposed upgrade of the N2 (Ardee to Castleblayney) and, if so, when does the Council envisage going for planning permission?

Reply: Westmeath NRO is currently finalising draft tender documents for the appointment of consultants for the scheme. It is envisaged that the tender process will be completed in May with the appointment of consultants at which stage a programme for the delivery of the scheme, including planning and design will be agreed with Monaghan County Council.

3. When is it envisaged the Group Home for Persons with Physical and Sensory Difficulties, Carrickmacross, will be open and operational?

Reply: HSE Disability Manager has advised that HSE cannot offer a date for the opening and operation of this premise as there are ongoing liaisons between Respond and HSE Estates.

Respond! Approved Housing Body has advised as follows:

- HSE has requested that alteration works be carried out to the finished building and the works requirements are to be finalised this week and the additional works carried out.

- It would be envisaged that the Group Home will be open and operational within 8 weeks (End of March) but it must be stressed that this is on the basis that the HSE have carried out all their internal procedures to select a preferred operator for the facility.
- It is envisaged that the handover of the Group Home from Respond! to HSE will occur upon completion of the works requirements referred to above.

Cllr E. Humphreys asked:

4. Has any progress been made regarding the application for funding under the CFRAM programme to alleviate flooding in Ballybay Town?

Reply: Ballybay was designated as an area for further assessment (AFA) under the National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme (CFRAM) undertaken by the Office of Public Works in 2012. Funding was provided under the Minor Works Scheme to carry out works in Ballybay in 2014/15. The next stage of the CFRAM process is the publication of a national prioritisation list, whereby AFAs are ranked in order of priority and the schemes implemented on a phased basis. This is currently being progressed by the OPW.

5. What plans have Monaghan County Council to review the current Roads Programme for 2018 given the considerable damage that has been caused to roads throughout the county due to the inclement weather conditions?

Reply: The 2018 Roads Programme is currently being formulated, with reference to the condition surveys of the Pavement Management System and in consultation with the members. Deterioration of roads over the winter period is being factored into the final road selection plan.

6. What plans do Monaghan County Council have to write to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport seeking additional funding to carry out much needed restoration works on roads that have been severely impacted upon due to the severe winter weather conditions?

Reply: Monaghan County Council has received an increased allocation for Road Restoration in 2018. While the Department has advised that they are not setting aside contingency monies to address possible severe weather events, staff are proactively assessing road conditions, and may seek additional funding depending on the outcome of this assessment.

Cllr R. Aughey asked:

7. Can Monaghan County Council clarify what steps it is taking to improve all road accesses to the Monaghan County Council offices on the Glen Road especially in relation to the flooding and road conditions at the traffic lights?

Reply: Road conditions outside the Glen offices will be reviewed on completion of Irish Water Mains Rehabilitation permanent re-instatement, which is scheduled for Q2 2018. Consultants have been appointed to devise a solution to repair the existing culvert from the Glen Road to the Shambles River.

Cllr R. Aughey asked:

8. Can Monaghan County Council confirm that the County Monaghan Road Salting schedule is at near maximum capacity and therefore unable to add routes to its schedule?

Reply: The gritting schedule for 2017-18 was issued in autumn 2017, based on available resources. No additional resources have been provided for this purpose in the interim. The existing schedule covers 601 Kms (24% of the road network), as compared with 18% coverage nationally.

Cllr N. Keelan asked:

9. In relation to the repair and lease scheme how many applications have been received by this Council to date for this scheme which was introduced to assist in bringing vacant property back into residential use?

Reply: The table below shows the number of applications to date under the Repair and Leasing Scheme. The Repair & Leasing Scheme will play a small part in contributing to Monaghan County Council's social housing provision in the Rebuilding Ireland programme. The applications received to date have been in relation to properties that are mostly in the main towns with breakdown by Municipal District as follows:

Ballybay-Clones Municipal District	8
Monaghan Municipal District	9
Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District	5
No. application submitted	1
Pending	5
Planning permission required	5
Rural location - no demand	3
Structural works not covered by scheme	1
To be assessed	2
Works greater than 40,000 - owner could not fund balance	5

10. In relation to this Council's updated policy of (zero tolerance) for those landowners who fail to cut/trim their hedges along the public roadways

(a) How many hedge cutting notices have been served in the last 18 months and

Reply: Seventeen notices have issued from Monaghan County Council in 2017, Sixteen were issued in 2016.

- (b) What actions have been taken against those who failed to comply

Reply: Landowners who fail to respond to the newspaper adverts and verbal requests are followed up by letters. If they do not comply notices are issued.

- (c) How many landowners have been prosecuted to date for not cutting their hedges in the interest of road safety?

Reply: No landowners have been prosecuted, landowners have complied once they have been served with notices.

ClIr N. Keelan asked:

11. In commending the work of the housing section to date,

- (a) How many new house builds has this Council carried out in the last 3 years

Reply: In 2016, Monaghan County Council constructed 9 properties in Clones and in 2017, through Turnkey Construction Projects, Monaghan County Council acquired 34 properties at two sites in Monaghan Town and through Part V acquired 5 newly constructed properties in Carrickmacross Town.

- (b) How many new house builds will the Council hope to complete in the next 3 years and where?

Reply: On 4 December 2017 Monaghan County Council approved Part 8 Planning for the construction of 43 Social Houses in Monaghan Town. The tender documents are currently being prepared and following Department approval to proceed to tender stage it is intended that the Invitation to Tender will be published in Quarter 1 of 2018 with the intention of commencing the construction of the houses in mid-2018 to be completed in late 2019 subject to agreement of project programme.

On 14 December 2017 Monaghan Council received approval to proceed to tender stage for the construction of 8 Social Houses in Castleblayney. The Invitation to Tender will be published in Quarter 1 of 2018 with the intention of commencing the construction of the houses in mid-2018 to be completed in mid 2019 subject to agreement of project programme.

12. In welcoming the funding for the upgrading of the Tullyvaragh junction on the N2,

- (a) When is it hoped to commence this work

Reply: Road Safety Improvement works have been designed. The works depend on the acquisition of land for the re-alignment of the L8100 and discussions are ongoing with the landowner.

- (b) Will this Council in conjunction with TII also exam the next junction north of this junction at Drumharriff given the number of very serious accidents at this location?

Reply: The Roads Sections will request the consultants to examine this junction.

Cllr N. Keelan asked:

13. 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 given the safety concerns at this location in particular adjacent to the bus stop?

Reply: Monaghan County Council is in the process of reviewing all speed limits on all national roads with TII. It is proposed to relocate the 60KM speed limit closer to the N2 off ramp on approach to the bus stop.

Cllr S. Conlon asked:

14. Will the relevant Council section please provide a status report on the willow plantations cultivated through a pilot scheme introduced by the Council at Corlat and Knocknageeha, Knockatallon and Lisglasson, Clontibret in 2012?

Reply: Monaghan County Council developed an A.N.S.W.E.R (Agricultural Need for Sustainable Willow Effluent Recycling) project to address final effluent quality issues at two wastewater treatment plants, Knockatallon and Clontibret. The main objectives of the overall project was a) to prevent the discharge of non-compliant effluent discharging to watercourses, and b) to utilise the effluent value by irrigating fields planted with willow. The process reduces the polluting effect of the effluent leaving the wastewater treatment works by diverting it from directly feeding into adjacent watercourses and irrigating onto lands. The irrigation system is made up of 15 and 11 zones respectively. Control of the irrigation system is attained by means of an irrigation control panel.

The wastewater filtrates into the ground and acts as a fertiliser encouraging willow growth. The willow is harvested every 3-5 years and the by product utilised (eg. as woodchip) for renewable energy. At present the sites in Clontibret (6 Ha) and Knockatallon (5.4Ha) are ready for their first harvest. Ground conditions need to be relatively dry in order to allow the heavy harvesting machinery to operate effectively.

15. With the recent announcement by the Department of Housing of the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan, adding to a plethora of schemes overseen by Local Authorities, will this Council advertise the list of schemes available, and a contact number for queries by the public?

Reply: In relation to the Rebuilding Home Loan the Local Authority will advertise the Scheme to educate the public on the scheme and also contact estate agents to inform them of its availability in the area.

The full details of the scheme will also be presented at the next SPC for the members of that group.

In the wider context whenever new housing initiatives schemes are introduced by the government, and information is received, we inform councillors of that initiative and place that information on the Councils website for general information.

Cllr A. Campbell asked:

16. At a recent Council meeting in relations to a right turning passing lane at the Kinnegan Junction on the N2, I made a proposal for a counters and cameras to be placed on this junction to monitor the traffic at this dangerous junction. The traffic on this road is continuing to increase and the residents who use this junction have concerns about safety at this junction. Road Plan consultants were appointed to carry this survey out.

- (a) What are the results of this survey?
- (b) Has Monaghan County Council submitted these to the TII?

Reply: The appointed consultant has been requested to provide an assessment report based on the results of the recent CCTV analysis of the Kinnegan Junction. It is hoped that this will be completed in the next two weeks.

17. With the recent severe flooding in the Annadrumond, Castleblayney where the road has been closed and local residents have been land locked into their homes causing considerable difficulty and hardship. Can Monaghan Council carry out an investigation into the control of the water levels which are controlled by Louth County Council at the Waterworks which are located on the river Fane in Toome and bring back a report as to the operation of the Weir and the in particular the Gates on the weir which control the water flow to Dundalk?

Reply: The level on the weir is controlled to ensure that this water abstraction source has sufficient levels for the summer period. The weir is typically in the high level position for the summer months and is placed at the low level position for the winter months. The weir was set at the low level position in November 2017 and has remained at this position since that time.

18. In welcoming the start of the renovation on the Gate House at the back entrance to Hope Castle on Church Street, Castleblayney.

- (a) How long is the work expected to take?

Reply: The construction works are expected to be completed in early Q2 of 2018. After construction stage there will be a commissioning, certification and snagging stage to be completed which will take a further 2 weeks minimum.

Works schedule:

Complete restoration & renovation of a Protected Structure

- **Preserve and renew roof slates, felt, lath, tiling and ridge caps**
- **Preserve & refurbish fascia, soffit, guttering by specialist contractor**
- **Preserve & refurbish windows and doors by specialist contractor**
- **New electrics & plumbing**
- **New sewerage and drainage pipes**
- **New kitchen & bathroom (level access shower)**
- **New heating system**
- **Painting, flooring and tiling**

- (b) What will be the next stage for this property?

Reply: The property will then be made available for rent and will be utilised as a 2-bedroom social house forming part of the Monaghan County Council Housing stock.

18. Notices of Motion:

Cllr. S. Coyle proposed, Cllr McNally seconded, and it was agreed

1. That Monaghan County Council demands of the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Eoghan Murphy T.D. and the Government, to immediately make funding available for application by Local Authorities:
 - (a) To address Developer Provided Infrastructure (D.P.I.s) defects and infrastructural defects and problems in Housing Estates, to allow the Local Authority to "Take the Estate in Charge" and give full services and protection to the residences.
 - (b) To address Unfinished Housing Developments (U.H.D.s) to allow the Local Authority complete these houses to address the ever increasing housing crisis in Ireland.

It was agreed that the resolution would be forwarded to the Minister, Oireachtas Members for Cavan/ Monaghan and all other Local Authorities.

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

2. That this Council implores the Minister for Health, Simon Harris, T.D. to introduce into legislation a statutory 'duty of candour' for the purpose of enforcing a policy of open disclosure within the Health Service.

Cllr. C. Carthy proposed, Cllr Conlon seconded and it was agreed,

3. Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Eoghan Murphy TD, to follow through on his commitment to deal with vacant housing, announced in August 2017, by allocating additional funding to local authorities to employ a full-time Vacant Housing Officer.

Cllr. R. Aughey proposed, Cllr O'Hanlon seconded and it was agreed,

4. That Monaghan County Council ask the Minister for Health and the HSE to provide assistance to the development and operation of Down Syndrome Centre North East which will provide support to those with Down Syndrome and their families in Counties Cavan, Monaghan, Louth and Meath.

19. Votes of sympathy/congratulations.

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

- The Callery family on the death of Agnes Callery, RIP, late of Cornacrieve, Emyvale sister of former Fine Gael Councillor for North Monaghan Stephen McAree.
- Conor McBride, Council employee on the death of his mother Nuala, RIP
- Barry Coyle, Council employee on the death of his partner Dymrna, RIP

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

- Katie Duffy (Latton GFC and Ballybay Community College) on being a member of the Ulster Post Primary Schools All Ireland winning team.
- Ballybay Community College team and management team on winning the Danske Bank Pat King Cup for the first time ever.

20. 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
AILG	Module 1 2018 – Councillors & Journalists – How best to convey your message as a member of your Council through the media	Lakeside Manor Hotel, Virginia, Co. Cavan	13 th February 2018	Cllr. S. Coyle Cllr. P. McNally Cllr. B. McKenna Cllr. P. Treanor Cllr. S. Conlon Cllr. J. Crowe Cllr. N. Keelan Cllr. C. Carthy
AILG	Module 1 2018 – Councillors & Journalists – (as above)	The Seven Oaks Hotel, Carlow	17 th February 2018	Cllr. P. Connolly Cllr. N. Keelan Cllr. D. Maxwell Cllr. E. Humphreys Cllr. A. Campbell
Celtic Conferences	Nursing Homes Support Schemes	The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty Co. Cork	16 th – 18 th February 2018	Cllr. S. Coyle
Centre for Cross Border Studies	Annual Conference 2018: The Good Friday Agreement in All its Parts:	Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dundalk, Co. Louth	8 th & 9 th March 2018	Cllr. B. McKenna Cllr. P. Treanor Cllr. N. Keelan Cllr. J. Crowe

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____
