

Municipal District of Monaghan

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held in Oakland Community Centre, Glaslough, Co Monaghan, on Monday, 18th July 2022 at 10a.m.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Raymond Aughey presided.

Present: Cllrs. Cathy Bennett, Sean Conlon, David Maxwell, Paudge Connolly, Brian McKenna and Seamus Treanor

In Attendance: Olga McConnon, Financial Management Accountant, Donal McElwain, Municipal District Co-ordinator, Dermot Deeney, Executive Engineer, Michelle Curran, Senior Staff Officer.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Raymond Aughey welcomed everyone to his first convening of meeting as Cathaoirleach of Monaghan Municipal District Office and welcomed everyone present to the Oakland Community Centre, Glaslough. Cllr. Aughey advised the next MD meeting to be held on Monday 19th September 2022 will be held in Ballinode Community Centre.

A short presentation by Louise Duffy, Chairperson of Glaslough Tidy Towns Committee following their recent successful Communities in Bloom Competition entry and the community works undertaken by Glaslough Community Development Group which incorporate the community in Glaslough and surrounding areas.

Louise detailed how as winners of the National Tidy Towns competition in 2019, the Department of Rural and Community Development entered Glaslough as Ireland's entry to the International Communities in Bloom Competition. A virtual programme followed with online meetings, multiple interactive webinars, colour schemes and community events. Over the weekend of 24 & 25th June, the Judges were very impressed, and Louise noted the support also from Bernadette, National Tidy Towns Competition Co-ordinator. Louise discussed Glaslough's hopes of winning their first "Bloom" and perhaps even the "Gold Medal Bloom" which is a coveted achievement. Louise detailed the Results ceremony which will take place in October 2022 in Victoria, Canada.

Congratulations and well wishes to Glaslough Tidy Towns and Glaslough Community Development Group were voiced by all elected members present.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr. Maxwell seconded by Cllr. Bennett, it was agreed that the minutes of the Municipal District of Monaghan meeting held on 20th June 2022 be confirmed.

On the proposal of Cllr. Maxwell seconded by Cllr. Bennett, it was agreed that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Municipal District of Monaghan meeting held on 20th June 2022 be confirmed.

2. Matters arising:

RTA at Emyvale- Cllr. McKenna queried if TII had been in consultation as yet? Mr. McElwain advised Roads section had met with the Gardai regarding the accident and have been in consultation with TII to review the locus. Roads section have to submit project suggestions to TII.

Cllr. Connolly requested a sharp turn "L" sign to be installed to signify the road layout ahead. Noted the morning Garda attendance and speed van relocation to Emyvale.

Cllr. Aughey asked if a Tabletop Ramp could be investigated as an option for Emyvale Village.

Glaslough Street - Yellow Box Junction – Mr. McElwain advised Junction Box has yet to be reviewed again by Roads/TII. Cllr. Treanor requested a traffic light installation at the Diamond area on Glaslough Road to allow clearance of traffic to move down Dublin street.

Market Street – Cllr. Connolly requested a yellow box be placed at the junction of Market Street/Church Sq.

4-5 Mill Street – Cllr. Conlon requested update to the report requested for properties. Mr. McElwain advised this report is being compiled and will be presented to Councillors once complete.

Hollywood Park – Cllr. Bennett advised children are jumping off the jetty into the water and requested provision of safe water access. Mr. McElwain advised that as part of the ongoing project will include steps into the water.

Weed Spraying – Cllr. Bennett asked if Monaghan County Council are cutting down on the spraying within Monaghan Town. Cllr. Bennett requested a report be presented to members in September meeting discussing new alternative options. Mr. McElwain advised weeds glycol use has been massively reduced and MCC are employing use of mechanical methods to reduce weeds. It is an ongoing process to find alternative options.

Cllr. Treanor feels more spraying of weeds required around the town to improve the look of the town. Mr. McElwain requested members to forward a list of areas that require attention as they are made aware of them.

Cllr. Conlon asked for clarification regarding Ragwort and Japanese Knotweed. Mr. McElwain and Mr. Deeney confirmed the process to remove Japanese Knotweed was as per tendered procurement using the specialised treatment.

Cllr. Maxwell note that previous attempts to burn weed and use homemade mixes did not work. In his opinion the centre of town needed weed control spray to maintain weeds for the look of the town until a reliable alternative can be discovered.

Roads – Bog/Smithboro Road – Cllr. Bennett asked for repairs to be carried out. Mr. McElwain agreed that the MD would investigate further.

Areas of Speeding – Cllr. Treanor requested MD write to Gardai in relation to speeding on the Garran school Road and the Old Armagh Road.

3. Report from Municipal District Co-Ordinator

Mr. McElwain outlined the report to the members.

Ulster Canal Greenway – Cllr. Maxwell raised concerns regarding the original opening date which was delayed almost 10 weeks due to an ESB delay regarding ESB poles. As a result, there was a delayed laying tarmac. Cllr. Maxwell requested better liaison with third parties on future projects to ensure no significant delays to future projects.

Cllr. Connolly asked what steps have been taken to ensure no lying water on the Greenway. Mr. McElwain advised tarmac surface was designed with the required crossfall.

Renaming of Ogie Ui Dhufaigh Road – Cllr. Aughey thanked all involved for their input to the ceremony.

Pedestrian Crossing – Mr. McElwain advised that the contractor is to be on site next week.

Relating to Surface Dressing – Cllr. McKenna addressed complaints regarding fault with spraying enquiring is it going to be in house or tender? Mr. McElwain stated, in house and it is due to commence in MMD in 4 weeks and is weather dependent.

Cllr. Bennett requests update on a footpath for Scotstown and Ballinode Villages.

Mr. McElwain states the importance of un-redeemed Monaghan Town Vouchers and press the importance to the local economy and encouraged the public to use their vouchers.

Cllr. Treanor states his disappointment that the Country and Western Festival didn't proceed this year and they need a voluntary committee. He would like to see it return in 2023 for the promotion and tourism of the town. Cllr. Connolly is appealing to volunteers to get this up and running. Cllr. McKenna also encourage businesses to participate to help get the festival up and running.

4. Questions & Motions

Cllr. Conlon asks of the relevant Council Section to give an outline of the extent of engagement initiated with property owners and occupiers in Park St. & Market St. regarding financial supports provided under the Town and Village Renewal funds that will encourage overdue remedial measures to some premises in this area. Also, to outline what procedures and criteria are involved to participate in the scheme.

Response:

The proposal includes for the façade painting and gutter repair/replacement for approximately 30 no. properties on Market Street and Park Street, subject to costs. The council have tendered for a Conservation Architectural firm to define the works criteria, complete the consultation and oversee the works. The tenders were received back last week and have to be evaluated. Grant works to be completed by August 2023.

Cllr. Aughey states that Glaslough Street is looking great and commends Maire Cullinane and Tidy Towns.

Cllr. Aughey ask has the MD any plans to use a footpath sweeper on the streets of Monaghan Town?

Response:

The MD is currently using a mechanical de-weeder on the footpaths in Monaghan Town, and they are litter picked on a daily basis. The MD is also in the process of acquiring a multi-use vehicle with a sweeper attachment, that can be used on footpaths and paved areas.

Cllr. Aughey asks can the MD give an update on progress regarding the new car park planned for the Broad Road, how many spaces will there be and how many spaces will be long stay or short stay?

Response:

It is planned to submit the plans for the carpark this week for a Part 8 Application. The Tender documents will also be advanced with construction in Q4, 2022.

The carpark will hold 90 carparking spaces. 4 disability car parking spaces, 20 short-term, 66 long-term and 18 bicycle spaces. 9 space will be ducted for Electric vehicle charging, to be brought online as the need arises.

Cllr. Aughey enquiries when will the Streetscape Scheme be opened for Market Street and Park Street?

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Cllr. Aughey enquiries in light of the huge response to the WEEE collection at the Lidl car park in March, will there be a second opportunity for people to recycle their used electrical equipment this year?

Response:

European Recycling Platform (ERP) has arranged a number of WEEE collections events throughout Ireland during 2022 including in Co. Monaghan. In addition to the very successful event held in the Monaghan LIDL carpark on April 8th a further collection event was arranged by ERP on 10th June in the carpark of the LIDL store in Castleblayney which again proved very successful. Whilst at this point in time ERP has no plans to hold any additional events in the County during 2022 it should be noted that householders can continue to recycle their unwanted WEEE free of charge at the Scotch Corner recycling centre and at the Carrickmacross Recycling centre located on the Convent lands.

5. Motions

For Monaghan Municipal District to erect a commemorative symbol in an appropriate public place honouring the service of all Urban District Councillors up to 2014

For Monaghan MD to hold an appropriate ceremony to unveil this commemorative symbol and invite all living Urban District Councillors and representatives and family members of Councillors to this event, and an appropriate function afterwards fitting for the occasion.

For Monaghan MD to liaise and provide the blueprint for other MD areas within Monaghan County Council to have similar symbols and events to mark the service of their Urban District Councillors

Cllr. Raymond Aughey

Cllr. Aughey says we will see difference in numbers between existing plaque of chairpersons and bring back to MD in September meeting.

That this Council calls on Bus Eireann “To cease the practice of charging pensioners €2 and the requirement to book a seat online. Pensioners should be allowed to book a seat by phone without any charge “.

Cllr. Brian McKenna

This was seconded by Cllr. Bennett and agrees no access to internet and to make it more accessible. Cllr. Conlon Insult in community, the Digital Strategy presentation made in June 2021 and how its services will be revolutionised through online access but its flawed and they need to be aware of the elderly and access services and welfare and they must be mindful of those with no internet access. Cllr. Connolly says €2 reserve seat is a fantastic facility to guarantee the seat and thinks they would not like this taken away from them.

Cllr. Maxwell says not enough capacity on the routes. The old practice of a second bus being put on route within 10 minutes seems to have been stopped by Bus Eireann.

Cllr. Conlon says this was working well before digital strategy and the standby provision and has marginalising people. He thinks reopening both and Monaghan Bus Station.

For: Cllr. McKenna, Cllr. Bennett, Cllr. Conlon, Cllr. Treanor, Cllr. Maxwell, Cllr. Aughey

Against: Cllr. Connolly

Cllr. Conlon suggests write to get ticket office reopened.

Correspondences

Cllr. Connolly states the lack of response from Ambulance Service. Enquiring about the complaint letter was there any response. Also wondering if any response from the Chief of Ambulance Service. He states that we were promised a midwife on board and advanced medical practitioner paramedic. He says that with it being the most resourced Health Service in Europe it is totally mismanaged.

Cllr. McKenna wonders how things can change when the letters are ignored.

Cllr. Treanor comments that the management of HSE no control and for the Executive to write again.

Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

Condolences to Michelle Murphy on the passing of her father Owen.

Congratulations to Emyvale Ladies County Final and Josh Moffett on the National Title.

Cllr. Maxwell congratulation to Daisy Walker 4th place in the 300m at the SIAB Schools International and for Glaslough Villa on winning the treble this season.

A.O.B.

Cllr. Conlon comments regarding Anti-Social Behaviour and how the County Council through tenancy density and Gardaí through community support have let down people of Killygoan and Mullaghmat. He suggests the need for Teach na Daoine to take a role and there is a need for an assembly of stakeholders including Elected Members to convey letters, phone calls and texts. There is legislation in place but not being implemented.

Cllr. McKenna has received calls from the Mullaghmat community regarding this matter. The tenants have spoken to gardai, been on radio shows discussing how her family was targeted and nothing has been implemented by Monaghan County Council and Gardaí. He read a paragraph from the Handbook and stated what exactly is happening and is not being tackled which is the removal of tenants from estate.

Cllr. Treanor comments that when the Council activates procedures then the tenant takes Legal Aid Court Case.

Cllr. Aughey & Cllr. Maxwell concur with the above and that Teach na Daoine have not called public meeting.

Cllr. Maxwell requests for the September Sub Committee meeting that John Murray, Nuala Woods, Niall O'Connor, Kieran Trant, Superintendent Gardaí, representatives from Teach na Daoine and Killygoan to attend, maybe a special meeting and suggests in M-Tek building on 1st or 2nd week of September at 5/6pm to suit all or a morning option.

This concluded the business of the meeting

Dated this 18th day of July 2022

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Meetings Administrator