

Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones held on Monday 14th December 2020 at 10.00am, The Courthouse, Clones, Co Monaghan.

Members Present The Cathaoirleach Cllr. Seamus Coyle presided

The following members were also present: - Cllrs: Richard Truell, Pat Treanor, Hugh McElvaney, and Sean Gilliland

In Attendance Adge King Director of Service, Kevin McNally Municipal District Co-ordinator, Colin Murphy Executive Engineer, and Seamie Mc Mahon, Staff Officer.

The Cathaoirleach Cllr Seamus Coyle welcomed all to the meeting and congratulated Mark Cusack who received the Thomas Treanor award for outstanding achievement in Junior Cert History prior to the meeting.

Cllr Seamus Coyle proposed a vote of sympathy on the death of our colleague Roger McQuaid. All the members expressed their sympathies to the family of Roger. Mr Adge King passed on the sympathies of the staff to the family and friends of Roger McQuaid.

A minute's silence was observed.

1. Confirmation of minutes of monthly meeting

Cllr Hugh McElvaney proposed September's monthly meeting minutes, Cllr Richard Truell seconded the proposal and it was agreed by all.

2. Correspondence Sent

Correspondence sent was noted by the members.

3. Correspondence Received

Cllr Hugh McElvaney stated that he was shocked by the letter received from the Monaghan Municipal District. Cllr Hugh McElvaney proposed that this letter be forwarded to the Chief Executive Mr Eamonn O Sullivan. A discussion was had regarding the wording in the letter. Cllr Hugh McElvaney proposal was not seconded. Cllr Sean Gilliland proposed the Ballybay Clones Municipal District check immediately with the Monaghan Municipal District with regards to the wording. Cllr Richard Truell seconded, Cllrs Treanor and Coyle supported this, Cllr McElvaney did not. The proposal was approved.

Cllr Pat Treanor stated that he was very disappointed in the responses from the Roads Section regarding the Municipal District application for additional funding. Cllr Treanor also was disappointed that no agreement had been reached between the two jurisdictions on the island regarding a uniform policy to deal with Covid 19. All the members expressed their disappointment to this fact. Cllr Richard Truell proposed this MD resend the letter to the First and Deputy First Ministers of Northern Ireland and to the Minister of Health for Northern Ireland requesting a coordinated approach between the two jurisdictions in dealing with Covid 19. Cllr Hugh McElvaney seconded this and it was agreed by all.

4. Report by Municipal District Coordinator

Mr Kevin Mc Nally gave his report:

I would like to compliment Clones Chamber of Commerce and the Ballybay Christmas Lights committee for ensuring that both towns are very well decorated and look extremely well for the Christmas period.

The Municipal District has been able to provide financial support to Newbliss Christmas lights committee for the provision of a new tree for the village which looks excellent.

Mr McNally provided the following update on the roll out of broadband services in the Municipal District which had been received from the Councils broadband officer, Mr John McArdle.

Town and village Wi-Fi

The last week was a momentous week for delivery of Broadband connectivity across the county. In the course of the last week, 8 Broadband Connection Points sites went live with final delivery of broadband including

The Wetlands Centre, Ballybay, Connons Community Hall, Latton Resource Centre, Mullyash Community Centre, Corcaghan Community Centre, Carn Resource Centre, Corduff Raferagh Community Centre, Tannagh Outdoor Education Centre.

Additional Broadband Connection Points have been agreed for Latton Community Centre with work to be completed early in 2021. Monaghan GAA Centre at Cloghan also received the final installation of broadband at the grounds.

National Broadband Ireland Rollout

Work will commence on 15 December of surveys in the Clones area. This will result in the full rollout of High-Speed broadband to every home and business across this area by the end of Summer 2021.

In Monaghan, the surveys will commence in the following areas:

Drumcru, Stonebridge, Tiernahinch, Clones, Annalore, Kileevan, Drumullan, Newbliss, Cumber, Scotshouse, Clonowla, Clonagore and Clonooney.

Broadband for Schools

Progress continues to be made across the education sector where High speed broadband is due to be installed in several schools in the course of 2021 including Connons NS, Ballybay NS, Latton NS, Corcreagh NS, Drumcorrin NS and Annafarcon NS.

Town and Village Renewal Project for BCPs

Under the Town & Village renewal Programme in 2020, Monaghan Co. Co. received a grant of €40,000 from Dept Rural & Community development to install IT equipment into the community and enterprise Broadband Connection Points.

A total of 9 centres were identified for this project of which 7 are within the Ballybay Clones Municipal District area: The Wetlands Centre, Ballybay, Connons Community Hall, Latton Resource Centre, Corcaghan Community Centre, Carn Resource Centre, Drumhowan Community Centre and Tullycorbet Parish Hall.

This project should be completed by January 2021.

A total of 10% matched funding is required under this scheme and I am seeking the approval of the members of Ballybay Clones Municipal District for this funding to be allocated towards this project.

2020 has been an unprecedented year and has represented a number of challenges for the Municipal District to deliver its works programme. I would like to take this opportunity to recap on some of the projects delivered and to give an update on the current schemes:

In 2020 Ballybay-Clones Municipal District undertook a substantial programme of road infrastructural development. The Municipal District carried out drainage, bitmac overlay and surface dressing works on nine local roads and three regional roads in the district to the value of nearly €2.63million under the restoration improvement grants scheme. There were a further 45km of roads that were surfaced dressed throughout the Municipal District. The Municipal District also undertook extensive general repairs/maintenance to the road network in the district such as gully repairs/cleaning, road patching, hedge cutting, sweeping and scavenging.

In 2020 the Municipal District completed the following schemes:

- Ballybay Park – Outdoor Recreation Scheme, completed during the summer, included the provision / upgrade of walking tracks and paths, outdoor classroom
- Scotshouse Park – Town and Village allocation 2018 completed in summer 2020, involved the provision of a dedicated public park, complete with trails, seating, bins, and landscaping.
- Scotshouse Town and Village 2019 – Bridge connecting redeveloped park and National School installed, Infill lighting provided throughout village.
- Rural Regeneration and Development Fund – Ballybay
 - Ballybay Business hub feasibility - report complete
 - Ballybay Path Networks, feasibility study complete – negotiations with landowners ongoing re purchase of lands adjoining Lough Major
 - Ballybay Courtyards – Masterplan complete
- The office undertook an extensive programme of repairs to slunks in a number of roads throughout the Municipal District
- Cleaning of drains Beechgrove to River Finn in Clones and along the N54 in Clones town
- Installed traffic calming on the Clones Roslea Road
- Completed redevelopment of the farmers yard in Clones – these works improve the facilities for Clones Tidy Towns, Clones Chamber of Commerce and the Clones Men’s Shed. Prior to the undertaking of these works a feasibility study examining possible uses for the site and adjoining lands was completed.
- Completed low-cost accident reduction schemes at Killeevan, Drumloughlin Rockcorry, Hanrattys Cross and Ballidian
- Works to Clones Art Studio
- Street Lighting at Clonkeencole was provided
- Ballybay Main Street was completely resurfaced
- Ballybay Town and Village 2019 – Lighting provided to Cuan Mhuire, and the recycling area’s in Ballybay. Tender awarded for the provision of a new entry arch to the park, Investigating the possibility of providing lighting along the R162 approach from Cootehill, at the Basketball Court in the Park and some up lighting / downlighting on the watertower in Ballybay. Whins have been treated with Grazon, and are to be trimmed back, a three-year programme is being developed to treat and remove the whins from this area.
- Scotshouse Town and Village 2019 – Works to repair fence, providing hedging on village centre green and repair of stone walls on approach to Hilton estate to be completed in early 2021
- Lough Egish Town and Village 2019 – All planned works, have been provided, some outstanding accommodation works outstanding. Scheme was extended towards the cross roads, however, has been put on hold to allow for review of junction layout.
- Lough Egish Outdoor Recreation – Public Lighting has been ordered with Airtricity, discussions ongoing with adjoining landowner – works on footpath elements to commence in December
- Ballybay Park Lighting – existing lanterns to be upgraded shortly – new lanterns and poles to be erected along new paths as soon as materials are delivered with Airtricity.
- Ballybay Monaghan Road Footpath – Hedge removed, drain piped and runs of ducting laid for the future relocation of Eir plant to facilitate the turning lane and upgrade of the junction

- The Municipal District has worked closely with the Peace Link to develop plans for a possible extension to the facility – this can form the basis of future grant applications; Part 8 planning approval has been obtained at the last Council meeting
- Teehill Outdoor Depot is at design stage. The design team has proposed a number of proposals – these are currently being reviewed to ensure compliance with the approved budget
- Feasibility study for the provision of a business hub in Fermanagh street was completed. The Clones Business Hub is at preliminary design stage. It is envisaged that the Part 8 planning process will commence in February 2021.
- The Municipal District has advanced the design of the St Tiarnachs plaza. Discussions with the various landowners are ongoing.
- A detailed application for funding under the December Rural Regeneration and Development fund was developed, prepared and submitted by the Municipal District for works to the former Lennard Arms. The title of the project is the proposed Clones Monastic Centre.
- Ballybay Car Park – Tenders issued for the further development of the proposed car park on the old O Mahonys site. Due for return on Friday last.
- Ulster Canal Greenway – Phase 3 – €100k funding secured under carbon tax fund 2020 – tender documents issued for Preliminary environmental reports, due for return 18/12/2020.
- Clones Heritage town initiative project – Extensive work repairing the boundary walls, gates and provision of access path have been completed at the Clones Round Tower site
- Dundalk – Enniskillen Railway - Ballybay to Castleblayney Greenway Proposal – Tender documents issued for a technical scoping study and constraints report due for return 18/12/2020.
- New Directional Signage for Lough Egish – Tenders due for return 16/12/2020
- In conjunction with Carol Lambe undertook on line public consultation regarding the design of proposed new ground for O’Neill playpark – tenders for the construction of the playpark will be sought in January
- Corcaghan NS has recently received funding for traffic calming measures on the R188. As these works are on the public road I recommend that the Municipal District provide the necessary match funding of €6,000 for the project

The members welcomed the report.

Cllr Seamus Coyle proposed the 10% match funding requirement to install IT equipment into the community and enterprise broadband connection points. This was seconded by Cllr Hugh McElvaney and agreed by all. Cllr Hugh McElvaney proposed the 10% match funding for the traffic calming at Corcaghan, this was seconded by Cllr Richard Truell and agreed by all.

Cllr Sean Gilliland welcomed the works completed throughout the year and asked that this information be forwarded to the press.

Cllr Pat Treanor asked for timelines for the projects at St Tiarnachs park and Canal. Mr Kevin McNally stated that he hoped to advance the St Tiarnachs park Plaza in the next few weeks and that a decision on the Canal will be due in Q1 of 2021.

Cllr Richard Truell welcomed the Part 8 planning for the Peace Link Clones. Cllr Truell also commented on the great works done by community groups within the Municipal District and proposed that this Municipal District write to the Tidy Town Committees of Ballybay and Clones and thank them for the continued hard work. This was seconded Cllr Hugh McElvaney and agreed by all.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney spoke of the great job at Tullycorbitt junction and asked that potholes in the area be filled. Cllr McElvaney raised the issue of blocked storm drains at Church St Ballybay which has caused flooding to properties. The members suggested that the trees should be removed.

A discussion was had on traffic calming, Cllr Sean Gilliland proposed that this Municipal District write to the Garda Sergeants of Clones and Ballybay with a list of problem speeding areas. This was seconded by Cllr Hugh McElvaney and agreed by all.

Cllr Sean Gilliland welcomed the news that a number of schools in the Municipal District were now getting broadband.

Mr Colin Murphy gave his report:

Roads Programme

Bitmac overlays works are complete on Ballybay Main Street. The road, however was incorrectly lined by the contractor from the Riverdale up to the Markethouse and the contractor has to come back to rectify this. The Reclaimed Asphalt Pilot Project on the LT40211 has been completed. The overlay works at Annie's as part of the Climate Change funding is also complete.

Low Cost Safety Improvement Schemes

Works are complete at Hanrattys Cross on the R162/R184 Ballybay Tullycorbet junction.

A discussion was had with regards to the road from Doapey Creamery to Rockcorry, Cllr Richard Truell proposed that this Municipal District write to the Roads section of the Council asking for this road to be included on the salting routes. This was seconded by Cllr Seamus Coyle and agreed by all.

Cllr Sean Gilliland asked that restrictive weight signage be placed at Mulladuff Bridge Lough Egish as it was been damaged by HGV's.

Mr Kevin McNally read out an email from Mr John Murray Head of Finance and Director of Service Monaghan Municipal District, stating that the letter issued by Monaghan Municipal District to Ballybay Clones Municipal District contained a typing error, the letter should have said condemn not condone. Mr John Murray apologised on behalf of the Monaghan Municipal District and noted that the November minutes of the Monaghan Municipal District had been amended to correct this typing error. The elected members accepted this apology and no further action was required.

5. Matters arising from previous minutes

Page 4 – Cllr Seamus Coyle stated he was delighted with the quality of work of the overlay of Ballybay Main St.

Page 5 – Cllr Seamus Coyle raised the issue of taking in charge of estates and proposed that this Municipal District request MCC and Irish water to immediately expediate and conclude site resolution plans to allow the taking in charge of Alder Housing Estate Ballybay and Carrabarra Island Estate Smithboro as requested by residents. Funding to be sought from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage minister Daragh O'Brien TD to correct the Developer Provided Infrastructure (DPI) defects in services where identified.

Motion to be forwarded to CE of Monaghan County Council and Irish water and to the Directors of Services Housing and Planning.

This was seconded by Sean Gilliland and agreed by all.

Page 6 - Cllr Seamus Coyle stated that there were serious issues at school collection times at Ballybay Community College.

Cllr Hugh McElvaney proposed that this Municipal District write to the GAA president Mr John Horan requesting that the GAA introduce a 2 Tier Championship. This is in light of the dominance of the Dublin Football team. The cup to be played for should be named in honour of Tipperary Footballer Michael Hogan who died on Bloody Sunday 1920.

This was seconded by Cllr Sean Gilliland and agreed by all.

6. Notice of Motion

Cllr Seamus Coyle proposed

That Ballybay-Clones Municipal District immediately make contact/meet ESB to arrange to have Electric Car Charging Points installed in the proposed Count court Car Park, Main Street, Ballybay, also in Clones Town and in Villages accross the M.D.ie, Smithboro, Newbliss, Rockcorry etc as Electric Car numbers are increasing annually and being encouraged by Government as environmentally friendly to Climate Change.

This was seconded by Cllr Sean Gilliland and agreed by all

Cllr Pat Treanor proposed

That this Council write to the Interdepartmental Remote Working Group, asking them to include Clones, Ballybay, Newbliss and other villages, as sites for Remote Working Units, as a means of attracting public servants and office workers back to rural areas, rebuilding rural communities and addressing the issue of vacancies and dereliction in our rural towns and villages.

This was seconded by Cllr Seamus Coyle and agreed by all.

7. Questions

Cllr Pat Treanor will ask:

1. Question:

Can this Council examine the possibility of extending the footpath out the Lackey road to facilitate residents and walkers/joggers on this narrow road ? Can we also investigate the installation of solar panels on the old dump/blind lake there, to provide lighting for the footpath and public lights on that side of Clones town?

Answer:

The estimated cost of providing a footpath in this area is €110,000. This figure does not include land take or the installation of public lighting. This project can be considered for future funding applications under relevant grant schemes.

The Corporate Assets Section of Monaghan County Council have investigated the possibility of Solar-Powered public lighting in the past and found it to be excessively expensive. To date, they have not been able to justify the excessive cost quoted for a typical Public Light.

In relation to the use of Solar PV panels to provide power for lighting, the PV panels generate DC electricity during daylight or when the sun shines, (depending upon the type of panel). The Public Lights need the power at night, therefore, there would need to be some form of storage of the electrical power (which would result in additional costs). Additionally, public lights use AC electricity and therefore there would need to be a conversion of the DC power from the PV panels to make it available for the Public Lighting (which would result in additional costs). With all of the above

considered, it is not financially viable or practical to power our public lighting from power generated from solar PV panels.

8. CE Orders

The C.E. orders BCMD 64/20 to 69/20 were noted by the members,

10. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

Votes of Sympathy were proposed for the following:

- McQuaid Family on the death of Roger
- The Duffy Family on the death of Kevin
- The McKearney Family on the death of Tom
- The McEneaney Family on the death of Brendan
- The Lester and Harper families on the death of Enid
- The Clements and Leonard families on the Death of Maire
- The McQuillan and Boylan families on the death of Rose
- The Hacket Family on the death of Sean

11 AOB

Cllr Seamus Coyle asked that the next Ballybay Regeneration Meeting be held on Thursday 14th January 2021. Cllr Coyle also asked that the Municipal District staff review all the bye laws within the Municipal District.

Cllr Pat Treanor spoke of representations he was receiving regarding school transport, he proposed that this Municipal District write to the Minister of Education Norma Foley and Bus Eireann appealing to them to have the issue of School Transport Resolved before the new school term in January and to increase the number of buses to ensure all those who have paid for transport receive it.

Cllr Richard Truell spoke of the Covid Vaccine and the importance that the elected members and staff fully support the roll out, all agreed with this.

Cllr Seamus Coyle took a moment to remember all who had be bereaved in 2020 and offered the Municipal District s sympathy to all. Cllr Coyle wished all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

That concluded the meeting.

Next meeting scheduled 18th January 2021 at 10.00am.

Signed _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed _____

Meetings Administrator

Date
18/01/2021