

Municipal District of Monaghan

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held in mTek1 Building, Knockaconny, Monaghan on Monday, 19th July 2021 at 10.00am.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Maxwell presided.

Present: Cllrs. Brian McKenna, Paudge Connolly, Seamus Treanor, Raymond Aughey and Sean Conlon

In Attendance: Olga McConnon, A/Director of Services, Donal McElwain, Municipal District Co-ordinator, Dermot Deeney, Executive Engineer, Siobhan Sherry, Monaghan Business Support Executive

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr Treanor, seconded by Cllr. McKenna, it was agreed that the minutes of the Municipal District meeting held on 21st June 2021 be confirmed.

On the proposal of Cllr Aughey, seconded by Cllr Connolly, it was agreed that the minutes of the AGM meeting held on 21st June 2021 be confirmed.

2. Matters arising:

Cllr Connolly stated that it was suggested at a previous meeting to write to TII in relation to N12 at Skinnagin to which Mr McElwain responded that it was agreed to write to Roads Section as they will be in contact with the TII. Cllr Maxwell advised that the response is included in the Co-ordinator's Report which Mr Deeney read the appropriate section to the members. Cllr Conlon proposed we write to TII and seek urgent attention to have schemes advanced. Mr McElwain responded that he will discuss with Roads Section and they will engage with TII.

3. Town Team Presentation:

Ms Sherry outlined her presentation to the members which was followed by Questions and Answers.

Cllr Connolly requested that an appeal be made to the public to spend their vouchers.

Cllr Conlon asked the Town Team to consider organising with An Post a leaflet drop regarding issues such as using the voucher, promotion offers and to raise awareness of the Monaghan Town Voucher.

4. Report from Municipal District Co-ordinator:

Mr McElwain outlined his report to the members.

Cllr Connolly advised there are claims of a serious lack of consultation regarding Oriel Way MUGA to which Mr McElwain responded that consultation only took place this last two weeks. Details had been forwarded to Teach na nDaoine who have consulted with

community groups and a response is currently being collated by Teach na nDaoine. Cllr Conlon commended the Executive on the ongoing consultation and added there is ample opportunity for engagement.

Cllr Conlon asked for a Report to be provided in relation to site assessment at Hollywood Park.

5. Cross Border Committee set-up (Sliabh Beagh):

Cllr McKenna proposed Cllr Bennett which was seconded by Cllr Conlon and agreed by all members.

Cllr Treanor proposed Cllr Connolly which was seconded by Cllr Aughey and agreed by all members.

Cllr Conlon suggested we ask the PPN and Cllr McKenna suggested we ask Knockatallon Community Development group to sit on committee. It was concluded that there are several possible voluntary members therefore we will ask through the PPN.

6. Questions

Cllr Paudge Connolly asked:

1) In relation to Sliabh Beagh and the increased footfall visiting the area what plans have Monaghan M D to place information boards at

(A) The Penal Cross outlining the history associated with the cross? (The inscription on the Cross is quite difficult to decipher)

(B) The sculpture of the folklore legend Bith outlining the story in relation to the naming of the Sliabh Beagh mountain?

Response: The ORIS application we are currently working on includes an allocation for information panels to highlight the cultural heritage of the area.

2) (A) For an update in relation to the recent proposed developments at Oriel Park play area?

(B) What level of consultation took place with locals in relation to these developments and what they felt was needed in the area?

(C) What plans are there to improve CCTV, provision of disabled toilets & play area, improved lighting, & automatic opening/closing gates?

Response: Initial consultation was carried out in 2020 to get the public's view on the use of the existing park and what the public would like developed there. Consultation of the proposals have taken place over the last two weeks through Teach na nDaoine.

The Mullaghmatt/Cortolvin CCTV system is community managed and has cameras at this location.

In general, MCC playgrounds do not have lighting installed. As raised in the consultation this will be investigated. There are no plans to construct toilets or install automatic gates.

3) For an update in relation to the proposed CCTV for Monaghan town and when are we likely to see it introduced?

Response: The Monaghan Town CCTV proposal must be approved at National Level through the Garda Commissioner's office. The committee had not convened for many months to consider new CCTV schemes due to Covid restrictions but have recommenced lately. The approval for the Monaghan town proposal is expected in the next few weeks.

Cllr Aughey asked:

1) Can the MD investigate organising tenders for maintenance of the roundabouts on the Monaghan Bypass much earlier as the roundabouts were in a very poor state when they were weeded in mid-June this year.

Response: A 3-year maintenance contract for Landscaping at the six roundabouts on the N2 has been awarded to Silverstream Ltd and the maintenance works have commenced.

2) Can the MD clarify, how often has the Ulster Canal along the Greenway been cleaned of litter and debris in the past 12 months and what is the plan for the next year?

Response: Litter that can be reached with long-reach pickers and nets is removed on a regular basis when the greenway is being litter picked. No large scale specific cleaning of the Ulster Canal Channel has taken place within the last 12 months. The MD will continue to look for funding and arrange works accordingly to carry out specific litter removal from the canal channels.

3) Can the MD update members in relation to the maintenance and upkeep of all broken items at Rossmore park ie. 1) the fence 2) domes took away when will they be coming back 3) broken items playpark and all other breaks.

Response: A contractor has been engaged to erect the new fencing to the play park and we were waiting their availability to complete these works. This work along with other minor repairs are scheduled to commence this week.

We are investigating alternative products to replace the play domes. The play park equipment is inspected weekly and any necessary repairs are completed or made safe. Maintenance works to the giants has commenced and will be completed this week.

Mr McElwain advised the members that fencing works had commenced today and that the new cycle trail works are commencing in August.

Cllr Conlon suggested that Interpretive Panels should be installed to tell the tale of each Giant.

4) Can the MD conduct a road safety review and investigation into ongoing issues at Chapel Bridge and slip roads on both sides N12- Tyholland Church Co. Monaghan and Rosses Road/Old Armagh junction.

Response: Monaghan County Council National Roads Team propose to engage RPS, TII appointed Consultants (for VRS /Crash Barrier design) to carry out an assessment and determine is a crash barrier is required on the N12 at Chapel Bridge/ Tyholland Church. Verge trimming has been completed at the Tyholland/N12 junctions. At the Rosses Road/Old Armagh Road junction, safety works including hedge removal / verge landscaping was completed in 2020 to improve sight visibility. This will now be investigated to determine if the growth is interfering with sight visibility and rectified accordingly.

Cllr Conlon asked:

1) Following the recent purchase of approximately 45 acres of lands at Rossmore Park by the County Council, what plans are being considered for their use that will enhance the visitor experience at this increasingly popular location?

Response: The purchase of this land is being finalised. The initial plan is to maintain the existing visitor amenity. Any development will be in the context of the Masterplan for the overall park.

2) Regarding the damaged iron railings at the Cootehill Rd. entrance to Rossmore Park, what progress is being made to having the railings replaced?

Response: These damaged railings are still in private ownership. The Monaghan MD have made enquiries into when they are to be repaired.

3) That this Council asks of Irish Water to confirm what is the operational status of the irrigation systems, associated with the Council's ANSWER scheme, piped from the Clontibret and Knockatallon Wastewater Treatment Plant to the Willow Crop plantations at these two locations.

Response: See attached CE report for June with details of the ANSWER scheme. The harvesting of the crop in Clontibret will commence in the Autumn.

4) Will the appropriate Council sections undertake an environmental assessment of the water quality at Peters Lake and organise with the Civil Defence and Tidy Towns a thorough water based cleaning operation?

Response: The Municipal District will assess the littering of the waters of Peter's lake and arrange a cleaning operation as required. The land area surrounding Peter's lake is litter picked on a daily basis.

Peter's lake by its nature in the centre of town is a lake that is under considerable pressures from a variety of sources. Water samples can be taken but a substantial environmental assessment would require significant time and resources and a funding stream would have to be established to complete the assessment.

7. Motion:

"Due to the substantial interest from schools making application to the Safe Routes to School programme, where eleven schools in the County are left out of the first round of applications, that this Council write to Minister Eamonn Ryan and Department of Transport seeking an increase in allocation to this funding scheme that encourages our young people to cycle, and supports the aims of Council's Climate Action objectives"

Cllr Sean Conlon outlined his motion which was seconded by Cllr McKenna and agreed by all members

8. Correspondence:

Letter from Dept. of Agriculture, Food and the Marine dated 29th June 2021 in relation to invitation to Coillte regarding future plans for Rossmore Park.

9. Sympathy:

On behalf of the members and Executive, sincere sympathy was extended to the following:

O'Duffy family on the passing of Brendan Óg Duffy.

David Tracey and Sinead Tibby on the passing of David's mother.

Dated this 19th day of July 2021

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Meetings Administrator