

Municipal District of Monaghan

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held in M-tek 1 Building, Knockaconny, on Monday, 20th June 2022 at 10a.m.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. David Maxwell presided.

Present: Cllrs. Cathy Bennett, Sean Conlon, Raymond Aughey, Paudge Connolly, and Brian McKenna

Apologies: Cllr. Seamus Treanor

In Attendance: Olga McConnon, Financial Management Accountant, Donal McElwain, Municipal District Co-ordinator, Dermot Deeney, Executive Engineer, Michelle Curran, 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 of Monaghan meeting held on 16th May 2022 be confirmed.

2. Matters arising:

Heaton's Corner- Yellow Box Junction – Mr. McElwain advised Junction Box has been agreed and will be installed by contractor.

Glaslough Street/Diamond, Yellow Box Junction – Cllr McKenna requested installation of yellow box junction due to traffic turning right blocking the junction during heavy traffic times. Mr McElwain advised no approval from T.I.I. received. Mr McMahan advised that the main issue was the steady flow of traffic from Glaslough St. which was preventing traffic exiting from Church Sq. He will have another look at this request.

Cllr. Conlon noted that the web-camera at the planning office could be utilised for checking the traffic.

Grass Cutting & Weed Spraying – Cllr. Aughey asked if Michael has met with all Residents Groups to discuss cutting schedule, weeding and pollinator areas. Mr. McElwain to follow-up with the Horticulturist.

Hollywood Park – Cllr. Bennett asked for a further update and why the pier was removed at the lake. Mr. McElwain advised update in MD report and pier was removed for safety purposes by the committee.

4-5 Mill Street – Cllr. Conlon requested update on this property. Mr. McElwain advised this report is being compiled and will be available to Councillors when complete.

URGENT BUSINESS

Road Traffic Accident at Steele's Corner, Emyvale on Friday 17th June 2022

Motions received:

"In light of the most recent accident at Steele's corner in Emyvale on Friday morning that this Council in conjunction with the T.I.I. examine additional measures such as ramps, driver information

signs and other to ensure that the people of Emyvale can live without fear of vehicles crashing into their homes.”

Cllr. McKenna

“That Monaghan MD call on the T.I.I. to take immediate action to (a) ensure that the flashing speed indicator lights are returned as a matter of urgency. (b) That further steps are taken to slow traffic entering the North side of Emyvale village (Steele’s Corner).”

Cllr. Connolly

“That Monaghan MD install speed ramps throughout the village of Emyvale to combat regular speeding throughout the village and propose to the T.I.I. a bypass of the village of Emyvale.”

Cllr. Aughey

Gareth McMahon, A/Senior Engineer and Jonathan Condell, Executive Engineer from Roads Section attended the meeting.

Mr. McMahon advised that the road in question is a National Road, speed ramps are not permitted. Mr. McMahon also advised as a National Road, this is not within the remit of Monaghan MD and any requests will have to be submitted and approved by T.I.I. for a national decision.

Cllr. McKenna advised that he had received a number of comments in relation to the family residing in the property and the luck that no family member was injured as a result of this RTA which was the result of speed in his opinion. Cllr. McKenna acknowledges the good safety works already in place however this is not enough to prevent speed. Cllr. McKenna believes speed ramps are the only solution to slowing traffic on this approach to Emyvale village and request that the Monaghan MD lobby T.I.I. to install speed ramps and that the speed detection signs be reinstated in this area.

Cllr. Aughey requested ramps throughout the village to combat regular speeding and cited other built-up areas with ramps. Cllr. Aughey proposes T.I.I. build by-pass around Emyvale village.

Cllr. Connolly feels current measures in place are inadequate when the major issue to speed is introduced, noting hauliers speeding to makeup time for delivery, workers speeding through village at peak travel times. In Cllr. Connolly’s opinion this accident was due to driver error and speeding. Pedestrian safety is of importance and asks Monaghan MD utilise speed camera to target speeding traffic times and locations of regular incidents. Cllr. Connolly requests the immediate return of the speed detector signs and new signage on the road to advise of the turn in the road ahead.

Cllr. McKenna advised that the request for signage had previously been raised at a JPC meeting and will be raised again in the next JPC meeting following this incident.

Cllr. Conlon queried the N2 Clontibret to the Border upgrade project which is now 15 years in the pipelines and has still not commenced. Cllr. Conlon stressed the need for this funding and project to be reinstated as a matter of urgency and requested Monaghan MD write to Minister Eamonn O’Brien and his Department to request same.

Cllr. Bennett asked if a common strategy could be developed to include traffic calming measures, flashing speed detector signs, ramps, etc for a common strategy throughout all the towns and villages of County Monaghan.

Mr. McMahon advised that traffic calming measures in Emyvale were completed in 2015, working within the restraints in providing access to the existing properties along this road. Mr McMahon advised the Roads section are in discussions with T.I.I. Road Safety Section and An Garda Siochana regarding the investigation into this RTA and once complete will review as a matter of urgency.

Mr. McMahon advised a Traffic Count on this section of road was completed in May 2022 with an average speed recorded of 53kph within 50kph zone. Mr. McMahon also advised the 85th percentile (worse 15% surveyed) the average speed recorded in this was 60kph within 50 kph zone. Mr. McMahon advised following completion of investigation, he will follow up with An Garda Siochana for a solution to take to the T.I.I., noting only one accident from 2016 to 2020. which was for material damage. Gardai will share current information regarding accidents in this area.

Mr. McMahon agreed to the return of the driver speed detection signs. He advised that a Bypass would resolve the issues and welcomed a political push to get the project of the N2 Clontibret to the Border Project regenerated.

Mr McMahon will ask the Gardai for further enforcement in Emyvale and with regards to relocating the camera vans to this area.

Cllr. McKenna not critical of the works already completed but feels Speed ramps are the only solution.

Cllr. Connolly requested the speed detector signs be erected immediately.

Mr. McMahon agreed to arrange relocation of signs from Smithboro to Emyvale Mr. McMahon will also review the traffic count information from May 2022 to narrow down times and vehicle types for a more in-depth review of same.

Cllr. Aughey requested Mr. McMahon contact T.I.I. to ask for ramps on national roads.

Cllr. Conlon asked Ms. McConnon to speak with Housing Section to request supports given to the family in the property. Aware that the family are not council tenants but private homeowner, however as result of this accident, they are temporarily homeless.

Cllr. Bennett asked if there is a common strategy? Mr. McMahon stated, not as yet but would benefit from a town plan for the county to be developed utilising funding through Active Travel and Town & Village applications as would be a very good solution.

Cllr Aughey proposed motion to Active Travel for Pedestrian Crossings in all villages to assist in slowing traffic and improve village safety.

Cllr. Maxwell asked if road can be narrowed to encourage drivers to reduce speed? Mr. McMahon advised they will keep all options open until T.I.I. advise they are not feasible.

Cllr. Connolly proposed immediate motion to write to Gardai for Speed Camera Vans to be relocated to Steeles from Sam's Bridge. Motion agreed and supported by all present.

3. Report from Municipal District Co-Ordinator

Mr. McElwain outlined the report to the members.

Broad Road Carpark – Cllr. Conlon asked if on schedule for delivery in November 2022. Mr. McElwain advised that it needs to get in for Part 8 in planning and consultants on target.

Roads –

Cllr. Bennett asked in relation to Scotstown footpath replacement works, will there be public lighting along footpath? Mr. McElwain advised Yes, ESB to connect same.

Cllr. Bennet asked will new footpath be installed for new houses in Scotstown to link into village?

Mr. McElwain advised that the houses are connected to the village via footpath on the Roslea road.

Cllr Bennett referred to verges damaged by the Housing contractor on the Roslea road.

Cllr McKenna referred to potholes at Roy Coulter's on the Glaslough to Emyvale road.

Cllr Connolly requested a white line at the junction of the Emy Lough and Glaslough/Emyvale road.

4. Questions & Motions

No Questions or Motions

5. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

Sympathies were extended to the following:

Deirdre Murphy and the Murphy Family on the passing of fellow colleague Peter Murphy, Drummuck, Stranooden.

The Ronaghan family on the passing of their father Lorcan Ronaghan, Drumcarn, Latlorcan.

Congratulations were conveyed to the following:

St Mellen's Handball Club

Crocus Cancer Support Centre on recent successful launch

Josh Moffett on wining the Donegal Rally

This concluded the business of the meeting

Dated this 20th day of June 2022

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Meetings Administrator