

Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on 22nd January 2019 at 10.00am in The Civic Offices, Ballybay, Co Monaghan.

Members Present The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Sean Gilliland, presided

The following members were also present: - Cllrs: Cathy Bennett, Pat Treanor Hugh McElvaney, Seamus Coyle and Richard Truell

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

Cllr Sean Gilliland welcomed all to the meeting.

1. Confirmation of minutes of monthly meeting

Cllr Pat Treanor proposed the previous minutes, Cllr Seamus Coyle seconded were agreed by all.

2. Correspondence Sent

The correspondence sent was noted by all.

3. Correspondence Received

Cllr Pat Treanor spoke on the correspondence received regarding the issue with ESB and the recent power surge in Ballybay, Cllr Pat Treanor stated that he was disappointed that there was no resolution to this issue. Cllr Pat Treanor also spoke on the response from TII regarding Gransha school, Cllr Pat Treanor added that it was very disappointing that this had not been dealt with yet. Mr Kevin McNally stated that the road section was looking at this issue.

Cllr Seamus Coyle welcomed the fact that the housing section would advise tenants of their need to install surge protectors in their homes. Cllr Seamus Coyle agreed that the issue with Gransha needs to be dealt with immediately. Cllr Hugh McElvaney added his concerns over Gransha as did Cllr Sean Gilliland.

Cllr Pat Treanor raised the issue of public lighting in Threemilehouse, correspondence that had been received from the local Parish Priest. Mr Colin Murphy stated that he had responded to the email. Cllr Hugh McElvaney proposed that this area be moved to number one on the priority list. A discussion was had regarding the issue of public lighting. Cllr Seamus Coyle proposed that this MD write to the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation Heather Humphries TD to immediately facilitate the request of Monaghan County Council for an urgent meeting with the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport Shane Ross TD and his department to seek emergency additional funding for public lighting within the county. This was seconded by Cllr Pat Treanor and agreed by all. Mr Kevin McNally noted that he would arrange for this area to be examined to determine if replacement lanterns were required.

Mr Adge King added that Monaghan County Council were working hard to address the issues of public lighting throughout the county.

4. Report by Municipal District Coordinator

Mr Kevin McNally passed on apologies from Ms Carol Lambe Community and Enterprise who was due to speak on the Scotshouse and Newbliss Community Plans. Mr Kevin McNally gave a summary of both draft plans and asked that the members to take time to read the document and to pass on any comment to Ms Lambe. It was noted that the deadline for receipt of comments had passed but Ms Lambe was happy to receive comments.

Mr Kevin McNally gave a report on the following:

Former Clones Post Office

Works are progressing well. It is envisaged that they will be completed by the end of Q1 2019. As advised at the previous meeting, the following a review of the options available to manage the facility, the Management Team has decided that the facility will be operated by the Ballybay Clones Municipal District. We are now in the process of preparing the necessary terms and conditions to enable the various studios to be leased to artists.

Sliabh Beagh

The Municipal District office is continuing to progress this project. Quotations have been received for the casting of the iconic sign at adjacent to the penal cross in Knockatallon. Contractor has been appointed to commence the improvement to a number of picnic areas in the locality. Branding and signage strategies are in the process of being finalised.

Monaghan County Council Community & Environment Funding Scheme 2019

Monaghan County Council is committed to supporting local communities to promote, enhance and develop their local area. This commitment is supported by the annual Community and Environment Funding Scheme.

Applications for the 2019 funding scheme are now been invited.

Funding is available under the following three measures.

Measure 1: Community Infrastructure Supports

The community infrastructure supports measures aims to develop and enhance local community facilities and amenities in County Monaghan.

Measure 2: Community Development Supports

The community development support measure aims to support local communities to promote and encourage community participation and engagement throughout the county.

Measure 3: Environmental Supports

The environmental supports measure aims to support local communities, resident's committees and tidy towns groups to deliver projects that enhance the appearance and improve the quality of the environment in their area.

Closing date for applications is Friday 15th February 2019.

Mr Colin Murphy gave his report:

Roads Programme

Drainage works has commenced on 4 of our roads on the 2019 Roads Programme, the LP4007 at Lacken Bridge, LP3403 Ballybay to Cremartin Road, LS6210 Doohat to Drunanan and LT80001 Drumhonnion Rd.

Town & Village Renewal Funding

Doohamlet –Works are complete subject to completing a number of small snags.

Opening outlets on Regional Roads

A contractor (NC Plant Hire) is currently opening outlets and cuts on all the Regional Roads in the MD. The projected timeframe for completion is 6th February.

Billy Fox Memorial Park

The contractor is due to surface the paths this week and the gates and barriers will be installed in the next two weeks to complete the project.

Cycle Path in Mulladuff

Tenders have been received and assessed for the cycle track in Mulladuff and a letter of intent is due to be issued this week to the contractor. Works will commence once the contractor has met the criteria in the letter of intent.

Extension of footpath out to Famine Memorial Graveyard

Tenders have been received for this works and are currently being assessed.

The members thanked both Mr Kevin Mc Nally and Mr Colin Murphy for their reports.

Cllr Sean Gilliland asked if the Post Office work was on schedule, Mr Kevin McNally stated it was. Cllr Sean Gilliland also asked Veronica Corr from the Northern Standard to publicise the Community and Environment grants. Cllr Sean Gilliland also stated that he was delighted to see funding for the Ballybay Wetlands and Park projects. Cllr Sean Gilliland added that great work has been done by Ms Carol Lambe and Mr Paul Clifford in relation to the small villages throughout the county.

Cllr Seamus Coyle agreed with Cllr Gilliland's statements and added that rural villages were really struggling. Cllr Pat Treanor welcomed the draft plans for Newbliss and Scotshouse and stated that plans like this were vital to secure funding.

Cllr Richard Truell added that he hoped to see development plans rolled out for all villages within the area. Cllr Hugh McElvaney also hoped to see other villages included as did Cllr Cathy Bennett. Cllr Bennett added that the work of the community can be seen in the likes of the Sliabh Beagh Masterplan, she also passed on her congratulations to everyone involved with securing funding for Ballybay Wetlands.

A discussion was had regarding the challenges facing small villages.

5. Questions

Cllr Sean Gilliland asked:

(1) Can The Ballybay Clones Md provide a full update as to the progress and the current position on the Ballybay Fire Station

Answer:

Monaghan County Council are currently investigating alternate sites for a new Fire Station in Ballybay Town. It is hoped that this process will be completed in the coming months after which the Council will submit a funding application for the Departments consideration.

(2) Can The Ballybay Clones Md list the capital projects that this MD has undertaken and a current status on same.

Answer:

The Capital Projects that the Municipal District has undertaken in 2018 and status are as follows:

- Clones Market House - Snags Close Out September 2019
- Clones Old Post Office Art Development – Expected completion Date May 2019
- Clones Linear Park – Complete
- Ballybay Town Realm Plan – Complete
- Doohamlet Cyclepath – Complete
- Ballybay Town Park Mart Entrance Development – Complete
- Ballybay Town Park Outdoor Gym Equipment – Complete
- Sliabh Beagh Masterplan and Branding – Projected Completion May 2019
- Billy Fox Memorial Park , Bawn Development – Projected completion mid-February.
- Cherry Park and Carn Heights Playground Development, Clones – Projected completion April 2019.
- Newbliss Playground Development - Complete
- Canal Stores Development, Clones – Projected completion May 2019

(3) Can the Ballybay Clones Md conduct a survey on our road signs stop and yield and welcome signs etc as to there condition and there visibility and if it is possible to wash them.

Answer:

The Municipal District will carry out a survey on road sign conditions on roads abutting our Regional Road Network when works on the 2019 roads programme are complete.

(4) There are a number of Stone Bridges on Minor Roads in The Ballybay Clones MD when can repairs be carried out on same.

Answer:

Repairs to bridges on minor roads are included on a works programme once the Municipal District are made aware of them. Works are then completed on these bridges when resources become available.

Cllr Richard Truell asked :

Questions

Q1: Can Ballybay/Clones MD priorities public lighting at Corravacan Church as the church is mainly used at night and can be very busy as well the road been busy. Also lots off people use the footpath from Rockcorry village for recreational walking so is there a possibility of lights being continued from the village to Corravacan church.

Answer:

The Municipal District have carried out a review of all proposed locations for new public lighting within the Municipal District and have prioritised these locations. This included 33 sites consisting of 193 no new lighting columns. Corravacan Church was placed highly on the prioritisation list. It is the intention of the Municipal District to install lighting as per the prioritised site list and subject to funding being available.

Q2: When does Ballybay/Clones MD expect to have the Bus shelters that was promised for Swans cross and cost and length of time it will take to erect them.

Answer:

Bus Shelters have been ordered and are expected for delivery week commencing 21/01/2019. It is anticipated that these shelters will be in place by late February / Early March, once suitable locations have been agreed.

Q3: Can Ballybay/Clones MD give a update on the cleaning of Bunnoe river. Is there a start and finish date for this work and what sections of the river is going to be done.

Answer:

The Municipal District plan to appoint Consultants in February to agree the works scope and programme, to facilitate stakeholder consultations and to manage the works – It is anticipated that works will be completed by October 2019.

Q4: What steps has Ballybay/Clones MD taken to address traffic calming measures in Smithborough village. Can the speed limit be extended or ramps be installed? Has the MD snagged this issue with the Guards?

Answer:

Traffic Counters were erected this week to review traffic speeds through the village of Smithboro on the N54. Within the next two weeks upon assessment of the current traffic speeds, a review of traffic calming within the village will be carried out by Monaghan County Council's Roads Section in conjunction with the TII Road Safety Section.

Cllr Cathy Bennett asked:

1. With the very much welcomed funding for Ballybay just announced under Measure 2 of the Outdoor Recreation Scheme.

Can I please have a breakdown of how this funding will be spend in Ballybay Wetlands of €167,958 and In Ballybay Town Park of €116,224.

Answer:

Ballybay Wetlands funding comprises of 3 elements: 1. extension of the footpath on the R183 Ballybay Clones road out as far as the access lane to the Wetlands Centre, 2. Provision of trail signage and way markers on all the trails in the wetlands complex including the floating pontoon and 3. Provision of a recreation Hub with the provision of showers, bathroom facilities and locker facilities.

Ballybay Town Park funding provides for the development of the internal trails and paths within the town park.

2. Can I please have an estimated completion date for the new Car Park at Corlatt, Knockatallon.

Answer:

A contractor has been appointed to complete the surfacing and it is anticipated that this will be completed by the middle of February.

3. Are Monaghan Council presently investigating funding opportunities for the upgrading of Hollywood Park. The play-park is in much need of upgrading as it is presently in a very dangerous state of disrepair.

Answer:

Monaghan County Council are actively investigating all funding opportunities for the upgrading of Hollywood Park. The Council has agreed to increase its annual funding allocation to the Development committee for 2019. This will enable the Development committee to undertake further maintenance works in 2019.

4. Can I please have an update on The Sliabh Beagh Masterplan and the proposed expenditure in this area.

Answer:

The Municipal District have appointed the Paul Hogarth Company to design a brand for the Sliabh Beagh Area. Part of this branding exercise will include a bronze art feature at the Penal Cross. The artist working on the project is currently creating the clay mould for the piece, and it is hoped that the bronze sculpture will be cast by the start of April with installation on site in mid to end of April.

A Contractor is currently on site upgrading the picnic areas in the Sliabh Beagh Area to include pull in areas, and information panels. This work should be completed by mid-February.

The Paul Hogarth Company is currently working on a Branding strategy and a Signing strategy.

The total expenditure will be in the region of €130k.

5. With €5.2m announced for the development of houses at Bothar Na Mullen, Scotstown. Can I please have a breakdown on the type of houses planned for this new development and what is the estimated completion date.

Answer:

Monaghan County Council have received Stage 1 Funding Approval from The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to proceed and procure a project Design Team to prepare a preliminary design and compile a Stage 2 Funding Application for submission. Consultants Design

Team tenders have been returned and the evaluation and appointment are currently being prepared and going through the procurement procedure.

Once appointed the Design Team will establish the house types and unit numbers proposed for the scheme and continue to prepare a Stage 2 submission.

Monaghan County Council are continuing to progress through the Department designated 59 week Social Housing 4 Stage Approval Process with a projected construction start date in 2020 subject to approval from the Department for Housing, Planning and Local Government.

Cllr Seamus Coyle asked:

(1).Can Monaghan County Council immediately examine what Safety Improvement Works can be carried out at Drumlane Cross or known locally as McArdles Cross at the junction of the LP04201/LP03201/LP04200,as visibility is extremely poor from all approaches to the junction, with very deep drains/boggy areas to the Drumhowan side of the junction, leaving it an extremely dangerous Crossroads, which is heavenly vehicelised ,H.G.V.s etc, can these works be prioritized immediately?

Answer:

The Municipal District will review this location to determine if suitable safety measures are required to address the issue. Any proposed works will be subject to available funding.

(2).Will Monaghan County Council immediately examine, what additional safety warning signage and road markings can be put in place on the R190-Ballybay - Cootehill road, at Leagh ,the turn off junction for Latton, LP0300, as in the past this junction was the scene of a fatality, with the visibility very blind, particularly for vehicles approaching from the Cootehill side, turning onto the LP0300,can this be examined and works carried out as soon as possible?

Answer:

The Municipal District will review this location to determine if suitable safety measures are required to address the issue. Any proposed works will be subject to available funding.

(3).Can Monaghan County Council immediately prioritize the installation of additional Public Lighting at the Connons, with St.Aphonsus Church, Connons Community Centre and National School, all in close proximity to each other, widely used by the community of all ages and is very dangerous, particularly on dark winter evening without adequate public lighting?

Answer:

The Municipal District Engineering staff have carried out a review of all proposed locations for new public lighting within the Municipal District and have prioritised these locations. This included 33 sites consisting of 193 no new lighting columns. Connons placed highly on the prioritisation list. It is the intention of the Municipal District to install lighting as per the prioritised site list and subject to funding being available.

(4).When can the residences of Loch Mor Avenue, Ballybay expect to have works completed on repairs to the Pier at the entrance to the estate from Lower Main Street, as this is a historic feature of the estate ?.

Answer:

The repair works to the pier at this location will be completed procurement of a contractor and completion of the works. It is estimated that this process will take 8 weeks. The Engineering staff of the Municipal District are currently progressing this matter.

6. Notice of Motion

Cllr Richard Truell proposed that this MD write to Minister Michael Creed to get the slurry ban lifted straight away instead of waiting till the 01/02/2019 as the ground is very dry due to the current dry weather we are having and also the farmers have no room to store their slurry and need to get it out on the ground. All members agreed with the motion however Cllr Pat Treanor requested a slight amendment to the wording, he stated that it should include 'ground conditions permitting'. Cllr Richard Truell had no objection to this, the motion was seconded by Cllr Sean Gilliland and agreed by all.

7. Matters arising from previous minutes

Page 1:- Cllr Seamus Coyle asked Mr Colin Murphy to supply an up to date cost of fixing the roads throughout the MD area.

Page 2:- Cllr Pat Treanor referred to the naming of the new MD offices in Clones, asked that the full report be sent to CPG and the Council, Cllr Sean Gilliland agreed with this.

Page 5:- Cllr Pat Treanor asked if any correspondence had been received from TII regarding public lighting at Smithboro. Mr Kevin Mc Nally stated Ms Grainne O'Brien SEE in roads is dealing with this issue. Cllr Richard Truell also raised the issue of lights for the Church of Ireland Newbliss and for Aghabog.

Cllr Cathy Bennett referred to the works at Bothar Na Mullan and requested a monthly update on this. Cllr Cathy Bennett also thanked the council for their continuing efforts to source funding for Hollywood Park.

Page 6:- Cllr Seamus Coyle asked that the drinking water in the Ballybay area to be monitored as there are still some reports of issues. Cllr Seamus Coyle asked that a representative from the Water Section be invited to the next MD meeting.

Page 7:- Cllr Seamus Coyle spoke on the robbery at the ATM in Ballybay just before Christmas 2018 and proposed that this Municipal District write to Bank of Ireland management and staff acknowledging and thanking them for facilitating local businesses and customers over the Christmas period. He added that following the ATM robbery the people and businesses of Ballybay had rallied together and shown a real 'fighting Spirit' in the face of adversity. The motion was seconded by Cllr Sean Gilliland and agreed by all.

Cllr Pat Treanor asked about plans for Cinema site and Lennard Arms Clones. Mr Kevin McNally stated that the works to the Cinema site were temporary and that an application had been made under the Rural Regeneration Fund for a business hub. Options are being investigated for the Lennard Arms but currently there are no plans or funding streams in place to advance this. Cllr Hugh

McElvaney felt that we shouldn't be discussing the Lennard Arms as it was not in our possession. Mr Aedge King felt there was great potential for the site and that it was a priority for the executive to deal with it.

A discussion was had on the Renew and Lease Scheme launched under Rebuilding Ireland. It was noted that there had been some success with the letters issued to the owners of vacant properties in O Neil Pk.

8. Chief Executive Orders

Chief Executive orders BCMD 77/18 to 02/19 were noted by the members.

9. Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy

Members extended a vote of sympathy to the following:

- The McElwain family on the death of May
- The Murray Family on the death of Kathleen
- Eileen Mulligan and the Clerkin family on the death of Teddy
- Pat Treanor & the McCarville Family on the death of Packie

10. A.O.B.

Due to other engagements and the St Patricks Day bank holiday dates for the February and March meeting were discussed. It was agreed that the February meeting would take place on Monday 25th February in Clones and that March meeting would take place in Ballybay on the 26th March. A site visit to the Old Post Office is to be arranged after the February meeting.

Cllr Sean Gilliland congratulated the Ballybay and Clones Mens Sheds on their recent successful funding applications.

Cllr Pat Treanor thanked the members for their vote of sympathy regarding the death of his uncle Packie McCarville.

That concluded the meeting.

Next meeting scheduled February 25th at 10.00am.

Signed _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed _____

Meetings Administrator

Date
25/02/2019