

**Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, Mtek Building, Monaghan, on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2020 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 and R. Truell.

Mr. E. O'Sullivan, Chief Executive, Mr. P. Clifford, Mr. A. King and Ms. P. Monahan, Directors of Services, Mr. C. Flynn, A/Director of Service, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr. T. Gourley, Senior Executive Planner, Mr. Vincent Mc Kenna, Executive Engineer and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

At the outset, the Cathaoirleach wished all the General Election candidates in the county, the best of luck on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February. He also called on every member of the public to participate in the democrat process and exercise their vote at this election.

He also proposed a vote of good wishes to Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin who was retiring from Dail Eireann after serving as a TD for the Cavan–Monaghan constituency from 1997 to 2020. Cllr S. Conlon seconded the proposal which was agreed by the members.

The Chief Executive joined in the good wishes to the election candidates and Deputy Ó Caoláin on behalf of the Management Team and Staff of the Council.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes**

**(i) Minutes of Council meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2020**

*On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr McElvaney, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020, be confirmed.*

**2. Correspondence.**

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

- Letter of acknowledgement from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Mr. Eoghan Murphy, TD regarding a Climate Action Officer.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food & the Marine, Mr. Michael Creed, TD regarding TB.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Dr. Katherine Zappone, TD regarding Adoption.
- Letter from the Office of the Tánaiste - Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr. Simon Coveney, T.D regarding Brexit.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Health, Mr. Simon Harris, TD regarding Monaghan General Hospital.
- Letter from the Office of the Tánaiste - Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr. Simon Coveney, T.D regarding Brexit.

- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Dr. Katherine Zappone, TD regarding Early Learning and Care and School Age Childcare sector.
- Email from the Office of the Minister of State for Local Government and Electoral Reform, Mr. John Paul Phelan, TD regarding the Review of the Role of Renumeration of Local Authority Elected Members.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Finance, Mr. Paschal Donohoe TD, regarding Insurance for Childcare Providers.
- Email from Ms. Patricia Monahan, Director of Services to the County Councillors regarding Monaghan Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations 2020.
- 2020 Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations from the Department for Transport, Tourism and Sport.

**The following additional correspondence was also circulated:**

- Letter from the Office of the Tánaiste - Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr. Simon Coveney, T.D regarding Brexit.
- Letters from Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda to Dr. Martin J. Watters (Coroner, North Monaghan) and Dr. Mary Flanagan Watters (Coroner, South Monaghan) regarding Post Mortems.
- Notification regarding the launch of the Community and Environment Fund and that applications for funding will be accepted up until 5.00 p.m. on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020.

**Proposals arising out of correspondence:**

*On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr McKenna, it was agreed that this Council extends an invitation to the newly appointed Minister Of Health to meet with a delegation from this Council and local HSE management for the purpose of asking the Minister and their Department to explore the potential of increasing bed capacity and outpatient services at Monaghan General Hospital.*

*On the proposal of Cllr O’Hanlon, seconded by Cllr Keelan, it was agreed that this Council requests an urgent meeting with the incoming Minister for Foreign Affairs in relation to Brexit, now that the UK has formally left the E.U., and that this letter be forwarded to all County Councils along the Border.*

- 3. To consider Chief Executives Report prepared in accordance with Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) in respect of the demolition of existing fire damaged residential property and construction of 2no. two storey townhouses, boundary walls to rear and all associated site works at 12 Church Street, Ballybay, Co. Monaghan (19/8009)**

Mr. T. Gourley, Senior Executive Planner, outlined the main elements of the report which had been circulated with the agenda. He recommended that permission for the development would be approved.

*On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Gilliland, it was agreed that the Council approve the granting of permission for the demolition of existing fire damaged residential property and construction of 2 no. two storey townhouses and all associated works at 12 Church Street, Ballybay (Ref 19/8009) to comply with the report from the Chief Executive*

*dated 27 January 2020, in accordance with Part VIII of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2001 (as amended).*

**4. To consider Draft Standing Orders for Strategic Policy Committees**

The members noted the Draft Standing Orders for the Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs), which had been considered by the Corporate Policy Group and circulated to the SPC members for their information.

*On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed that the Draft Standing Orders for the Strategic Policy Committees 2020 – 2024 be approved.*

**5. To receive overview of Energy & Public Lighting Programme**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Vincent McKenna, Energy Officer and invited him to address the Council.

Mr. McKenna gave a comprehensive overview of the Energy & Public Lighting projects and a financial profile of LED Retrofit Project. He stated that in accordance with national targets, all public bodies must improve their energy efficiency by 33% by 2020 and that currently the Council is 3.02% ahead of this target. At the end of December 2019 the number of LED's retrofitted was 3480 or 61%. Following the presentation, Mr. McKenna responded to queries from the elected members.

The Cathaoirleach complimented Vincent and all involved in the public lighting retrofitting project for the success achieved to date.

**6. To consider recommendations and minutes from Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2020.**

The members noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2020 which had been circulated.

*On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr Gilliland, it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2020 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.*

**7. To receive Management Report - January 2020**

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

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

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

The members noted the report from Cllr Coyle, in relation to his attendance at the following conferences/training event:

- AILG - Climate Change – Local Authorities in the front line, Co. Westmeath

**9. Business submitted by the Chief Executive.**

The Chief Executive informed the members of the following:

**Luí na Gréine, Scotstown:** Monaghan County Council received final Stage 4 Funding Approval in January 2020 from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government under the Rebuilding Ireland programme to provide 32 social houses. The scheme includes the completion of 4 derelict unfinished houses and construction of 28 new houses on a derelict site in Scotstown bound between the Scotstown-Smithborough and the Scotstown-Rosslea roads.

**Chief Executive's Orders:** In accordance with Section 151 (4) of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended, the Chief Executive is obliged to have available for inspection at each monthly Council meeting so much of the Register of CE/Directors orders as have been executed since the previous meeting. He stated that in order to comply with the legislation a folder containing details of the CE/Directors orders will be available for inspection by the elected members at each monthly Council meeting.

**10. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2020**

Matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 were responded to by the relevant officials.

**11. Update on N2 National Primary Road Schemes**

Ms. P. Monahan updated the members in relation to this matter.

Cllr B. McKenna referred to a meeting of the A5/N2 Committee which had taken place in Omagh recently. He stated that the Committee was seeking a resolution from the local authorities along the border confirming support for the A5 Western Transport Corridor for submission to the Planning enquiry that will commence on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2020 in Omagh.

*On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council fully supports the development of the A5 route from Aughnacloy to Derry alongside the development of the N2 on the southern side from Ardee to the Northern Ireland Border.*

**12. To receive update on North South Interconnector project**

The members noted the following correspondence:

- Letter from the Chief Executive of Eirgrid regarding the recently published EirGrid Group Company Strategy – ‘Transforming the power system for future generations’ which covers the period 2020-2025 and seeking an opportunity to address the Council members.

*On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr McKenna, it was agreed that this Council invites the Chief Executive of Eirgrid to attend the March Council meeting.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that this Council writes to all the incoming Oireachtas members for this constituency requesting that they commit to the undergrounding of the North-South Interconnector and that they make it a priority during any negotiations for the formation of the next Government.*

### **13. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project.**

There was no discussion under this item.

### **14. To receive presentation from County Monaghan Disability Network**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed a large group from Monaghan Disability Network who were accompanied by Fiona Duffy, Disability Network and Regina Byrne, MIDL.

Ms. B. Bradley Social Inclusion Officer, outlined the background to the presentation that the group members were going to make. She explained that members of the Disability Network had carried out an audit of various locations in the towns on Make Way Day last September where they encountered a number of difficulties/obstacles.

The members then watched a short video during which Fiona demonstrated difficulties encountered by disabled drivers in negotiating the parking spaces in the Diamond Centre Car park in Monaghan town.

Irene highlighted the position in relation to visibility strips and audio settings at pedestrian crossings.

Tom, Gerry, Conor, Dominick and Brid outlined difficulties encountered with footpaths in Carrickmacross, Monaghan and Clones towns.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the members of the network for a very information presentation.

Cllr Conlon requested that the Council/Municipal Districts would take action to address the problems encountered by the Disability Network members.

*On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr O’Hanlon, it was agreed that for the purpose of ensuring issues of accessibility are addressed on a regular basis, that a quarterly inspection is undertaken by designated Council staff persons with the requisite skill set, and that follow up remediation measures are taken to ensure optimum conditions exist in our towns and villages for those citizens faced with mobility challenges.*

15. Questions:

**Cllr P. Connolly will ask:**

1. To ask Monaghan County Council in relation to the next phase of the Greenway from Smithboro to Middletown

(a) When is it proposed to commence work on the infrastructure of this project?

**Reply: Phase 2 of the Ulster Canal Greenway, Smithborough to Middletown is at the Design Stage. Construction is scheduled to commence before the end of the year, but this is subject to Funding, Planning and Land agreements being in place.**

(b) What is the likely completion date for this project?

**Reply: Construction will take approximately 12 months.**

**Cllr A. McCooey will ask:**

2. Can Monaghan County Council outline the number of housing units being built this year in each MD and indicate as to how many will be allocated to single individuals in 1 or 2 bed units?

**Reply: In accordance with the Capital Programme it is anticipated that there will be 162 dwellings provided in the county in 2020. Of these 129 will be provided in the Carrickmacross/Castleblaney MD, 28 in Clones/Ballybay area and the 5 remaining dependent on where application are received (repair and lease proposals/CALF acquisitions/single LA acquisitions/Buy and Renew applications).**

**Of the 162 units there are 31 2-bed units and 2 1bed properties which will be allocated as they become available.**

**Cllr C. Carthy will ask:**

3. What is the up-to-date situation with the Carrickmacross Group Home; has the HSE indicated when it intends to open it?

**Reply: The HSE has no further update on the progress of opening the Carrickmacross Group Home, the matter was referred to Senior Management in the HSE and is a constant item on the agenda of the local HSE disability team and is raised at every opportunity. No funding or opening date has been confirmed.**

16. Votes of Sympathy/ Congratulations.

**Vote of sympathy:**

*It was agreed that a vote of sympathy would be extended to Council employee, Karen McDonald on the death of Francis Hackett, RIP.*

**Vote of congratulations:**

*It was agreed that a vote of congratulations be extended to Eoghan McGinnity, St. Macartan's College, who won the All Ireland Senior Colleges Title in handball recently.*

## 17. Conferences/Training

*On the proposal of Cllr Gilliland, seconded by Cllr Keelan, it was agreed that the Council be represented at the following conferences by the members listed.*

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members Selected
<b>Celtic Conferences</b>	Health & Safety in the Workplace	O'Donovan's Hotel, Main Street, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	21st to 23rd February 2020	Cllr Seamus Coyle
<b>LAMA</b>	LAMA Spring Training Seminar	Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March-Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Cllr Brian McKenna Cllr Pat Treanor Cllr Noel Keelan Cllr Colm Carthy Cllr Seán Conlon Cllr PJ O Hanlon Cllr Aoife McCooey Cllr Paudge Connolly Cllr Richard Truell Cllr David Maxwell Cllr Sean Gilliland Cllr Seamus Coyle
<b>AILG</b>	The Development Plan Making Process – A briefing for Elected Members	Hotel Kilmore, Dublin Road, Cavan	Thursday, 13th February 2020	Cllr Brian McKenna Cllr Colm Carthy Cllr Seán Conlon Cllr PJ O Hanlon Cllr Seamus Coyle
<b>AILG</b>	The Development Plan Making Process – A briefing for Elected Members	Dooley's Hotel Waterford	Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	Cllr Richard Truell Cllr David Maxwell Cllr Sean Gilliland Cllr Paudge Connolly

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cathaoirleach

\_\_\_\_\_  
Meetings Administrator

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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