

Municipal District of Monaghan

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held in Mtek 1 Building, Knockaconny, on Monday, 21st March 2022 at 11.45 a.m.

The Leas Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Seamus Treanor presided.

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

Apologies: Cllrs. Paudge Connolly and David Maxwell

In Attendance: John Murray, Director of Services, Donal McElwain, Municipal District Co-ordinator, Dermot Deeney, Executive Engineer, Michelle Curran, Senior Staff Officer, Carmel Murphy, Assistant Staff Officer

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr. Aughey seconded by Cllr. Conlon, it was agreed that the minutes of the Municipal District of Monaghan meeting held on 21st March 2022 be confirmed.

2. Matters arising:

Killygoan Mast – Cllr. Conlon informed the members that Mr. Darragh McAdam, Planning Enforcement Officer had assured him that any alterations to the mast were within the law and is being monitored regularly by the Planning Section. He outlined the information he had received from Mr. McAdam as to what is allowed to be added without planning permission. Cllr. Connolly said that we should call on the Planning Regulator to ensure that any additional antennae be removed while retention is being sought

Margaret Skinnider Roundabout – Cllr. Conlon expressed his disappointment at the signage that was recently erected at the Roundabout as it did not have a distinctive heritage appearance

Cycle Trail at Rossmore Park – Cllr. Conlon stated that the family cycle trail at Rossmore was an unsatisfactory job in relation to the budget provided. He said that there were issues with the steep inclines for young children starting off in cycle and wheelchair access. He said that even though discussions had taken place with Cycle Ireland and Emyvale Cycling Club, this had only been at the preliminary design stage. Mr. McElwain responded that the feedback he had received was very positive on the day of the official opening. Cllr. Maxwell asked that a breakdown of where the funding was spent be provided to the members.

3. Report from Municipal District Co-Ordinator

Mr. McElwain outlined the report to the members.

Hollywood Park - Mr. McElwain informed the members that it is hoped to have the detailed design for enhancement works at Hollywood Park finished in the next few weeks and it was hoped to be on site by the end of the year

Communities in Bloom – Glaslough is representing Ireland in this year’s Communities in Bloom and Mr. McElwain confirmed that judging will take place on the 24th June 2022. In relation to the pedestrian crossing works in Glaslough, Mr. McElwain stated that we were still awaiting confirmation back from the appointed contractor but it is hoped to have all works completed before the 24th June.

Waste Electrical Collection – Cllr. Aughey said he wished to compliment Sharon Finnegan and her team from the Council’s Environment Section on the successful waste collection day in the Lidl Car Park.

Monaghan Stages Rally – The members praised the organisation of the Monaghan Stages Rally. Cllr. Maxwell noted that the rally had now been named in honour of the late Ronnie Hawe which was a great tribute.

Yellow Box at Diamond & Heaton’s Corner – Cllr. Maxwell asked if there was any further update on this matter as traffic flow difficulties were ongoing at these locations. Mr. McElwain responded that it was his understanding that the issue at Heaton’s Corner had been resolved but not the Diamond. Cllr. Maxwell asked that a report from the Council’s Road Section on this matter could be provided for the next meeting.

Belgium Square – Cllr. Treanor raised the issue of the derelict condition of a numbers of buildings in the Belgium Square area, he also referred to the poor condition of the fencing around the Belgium Park football pitch which needed repair and painting and also weeds in this area that need to be removed. He also stated that the Famine Memorial needed to be power hosed and there were dangerous parts of the footpaths both in Belgium Park and Belgium Square. Mr. McElwain responded that these issues would be investigated but the fence might be in private ownership.

Cllr. Treanor asked why a number of derelict houses in the Belgium Square area had never been compulsory purchased by the council. Cllr. Maxwell responded that some of the houses Cllr. Treanor was referring to would be in private ownership. Cllr. Connolly said that this was one area of the town that needed attention in regard to addressing dereliction. Cllr. Aughey stated that a lot of rubbish was being dumped in some gardens in the Coolshannagh area.

Mr. Murray said the local authority could service notice on derelict properties but unless they could be used for social housing there was no point in purchasing them. He said that a 7% derelict sites levy could be imposed on the property owners and he would discuss this with the Council’s planning section.

Riverside - Cllr. Treanor referred to the lane at Riverside saying that it was his understanding that no cars could drive from Riverside into Belgium Square and it was solely for the residents of the Riverside estate. He asked if the council could install proper fencing with an emergency gate. Mr. McElwain stated that Riverside had not been Taking In Charge by the Council but the Municipal District would investigate the laneway and see if anything could be done.

Mill Street – Cllr. Connolly referred to the purchase of property at Mill Street by the Council and asked what the proposed use was for these buildings. Mr. Murray responded that the initial plan was to acquire the properties and sell them on but the council had been unable to sell them. He explained that because the Mill Street properties had been in a dangerous condition the council had to carry out certain works. He said he would find out for the members what the intention for these properties was

4. Naming of Road from Old Cross Square to Monaghan Harps GAA Grounds – On the proposal of Cllr. Conlon and seconded by Cllr. Connolly it was agreed to proceed with the process to rename this road. Cllr. Maxwell requested that the process would be commenced in the coming week.

5. Questions & Motions

There were no Questions submitted for this meeting

6. Urgent Business

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Connolly and seconded by Cllr. Aughey

“That in view of the more frequent delays in ambulance response times to emergencies in the North Monaghan area and in particular the very poor response times to two serious incidents in Monaghan Town that Monaghan M.D.

(A) Write a formal letter of complaint to the Quality Assurance and Verification Division (QAVD) of the HSE in the Hospital Networks Complaints Office in Phoenix Park.

(B) Request a meeting with the Chief Ambulance Officer at the National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC) in Tallaght.

(C) Request a meeting with the Minister for Health Mr. Stephen Donnelly T.D. to raise these issues and previous commitments given in relation to Ambulance cover in North Monaghan.”

Cllr. Aughey stated that the current service was unacceptable. He said that a commitment had been given previously that Monaghan would get enhanced ambulance services when the hospital services had been downgraded. Cllr. Conlon concurred with these sentiments and said the HSE need to be made accountable. This motion was supported by all the members.

7. Any Other Business

Cllr. Aughey referred to the dumping of bags of rubbish just near the recently opened Family Cycle Trail in Rossmore Park and the dumping of building rubble and old furniture at Bragan Mountain. He said the problem has become particularly bad. Cllr. Connolly commented that he had previously raised the issue of illegal dumping in the Bragan area and queried why CCTV can not be used in these areas to combat illegal dumping.

This concluded the business of the meeting

Dated this 21st day of March 2022

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Meetings Administrator