

Ceantar Bardasach Carraig Mhachaire Rois – Baile Na Lorgan

Comhairle Contae Mhuineachain



The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney

Monaghan County Council

Minutes of proceedings of MD monthly meeting held in the Civic Offices, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan on Monday 16th December 2019 at 4.45pm.

Present : Cathaoirleach Noel Keelan

Cllrs. Aidan Campbell, Aoife McCooey, PJ O’Hanlon, Colm Carthy

Apologies: Cllr. Mary Kerr Conlon

In Attendance: Paul Clifford, Director of Service, Gareth McMahon, District Co-ordinator, Matthew Lambe, District Engineer, Amanda Murray, Staff Officer, Mary Murray Assistant Staff Officer.

At the outset of the meeting Cllr. Keelan welcomed the introduction of new legislation regarding absentee landlords which will have a significant effect not just in Carrickmacross but in other towns around the country. He commended everyone involved, in particular, Mr. Pat Byrne, whose documentary on the ground rents applicable in Carrickmacross under the Shirley Estate, was a catalyst for the resurgence of interest in the issue. All members associated with the sentiments expressed, with Cllr. O’Hanlon expressing the view that it was a landmark day for Carrickmacross.

The members also welcomed the news of an extension to Inver College which will provide two classrooms for second level students with special needs.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. O’Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Carthy the minutes of the November monthly meeting held on Monday 25th November 2019 were adopted.

2.0 Matters Arising

Cllr. O’Hanlon asked if the HGV report is for today?

District Engineer Matthew Lambe stated that the report will be completed for the January MD meeting

Cllr. O’Hanlon queried whether or not there was a current application in place for a second CTec building in Carrickmacross. He stated that, at present, there was a waiting list of

business' in the area who wished to avail of the services of a new building. The Director of Services stated that there was no funding stream open at present, but should it be reopened, a new application would be made.

Cllr. Campbell enquired about the plans for the Monaghan Way, and welcomed the news that this project had been awarded €20,000 under the Outdoor Recreation Scheme.

It was noted, however, in order for the walkway to comply with IPB standards for public liability, it would cost €70,000. The Director of Services stated that a full report on the matter would be presented to the members in Q1 2020.

On foot of a query from Cllr. Keelan, the members were advised that works had now been completed for the time being at Aclint, and work would resume in 2020.

Regarding markings at the Kingcourt Road, the members were advised that the system in place complied with all legislation and that there was no breach for motorists who must cross over the solid white line in order to access the estate.

Cllr. McCooey proposed the provision of new Christmas lights at Oram Village, however, it was noted that any allocation for funding should be deferred to the designated budget meeting.

Cllr. Carthy welcomed the works carried out at a dangerous wall at Ivy House Lane. However, he stated that the area was still unsightly and urged that the aesthetics of the area should be a consideration at planning application stage.

Cllr. Carthy urged that the Council look at ways to upgrade the façade of the Hope Castle. The Director of Services stated that a report has been commissioned on the building. He went on to advise that Expressions of Interest have been sought regarding this building, with a view to putting it on the open market, and any recommendations as a result of this, would be carried out.

3.0 Correspondence

- A. Mr. Anthony McCarthy, Private Secretary to Michael Ring, TD acknowledged a letter from the MD regarding funding for a second CTec building.

Cllr. O'Hanlon was advised that a similar letter had issued to Minister Humphrey's, but no response had been received. He requested that this letter be reissued.

- B. A letter was received from Mr. Adrian McLoughlin, HSE in response to the MD's query regarding the group home for persons with physical and sensory disabilities in Carrickmacross. The member were unhappy with the sentiments expressed in the letter and the follow proposal was put forward by Cllr. O'Hanlon seconded by Cllr.Keelan:

"A meeting with Minister Finian McGrath, Minister Heather Humphreys along with senior members of the H.S.E. in relation to the Group Home built approximately 3 years ago that has not opened yet due to a lack of funding"

- C. A letter was received from Dr. Shane Corr on behalf of the Group Practice, Carrickmacross regarding the Council's concerns at the lack of GP services available in Carrickmacross. The following proposal was made by Cllr. Carthy seconded by Cllr. O'Hanlon:

“This MD calls on the Primary Care Manager’s of the HSE (CHO1) to meet with this Council in the near future to deal with the difficulty of assessing GP’s in Carrickmaross”.

- D. Letter from Mr. Adrian McLaughlin, Private Secretary to Finian McGrath in acknowledgement of the Council’s letter regarding the Group Home in Carrickmacross.

4.0 Municipal District Co-ordinator’s Report

The members acknowledged the contents of the report but noted that there were no new items which required in-depth discussion at this time. The members praised the works carried out at the Kavanagh Centre in Inniskeen and welcomed this newly refurbished venue in the District. The members were advised that the official opening of the Centre would be in March, 2020.

Cllr. Campbell

Welcomed the announcement of funding for Mindszenty Park, The Black Island and the Monaghan Way under the Outdoor Recreation Scheme funding stream.

5.0 Consideration of Contribution to Carrickmacross-Carhaix Twinning Committee for 2019.

The members complimented the works carried out by the committee over the past 12 months and on the proposal of Cllr. Carthy seconded by Cllr. O’Hanlon it was unanimously agreed that a recommendation should be made to Monaghan Co. Council to provide funding from the County Council’s Town Twinning fund.

6.0 Questions

Questions raised by Cllr. Noel Keelan for December 2019 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

1. Will this Council give some priority to putting in place some extra traffic calming measures on the Donaghmoynne road in 2020 including a pedestrian crossing at the Lisanisk junction as requested by local residents?

Response:

Presently there are no plans to install a pedestrian crossing at the Donaghmoynne Road/Lisanisk junction.

2. What is the up to-date position in relation to putting in place proper safe walking routes/footpaths throughout Inniskeen village?

Response:

The Council is currently in the process of developing the Kavanagh Trail. Funding to progress further routes will be pursued.

3. What new public lighting will be put in place throughout this Council area in the year 2020 will this Council improve the public lighting at the pedestrian crossing on the Donaghmoynne Road?

Response:

The lighting programme will be decided by the members in conjunction with 2020 budgets.

With Regarding to the Donaghmoyne Road, this MD carried out a speed survey over a 14 day period and the 85th percentile operating speed on this section of road pavement was registered at 52km/hr which is 2km/hr above the 50km/hr speed limit restriction which is in place. This section of pavement has been placed on the Low-Cost Safety Improvement Scheme list for consideration in 2020 for the provision of traffic calming measures following receipt of this information.

4. When will the 60km speed limit adjacent to the bus stop at the N2 slip road / Dundalk road be relocated as I understand all the formal processes are now complete?

Response:

The contractor with responsibility for updating the speed signs has been appointed and is presently on site in Co. Monaghan. It is intended that all signs including the respective sign referred to, will be in place before the Christmas holidays.

5. When is it hoped to commence works on this Councils agreed road Programme 2020 can any savings be made during the tender process?

Response:

The Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD will commence preliminary works on the roads programme 2020 in Q1. The Council, through the tender process seek to ensure best price practice.

7.0 Director of Service Orders

Order 61/2019 was duly noted.

8.0 Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

Votes of Sympathy were extended to the following:

Ms. Mary Caulfield, Fincarn, Broomfield on the death of her son Patrick.

Mr. Kenneth Lonergan, Shercock Road, on the death of his uncle Canon Pat Lonergan.

11.0 AOB

Cllr. Keelan

- Meet with developers of Close Drummond to discuss hoarding and its effects on site lines by those exiting Riverside Road.
- Requested that the Council revisit the current surface at the roundabout at Killanny. He stated that due to frosty conditions, there had been a number of accidents at this location this morning.
- Welcomed the MD's current "pothole blitz", which had seen repairs being made at various locations in the District.

Cllr. O'Hanlon

- Cllr. O’Hanlon queried whether the Council had taken any further action on a landowner on the Kingscourt Road for non-compliance with hedgecutting notices. He was advised that this matter has now been forwarded to the Council’s Solicitor.
- He commended the Council on their swift response to a dangerous wall at Ivy Lane and queried when works would be completed. He was advised that the wall was now safe and the onus was on the owner to ensure that additional works were carried out.

Cllr. Campbell

- Welcomed the official opening of the new wastewater treatment works in Castleblayney.
- Commended Bernie Bradley, Monaghan Co. Council on her recent award for her work with Age Friendly Ireland.

Cllr. Carthy

- Asked that the Engineering staff look at a serious pothole at the top of Ross Road, Carrickmacross. He was advised that this would be repaired this week.
- Asked when works would be complete at the public toilets in Carrickmacross. He was advised that works were scheduled for completion by Mid-March.
- Was advised that the disabled parking bays in Muckno Street, Castleblayney would be completed before Christmas.

The meeting concluded at 6:15pm.

Cathaoirleach

Date.

Meeting Administrator