

Municipal District of Monaghan

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held via Teams on Monday, 15th March, 2021 at 10.00am.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Treanor presided.

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

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr. Bennett, it was agreed that the minutes of the Municipal District meeting held on 15th February, 2021 be confirmed.

2. Matters arising:

Cllr McKenna asked what the current situation was regarding Tullyhirm Lane to which Mr McElwain responded that there is one landowner who has not responded, and the general consensus is that all agreed to the CIS proposal.

Cllr Conlon welcomed the advertising of sites at Latlurcan and asked had there been any expressions of interest.

Cllr McKenna stated that nothing has come back to the members since the masterplan that was presented to them some time back. Mr Murray responded that there has been interest in the sites and Applications will be checked to ensure applicants are intending to live in the houses and are not speculators or developers.

He added that we are awaiting a decision from Department in relation to future affordable Housing and serviced sites schemes before they finalised the Masterplan.

Cllr Bennett asked regarding pothole at Mullaghmore and Ballinode and the low-Cost Safety scheme at Killmore football grounds. Mr McElwain responded that the road at Mullaghmore will be patched, Ballinode village street is on this year's Road Restoration program and Killmore was not successful for a LCS this year.

Cllr Connolly asked could the issue of overhanging trees on the R186 be addressed to which Mr McElwain responded that they will be investigated.

3. Report from Municipal District Co-ordinator:

Mr McElwain outlined his report to the members.

Cllr Connolly asked how public consultation will be addressed for the Emyvale Public Realm project during Covid. Cllr McKenna asked would an online meeting be suffice given that we cannot hold public meetings.

Cllr Aughey asked where is the Ulster Canal Park to which Mr McElwain responded that the Ulster Canal Park located between the 'Go' filling Station and the entrance at Car L parts,

the project has received funding under ORIS which will be used to clean up the Canal Section. Mr Murray added that the money will be used to enhance this part of the Canal to make it attractive for people to walk and relax at this unique feature of the town.

Mr McElwain added that in relation to Emyvale, we will be in consultation with a number of groups and that most of the work is footpaths and overhead cables.

Cllr Conlon asked what has happened to the Linear Park to which Mr McElwain advised that Community Development Section, the Library and the Monaghan MD had some discussion and ideas, but we have yet to come up with a proper proposal for this location.

Cllr Connolly asked why there is such a delay on completing North Road to which Mr McElwain responded that Irish Water has a substantial pipe to lay which has been delayed by Covid.

Cllr Treanor asked could restoration works be carried out to a milestone at Cornacassa.

Cllr Aughey agreed and also asked that an old milestone sitting opposite Stanley Terrace be restored.

Cllr Treanor suggested that a letter should issue to Joe Connolly to thank him for his efforts on picking up litter from the streets of Monaghan which was seconded by Cllr Conlon.

All members agreed that there a lot of people doing voluntary work at litter picks in their area and not advisable to single one out. Cllr McKenna proposed a vote of thanks to all those people who pick up litter and all members agreed.

Cllr Aughey raised the serious issues of illegal dumping, joy riding and anti-social behaviour occurring at Bragan and Sliabh Beagh. Cllr Bennett added that dumping is also taking place at Hollywood.

A discussion took place on the issue. Cllr Aughey stated that he had been in contact with the local Garda Superintendent who are well informed and have increased their patrol in Sliabh Beagh. He proposed that the speed limit in the Bragan area should be reduced from 80kph to 60kph, which was seconded by Cllr Maxwell, who advised that it would have to go before the Speed review meeting and An Gardai. Following lengthy discussions, it was not agreed to implement a reduced speed limit of propose a one-way system.

Cllr Maxwell stated that passing bays should be constructed on this long stretch of road.

4. Schedule of MD Works:

The Schedule of MD works was proposed by Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr Maxwell and agreed by all members.

5. Questions:

Cllr Conlon asked:

1)For the purpose of enhancing the historical heritage experience for visitors to Rossmore Park, what initiatives are under consideration, or progressing, aimed at promoting the unique architectural features throughout the Park, including the Rossmore Mausoleum that has been substantially refurbished in recent years through voluntary efforts?

Response: We are currently awaiting a Letter of Offer from LEADER under the Co-Operation Measure for the following projects:

(A) Signage Project – Rossmore	Amt Sought	€67,313.81
Description: To deliver signage and Heritage Interpretation Panels at Rossmore Forest Park		

(A) Conservation Management Plan – Rossmore Amt Sought €21,507.75

Description: To assess the key heritage assets in the park so that they can be properly protected, conserved and restored over time.

As per LEADER Requirements, these projects have been pre-procured so are ready for commencement once the Letter of Offer has been received.

2) In efforts at addressing the radical lack of landscaping maintenance that proved hugely unpopular last year among Residents Associations and advocates for a tidy appearance throughout our urban setting, what plans are in place to ensure necessary biodiversity actions are introduced in a phased and agreeable measure throughout our communities?

Response: The Biodiversity and Pollinator friendly grass cutting was commenced last year but the process and public consultation was severely hampered by the onset of the Covid pandemic. Although there was some negative feedback there were also a lot of positive comments. Consultation with Residents Association has commenced and will be ongoing. The grass cutting proposal have been modified taking on comment from the residents' groups and with advancement of plant. The proposed Monaghan Town landscaping maps for 2021 are to be brought before the members today for discussion and agreement.

3) In the interest of pedestrian and cyclist safety throughout our urban streets, and in anticipation of the Council's draft Walking and Cycling Strategy being published for consultation, I ask that the Executive engage with the Speed Limit Committee and the Roads and Community Strategic Policy Committee with a view to considering the implementation of 30kph bye-laws in Monaghan Town and potential adoption by the elected members.

Response: As part of the Walking & Cycling strategy, it is proposed to prepare a plan for Monaghan town. This plan, once completed, will inform where the 30kph limit is to be introduced as it is suggested that the speed limit would be reduced where cycle lanes would be shared due to limited road widths. It may be premature to bring them in before the completion of the plan, as it may advise differently to measures brought in prior to its completion.

4) As the Clones Road is a major arterial national traffic route, positioned alongside multiple residential units and housing estates, will the Council undertake a traffic safety assessment with a view to installing traffic calming measures including the installation of a pedestrian crossing between the Oriel Road junction and entrance to Knockroe Glen?

Response: MCC Road's section can include this location on a list for investigation and re-assess this national road.

Cllr Aughey asked:

1) Can the MD engage with all stakeholders with relation to the Sliabh Beagh area to address the issues of law-breaking, littering, anti-social behaviour and impacts on wildlife that are negatively impacting one of North Monaghan's most beautiful amenities?

Response: The MD can liaise with the relevant stakeholders to explore what measures can be taken to resolve the issues raised.

2) Can the MD engage with all stakeholders with relation to speeding in Annyalla, extension of footpaths and road narrowing of roads as anti-speeding measures?

Response: The MD can liaise with the relevant stakeholders for speeding issues in Annyalla.

3) Can the MD engage with all stakeholders with relation to the lack of car-parking facilities at Emy Lough and try to find a solution to this problem?

Response: This is a community run facility and the Municipal District liaise regularly with representatives from the committee on a regular basis.

4a) Can the MD update members on how many fines have been issued since the change in the byelaws in Monaghan in February 2020 for Public Alcohol Consumption? How many fine books were issued to the Gardai?

b) The possibility of using these fine books for littering, dog fouling and other such anti-social behaviours?

Response: a) There were two fines issued since the introduction of the Intoxicating Substances Byelaws.

Fifty fine books were issued to An Gardai.

b) The fine books are specifically for Intoxicating Substances offences.

5) Can the MD update members on the current status of the CCTV installation and implementation for Monaghan Town?

Response: Monaghan Municipal District responded to questions raised by the Gardai regarding the Application for Garda Commissioner approval in Dec 2020. Now waiting on the commissioner's approval.

Motions:

"In an effort at encouraging the use of public transport, that this Council writes to the Minister for Transport Eamonn Ryan TD, the National Transport Authority and Bus Eireann seeking the installation of a bus shelter at the designated Bus Eireann stop at Annyalla"

Cllr. Sean Conlon

Cllr Conlon requested that we add TII to the Motion.

Cllr Conlon outlined his motion which was seconded by Cllr Bennett and agreed by all members.

"In view of the fact that there are 8 families living on Killyvane Lane, Monaghan and the fact that they have all signed up to the Community Involvement Scheme that Monaghan M D commence the process of taking in charge of Killyvane Lane"

Cllr. Paudge Connolly

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

Cllr Conlon asked that we advise the members of what is involved in relation to CIS for our next meeting.

Mr West responded that there are currently 4-5 applications and one representative for the road is nominated. It is difficult to get uptake and if any of the members want to get an estimate to contact him.

6. Correspondence:

Letter of acknowledgement dated 5th March from Dept. of Agriculture, Food & Marine regarding Coillte Funding.

Letter dated 5th March 2021 from HSE confirming that construction works have commenced on the North Monaghan Primary Care Centre.

Email dated 8th March 2021 from Secretary of Housing Minister in relation to Service Site fund and affordable purchase.

Letter dated 4th March from Cellnex regarding proposed telecoms mast at Rossmore Park, Monaghan.

Cllr Bennett expressed her concerns in relation to the proposed mast and advised that she wants to reassure residents in the area that she is completely opposed to it. All members expressed opposition and advised Cellnex to seek an alternative site. Cllr McKenna proposed the MD members should make an objection whenever the Application is submitted to Planning. Mr Murray stated that he will check with Planning but there is nothing stopping members individually objecting to an Application.

Cllr Conlon proposed that the members should write to Cellnex stating that they are in opposition to their proposal and all members agreed.

7. Votes of Sympathy:

The members and Executive conveyed their deepest sympathy to the Steele Family on the passing of Lyla RIP, and to Gareth McMahon on the passing of his mother, Maureen RIP.

8. AOB:

Cllr Treanor proposed and all members passed a motion calling on Eamon Ryan, TD, the Minister for Environment Climate and Communication, also Minister of State Hildegard Naughton TD. that learner drivers who have done the maximum amount of driving lessons should be allowed to drive unaccompanied as there are 56 thousand on a waiting list for driving tests.

Dated this 15th day of March 2021

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Meetings Administrator