

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Garage Theatre, Armagh Road, Monaghan, on Monday 12th April, 2021 at 11.00 a.m.

Chair: Cllr C. Carthy, Cathaoirleach

Present: Cllrs. Aughey, Bennett, Campbell, Conlon, Connolly, Gilliland, Keelan, Maxwell, McCooley, McKenna, O'Hanlon, P. Treanor, S. Treanor, and Truell.

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

Apology: Cllrs Coyle, Kerr-Conlon and McElvaney

At the outset, the Cathaoirleach expressed sympathy to the following:

- The family of the late Hugh McKenna R.I.P, recently retired outdoor staff member Municipal District of Monaghan
- Amanda Meehan, Council employee on the death of her aunt Bridie Keenan, RIP
- Michael McCarron, Mullinacask on the death of his brother Jim McCarron RIP a former member of the Council's outdoor staff in North Monaghan
- Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin on the death of his mother Genevieve Keelan RIP, a former employee of Monaghan County Council.

The Chief Executive associated himself and the staff with the expressions of sympathy. A period of silence was observed as a mark of respect.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

(i) Minutes of Council meeting held on 8th March, 2021

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 8th March 2021, be confirmed.

(ii) Minutes of adjourned Council meeting held on 22nd March, 2021

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Keelan, it was agreed that the minutes of the adjourned Council meeting held on the 22nd March 2021, be confirmed.

2. Correspondence.

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

- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr. Darragh O'Brien, TD regarding the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP).
- Letter from the Office of the Taoiseach Mr. Micheál Martin, T.D. regarding the Good Friday Agreement and Irish Unity.

- Letter from the Office of the Taoiseach Mr. Micheál Martin, T.D. regarding the suspension of medical card reviews.
- Email from the Minister for Transport, Mr. Eamon Ryan, T.D. regarding salting of the L3403 road in Co. Monaghan.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, food and the Marine, Mr. Charlie McConalogue, TD regarding to the appointment of an Independent Meat Regulator.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr. Darragh O'Brien, TD regarding the LDA Billon behalf of MCC.
- Resolution from Ballybay-Clones Municipal District regarding payment rates to farmers.
- Resolution from Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council regarding the Housing crisis.
- Resolution from Limerick City & County Council regarding the rollout of 5G fifth generation cellular technology.

The following additional correspondence was also circulated:

- Email from the Roscommon County Council regarding the establishment of a local caucus for women councillors.
- Email from the Office for Local Government Governance & Elected Members regarding provision of funding to local authorities for the establishment of a local caucus for women councillors.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Finance, Mr. Pascal Donohoe, T.D regarding BOI Branch closures.
- Email from Deputy Brendan Smith regarding BOI Branch closures in Clones & Castleblayney.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr Bennett, seconded by Councillor it was agreed that the Council nominate Cllrs Bennett, Kerr-Conlon and McCooley to the Women's Caucus proposed by Roscommon County Council to include Councillors in the NWRA region.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Gilliland, it was agreed that the Council support the resolution from the Ballybay-Clones MD calling on the Minister for Agriculture and the Government to ensure that the Agri Environmental REPS Scheme will deliver the maximum base payment to farmers over its pilot period as its trial results will dictate payment rates to farmers. The members also requested that the new CAP in 2023 must acknowledge the farmers and agricultural community as the greatest protectors of the environment in rural Ireland. These farmers are constantly enduring cuts in their income margins. This has a particular impact for the farmers in County Monaghan with small average size farms.

3. To note the Draft Annual Financial Statement and approve over expenditures and transfers to Capital Account for the financial year 2020

The members noted the Annual Financial Statement for 2020 which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting. Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance responded to queries from the members.

On the proposal of Cllr Aughey, seconded by Cllr Conlon, it was agreed to note the Draft Annual Financial Statement (AFS 2020) and to approve over-expenditures and transfers to Capital Account, as per schedules submitted to the Members, as follows:

Over Expenditure

Division		Expenditure (Over)/Under	Income Over/(Under)	Net Position
		Estimates 2020 €	Estimates 2020 €	2020 €
A	Housing and Building	-856,449	1,067,490	211,041
B	Roads Transportation & Safety	-4,998,388	4,535,883	-462,505
D	Development Management	-10,328,928	10,650,963	322,035
F	Recreation & Amenity	-65,615	40,984	-24,631
H	Miscellaneous Services	-7,317,026	7,196,702	-120,324
		-23,566,406	23,492,022	-74,384

Transfer to Capital

	Transfer Amount	Budget Provision	Difference
Monaghan Town Improvement	167,689	0	-167,689
Direct Admin and Overheads Roads	571	0	-571
Interreg VA Cann 5A Project Administration	44	0	-44
Library Headquarters	40,000	0	-40,000
Machinery Account Surplus	258,513	0	-258,513
Pension Gratuity Provision	225,693	0	-225,693
Regional Lighting Running costs	54,535	54,535	0
Local Lighting Running cost	108,993	108,993	0
Municipal District Allocations (unspent)	999,000	999,000	0
Rates Limitation order	538,000	538,000	0
Loan Repayment Reserve	233,787	233,787	0
Disability Initiatives	10,000	10,000	0
Gortakeegan Halt Maintenance	3,164	3,164	0
Promotion of Local Community	90,000	90,000	0
Local Elections	20,000	20,000	0
Members Gratuity Scheme	100,000	100,000	0
Fire Station Officers and General	40,000	40,000	0
General Maintenance - Fire station	14,053	14,053	0
Fire Service Gratuities	50,000	50,000	0
Library Headquarters	19,835	21,683	1,848
Clones Sports Project	30,000	30,000	0
Computing - Provision for Capital Balance	100,000	100,000	0

New Offices Provision	300,000	300,000	0
Transfer to Capital	100,000	100,000	0
Industrial and Economic Development	150,000	150,000	0
Loan Charges Swimming Pool	107,000	107,135	135
Swimming pool non capital charges	11,502	11,502	0
Monaghan Branch Library	10,754	10,754	0
Ballybay Branch Library	1,847	1,847	0
Monaghan Museum	6,550	6,550	0
Ballybay Clones MD Office	1,847	1,847	0
Carrickmacross/ Castleblayney MD office	4,173	4,173	0
Offices Building Maintenance	18,877	14,065	-4,812
Landfill Scotch Corner Operation	19,218	7,720	-11,498
Peace Campus loan charges	33,333	44,489	11,156
	3,868,978	3,173,297	-695,681

Mr. Murray responded to queries from the members in relation to the AFS 2020.

On the proposal of Cllr Gilliland, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council calls on the Taoiseach, the Department of Finance and the Tanaiste and Minister for Business to make available a government grant/loan to enable them access from 5,000 to €20,000 @ nil % interest rate repayable over a 2 to 5 year period to help business get started with a cash flow and retain jobs and livelihoods.

4. To approve the Draft Monaghan County Council Annual Report for 2020

The members considered the Draft Monaghan County Council Annual Report for 2020 which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting.

Mr. C. Flynn, A/Director of Corporate outlined the main highlights of the report undertaken during what he described as a very difficult year due to restrictions placed on the Council as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic.

A number of members commended staff on the volume of work undertaken during the year and the significant progress being made in the delivery of services across all sections of the organisation.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Conlon, it was agreed that the Council adopt the Draft Monaghan County Council Annual Report 2020 as presented.

5. To note the Draft Review of NOAC Performance Indicators 2019

Mr C. Flynn, A/Director of Corporate Services, gave a brief overview of the Report which had been circulated. He explained that the report prepared by Monaghan County Council sets out to compare the Council's performance in 2019 with the highest and lowest performers nationally; against similar size counties (Level 5 counties); against similar indicators in

previous years (where applicable) and on the basis of these to establish targets for the following year.

It was agreed that the Council's review of the NOAC Service Indicators for 2019 be noted.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that this Council seek from the Department of Transport an increase in road repair funding to address the bad state of repair of local tertiary and secondary roads as identified in the 2019 NOAC report.

6. To note the Annual Report of the County Monaghan Joint Policing Committee for 2020

Cllr B. McKenna as Chair of the County Monaghan Joint Policing Committee referred to the Annual Report of the Committee which had been circulated. He highlighted the main elements of the report and recommended that it be noted by the Council.

Cllr McKenna thanked the Council staff who service the Joint Policing Committee and the local media who attend the meetings and report the proceedings to the public. He also thanked former Chief Superintendent John O'Reilly and former Superintendent Fergus Treanor for their contribution to the Joint Policing Committee and wished them both well in their retirement.

On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr McKenna, it was agreed that the Annual Report on the activities of the County Monaghan Joint Policing Committee 2020 be noted.

7. To consider adopting Part IV of the Public Health Amendment Acts 1890

The members noted the correspondence circulated with the agenda in relation to this item.

On the proposal of Cllr Campbell, seconded by Cllrs McCooey and McKenna it was agreed that the Council adopts Part IV of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890 (as amended) and that the said Part IV of the Act shall come into effect in all of the County of Monaghan on the expiry of one calendar month from the publication, pursuant to Section 4 of the Act, of the adoption by Monaghan County Council of this Resolution.

8. To approve nominations to the Transport and Community SPC

The members noted the nominations received from One Movement (Trade Union seat) and the Public Participation Network (Environment and Community & Voluntary seat) in relation to filling the three vacant positions on the Transport and Community SPC

On the proposal of Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr Aughey, it was agreed that the vacant positions on the SPC for Transport and Community be filled as follows:

- (i) Trade Union seat - Teresa Thompson, SIPTU
- (ii) Environmental seat - Terence Buckley, Annyalla Tidy Towns.
- (iii) Community & Voluntary seat - Fergal McMahan, Monaghan Volunteer Centre.

9. To consider recommendations and minutes from Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 30th March, 2021.

The members noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 30th March, 2021 which had been circulated.

On the proposal of Cllr Aughey, seconded by Cllr McCooey, it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 30th March, 2021 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Appointment to Audit Committee:

On the proposal of Cllr Aughey, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was unanimously agreed that Ms. Marie Mohan, Financial Controller, Greenfield Foods Ltd, be appointed to the Council's Audit Committee to replace Dermot McCrystal.

Cllr Gilliland proposed that a letter be issued to Dermot McCrystal, thanking him for his excellent service to the Council's Audit Committee since he was appointed to the Committee in 2014. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Aughey and agreed.

10. To receive Management Report - March 2021

The members noted the Management Report for the month of March which had been circulated with the agenda.

The Chief Executive and Directors of Services responded to queries from the elected members.

Adjournment of meeting:

As the time had reached 12.55 pm, it was agreed that the balance of the agenda would be adjourned to an online Teams meeting to be held on Thursday 22nd April at 12 noon.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____
