

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, Mtek Building, Monaghan, on Tuesday 9th July, 2019 at 10.00 a.m.

Chair: Cllr S. Coyle, Cathaoirleach

Present: Cllrs. Aughey, Bennett, Campbell, Carthy, Conlon, Connolly, Gilliland, Keelan, Kerr-Conlon, Maxwell, McCooey, McElvaney, McKenna, O'Hanlon, P. Treanor, S. Treanor, R. Truell.

Mr. E. O'Sullivan, Chief Executive, Mr. P. Clifford, Director of Service, Mr A. King, Director of Service, Ms. P. Monahan, Director of Service, Mr. C. Flynn, A/Director of Service, Ms. O. McConnon, A/Head of Finance, Mr. T. Gourley, Senior Executive Planner, Mr. M. Hall, Executive Engineer, Mr. S. MacConghail, Arts Officer, and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

Urgent Business:

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that he had received two Notices of Urgent Business, as follows:

- (i) Notice in the names of Cllrs Coyle, O'Hanlon, Aughey and McCooey

"That Monaghan County Council demands of the Minister for Agriculture, Michael Creed TD, local Minister Heather Humphreys TD, An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD and the government to ensure the proposed Mercosur Deal is rejected, due to its disastrous implications for Irish Agriculture, particularly the crisis in the Beef Sector, as 99,000 tonnes of South American Beef will be allowed into the European Market each year. This Council expresses its total disappointment at EU Agriculture Commissioner, Phil Hogan for his support of this deal which has taken 20 years to negotiate, with it now coming at a time when the outcome of Brexit is totally unknown, combined Mercosur and Brexit could have disastrous consequences for Monaghan and Ireland."

- (ii) Notice in the names of Cllrs Campbell, Gilliland, Kerr-Conlon, Maxwell and Truell

"As a result of the EU Mercosur Trade Deal and the potential negative impact it may have on the Irish Beef Sector, that this Council writes to the Minister for Agriculture, Michael Creed, TD seeking the immediate set-up of a Task Force Panel, ie Farmers, IFA, Beef Plan Movement, Beef Processors, Retailers and others, to conduct a comprehensive economic assessment on the beef aspect of the Mercosur Deal and to determine the scale of the impact it may have on the Irish Beef Sector."

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr McKenna, it was agreed to go 'Into Committee' to discuss whether to accept the motions submitted as urgent business.

Following a short discussion, it was agreed to take both motion of urgent business at the end of the meeting.

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

1. Confirmation of Minutes

(i) Minutes of Council meeting held on 24th June, 2019

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Aughey, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 24th June 2019, be confirmed.

2. Correspondence.

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

- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Ms. Katherine Zappone, T.D, regarding funding issues arising in Childcare facilities being operated by Family Resource Centres.
- Email from the Minister for Health, Mr. Simon Harris, T.D. regarding Rehab Group.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality, Mr. Charles Flanagan, T.D, regarding insurance reform.
- Letter from the Social Welfare office on behalf of the Minister for Employment Affairs & Social Protection regarding State Pension Contributory review.
- Letter from the HSE, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare Organisation regarding Transport provision.

The following additional correspondence was also circulated:

- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Mr. Michael Creed T.D regarding the submission of manual paper applications for the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS).
- Letter from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government informing the Council of an update to the rates of subsistence for members with effect from 1 July 2019.

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

The members noted the reports from the Senior Planner which had been circulated for both proposed developments.

(i) **To consider Part VIII for 32 no. houses, vehicular entrance, service road, associated parking and public open space, construct ESB substation, connection to services, and all ancillary site works at Bothar na Mullen, Bough, Scotstown.**

Mr. T. Gourley, Senior Executive Planner referred to the report circulated and outlined the main elements of the proposed development.

On the proposal of Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed that the Council approve the granting of permission for the development of 32 no. houses, at Bothar na Mullen, Bough, Scotstown and all associated works 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) (Ref 19/8005).

- (ii) To consider Part VIII development for extensions to 8 number units to provide bedroom facilities, conversion of 12 number units to 6 number 2 bedroom houses, upgrade of playground facilities and all associated works at Gortakeegan Halting site.**

Mr. T. Gourley, Senior Executive Planner referred to the report circulated and outlined the main elements of the proposed development.

On the proposal of Cllr S. Treanor, seconded by Cllr R. Truell, it was agreed that the that the Council approve the granting of planning permission for development consisting of works to 20 number existing halting site unit to include extensions and conversions of existing units and all ancillary works 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) (Ref 19/8007).

The members complimented all involved in bringing the two projects to planning permission stage and requested that they would be constructed as soon as possible.

4. Filling of vacant positions on Council committees

(i) To fill one seat on the Rural Water Monitoring Committee

As there was no nomination from the non-party members, it was agreed that the number of members elected to the Rural Water Monitoring Committee revert to three members for the current Council term.

(ii) To fill one seat on the Museum Advisory Committee

As there was no nomination from the non-party members, it was agreed that the number of members elected to the Museum Advisory Committee revert to three members for the current Council term.

(iii) To fill one seat on the Peace IV Partnership Board

On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed that Cllr Bennett be elected to the Peace IV Partnership Board.

(iv) To fill one seat on the Audit Committee

On the proposal of Cllr Gilliland, seconded by Cllr Campbell, it was agreed that Cllr Maxwell be elected to the Audit Committee.

(v) To fill one seat on Local Improvements Scheme Committee

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Campbell, it was agreed that Cllr Gilliland be elected to the Local Improvements Scheme Committee.

(vi) To fill one seat on the Twinning Committee

As there was no nomination from the non-party members, it was agreed that the number of members elected to the Twinning Committee revert to three members for the current Council term.

(vii) To fill one seat on the Heritage Forum

As there was no nomination from the non-party members, it was agreed that the number of members elected to the Heritage Forum revert to three members for the current Council term.

5. To consider allocation of funding under the Artist Support Grant Scheme

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Conlon it was agreed that the Council approve the allocation of funding under the Artist Support Grant Scheme 2018, as follows:

No.	Name of Arts Partner	Amount recommended
1	The Garage Theatre	€16,500
2	Clones Film Festival	€8,000
3	Iontas Arts Centre, Castleblayney	€17,500
4	Patrick Kavanagh Weekend	€9,000
5	Castleblayney Drama Festival	€3,000
6	Feile Patrick Byrne	€2,200
7	Scoil Cheoil na Botha	€3,000
8	Muckno Mania Castleblayney	€1,500
9	Ballybay Community Arts Programme	€2,000

6. To receive update on Capital Projects

Mr. C. Flynn, A/Director of Services gave a detailed presentation to the members during which he outlined the following:

- Projects currently under construction/at construction stage or at planning phase by the Council.
- National roads projects
- Housing projects
- CLÁR, Town & village, Outdoor Recreation and Rural and Urban Regeneration projects
- Public lighting programme

Mr. Flynn stated that excluding Housing and Roads projects, the Capital Programme was in the region of €41.5M. He informed the members that there was a matching fund/own resources requirement of circa €10m.

Following his presentation, Mr. Flynn responded to queries from the members.

The Chief Executive commended the members for their ongoing support. He stated that they had a very ambitious capital programme which will present challenges but he was confident that it would be delivered. Regarding new offices for members and staff he stated that these are considered necessary if the Council is to deliver 21st century services to its citizens.

7. To receive the Management Report – June 2019:

The members noted the Management Report for the month of June which had been circulated with the agenda.

The Chief Executive and Directors of Services responded to queries from the elected members.

On the proposal of Cllr O’Hanlon, seconded by Cllr Aughey, it was agreed that all political groupings in Northern Ireland put their differences aside and get the Northern Ireland Assembly up and running as soon as possible, considering the imminent challenge of Brexit.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that this Council corresponds with our regional authorities, East Border Region, Northern and Western Regional Assembly, Irish Central Border Areas Network, as well as the Peace Partnership Board and the Public Participation Network asking them what preparations are being made regarding the potential social and community impacts, outside of economic impacts, that have the potential to occur as a result of Brexit.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that this Council form a group of representatives from the Housing Section, the Community Welfare Office, the HSE, the Gardai and Monaghan Integrated Development (M.I.D.) to discuss and deal with individual cases of homelessness or emergency cases that may lead to homelessness, so as to intervene early and avoid rough-sleeping and short-stay accommodation. We also call on the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government to specifically determine the responsibilities of each of the State agencies involved in cases of homelessness.

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

The members noted the report from Cllr. Connolly in relation to his attendance at the AILG Training event in Sligo, on 28th March in relation to Spatial Planning and Met Eireann Forecasting.

9. Business submitted by the Chief Executive.

There was no business submitted by the Chief Executive.

10. Update on N2 National Primary Road Schemes

P. Monahan, Director of Services informed the members that the feedback from the public consultations on the N2 Clontibret to the Border and N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Schemes had been positive. She stated that the public consultation process was still open

for submissions. The closing date for the N2 Clontibret to the Border Scheme was 18th July and the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Scheme was 25th July 2019.

11. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 24th June, 2019

Matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 24th June, 2019 were responded to by the relevant officials.

12. To receive update on North South Interconnector project.

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that the Council Executive will furnish the elected members with a copy of all minutes of meetings held between Eirgrid/ESB and their agents.

On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr Keelan, it was agreed that the Chairpersons of Monaghan, Cavan and Meath County Councils meet and issue a joint statement in relation to the North-South Interconnector and continue their meetings on a regular basis.

13. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project.

The Chief Executive stated that a meeting would be held shortly with Waterways Ireland in relation to the marina project.

14. Questions:

Cllr C. Carthy asked:

1. What immediate and/or short-term plans has Monaghan County Council to tidy up Hope Castle, Castleblayney, while it considers the long-term use of the building? Will the executive consider painting the outside and boarding up the windows, as a temporary measure, to tidy up its current state?

Reply: A procurement process is underway seeking contractors to tidy up the grounds and buildings before formally advertising for Expressions of Interest in accordance with the recommendations of the Options Report on Hope Castle and the Annex

2. What is the up-to-date position on proposed map outlining Defibrillator locations throughout the county?

Reply: We have been encouraging communities to register the location of their defibs with the National Ambulance Service, who can then supply Monaghan County Council with a map. However, groups are not responding. Members could assist by encouraging all groups known to them to email cfr@hse.ie and request a form for registering the location of their defibrillator. If the group needs assistance in finding the GPS co-ordinates of their defib's location, Monaghan County Council can help with that.

3. How many properties has Monaghan County Council leased through the 'Repair and Lease' scheme since its introduction (with a breakdown for each MD)?

Reply: There are currently 4 Units operational within the Repair & Lease Scheme in the Carrickmacross/Castleblayney MD area. Housing Officers continue to negotiate with a number of other property owners who may enter the scheme.

4. What is the up-to-date position on the taking-in-charge of the Alderwood housing estate, Carrickmacross?

Reply: An application was submitted by the developer seeking to have the Alderwood housing estate taken in charge

Outstanding works, particularly in relation to water and waste water services, were required to be completed by the developer before the process could commence were identified. The agent acting on behalf of the developer confirmed outstanding issues on site including the pumping station and registering way leaves from the houses to the services on site were being addressed and these works are currently being considered by the Water Services Section

Prior to Taking in Charge there will be a public consultation period during which time members of the public can make submissions before final adoption of the estate by the Council.

5. When is it expected that works will commence on the new extended Corr an Tobair housing development, for social housing, in Carrickmacross?

Reply: The 41 houses at Corr an Tobair, Carrickmacross will be constructed by Green Briar for Monaghan County Council. The development is going through the planning process at present and, subject to Planning Permission approval, the Developer hopes to be on site in Autumn 2019 with completion in Q3 of 2020.

Cllr C. Bennett asked:

6. Can Monaghan County Council please provide information to me on Capital Contribution Charges?

(a) How much has Monaghan County Council collected in the last five years

(b) What have these charges been spent on and how is this decided.

(c) Please provide me with a breakdown of how these charges are calculated.

Reply: The Development Contribution Scheme adopted by Monaghan County Council, was approved in 2014 and reviewed by the members at their May 2018 meeting. A report on the collection and allocation of development contributions will be made available in September.

Cllr R. Aughey asked:

7. Can Monaghan County Council outline what actions it is currently undertaking to combat litter on our county's roads?

Reply: Monaghan County Council recently concluded a litter pick of National Roads in the County as part of the road verge maintenance programme. As part of the Anti-Dumping Initiative 2019 a CCTV Enforcement programme is being conducted along the N2 to catch motorists littering. This will run for approximately 10 weeks. Car bin tidies have been purchased through the Anti-Litter Awareness grant, once delivered they will be distributed to general public at events Environmental Services attend.

8. Can Monaghan County Council please provide a detailed location report for the Mobile Phone Blackspots in the County?

Reply: Comreg's Coverage Map allows citizens to access this information for the whole county and country. Users can search by Eircode or area, and by specific telecommunications provider. The map also allows users to see which services are available for 2G, 3G and 4G. 5G services are still in test mode and coverage details will become available on the map when these services are rolled out. ComReg Outdoor Mobile Coverage Map: <https://coveragemap.comreg.ie/map>

Cllr R. Aughey asked (contd):

9. Can Monaghan County Council clarify the status of the Rebuilding Ireland Scheme for County Monaghan- current drawdown/ potential budget remaining and other important facts and figures for members relating to same?

Reply: The Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme - Monaghan County Council has to date received 47 applications – detailed below:

- **Approved = 20**
- **Pending = 6**
- **Declined or Ineligible = 21**
- **Dawn down €393,700**
- **Budget remaining approx. €3.2m**

Please refer to the Management Report for full details of The Rebuilding Ireland Capital Programme.

10. Can Monaghan County Council provide an update in the countywide Litter Plan, it's implementation, follow up and strategy into the future?

Reply: Monaghan County Council's Litter Management Plan was adopted by members in 2018 and this will be effective until 2020, when it is required to be reviewed.

An annual report on the plan implementation was provided in the April Chief Executive's Report and was as follows

Section 10 (3) requires a local authority to prepare a report for consideration by the Council indicating the measures taken by the local authority in the previous calendar year in relation to the prevention and control of litter.

The following report highlights 10 key areas of work undertaken by this local authority during 2018.

1. **Total net spend on litter related activities in County Monaghan in 2018 was €885,255.**
2. **Total spend on street cleansing in 2018 was €682,533**
3. **80 on the spot litter fines were issued in 2018.**
4. **Use of CCTV for enforcement purposes continued in 2018, with 4 sites placed under surveillance during the summer months as part of the Anti – Dumping Initiative as well as regular monitoring of bottle banks throughout the County. GDPR and the use of CCTV has raised several issues that Environmental Services is working to resolve.**
5. **Monaghan County Council received a grant of €42,400 under the Anti-Dumping Initiative, this money was spent on CCTV and on removing litter from black spots, in Monaghan, Smithboro, Clones, Keady Road, Moneyglen and Cabragh.**
6. **Monaghan County Council responded to 466 waste and litter related complaints during 2018. Each one of these was investigated and resolved either through removing the waste or utilising enforcement options under Litter Act or Waste Act.**

7. A grant of €19,000 was drawn down for litter related awareness activities. This was spent on Tidy towns activities, Green Schools Programme, Spring and Autumn Clean, Radio, sponsorship and social media campaigns.
8. There were 36 visits to schools participating in the Green School Programme during 2018 by the Environmental Awareness Officer.
9. The Environmental Patrol Warden completed 275 litter surveys as part of the National Litter Monitoring Programme.
10. Environmental Services with the co-operation of Roads Service included litter picking as part of the contractual arrangements for verge trimming. This ensures litter is picked directly before and directly after verge trimming.

18. Notices of Motion:

Cllr Bennett proposed, Cllr McKenna seconded

1. *That Monaghan County Council discontinue the use of Roundup or any weed killer containing Glyphosate.*

Please circulate this motion to the Department of Climate Change, Action and the Environment and all other County Councils for their consideration also.

Following a short debate on the motion, the Cathaoirleach put it to the members. A vote by show of hands resulted in 11 for, nil against and 3 abstentions. The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

In the absence of Cllr McElvaney, Cllr Coyle proposed and Cllr Keelan seconded

2. *That Monaghan County Council seeks a meeting with the Minister for Health Mr Simon Harris TD, Minister of State, Jim Daly TD and a delegation of senior civil servants from the Department of Health to discuss the ongoing crisis faced by the people of Monaghan in relation to the Home Support Services.*

Following a short debate on the motion, the Cathaoirleach put it to the members and it was agreed.

Cllr Aughey proposed Cllr O'Hanlon seconded

3. *That Monaghan County Council, in view of the damage that spiralling insurance costs are causing to community groups, voluntary organisations, charities and small business, calls on the Government to accelerate its insurance reform programme. In particular, Monaghan County Council calls on the Government to urgently recalibrate the Book of Quantum to reflect international norms, immediately establish a distinct Insurance Fraud Unit within an Garda Síochána and quantify the benefits to policyholders of the reforms currently being implemented.*

Following a short debate on the motion, the Cathaoirleach put it to the members and it was agreed.

Clr Maxwell proposed Clr Truell seconded

- 4. That Monaghan County Council call on the Minister and An Taoiseach to suspend all funding to Bord Na gCon the Irish Greyhound Board until there is a full investigation into all facts around the RTE Programme showing serious abuse to animals in the greyhound industry.*

Following a short debate on the motion, the Cathaoirleach put it to the members and it was agreed.

19. Votes of Sympathy/ Congratulations.

It was agreed that a vote of congratulations be extended to Conor Mohan on winning the All-Ireland One Wall Handball title recently.

It was also agreed that the good wishes of the Council be extended to the Monaghan Minor Football Team that play Tyrone in the Ulster Minor Football Championship on Sunday 14th July.

20. Conferences/Training

On the proposal of Clr O'Hanlon, seconded by Clr McKenna, 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	Induction training for Councillors	Mullingar Park Hotel, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath	11 th July 2019	Clr McCooey
AILG 2019 Autumn Seminar	Climate Change and Planning – A new Challenge for Local Authorities	Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan.	11 th & 12 th September 2019	Clr Maxwell Clr Truell Clr Gilliland Clr Campbell Clr Kerr-Conlon Clr Carthy Clr Conlon Clr Bennett Clr Treanor Clr McKenna Clr Keelan Clr Coyle Clr PJ O Hanlon Clr McCooey Clr Aughey
Co-operation Ireland	Death from Nostalgic Sentiment Or A New Narrative for Rural Ireland	Ballymascanlon Hotel, Dundalk Co. Louth	26 th September 2019	Clr Coyle

Cllr Coyle welcomed the decision of the AILG to return to the Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan for the 2019 Autumn Seminar of the Association.

The Cathaoirleach stated that a new Chinese Ambassador to Ireland had taken up office recently and he proposed that the Ambassador be invited to visit County Monaghan at some date in the future. It was agreed that the invitation could be issued when the New Baze facility in Carrickmacross is being officially opened.

Urgent Business

- (i) Notice in the names of Cllrs Coyle, O’Hanlon, Aughey and McCooey

Cllr O’Hanlon proposed, Cllr Aughey seconded

“That Monaghan County Council demands of the Minister for Agriculture, Michael Creed TD, local Minister Heather Humphreys TD, An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD and the government to ensure the proposed Mercosur Deal is rejected, due to its disastrous implications for Irish Agriculture, particularly the crisis in the Beef Sector, as 99,000 tonnes of South American Beef will be allowed into the European Market each year. This Council expresses its total disappointment at EU Agriculture Commissioner, Phil Hogan for his support of this deal which has taken 20 years to negotiate, with it now coming at a time when the outcome of Brexit is totally unknown, combined Mercosur and Brexit could have disastrous consequences for Monaghan and Ireland.”

Cllr Gilliland and Maxwell asked that the members exercise caution in voting to reject the proposed Mercosur Deal as it included export benefits for Irish farmers (cheese, milk, etc) and businesses (pharmaceuticals, etc)

- (ii) Notice in the names of Cllrs Campbell, Gilliland, Kerr-Conlon, Maxwell and Truell

“As a result of the EU Mercosur Trade Deal and the potential negative impact it may have on the Irish Beef Sector, that this Council writes to the Minister for Agriculture, Michael Creed, TD seeking the immediate set-up of a Task Force Panel, ie Farmers, IFA, Beef Plan Movement, Beef Processors, Retailers and others, to conduct a comprehensive economic assessment on the beef aspect of the Mercosur Deal and to determine the scale of the impact it may have on the Irish Beef Sector.”

A vote by show of hands on Cllr O’Hanlon’s motion resulted in 10 for 5 against. The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

Given the success of Cllr O’Hanlon’s motion, the motion in the names of Cllrs Campbell, Gilliland, Kerr-Conlon, Maxwell and Truell was not moved.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____
