

## Municipal District of Monaghan

### **Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held in the Boardroom, MTek1 on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 10.00am.**

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Conlon presided.

**Present:** Cllrs. David Maxwell, Raymond Aughey, Seamus Treanor, Brian McKenna and Cathy Bennett.

Cllr Connolly virtual attendance

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

At the outset, Cllr Conlon welcomed everyone and Cllr Connolly remotely to the meeting in these extraordinary times, glad to see certain amount of degrees of normality resumed, commended the Press on their resilience and wished all who contribute and those who have contributed in the past a renewed energy.

Cllr Conlon conveyed his deepest sympathy to Mr McElwain and his family on the passing of his mother RIP.

#### **1. Confirmation of minutes:**

On the proposal of Cllr. McKenna, seconded by Cllr. Maxwell, it was agreed that the minutes of the Municipal District of Monaghan meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020 be confirmed.

#### **2. Matters arising:**

Cllr McKenna asked that the drain blocked at Clara chapel receives attention as it remains blocked.

Cllr Connolly asked for an update on the CCTV for the town and also google maps in relation to lorries being diverted through Ballinode and Glaslough and the route to Rossmore Park. Mr McElwain responded that we are waiting on approval from Commissioner in relation to the extra cctv. He will follow up.

Mr Murray read a response from IT stating that Google will remove the route option that was causing diversion via Mullaghmatt to Rossmore.

Cllr Conlon requested an update on the Ulster Canal Greenway for our July meeting.

Cllr Conlon stated that while he was entirely supportive of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan and encourages a clean environment and biodiversity, he is not happy that the role of consultation with the local community has not been applied as detailed within the Plan.

He added that it has failed to win the hearts and minds of the people and appealed to the Executive to convey to the relevant sections to take the appropriate actions and engage in consultation.

A detailed discussion took place on the matter.

Mr McElwain commented that the council had consulted with the Tidy Towns, whom had planned to discuss with Residents groups. The Covid19 pandemic restrictions had a major affect on the whole process including the grass cutting.

Cllr Bennett referred to drinking in public at Hollywood lake and has contacted An Gardai, and asked can we drive a campaign emphasising that there are Intoxicating substances bye-laws in place with on the spot fine of €75, and also point out to take your litter home.

Mr Murray responded that he will discuss the matter with Environment Section to drive campaign in conjunction with spring clean week.

Cllr Maxwell asked would the MD engage with Coillte to investigate the introduction of Park Rangers for next season, to work on combatting littering and anti-social behaviour in the Park.

### **3. Schedule of Municipal District Works:**

Cllr Conlon noted that the budget had not changed for Belgium Park and requested that all avenues are pursued to make up for the shortfall of revenue.

Cllr Connolly asked was there any plans to re-introduce Pay Parking and Mr Murray responded that a decision will be made in consultation with the members.

Mr Murray informed the members that we are in the process of procuring for a Cashless pay parking App.

Cllr Bennett asked for a breakdown of where the pay parking revenue is spent.

Cllr McKenna proposed that we write to Belgium Park committee and advise them that the funding is not available this year.

### **4. Co-ordinator's Report:**

Cllr Conlon asked that intoxicating substance signage be erected.

All members would like to meet with consultants before a decision is made in relation to Destination Towns Funding.

Cllr Conlon requested that a traffic survey be carried out on the Threemilehouse Road at the Park entrance for a degree of road safety measures, which was seconded by Cllr McKenna.

Cllr Aughey requested that an email be sent to the members in relation to what the Council have to do at the Aldi site and funding.

Cllr Bennett asked could an application be made under the CLAR funding be made for projects listed in the Sliabh Beagh Masterplan to which Mr Murray responded that it is up to the Community group to submit CLAR applications.

Mr McElwain informed the members that an email was sent out explaining the CLAR funding and will forward it again.

## 5. Questions and Responses:

### **Cllr Connolly asked:**

1) What plans have Monaghan Municipal District to remove the dilapidated and unused telephone kiosks at the junction of Church Square and Mill St that continue to be an eyesore in the centre of Monaghan town?

**Response: Monaghan Municipal District have contacted Eir and have requested them to remove this damaged phone box. Further communications have taken place and Eir's contractor has given a commitment to replace this phone box next week.**

### **Cllr Conlon asked:**

1) In an effort at discouraging unauthorised night time gathering at the Belgium Park Football Pitch, can improved lighting, non-invasive to nearby residents, be installed at this location?

**Response: It is not possible to illuminate the Belgium Park football pitch from the nearby street lighting columns. The distance the light has to travel is too far, and to try to increase the strength/wattage of the road LEDs to cover the pitch area would result in a complete loss of uniformity in the road and footpath illumination at that location.**

**The Belgium Park football pitch measure approx. 100m x 70m. In order to properly illuminate this area would require the installation of 8 No new lighting columns positioned appropriately. This is a specialist form of illumination that requires specific design for the sport to be carried out.**

2) Have additional resources and outdoor staffing allocation been designated for the purpose of ensuring appropriate hedge and verge trimming in order to ensure social distancing for pedestrians along the Greenway and footpaths throughout the town?

**Response: Verge trimming of the Greenway is currently being arranged. Footpaths will be assessed. Owners of private hedges should ensure their hedges do not encroach onto the public footpaths.**

3) Is there a timescale scheduled for the replacement of wooden windows in the 14 houses at Ard Glas and Ard Gleann yet to be retrofitted and which will greatly improve energy efficiency?

**Response: Replacement of windows at 31 Ard Glas has been included in planned maintenance budget for 2020 following a condition survey at the property. The installation date for these windows will depend on Covid19 restrictions.**

**A percentage of the planned maintenance budget will be set aside over the next 5-6 years for the replacement of windows. A condition survey will be required to be carried out on all properties to determine the requirement and priority. The replacement of any windows will be assessed depending on funding available and any higher priority works that may be encountered**

4) Has an agricultural contractor been selected, and commencement date indicated, for the overdue harvesting of the Council initiated Willow Crop Plantation at Clontibret and Knockatallon?

**Response: A contractor has been selected and harvesting works at both sites are programmed to commence in July 2020.**

5) What progress has been made in filling the post of a Town Manager, previously vacated 6 months ago, and required to assist in the regeneration of business activity throughout the Town and Municipal District?

**Response: The Human Resource Management Section advertised for the post of Monaghan Business Support Executive in February 2020. The shortlisting of candidates took place in March 2020. Delays in the recruitment process were unavoidable due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Monaghan County Council will prioritise the completion of the recruitment campaign in the coming months.**

**Cllr Bennett asked:**

1) Can the Monaghan Municipal District please write to Irish Water and ask when the road from Scotstown to Urbleshanny will be resurfaced following the installation of the Public Sewage System there?

**Response: Monaghan Municipal District have referred this question to Irish Water for a response.**

2) Can Monaghan County Council please ask Irish Water to examine the possibility of extending the Public sewage system from Scotstown to Brennan's Cross? There were previous plans for this.

**Response: There are no plans in the Irish Water investment plan to extend the sewer from Scotstown to Brennan's Cross. The building, repair and upgrading of Irish Water's water treatment plants, wastewater treatment plants, water and sewer network will require a multi-billion-euro investment programme over many years. Irish Water is committed to providing a safe and reliable water supply, protecting the environment and supporting the growth of homes and businesses. Irish Water's investment plan prioritises key outcomes such as leakage, water supply zones removed from the EPA's Remedial Action List, areas where there is raw sewage entering the rivers, lakes and the sea (untreated agglomerations), and areas identified by the European Court of Justice under the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive. In preparing the Investment Plan, Irish Water has optimised investment decisions by prioritising the best possible service improvements, while maximising value-for-money. The list of projects and programmes is continuously being refined based on new and emerging needs and is subject to budget, technical and environmental constraints, as well as statutory approvals. Irish Water do not have proposals in the Investment Plan for the provision of a sewer network to service these properties out to Brennan's Cross.**

**For properties seeking to connect to the sewer in this area, an Application is required to Irish Water via <https://www.water.ie/connections/>. The Connections team will assess options / feasibility /cost of connection to the sewer. Where there are multiple properties seeking connection, a joint application can be facilitated.**

**Another option is for the property owners to form a committee and to consider applying to the Rural Water division for funding to set up a Group Sewerage Scheme.**

3) Can Monaghan County Council please examine the possibility of installing a crash barrier at Kilmore Football grounds. These works had previously been under consideration in the Ballybay Clones MD?

**Response: The Monaghan MD will investigate and liaise with the Ballybay Clones MD and the Scotstown GAA club to explore solutions at this access on a dangerous bend.**

4) Can Monaghan County Council please examine the roadway from the Penal Cross to the Mass Rock as it is presently in a very bad state of disrepair and emergency road works are necessary for safety reasons?

**Response: This road is not currently on the Roads Restoration program. The Municipal District will investigate what repairs can be made to this road.**

5) Have Monaghan County Council examined the road layout at Hasty's cross and the parking area? What safety measures are being considered for this area?

**Response: Repairs are scheduled to the road surface at this junction and stop line markings will be renewed when this is completed. The junction layout design can also be investigated for consideration in a Low-Cost Safety Improvement Scheme.**

## **7. Motions:**

"That Monaghan County Council offer the opportunity of consultation to Residents Associations regarding the radically changed grass cutting schedule on public green spaces"

Cllr Sean Conlon

This motion was discussed at the beginning of the meeting, seconded by Cllr Maxwell and agreed by all members that the council should engage in consultation with Tidy Town and resident groups.

"That this council write to the Department of Justice regarding the connection from the sewage system at Drumgosk, Milltown refugee centre to the main Town connection. The question I ask who paid for this or was it the private company that run the centre or the taxpayers"?

Cllr Seamus Treanor

Cllr Treanor outlined his motion which was seconded by Cllr Connolly and agreed by all members that we should write to Mr Flynn, Director of Services seeking a response.

## **8. Fix date for AGM:**

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Aughey, the date of 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020 was fixed for the AGM.

Dated this 16th day of June 2020

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

Cathaoirleach

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

Meetings Administrator