

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Garage Theatre, Armagh Road, Monaghan, on Monday 2nd November, 2020 at 11.00 a.m.

Chair: Cllr C. Carthy, Cathaoirleach

Present: Cllrs. Aughey, Bennett, Campbell, Conlon, Connolly, Coyle, Gilliland, Keelan, Kerr-Conlon (remotely), Maxwell, McCooey, McElvaney, McKenna, O’Hanlon, P. Treanor, S. Treanor, R. Truell.

Mr. E. O’Sullivan, Chief Executive, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr. P. Clifford, Mr. A. King, Ms. P. Monahan, Directors of Services, Mr. Cathal Flynn, A/Director of Services, Mr. Adrian Hughes, Senior Planner, Ms. M. McGarvey, Senior Staff Officer and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

(i) Minutes of Council meeting held on 5th October, 2020

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 5th October, 2020, be confirmed.

2. Correspondence.

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

- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Health, Mr Stephen Donnelly T.D. regarding Carrickmacross Group Home.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Mr. Michael McGrath, T.D. regarding the European Regional Development Funds.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for State, Mr. Peter Burke, T.D. regarding funding issues for Monaghan County Council.
- Letter from An Garda Síochána regarding the reopening of Emyvale Garda Station.
- Letter from Senator Robbie Gallagher on behalf of Mr. Leo Varadkar, Tánaiste, regarding the closure of the Restart Grant Scheme.
- Email from Cllr Colm Carthy regarding Siege of Jadotville medals
- Resolution from Meath County Council regarding details of confirmed COVID-19 cases to be made available on a Townland basis.

The following additional correspondence which had been received after the agenda had issued, was also circulated:

- Email from Peter Monaghan, to discuss TB in County Monaghan
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Health, Mr. Stephen Donnelly, T.D regarding Still Births register.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Mr. Charlie McConalogue regarding occurrences of TB.
- Press Release from An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, T.D, the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly, T.D and Minister for State for the Department of Health, with responsibility for Public Health, Well Being and the National Drugs Strategy, Frank Feighan T.D regarding the launch of the “Keep Well” campaign.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr Truell, seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was agreed that the Council support the resolution from Meath County Council calling on the Minister for Health, the Department of Health and NPHET to make available weekly or bi-monthly, details of confirmed COVID 19 cases on a townland basis. This would ensure further compliance with Covid 19 measures and encourage the principle of 'We are all in this together' bringing communities together to reduce the spread of the virus locally.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon, it was agreed that the Council pursue a meeting with Department of Agriculture officials via online platform to discuss the situation in relation to TB in Co. Monaghan.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllrs Maxwell and P. Treanor, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council adopt, promote and advance the awarding of the recommended 5 Military Medals for Gallantry and the 27 Distinguished Service Medals for the Irish Soldiers of A Company 35th Infantry Battalion [155 of] who so bravely defended the Siege of Jadotville, serving under a UN mandate in the DRC the early 1960's. The soldiers returned to Ireland and were unjustly branded as cowards, as history now informs us. Although they were recognised in 2017 by the Government with a block Jadotville Medal, the Gallantry and Distinguished Service medals continue to be denied. With only 8 surviving soldiers alive, time cannot wait any longer for the just recognition so richly deserved by our brave veterans.

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

- (i) To consider granting permission for widening of the R181 regional road (20/8004)

The members noted the Chief Executive's report dated 21 October 2020 in relation to planning permission for the widening of the R181 Regional Road (20/8004)

On the proposal of Cllr Gilliland, seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was resolved that the Council proceed with the development as proposed, namely; the widening of the R181 road and upgrading of junctions and all associated site works (Ref 20/8004) to comply with the report from the Chief Executive dated 21 October 2020, in accordance with Part VIII of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2001 (as amended).

- (ii) To consider granting permission for the demolition of 20th century extensions and alterations to the former Lennard Arms Hotel and change of use from vacant hotel to a heritage centre and exhibition space (20/8005)

The members noted the Chief Executive's report dated 21 October 2020 in relation to planning permission for the demolition of 20th century extensions and alterations to the former Lennard Arms Hotel and change of use from vacant hotel to a heritage centre and exhibition space (20/8005)

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr McElvaney, it was resolved that the Council proceed with the development as proposed, namely; the demolition of 20th century extensions and alterations to the former Lennard Arms Hotel and change of use from vacant hotel to a heritage centre and exhibition space (20/8005) to comply with the report from the

Chief Executive dated 21 October 2020, in accordance with Part VIII of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2001 (as amended).

4. To adopt the County Monaghan Biodiversity and Heritage Strategy 2020-2025

Ms. Shirley Clerkin, Heritage Officer gave a presentation to the members during which she outlined the main elements of the County Monaghan Biodiversity and Heritage Strategic Plan 2020-2025. She explained that the Plan combines the areas of heritage and biodiversity and contains thirteen priority themes for the county. By 2020 the role of heritage and biodiversity for climate change mitigation and adaptation, sustainable communities, functioning ecosystems, health and well-being is generally accepted in the county and embedded in the activities of Monaghan County Council. An action plan is an integral part of the strategy that will be undertaken over the next five years to enable positive outcomes for both diversity and heritage. The Plan also contains a number of Key Performance Indicators to measure its success.

Following the presentation Ms. Clerkin responded to queries from the members.

The Cathaoirleach and members complimented the Heritage Officer and staff on the preparation of the Strategic Plan.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllrs Bennett and Maxwell, it was agreed that the Council adopt the County Monaghan Biodiversity and Heritage Strategy 2020-2025.

5. To approve the Monaghan Age Friendly Strategy 2020-2024

Ms. Bernie Bradley, Social Inclusion Officer gave a presentation to the members during which she outlined the main elements of the second Age-Friendly Strategy for Monaghan. She explained that the Strategy builds on the foundations of the success of the county's first strategy. The Public consultation undertaken in the preparation of the Strategy highlighted the issues that remain a challenge for older people needing continued support and development. Consultation also highlighted new issues to be addressed over the coming five years. The proposed actions within this second strategy reflect the views, opinions and recommendations of the older people in County Monaghan in 2019. Throughout the development of this strategy the focus remained on making Monaghan a great place in which to grow old. Monaghan Age Friendly Alliance will continue to work to achieve this goal.

She stated that since its establishment in 2011, the Monaghan Age Friendly Programme has progressed to be one of the leading Age Friendly Programmes in the country. Monaghan has shared the learning from its successful initiatives with colleagues across the country.

Following her presentation, Ms. Bradley responded to queries from the members.

The Cathaoirleach and members complimented Ms. Bradley on the preparation of the Age Friendly Strategy.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that the Monaghan Age Friendly Strategy 2020-2024 be noted and approved.

6. To approve the Monaghan Migrant Integration Strategy

Ms. Bernie Bradley, Social Inclusion Officer gave a presentation to the members on the Monaghan Migrant Integration Strategy 2020-2022 which had been circulated. She stated that the strategy sets out Monaghan Local Community Development Committee's plan to ensure the integration of all those who live in County Monaghan. This strategy will build on the many successful initiatives and activities to support the migrant community in Monaghan to get involved in all aspects of community life in the county.

Based on the research and wide consultation undertaken with the migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in the county, the Strategy identifies six Goals and includes an Action Plan to be undertaken during the lifetime of the strategy. This Action Plan has been mapped against The National Migrant Integration Strategy (NMIS) and the Monaghan Local Economic and Community Plan (MLECP) to ensure complementarity.

Following the presentation, Ms. Bradley responded to queries from the members.

On the proposal of Cllr McCooey, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed that the Monaghan Migrant Integration Strategy be noted and approved.

Cllr S. Treanor stated that he wished to be recorded as being opposed to the approval of the Strategy.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Keelan, it was agreed that this Council writes to Minister's Helen McEntee TD and Roderic O'Gorman TD seeking the creation of a Government White Paper at the earliest opportunity that will provide a pathway to replace the existing Direct Provision system following the recent publication of the Advisory Groups recommendations.

Adjournment of meeting:

The time having reached 12.55 pm, the Cathaoirleach informed the members that he was adjourning consideration of the balance of the agenda to another day. It was agreed that the adjourned meeting would be held on Monday 9th November, 2020 at 11.00 a.m. in The Garage Theatre.

Draft Guidelines for Supplementary Standing Orders for Remote Council meetings:

The Chief Executive informed the members that draft guidelines for supplementary Standing Orders to regulate the proceedings in relation to remote Council meetings had been received from the Department and had been circulated with the agenda for the Council meeting. He suggested that the Council's Standing Orders and Procedures Committee would meet in advance of Monday 9th November to review the guidelines and make a recommendation to the full Council which can be considered at the adjourned meeting. This was agreed.

Cllr O'Hanlon raised the matter of presentations being given at Council meetings when there was only a limited period of time for dealing with Council business. He suggested that these presentations would be done via an online platform. It was agreed that the Standing Orders and Procedures Committee would consider this matter also.

The meeting then concluded.