

Municipal District of Monaghan

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held in the M-Tek Building, Knockaconny, Monaghan on Monday, 15th January, 2018 at 3.00pm.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Paudge Connolly presided.

Present: Cllrs. Brian McKenna, Sean Conlon, Seamus Treanor, Raymond Aughey.

Apologies: Cllr David Maxwell

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

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr. McKenna, seconded by Cllr. Aughey, it was agreed that the minutes of the Municipal District of Monaghan meeting held on 18th December, 2017 be confirmed.

2. Report from Municipal District Co-ordinator:

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

A St Patrick's Day meeting was arranged for Monday 5th February at 7.30pm in the Market house. The members asked that we advertise in the Local Paper to let the public know about the first meeting and encourage all to attend. Cllr Conlon added that we should seek opinions and comments from the public e.g. conditions regarding length of parade, lack of features.

Cllr Conlon welcomed the advancement of CCTV with a public consultation being held this Wednesday, 17th January.

Cllr Treanor mentioned roads at Corlatt near Monaghan Collegiate School and at Bryanlitter, Clontibret that are in a terrible state. Also, the Car Park at Flemings requires re-surfacing and the need for more spaces put in perpendicular at the Green on Pound Hill.

Cllr McKenna asked could staff of MD remove trees after Storm Eleanor and tidy up areas to which Mr McElwain responded the MD will investigate. Cllr Connolly asked who is responsible for trees overhanging on roadways to which Mr McElwain responded that it is the responsibility of the landowner. Mr Deeney added that the Council will cut the trees to clear the road but it is the responsibility of landowner to take it away.

Cllr asked could the trees on North Road be investigated to which Mr Deeney responded that the Town Gardener could take a look at the trees but will require funding from National Road maintenance sources to attend to them.

Cllr Treanor stated that the Christmas lights did not work in Old Cross Square to which Mr Deeney responded that there was a problem with this circuit with water getting in and would have to be addressed for next year.

Cllr Conlon asked for confirmation if the local Authority had a role in salting footpaths in private and Council residential areas to which Mr McElwain responded that the Local

Authority did not have the resources to do such work in the estates but attended to any difficult areas. Cllr Conlon appealed that areas with high residential infill receive a similar approach as the National Roads and Urban streets.

3. Presentation from Monaghan Town Team:

Cllr Connolly welcomed Trevor Connolly and Alan Johnston to the meeting. They both gave a briefing on the work of the Team in 2017 and their plans for 2018 which was followed by a question and answer session.

The members thanked them for the presentation and stated that it would be great to give a presentation twice a year as it is a good news story for the media. Mr Connolly advised that he had done a Data lift last Friday and will revert with information on footfall to the members.

4. Questions and Answers:

Cllr Connolly asked:

- 1 To ask Monaghan M D what plans are there to extend the Winter Gritting programme from Emyvale to Mullan Village during the winter months?

Response: Monaghan County Council has no plans to extend the existing winter maintenance programme which is currently operating at capacity in terms of financial and operational resources. The current programme involves the treatment of 610km of public roads which have been designated priority 1 and 2 routes which account for 24% of the county's entire road network. These routes are treated every time a risk of ice formation is forecast and in some instances 2 treatments maybe required in a single night due to the changeable nature of weather conditions.

Cllr Connolly stated that the extension of winter gritting should be investigated in view of the business supporting worldwide.

- 2 In view of the advanced state of disrepair of certain sections of the footpath from Emyvale to Corracrin what plans have Monaghan MD to do repair works to leave this footpath safe for pedestrians?

Response: The N2 Phase 3 road realignment scheme which is due to commence construction in the first quarter of 2018 will address any deterioration in the footpaths along this road.

- 3 In view of the difficulties encountered by lorries and articulated lorries attempting to turn right on to the Glaslough to Middletown road at the L13015-0 junction and the frequent occurrences of lorries requiring assistance to negotiate the right turn have Monaghan M D any plans to

(A) Erect a "NO Right Turn for lorries" sign?

(B) Carry out other improvement works to make the right turn negotiable?

Response: (A) There are no current plans to prohibit right turning on to the LS5300 Glaslough to Middletown road from the LT13015 at present but this can be investigated further.(B)Monaghan MD can investigate what works may be possible to improve right turning manoeuvres at this junction.

Cllr. Conlon asked:

- 1 What timescale is anticipated for carrying out proposed upgrade works to the play park at Beechgrove Lawns and what new features are part of this upgrade?
Response: The upgrade works on the play park at Beechgrove Lawns is programmed to be completed by the end of March. The works will include removing and replacement of existing damaged equipment and installation of additional new equipment such as swings, carousel, see-saw, spinner bowl, springer, playhouse and a bench with backrest. The designs of all new equipment will accommodate the requirements of children with special needs. The upgrade works will also include increasing the size of playground and providing a new Flexotop Wetpour surface.
- 2 For the purpose of reducing traffic congestion and delays anticipated with the extensive road realignment works at Tullybryan on the Clones Rd scheduled for later in 2018, as well as the installation of the Ulster Canal Greenway scheduled for a similar timescale, will Council Executive seek of the contractors carrying out these works to liaise on the timing of these disruptive works for the purpose of minimising the impact on road users?
Response: Monaghan County Council will manage and co-ordinate the works on the Tullybryan Realignment and the Ulster Canal Greenway schemes to ensure that there will be minimum impact on all road users.
Cllr Conlon asked how this project was progressing to which Mr McElwain responded that he will have an update for the next meeting.
- 3 Also, will the Greenway path run contiguous along the 3km length of the new realigned road?
Response: A final route has not yet been identified for the Greenway. While it is likely the Greenway will follow the route of the existing Ulster Canal, designers are to be appointed in 2018 to review constraints and to identify a preferred route for the Greenway.

6. Motions:

“That this Council seeks of An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD and Minister for Justice Charlie Flanagan TD to sanction the publication of the Government commissioned Crowley Report that investigated the murder of Aidan McAnespie on February 21, 1988”

Cllr Conlon proposed and asked Cllr McKenna to outline the motion which was unanimously supported by all members. Cllr Conlon requested that the motion be circulated to all thirty-two counties.

7. Correspondence:

Letter dated 20th December 2017 from Department of Health in relation to Haemocchromatosis.

Letter dated 8th January, 2018 from Department of Finance in relation to the sale of loans.

7. Sympathy:

Sympathy was extended to Cllr Aughey on the death of his Aunt, Josephine O Neill. and to Mr McElwain on the death of his Uncle, Hugh McElwain.

8. AOB

Cllr Conlon asked could we promote the Awards Scheme.

Cllr Treanor welcomed the opening of the Home Improvements Grant Scheme.

A date for the Launch of the Rossmore Masterplan was agreed for Monday 5th February at 12.30pm in the Park. Mr Murray advised that this is an open plan with the benefit that if funding becomes available over the next number of years, we have a Plan in place and any projects will be considered.

Cllr Aughey proposed that we fund the Sculpture project for Rossmore Park from our MD allocation as an economic project. All members agreed.

Cllr Connolly asked could a small plaque be erected outside the Courthouse in memory of Garda Michael Clerkin who was awarded a Scott Gold Medal posthumously. All agreed that family and Gardai should be notified.

The meeting concluded.

Dated this 15th Day of January, 2018

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Meetings Administrator