

Municipal District of Monaghan

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held in the Boardroom, MTek1 on Monday, 21st September 2020 at 11.00am.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Treanor presided.

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

In Attendance: John Murray, Director of Services, Donal McElwain, Municipal District Co-ordinator, Paul Clerkin, Assistant Engineer, Bernie McElvaney, Senior Staff Officer,

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 20th July 2020 be confirmed.

2. Matters arising:

Mr Murray clarified that the cashless option for pay parking is part of the system that will compliment the existing system in the town, and the best option will be brought to the members at next MD meeting.

Cllr Treanor referred to a previous motion at the June meeting in relation to sewage connection at Drumgoask. Mr Clerkin confirmed that the company had a road opening licence, a waste water connection, and a retention application for connection to foul water and sewer had been submitted.

Cllr Bennett referred to her previous mention of poor visibility at Heasty's Cross and nothing had been done. Mr McElwain stated that road surface was not good enough for road markings and will look at other options. Mr Murray advised to notify the Executive of lorry owners and we will write to them.

Cllr McKenna asked for an update on Tullyherim Lane. Cllr Maxwell asked that we write directly to Lord Rossmore, explaining the deplorable state of lane and transfer the lane to Monaghan County Council. Mr Murray stated that we will communicate with new contact and ask to expediate the transfer.

3. Co-ordinator's Report:

Cllr Maxwell asked did we respond to American Football Ireland to which Mr McElwain responded that goal post are back in place, and will respond.

Cllr Aughey asked for an update on cctv to which Mr McElwain responded that the National Advisory Group are looking a presentation from local Gardai. Mr Murray advised as soon as we obtain Commissioner's approval, we are ready to proceed.

Cllr Treanor asked for an update on derelict buildings, Dieselec and house beside it. Mr Murray responded that we will have an update on CPO'd properties in the town for our next meeting.

Cllr Bennett welcomed funding for Rossmore Cycle Trail and Destination Towns and asked was there any funding for Sliabh Beagh. She added that the road where the 7km walk loop is in a poor state. Cllr McKenna agreed. Mr Clerkin advised that this road may be a pilot scheme for reclaimed asphalt.

Cllr Treanor asked could they meet Siobhan Sherry, Monaghan Business Support Executive, at the October meeting.

4. Questions and Responses:

Cllr Bennett asked: 1) In relation to Rossmore Park and the ongoing works, the following suggestions have been brought to my attention:

Can the following measures please be considered in the improvements?

- * More maps and signage, promoting the Giant walks especially
- * Phonenumber and WiFi signal boost in the Park
- * A clear entrance for emergency services into the Park
- * An information phone number for Rossmore Park

Response: The current Outdoor Recreational Infrastructural project is substantially complete. A new walking route map of Rossmore Forest Park was produced in 2018 and is located on the Monaghan Tourism website. The council in agreement with Coillte will continue to develop this park including the consideration of phone and Wi-Fi signals. The Monaghan MD office can be contacted for information along with the Coillte and Monaghan Tourism websites.

2) Can Monaghan County Council please consider constructing a footpath from Scotstown Village to Kilmore Football field on the Ballinode Road. This is a very dangerous stretch of road and is in much need of this safety measure?

Response: This stretch of road is over 1.1km in length, with steep banks and no grass verge in places. It would take significant finance and earthworks to provide a footpath connecting Scotstown to Kilmore football field. There is no current funding of this significant to construct this footpath.

3) Can I please have an update on improvements for the Sliabh Beagh area? Have Monaghan County Council any additional plans to help promote tourism in the area? Is the Sliabh Beagh Masterplan being used to secure funding that would benefit the area?

Response: In terms of the tourism aspect of the Masterplan, MCC are now in the process of working up a significant funding application to improve and develop the outdoor recreational infrastructure on Sliabh Beagh and we have Planning Solutions Consulting Limited to assist us in this regard. As a company, PSC has a lot of experience of working with rural destinations in developing a range of products to enhance the visitor experience.

Cllr Conlon asked: 1) For the purpose of enhancing pedestrian safety along the N54 Armagh Rd between the Coolshannagh roundabout and St. Davnets entrance that is currently a grass verge, will this Council install a footpath along this route?

Response: This council will investigate the possibility of installing a footpath along this section of road and look at possible funding streams for same.

2)Further to my previous query from June, 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? The commitment previously given of a July harvest has obviously not yet occurred.

Response: Harvesting works commenced in July at both Knockatallon and Clontibret where a planned ESB shut down was carried out to allow the harvester to harvest the sections of willows beneath the overhead power lines.

Full harvesting then commenced at Knockatallon but only succeeded in harvesting about 1 acre until the harvester had a mechanical failure. While the time taken to carry out the repair had elapsed the weather had deteriorated making the already prone soft ground impassable by the machinery.

It is now planned, weather permitting that the harvesting can commence by early October.

Motion

“For the purpose of enhancing the tourism attraction of our region, that this Council engages with Coillte, Failte Ireland, the Irish Tourism Industry Confederation and relevant stakeholders for the purpose of creating camper van / caravan facilities at Rossmore Park”

Cllr Conlon

Cllr Conlon was absent so this motion will be brought forward to our October meeting.

5. Sympathy:

Votes of sympathy were extended to:

Brendan Keenan and family on the passing of his brother Stephen.

McCaughey Family on the passing of Brian McCaughey.

6. Congratulations:

Congratulation were extended to:

Monaghan Harps Team on winning the Intermediate Championship

Scotstown Team on winning the Senior Championship

6. AOB:

Cllr Bennett referred to the problem of commercial vans pulling into bus stop at Library leaving buses forced to stop in the middle of the road. She asked could the stops be made wheelchair accessible stops. Cllr Bennett asked that we contact Local Link to have the route extended to Milltown and Pound Hill.

Dated this 21st day of September 2020

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Meetings Administrator