

Municipal District of Monaghan

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held in the Boardroom, MTek1 on Monday 20th January, 2020 at 10.00am.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Conlon presided.

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

In Attendance: John Murray, Director of Services, Donal McElwain, Municipal District Co-ordinator, Dermot Deeney, Executive Engineer, Bernie McElvaney, Senior Staff Officer, Cathal Flynn, A/Director of Services, Alan Hall, Corporate Services and Capital Projects Management.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. McKenna, seconded by Cllr. Treanor, it was agreed that the minutes of the Municipal District of Monaghan meeting held on 16th December 2019 be confirmed.

2. Matters Arising

Cllr Conlon requested that a strong worded letter be written to the solicitor representing Lord Rossmore stating that the Black Lane is in a deplorable, hazardous condition and a real threat of collapsing and also request sight of correspondence sent from the original solicitor to the current solicitor to establish progress.

3. Capital Programme

Cllr Conlon welcomed Mr Flynn and Mr Hall to the meeting. A presentation on the Capital Programme, which was adopted at the December County Council meeting, was circulated to the members. Mr Flynn outlined the projects, recreation and amenity relevant to the Monaghan MD. A discussion took place on the Dublin Street North and South projects.

Cllr Bennett asked for public lighting to be installed at Cornacassa to which Cllr McKenna responded that public lighting should be discussed at the Roads Meeting.

Cllr Connolly stated that sections of the greenway need drainage or outlets to let water away to which Mr Deeney responded that sections will be targeted with funding received from the Outdoor Recreational Grant.

Cllr Conlon asked for an update on the Greenway extension to be provided for the next County Council meeting, as per the request of Monaghan MD members.

Cllr Conlon stated that seven derelict properties that were acquired by Monaghan County Council are still derelict. Mr Flynn responded that Arbitration was complete on 4-5 Mill Street and North Road and that there will be a report on all sites for the next meeting.

Cllr Connolly asked did the council approach the family of Elliot's land at Mullaghcroghery with a view to developing the lands. Some discussion took place regarding the land between the members on access, legal opinion on its use. Mr Murray responded that the MD will

seek legal opinion on whether or not we can develop these lands for anything other than recreational.

Cllr Conlon thanked Mr Flynn and Mr Hall for their presentation.

4. Report from Municipal District Co-ordinator

Mr. McElwain outlined the Municipal District report to the members:

Cllr Bennett welcomed funding for Hollywood. Cllr Connolly welcomed works starting in Rossmore Park today and asked when the next giant sculpture was coming to which Mr McElwain responded the arrival of the sculpture called Spike was eminent and construction is underway on another giant for the entrance.

Cllr Conlon thanked Trevor Connolly, Town Centre Co-ordinator for his initiative, his endeavours that have contributed significantly to the economic environment in Monaghan. He asked that a replacement be recruited as soon as possible. All members concurred with these sentiments.

Cllr Conlon asked that road at the corner of Corby Rock be looked at as vehicles constantly crashing into the wall at this location.

Cllr McKenna complimented the contractors for keeping the road from Corracrin to Emyvale clear on the lead up to and during Christmas. He asked if an application has been made to the TII to repair sections of the Tirnaneill road damaged by diverted traffic from the N2 Realignment works.

Cllr Maxwell asked that TII be contacted and asked why the speed limits had changed before periodic signage was erected.

Cllr McKenna sought clarification on the periodic speed limits at Corracrin School.

Cllr McKenna asked could roads be salted in the vicinity of Clara and Carrickroe schools and raised an issue about drainage channels along the side of the Clara Road on the LHS (before the Council housing development) being full and water not getting away resulting in the road flooding every time it rains.

A discussion took place on the slippery roads approaching schools and Mr Murray advised that the Road's SPC is the place to discuss the availability of salt for schools.

Mr McElwain advised that a date is required for St Patrick's Day Parade committee meeting.

4. Correspondence.

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

Letter dated 16th December 2019 from Monaghan Motor Club requesting use of Lr. Courthouse Car Park. On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Aughey, the request was agreed by all members.

Letter dated 16th January 2020 from Elizabeth Murphy, representing the Friends of Coolshannagh Graveyard, requesting ESB connection to the Chapel of rest. All members agreed to facilitate this request.

5. Monaghan Bus Station

No further update

6. Questions and Responses:

Cllr Conlon asked:

1) Further to my question to the October County Council meeting agenda, what progress has occurred in exploring the potential of this Council extending the community text alert scheme on a cross border basis in collaboration with neighbouring county Policing Community Safety Partnerships?

Additionally, what progress has occurred regarding efforts to establish a text alert scheme for the Monaghan Town area?

Response: A meeting has been arranged with the Cross Border Unit of An Garda Síochána for 20th January to discuss how to develop a cross border text alert service. A report on this meeting will be given to the February JPC meeting.

With regard to establishing a text alert scheme for Monaghan town, there is a scheme in Mullaghmatt/ Cortolvin, and another in Beechgrove Lawns. A possible third scheme is in the pipeline for Killygoan/ Connolly Park, and there is a proposal to set up a scheme for the town's retailers. Other groups who wish to organise a scheme will be happily accommodated. It should be noted that any citizen in any part of the county, including Monaghan town, can join the main Monaghan Community Alerts group as it currently stands and will receive Garda alerts about criminal activity in the town through that group.

2) With only 15 new social housing units scheduled to be made available for 2020 for the Monaghan Municipal District area, what plans are in place to address a waiting list of approximately 500 applicants seeking Council housing in the Monaghan Town / North Monaghan area?

Response: Monaghan County Council completed 43 houses at Latlorcan in Monaghan Town in Q4 of 2019 and 17 unfinished houses were brought into use also at Latlorcan. In addition, five individual houses were purchased to accommodate urgent and specific need in Monaghan Town and twenty one Casual Vacancies that arose were returned to use in the Monaghan Municipal District in 2019. Monaghan County Council is working on several other projects that will deliver social housing in north Monaghan including the construction of 32 social houses at Luí na Gréine in Scotstown in Q1 of 2021 with phased completion Q2 to Q4 of 2021 and other projects that will deliver houses in the Monaghan Municipal District subject to approval under the Rebuilding Ireland programme.

3) Regarding my previous queries in creating a Masterplan for the extensive Council owned lands at Latlorcan, what plans are in place to make available private sites for purchase for those seeking to build their own dwelling? Will this Council provide the water, sewerage and civil infrastructure to facilitate this type of development?

Response: At the January 2020 meeting of Monaghan County Council the Elected Members agreed to sell six sites at Latlorcan to individuals for private development as their own homes. The prospective purchasers of the six sites have paid deposits and instructions have been issued to the Council's Solicitor to proceed with preparation of contracts for the sale of the sites. Costs associated with the preparation of the sites for sale, estate agent's fees and solicitor's fees will be offset against the income from the sale of the sites. Following that the feasibility of selling additional sites for private development will be considered further including provision of infrastructure required to facilitate development.

4) What progress has occurred following correspondence discussed at last October's MD meeting regarding the appeal for assistance from the Monaghan Canoe Polo Club in creating a new sporting venture at Peters Lake?

Response: This initiative from the Monaghan Canoe Polo Club was added to the submissions under the Destination Towns report. No further progress has been made as no suitable grants have come available since last discussed in October.

7. Motions:

‘that this Municipal District write to the Minister of Social Protection, Regina Doherty, regarding the change in the old age pension from 65 to 67’

Cllr Treanor outlined his motion which was seconded by Cllr Connolly and agreed by all members.

Dated this 20th day of January 2020

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Meetings Administrator