

Municipal District of Monaghan

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held via Teams on Monday, 18th January, 2021 at 10.00am.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Treanor presided.

Present: Cllrs. Brian McKenna, Paudge Connolly, Cathy Bennett, David Maxwell and Sean Conlon

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, An Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to our first meeting via Teams. Cllr Treanor expressed sympathy to Cllr Aughey on the passing of his Aunt, Alice Aughey RIP.

1. Adoption of Supplementary Standing Orders:

On the proposal of Cllr. McKenna, seconded by Cllr. Treanor, it was agreed that the Supplementary Standing Orders for the Municipal District of Monaghan be adopted.

2. Confirmation of Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr. Treanor, it was agreed that the minutes of the Municipal District meeting held on 14th December 2020 be confirmed.

3. Matters arising:

Cllr Maxwell asked did a letter go out to the residents in relation to Tullyhirm Lane.

Cllr Conlon proposed that we write to SEUPB in relation to the Ulster Canal Greenway funding application, providing maps of the current and proposed budgeted Greenway links, seeking permission for the Council to proceed with the approximately 1 km remaining to complete the path along the Monaghan Town by-pass.

Cllr Conlon withdrew his proposal when Mr Murray advised that a separate application has been made to the National Transport Agency in relation to these works.

Mr McElwain asked the members to submit any projects for consideration under the Active Travel Scheme.

Cllr Bennett asked had some of the houses in Tydavnet been bought by Monaghan Co Council.

Also, the road from Rock to Penal Cross is in a bad state and was informed that the reclaimed asphalt could be used on this road. Also, could Kilmore be considered under Active Travel.

Cllr Treanor advised that a footpath is needed coming up to Ardagh school and also a crash barrier required at the steep incline from school where road is sinking.

Cllr Connolly welcomed completion of Tydavnet housing development and would like proactive measures taken by MD to get housing development at Carrickroe finished. He enquired if pull-in spots could be provided at Sliabh Beagh to compliment the road works. Cllr McKenna stated that roads similar to Sliabh Beagh should be targeted for reclaimed asphalt or cement based.

Mr Murray advised the members that the 6 no houses in Tydavnet will be allocated shortly. Mr McElwain advised that our Engineer will look at the road in Ardagh for consideration under a Low Cost Safety Scheme. He added that works have been carried out in relation to pull-in spots and will follow up with our Engineer.

4. Report from Municipal District Co-ordinator:

Mr McElwain outlined his report to the members.

Cllr Aughey asked for an update on extra parking provision inside the entrance of Rossmore Park. He welcomed the appointment of contractors at Mill Street.

Cllr McKenna asked for the timescale for Emyvale Village and welcomed the provision of a car park by the owner of Centra, Emyvale.

Cllr Conlon asked is it the intention to stabilise 4/5 Mill Street and sell on.

Cllr Connolly welcomed the grant for Emyvale works and also the stabilising works at Mill Street.

Mr McElwain advised that there are no plans for extra parking facilities at Rossmore but will be targeted in the next round of funding. He also advised a timescale of approximately one year for Emyvale as it is a huge project.

Mr Murray advised that 4/5 Mill Street is being re-roofed to stabilise the building and make it watertight, it remains active on the market for resale, and we are looking to funding ourselves.

Cllr Aughey advised that he had received submissions from a haulage owner and Learner driving school in relation to the Margaret Skinnider roundabout to which Mr Murray responded that the submissions should be forwarded to Roads Section.

Cllr Conlon asked for more details on the upgrade of hard verge to cycle path N2 Ballyalbany to Tydavnet Road junction (5.2km) to which Mr McElwain responded that he will get more detail from Roads.

Cllr Conlon referred to one of his questions and asked that this Council write to the Roads Strategic Policy Committee seeking a reassessment of the current €170.00 costs associated with provision of a salt bunker and salt applied for on a community led initiative to enhance pedestrian and vehicle safety particularly at steep road junctions and rural areas. Cllr Maxwell advised that this scheme was brought in by SPC in 2010 and the price has not changed since, that it is a county wide scheme and where does funding come from to subsidise. Cllr Conlon withdrew his request.

5. Questions:

Cllr Conlon asked:

1) I ask that the Roads Section provide clarification on the Winter Maintenance Road Salting Programme, outlining what category of roads get salted, particularly in rural villages and road networks?

Response: The Winter Service Plan and Winter Maintenance routes are contained on the Monaghan County Council website, see links below.

In regard to the frequency of call outs for salting routes, this is determined by the Winter Maintenance Duty Engineers who continuously monitor weather conditions using specialised software. Call out times vary depending on predicted ground temperatures, air temperature and forecasted precipitation levels. When the duty engineers schedule a salting call out, all roads on the salting schedule are treated.

In regard to salting within urban areas, other than those covered by the programmed salting routes, this duty is managed locally by the Municipal Districts.

<https://monaghan.ie/roadtransport/salting-routes/>

<https://monaghan.ie/roadtransport/winter-maintenance/>

Also, what application process is involved for a community led approach in seeking the placement of a salt bin / bunker and provision of salt at locations including steep gradients and busy traffic junctions not included in the Council's salt spreading programme?

Response: On receipt of completed application form and appropriate fee, the salt bin will be delivered to required location. Cost of Salt Bin only is €120. Cost of Salt Bin with first fill of salt is €170.00.

2) Following the sale of six sites twelve months ago, I ask Council Executive to give explanation for the ongoing delays in the provision of additional sites for sale at the extensive land bank at Latlorcan and related much needed house construction?

Response: The delays associated with the sale of six sites at Latlorcan are primarily related to the current Covid-19 Pandemic. Continued uncertainty regarding public health and impact on finances are of concern. The proposed purchasers of three of the sites will not be proceeding for reasons related to the current pandemic. It is intended that the sales of 3 of the 6 sites will continue unless the proposed purchasers of the remaining 3 sites also decide to withdraw. It is intended that any sites that remain unsold will be re-advertised for sale later in 2021 subject to significant improvement in the public health situation. The decision regarding re-advertising will be made when the public health situation related to the Covid-19 Pandemic has improved. Any decision regarding the provision of additional sites will be made after the sales of the first 6 sites have been successfully completed, the feasibility of providing additional sites has been reassessed in light of the sales process up to then and the level of interest in additional sites has been assessed.

Cllr Bennett asked:

1) Have Monaghan County Council submitted a request for the Low Cost Safety Scheme at Kilmore. This section of road is extremely dangerous and in need of these works as a priority?

Response: This project was submitted under the Low Cost Safety Schemes which is subject to funding levels received by the Department. As the cost of completing the scheme is high at €80,000 it is unlikely to be included in this year's program.

2) Can Monaghan County Council please outline the road gritting programme in the North Monaghan Area, I have received a lot of complaints that roads are unsalted and extremely dangerous over the last weeks?

Response: See response to Cllr Conlon's Q 1.

3) Can Monaghan County Council please examine the urgent need to extend the Public Sewage at Mullaghduin, Monaghan?

Response: Irish Water do not have proposals in the Investment Plan for the provision of a sewer network from the Woodlands estate to Mullaghduin in Monaghan Town. For properties seeking to connect to the sewer network, 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.

Cllr Aughey asked:

1) Can the MD outline a plan for the regular removal of litter such as bottles, and cans from the waters of the Ulster Canal along the Greenway as it is very unsightly for an amenity so regularly used by the public?

Response: The MD will remove any litter that is accessible from the Greenway path and will investigate funding streams such as the Anti-Dumping Initiative to carry out specialised litter removal from the canal environment.

2) What plans does the MD have for the cleaning or power hosing of footpaths and pavements in Monaghan town for 2021?

Response: Cleaning and maintenance of footpaths in Monaghan Town is an ongoing operation and power washing is carried out when required with the resources available.

3) With regard to littering around recycling and bring banks in Monaghan Town and other areas, can the council state the regularity of emptying of these banks and whether it needs to be increased?

Response: In 2020 the regularity of emptying the recycling banks was as follows

Teach an nDaoine	25 times
Glaslough Street Car Park	23 times
McNally's Car Park	39 times
Sloan's shop	40 times

In relation to littering, in most cases lack of service is not a cause of littering. Monaghan County Council have been very clear in their messaging, persons who use the banks should not leave empty cardboard boxes or bags behind them on the ground.

6. Votes of Sympathy:

The members and Executive conveyed their deepest sympathy to Cllr Aughey on the passing of his Aunt, Alice Aughey, RIP.

Dated this 18th day of January 2021

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Meetings Administrator