

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Garage Theatre, on Monday 5th July, 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

Chair: Cllr A. Campbell, Cathaoirleach

Present: Cllrs. Aughey, Bennett, Carthy, Conlon, Coyle, Connolly, Gilliland, Keelan, Kerr-Conlon, Maxwell, McCooey, McElvaney, McKenna, O'Hanlon, P. Treanor, S. Treanor, and Truell.

Mr. E. O'Sullivan, Chief Executive, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr. P. Clifford and Ms. P. Monahan, Director of Services, Mr. Cathal Flynn and Mr. P. McGuinness A/Director of Services, Mr. T. Gourley, Senior Executive Planner, Ms. M. McGarvey, Senior Staff Officer and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

At the outset the Cathaoirleach proposed a vote of sympathy with the following staff members on their recent bereavements –

- Anthony Tate, Council employee on the death of his wife Elaine, RIP.
- Arthur Nugent, Council employee on the death of his mother Maura Nugent, RIP

All members and the Chief Executive associated themselves with the expressions of sympathy. A minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

(i) Minutes of Council meeting held on 14th June, 2021

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Bennett, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 14th June 2021, be confirmed.

(i) Minutes of Annual meeting held on 21st June, 2021

On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr Keelan, it was agreed that the minutes of the Annual meeting held on the 21st June 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, T.D. regarding building defects.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Justice, Social Protection and Rural & Community Development Ms. Heather Humphreys, T.D regarding response from Simon Coveney, T.D on legacy proposals put forward by the UK government.
- Email from An Post regarding Cllr Bennett's query in relation to Annyalla Post Office.
- Letter from Fermanagh & Omagh District Council regarding PSNI/An Garda Síochána partnerships with Israeli security forces and companies with involvement in illegal Israeli settlements.

The following additional correspondence which had been received after the agenda had issued, was also circulated:

- Letter from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage regarding Remuneration and Expenses of Local Authority Elected Members and enclosing Statutory Instruments S.I. No. 312 of 2021 - Local Government (Remuneration of Local Authority Members) Regulations 2021 and Statutory Instrument S.I. No. 313 of 2021 - Local Government (Remuneration of Local Authority Members) Regulations 2021.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr Conlon, it was agreed that the Council writes again to An Post requesting the siting of a post box at Annyalla.

Cllr McKenna proposed, Cllr Conlon seconded that Monaghan County Council support the motion from Fermanagh Omagh District Council, as follows:

The Israeli Human Rights Organisation, B'Tselem, and the UN Human Rights Watch have both recently reported that Israel is guilty of crimes of apartheid and persecution, and the 'Ministry for Public Security' was strongly criticised for their treatment of Palestinians in the HRW As a Council who has adopted and is supportive of the Palestinian call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council hereby call on the Chief Constable of the PSNI and the Garda Commissioner, as well as the Department of Justice & Policing Board in the North and Minister for Justice & Policing Authority in the South, to immediately withdraw their respective forces from any and all partnerships with the Israeli ministry responsible for police and prisons (Ministry of Public Security) and from companies which are involved in surveillance in illegal Israeli settlements report.

Patrick Corrigan from Amnesty International noted that "as a matter of urgency, the PSNI should suspend all programmes with the Israeli police and security services where there's a clear risk of involvement in human rights violations...[the] police service must ensure it is not implicated in Israel's human rights violations. The distressing scenes from East Jerusalem and Gaza should now be a wake-up call."

As such, and mindful of our BDS commitments, we call on the PSNI Chief Constable and Garda Commissioner to immediately cease all partnership and involvement with the security forces of apartheid Israeli. In support of this we call on all Councils on this island to back this motion and lend their voices in support of the Palestinian call for international solidarity and BDS action".

Furthermore, this Council calls on An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, to expel the Israeli Ambassador to Ireland due to the ongoing de facto annexation of Palestine and further requests that Minister for Foreign Affairs, Simon Coveney TD, use his position as representative for Ireland on the UN Security Council to seek full enforcement of the UN resolutions on Occupied Palestine and East Jerusalem and that the Dublin government also calls on the EU to place sanctions on Israel. We also call on the Dublin government to recognise the State of Palestine. Furthermore, that this Council invites the Palestinian Ambassador to Ireland, Dr Jilan Wahba Abdalmajid, to meet with the Council so that we may convey our solidarity and support, through her, to the Palestinian people.

A vote by show of hands resulted in 12 for 6 against. The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

3. To consider proposals under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 for the following disposals:

Mr. John Murray, Director of Housing, referred to the Section 183 notices which had been circulated in relation to the proposed disposal of the following sites at Latlorcan, Monaghan.

- Site A: 0.043HA or .011acres at Latlorcan
- Site B: 0.048HA or .012acres at Latlorcan
- Site C: 0.053HA or .013acres at Latlorcan
- Site D: 0.047HA or .012acres at Latlorcan

Mr. Murray stated that these sites had already been approved by the Council for disposal in early 2020, but the purchasers had subsequently withdrawn from the process. New purchasers have now been identified and the proposed disposals have been recommended by the Monaghan MD members.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal of Site A at Latlorcan, comprising 0.043ha (0.11 acres) in accordance with the terms of notice dated 16 June 2021 and attached site location map, under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal of Site B at Latlorcan, comprising 0.048ha (0.12 acres) in accordance with the terms of notice dated 16 June 2021 and attached site location map, under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal of Site C at Latlorcan, comprising 0.053ha (0.13 acres) in accordance with the terms of notice dated 16 June 2021 and attached site location map, under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal of Site D at Latlorcan, comprising 0.047ha (0.12 acres) in accordance with the terms of notice dated 16 June 2021 and attached site location map, under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

4. To consider the Chief Executive's Report prepared in accordance with Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) in respect of greenway from Monaghan Town's Coolshannagh roundabout to Ardgonnell Bridge 21/8005

Mr. T. Gourley, Senior Executive Planner outlined the main points of the Chief Executive's report dated 28 June 2021, in respect of the development of a greenway from the Coolshannagh roundabout to Ardgonnell Bridge located on the border with Northern Ireland near the N12 (Ref 21/8005)

Mr. A. Morrow, Greenway Project Officer, responded to queries from the members in relation to the proposed development.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr Conlon, it was agreed that the Council proceed with the development as proposed, namely; the development of a greenway from the Coolshannagh roundabout to Ardgonnell Bridge located on the border with Northern Ireland near the N12, to comply with the report from the Chief Executive dated 28 June 2021, in accordance with Part VIII of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations

2001 (as amended). Planning Ref No. 21/8005 refers.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Bennett, it was agreed that this Council writes to SEUPB seeking a response to the request dated April 2020 seeking the appropriate increase of funding allocation for the Ulster Canal Greenway that is stalled due to the lack of funding.

Responding to a proposal from Cllr Conlon, regarding the acquisition of additional funding for a tarmac surface on the Greenway, Mr. Anthony Morrow Project Officer, stated that this would add significantly to the cost of the project, which is already over budget, and also potentially to the time needed to complete the project, as ecological surveys may have to be re-done. He stated that it may be possible to source additional funding in the future to upgrade the greenway surface.

5. To consider an addendum to recent Section 85 Agreements with Cavan and Louth County Councils (LEADER Co-Operation projects)

Mr. P. Clifford, Director of Services explained to the members that it was necessary to approve addendums to Section 85 Agreements with Cavan and Louth County Councils which had been approved by this Council recently, as follows:

(1) *Planning and Conservation at Heritage Sites in Cavan & Monaghan*

This Addendum outlines in detail the specifics relating to the delivery and implementation of the above-mentioned project between Cavan County Council on behalf of Cavan LCDC and Monaghan County Council on behalf of Monaghan LCDC.

The lead partner on the project (Cavan County Council) will act on behalf of Cavan and Monaghan Local Action Groups (LAGs) to deliver a set of Masterplans and Conservation Plans/Assessments for four heritage sites in Cavan and Monaghan.

(2) *Developing Heritage Tourism Sites - Co-operation Project*

This Addendum outlines in detail the specifics relating to the delivery and implementation of the above-mentioned project between the 3 partners as set out below:

Monaghan County Council on behalf of Monaghan LCDC. (Lead Partner)
Louth County Council on behalf of Louth LCDC
Cavan County Council on behalf of Cavan LCDC

The lead partner on the project (Monaghan County Council) will act on behalf of Cavan, Louth and Monaghan LCDCs to deliver interpretation signage in four sites across the three counties in order to improve their attractiveness as visitor sites.

On the proposal of Cllr Aughey & Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Conlon, it was agreed that the Council approve the addendums to the Section 85 Agreements between Monaghan, Cavan and Louth County Councils, as outlined above.

6. To consider report on Local Property Tax Adjustment Factor and Budget 2022

Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance referred to the report which had been circulated with the agenda. He explained that a local authority may, as a reserved function, resolve to vary the basic rate of the Local Property Tax within its functional area by a maximum of + / - 15%. Any decision by a local authority to vary the basic rate of Local Property Tax must be taken by the

31st August 2021. In determining the rate of LPT a local authority must take account of its financial position and have regard to a number of factors

- The local authority's estimation of the income it will receive and the expenditure it will incur in the period for which LPT is to apply.
- The financial position of the local authority.
- Feedback from any consultation held.
- The financial effect of any variation to the rate of LPT.

Mr. Murray stated that the Council had sought submissions from the public on 17th June in an advertisement in the Northern Standard newspaper and on a posting on the Council website. One submission had been received from a member of the public requesting that any potential increase in the LPT would be postponed.

He highlighted that the report contained a list of projects which had been funded using the MD allocation (LPT discretionary element) and which had benefited the local economy by €19.4m in the last seven years. He further stated that a number of households will see a reduction in LPT liability in 2022. He recommended that the Council adopt a 15% increase on the base rate for 2022.

Cllr Gilliland proposed, Cllr O'Hanlon seconded that the Council retain the current rate of 15% LPT on the base rate for 2022.

Cllr Carthy proposed, Cllr McKenna seconded that the Council remove the 15% increase and leave the rate of increase in the LPT at zero %

The Cathaoirleach put Cllr Gilliland's proposal to the meeting. A vote by show of hands resulted in 12 for 6 against. The Cathaoirleach declared the proposal carried.

As Cllr Gilliland's proposal had been carried and Cllr Carthy's proposal was a direct negative, the Cathaoirleach declared that Cllr Carthy's proposal would not be put to the meeting.

7. To consider recommendations and minutes from Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 22nd June, 2021.

The members noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 22nd June, 2021 which had been circulated.

On the proposal of Cllr Aughey, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 22nd June, 2021 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

8. To fix date for meeting of the Standing Orders and Procedures Committee

It was agreed that a meeting of the Standing Orders and Procedures Committee would be held on the 20th July, 2020 at 2pm and that the meeting would be held in a physical venue.

9. To receive Management Report - June 2021

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

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

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed that this Council requests Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to address the inadequacy of existing barrier protection along the N2 from Monaghan to Emyvale for cyclists and pedestrians along the designated pathway, and that it takes appropriate action to remediate this infrastructural deficit. Also that any future road development or crash barrier installation provides appropriate safety measures for the increasing number of pedestrians and cyclists on our public roads. That the images I have submitted are included along with this proposal.

10. Business submitted by Chief Executive

The Chief Executive informed the members there was no matters for consideration under this item.

11. Matters arising out of the minutes of meetings held on 14th & 21st June, 2021

Matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meetings held on the 14th and 21st June, 2021 were responded to by the relevant officials.

12. Update on N2 National Primary Road Schemes

An update on this matter had already been provided in the Management Report.

13. To receive update on North South Interconnector project

The members noted the following correspondence:

- Email from the Office of the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications, Mr. Eamon Ryan, T.D regarding the North/South Interconnector.
- Email from Minister for Social Protection and Rural & Community Development, Ms. Heather Humphreys, T.D. regarding Eirgrid and the North/South Interconnector.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications, Mr. Eamon Ryan, T.D regarding the North/South Interconnector.

Cllr Coyle proposed, Cllr O'Hanlon seconded That this Council requests the Sinn Féin party to place the under-grounding of the Northern Ireland section of the 400 kv North/South Interconnector as a pre-condition/demand to re-entering the Northern Ireland Executive administration. That we seek an immediate commitment from Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald TD and Vice President, Michelle O'Neill, MLA that in line with their party policy as indicated by local representatives in Co. Monaghan, that the party will not re-enter the Northern Ireland Administration until there is a guarantee from all parties to direct SONI (Eirgrid) to underground the Northern Ireland section of the Interconnector across counties Armagh and Tyrone.

A vote by show of hands resulted in 9 for 6 against. The Cathaoirleach declared the proposal carried.

14. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project

The members noted the following correspondence:

- Letter from the office of the Taoiseach, Mr. Micheál Martin, T.D regarding the Ulster Canal Project.

15. Questions

Cllr C. Carthy will ask:

1. How many homeless declarations were made to Monaghan County Council in the first half of 2021 and can the Council clarify what measures were implemented to deal with these cases, especially while hotels and B&B's were closed during the pandemic?

Reply: In the period January 2021 to June 2021, there were 44 presentations to Monaghan County Council. This involved 30 individuals - as some presented on a number of occasions. Of the 30 who presented personally, or had someone call the Council on their behalf, 8 were assessed as being homeless. 22 were either not homeless, or were at risk of homelessness and these, or their representatives, were given advice relevant to their particular situation.

The 8 who were assessed as homeless were assisted with the following options:-

- 1 was as a result of a house fire and they were provided with B&B and moved back to their LA house when repairs completed.
- 1 was released from prison and he was provided with a hostel bed.
- 1 was provided with emergency accommodation and then HAP in PRA.
- 1 was provided with bed in a hostel and then a bed in with Castleblayney Trust.
- 1 was provided with B&B.
- 1 was provided with emergency accommodation with Castleblayney Trust.
- 1 would not engage.
- 1 still to submit his application.

2. When is it expected the works for the Active Travel scheme 2021 will commence throughout the county and what is the expected timeframe for delivery of earmarked projects?

Reply: Monaghan County Council is in the process of assembling an Active Travel team to deliver the Active Travel programme. It is envisaged that the programme will be delivered on a multi-annual basis. Regular updates on progress of the schemes will be provided in future C.E. reports.

3. Has the Housing Section earmarked any sites in Carrickmacross and/or Castleblayney to roll out 2-bed social housing units over the coming years and what plans are currently in place to drive up delivery on this much-needed house type/size?

Reply: Monaghan County Council has provided and continues to provide social housing units of all types and sizes required to meet the housing need in County Monaghan including 2-bedroom dwellings and other small dwellings to address particular needs.

Monaghan County Council completed eight 2-bedroom houses at Bree, Castleblayney in 2019 and six 2-bedroom houses at Coill an Rí, Carrickmacross in 2020. The Council continues to work with North & East Housing Association towards the delivery of 12 apartments at Lakeview, Drummond Radhairc, Carrickmacross: including ten 2-bedroom apartments with own door access suitable for older people and/or people with disabilities to be completed in Q3 of 2021.

The Council's Ard an Radhairc development of 41 social houses currently under construction at Nafarty includes four 2-bedroom houses and Monaghan County Council is currently working on a proposal to complete the Coill an Rí development at Kilmactrasna by providing thirty additional houses including twenty-seven 2-bedroom houses, it is intended that ten of the houses proposed will be single-storey accessible houses potentially suitable for older people and/or people with disabilities.

In addition, Monaghan County Council is examining the possibility of increasing the number of houses to be provided in conjunction with Tuath Housing on the site currently under construction on the Shercock Road, Bree, Castleblayney: the phases completed to date and currently under construction include 38 houses of which 12 are 2-bedroom houses and 26 are 3-bedroom houses. At present consideration is being given to increasing the number of houses by 20 to 58 including an additional eight 2-bedroom houses and twelve 3-bedroom houses.

The need to increase delivery of every type and size of social housing is of the highest priority for Monaghan County Council with particular emphasis on the increasing need for 2-bedroom accommodation and housing for our aging population and people with disabilities. Other potential projects currently under consideration for Carrickmacross, Castleblayney and all parts of County Monaghan include appropriate house types and sizes to address the housing need identified by Monaghan County Council.

4. What is the current, full, list of Broadband connection points in Co. Monaghan; what areas are expected to be added in the near future and has the Council considered boosting the strength of our existing Free WiFi points in our towns also?

Reply: A total of 17 Broadband Connection Points have now been allocated for County Monaghan. This total is higher per capita than any other local authority area nationally which demonstrates our commitment to rolling out digital facilities throughout the county.

Ballybay Wetlands Enterprise Hub	Corcaghan Community Centre	Drumhowan Community Centre	Mullyash Community Centre
Carn Resource Centre	Corduff-Raferagh Community Centre	Latton Gaa Community Centre	St. Patrick's Accommodation Centre
Clara Community Centre	Corvally Hall	Latton Resource Centre	Tannagh Outdoor Education Centre
Connons-Drummully Community Hall	Cremartin Gaa Community Centre	Monaghan Gaa Centre Of Excellence	Tullycorbett Parish Hall

To date, fourteen of these BCPs are fully up and running. Two BCPs were surveyed in June 2021 and are awaiting installation of broadband: Corvally Hall and Clara Community Hall.

At the launch of the County Monaghan Digital Strategy on 25 June, Minister Humphreys also announced the addition of the C-Tek building as an additional BCP. This BCP was selected following a national application process because it was a suitable facility which acts as a focal point within a largely rural area. C-Tek also includes hotdesk spaces which can be developed and made available to this rural community. This site will be fully surveyed in the coming months.

At present, Monaghan Co. Co. has public wifi in all 5 principal towns within the county. The expansion of this is being addressed via Wifi4EU and MCC is always looking at how we might improve the broadband speeds available to users. Under the Wifi4EU scheme, this has also been extended to a range of community centres and playparks where public wifi is now available.

5. Is the Council considering my long-standing request to map out the locations of defibrillators (AED's) throughout the county and has the executive liaised with the PPN to ensure that the latest information is available?

Reply: The JPC has the recording of all AED's with the National Ambulance Service in its action plan for 2021. At its meeting on 22nd June, the JPC launched an initiative which comprises of two parts:

- A promotional campaign to call on all custodians of AED's to complete an online form on the Council's website. The form includes a mapping tool which enables the respondent to plot the exact location of the AED. This information will be used in two ways:
 - o It will be passed by us to the National Ambulance Service so that when someone calls 999 or 112, the emergency operator will be informed by the NAS computer system if there is a defibrillator within 1km of the caller's location, so they can send them to retrieve it in case it is needed before the ambulance arrives
 - o We will produce a map of the AED locations, to identify if there are areas of the county which are not adequately covered by AED
- A second survey to AED, CPR and CFR groups, providing them with the opportunity to highlight any supports they require, so that the JPC can consider how to provide support. This may take the form of a global funding application, such as was made previously to CLAR for CPR training equipment and outdoor defibrillator cabinets. The initiative will go live on the Council's website on 1st July.

Cllr P. Connolly will ask:

6. Can Monaghan County Council give an update in relation to what plans they have to address the ongoing problems in relation to flooding in Monaghan town and what specific plans are there in relation the subterranean waterway from the convent lake and the Shambles River in relation to resolving the flooding problem?

Reply: In relation to problems relating to the flooding we are investigating the Shambles river and planning to design and implement bank stabilisation works to ensure the river channel remains clear. Regarding the Convent Lake to Shambles River culvert that crosses the Glen Road and Macartan Road, a detailed design is prepared for this scheme. This location falls under the national CFRAM scheme but did not receive funding during the first round of that scheme.

7. To ask Monaghan County Council for update in relation to :
 - (a) plans they have for the recently acquired building 3/4 Mill Street at junction on the North Rd?
Reply: The options for the future use of 4/5 Mill Street are currently being assessed. In circumstances, where there is no clear identified future use or business case for the retention of the property in Monaghan County Council's asset register, 4/5 Mill Street will be offered for sale on the open market.
 - (b) what are the total costs involved in purchase and rendering safe of this building?
Reply: The final account with the appointed Contractor, McGuigan Builders, for the works at 4/5 Mill Street is incomplete and subject to final agreement. Full details on the restoration cost will be available on completion of the Final Account.

Cllr C. Bennett will ask:

8. The Government had allocated funding for each County Council to obtain a vacant home officer in 2018. Did Monaghan County Council avail of this opportunity?
Reply: Under the government Vacant Homes Scheme Monaghan County Council has coordinated 7 properties taken back into use under the Buy and Renew Scheme since 2019 (*17 houses in 2018 delivered also*). 2 properties have been taken back into use under the Repair and Lease Scheme since 2019 (*4 units in 2018 delivered also*), 80 houses have been taken back into use by Approved Housing Bodies in conjunction with Monaghan County Council since 2018 and 59 new homes will be delivered or in the process of being delivered on previously Derelict Sites in Co. Monaghan (*including 32 on the unfinished housing development in Scotstown*).

Further to this, since the inception of the Vacant Homes Programme the Vacant Homes Office carried out onsite inspections of circa 300 vacant homes in County Monaghan. Once vacancy is confirmed Monaghan County Council issues information regarding possible options to owners to bring vacant properties into use (such as the Repair and Lease Scheme) and engages with owners if they are interested, to advise them of the particulars of each scheme available. Monaghan County Council's Vacant Homes Office is registered with www.vacanthomes.ie where the public can provide the details of any vacant homes in their locality and the website will automatically notify the Vacant Homes Office by email for further investigation.

Monaghan County Council will continue gathering information and surveying vacant homes to provide a holistic profile on vacancy throughout County Monaghan, with the intention of encouraging the use of vacant homes wherever possible towards revitalising and repopulating the areas that are most affected by vacancy.

9. In relation to the Tourism and Heritage Departments of Monaghan County Council. Can MCC please collaborate with Coillte to investigate the possibility of a Masterplan for the Castleshane forest. This would help the development of the forest and the waterfall as tourist attraction with walkways connecting it into the Monaghan Way. The preservation and restoration of Castleshane House as a local heritage and historical site should be investigated also.

Reply: Castleshane Forest is situated within the historic demesne of Castleshane, of the Lucas Family. Infill planting with mainly non-native tree species has been undertaken since it commenced operation as a plantation forestry site. The owner of the site is Coillte. Within the forest lies the ruins of Castleshane House, and other known archaeological features. As owners Coillte has responsibility for the care and custodianship of these features. Some of the built heritage features associated with the demesne, including gate lodges are individual private ownership.

Castleshane is a commercial forest which does not have a recreational designation similar to Rossmore. Coillte has advised that an open forest policy operates in Castleshane, but due to high levels of commercial activity there are no plans to develop additional trails.

16. Notices of Motion

Cllr S. Conlon proposed, Cllr McKenna seconded:

1. *Following my motion from the January County Council meeting that requested information from Coillte on what forestry schemes have occurred over the past three years and are planned for native woodland plantations throughout County Monaghan, and disappointingly has not been responded to, that we write to Coillte CEO Imelda Hurley and Minister Pippa Hackett TD seeking an explanation for the six month delay in responding and to provide an answer to my query.*

Following a short debate on the motion, the Cathaoirleach put it to the members and it was agreed.

Cllr R. Truell proposed, Cllr Gilliland seconded:

2. *That Monaghan County Council support the campaign of Epilepsy Ireland to address long standing issues that continue to have an impact on people with epilepsy and their families in Ireland today, namely:*
 - (i) *Access to Free Travel and*
 - (ii) *Provision of suitable Accommodation for State Accommodations for students with epilepsy.*

The Motion if agreed, to be then sent to Minister of Health, Stephen Donnelly, TD, Minister for Social Protection, Heather Humphreys TD, Minister for Education, Norma Foley TD and Michael Moynihan TD (Chair, Oireachtas Committee on Disability Matters)"

Following a short debate on the motion, the Cathaoirleach put it to the members and it was agreed.

17. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations.

It was agreed that a vote of congratulations would be extended to the following

- Staff of the Monaghan Vaccination Centre located at the Hillgrove Hotel for the excellent way in which the roll out of the Covid 19 vaccine is being managed.

- Lorraine Mullarkey, Knockatallon, former member of the Emyvale Cycling Club on her outstanding success in coming first across the line among the female competitors, and setting a new course record, in the 555 kilometre Donegal Atlantic Way Ultra.
- Alison Gilliland, on being elected as the new Lord Mayor of Dublin for 2021-2022.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____