

**Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Sliabh Beagh Hotel, Knockatallon, County Monaghan on Monday 05 December 2022 at 2.00 pm**

**Chair:** Cllr S. Conlon, Cathaoirleach

**Present:** Cllrs. Aughey, Bennett, Carthy, Campbell, Connolly, Keelan, McCooey, McElvaney, P. Treanor, S. Treanor, Maxwell, McKenna, Gilliland and Truell.

Ms. P Monahan, Deputy Chief Executive; Ms. N. Woods, Mr. J Murray, Mr. Cathal Flynn, Directors of Services; Ms. C. O'Hare, Mr. G. McMahon, A/ Director of Services; Ms. O. McConnon, Accountant, Ms. M. McGarvey, Meetings Administrator, Ms. L. Brannigan, Senior Staff Officer.

**Apologies:** Cllrs Coyle, O'Hanlon and P. Conlon

The Cathaoirleach welcomed all to the Sliabh Beagh Hotel for the last meeting of 2023 and invited the Sliabh Beagh Development committee to provide a brief overview to members.

Mr Brian McGinnity addressed the members on behalf of the group. He stated that the aim of the Development Committee was the regeneration of the area and to provide employment and services for local people. He stated that the development in Knockatallon is community led development. He informed members that the hotel has 30+ employees and approximately 26,000 people pass through the doors annually. He went on to highlight the many services and amenities provided by the hotel and concluded by outlining some of the challenges faced by the area and asked for the elected members assistance in addressing these challenges going forward.

Members thanked Mr McGinnity and the development committee for their presentation and assured them of the members continued support going forward.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes:**

**(i) Minutes of Council Meeting held on 01 November 2022**

On the proposal of Cllr P Treanor seconded by Cllr N Keelan it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 01 November 2022, be confirmed.

**(ii) Minutes of Statutory Budget Meeting held on 21 November 2022**

On the proposal of Cllr P Connolly, seconded by Cllr S Treanor, it was agreed that the minutes of the Statutory Budget Meeting held on 21 November 2022 be amended to reflect Cllr Connolly's counter proposal *'that Monaghan County Council do not proceed with the borrowing of €38 million at a fixed rate for 30 years of 2.7% for the purpose of constructing new civic offices in accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001.'*

On the proposal of Cllr D Maxwell seconded by Cllr R Aughey it was agreed that the minutes of the Statutory Budget Meeting held on 21 November 2022, be confirmed subject to the above amendment.

## 2. Correspondence

The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda for the meeting:

- Email from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Finance, Mr. Paschal Donohue, T.D., regarding inheritance tax.
- Email from Office of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr. Darragh O'Brien, regarding increasing the Income Limits for Social Housing.
- Email from Marie O'Sullivan, Health Service Executive, regarding the Covid Pandemic Payment to Community Healthcare Workers.
- Acknowledgement letter from the Officer of the Chief Executive Officer, Health Service Executive, regarding the operating hours of the Minor Injuries Unit at Monaghan General Hospital.
- Acknowledgement email from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Mr. Michael McGrath, T.D., regarding windfall tax for energy companies.
- ICBAN Update regarding Strategic Development – 'The Framework of Regional Priorities' Strategy Document, Border Transition Project, EU Funded Projects – INTERREG NPA Programme & Communications

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

- Resolution from Mayo County Council regarding funding for Taking in Charge of Housing Estates.
- Email from Ms, Stephanie Dunne, Communications Manager, RCSI Hospital Group regarding a communications campaign being initiated regarding the extension to the opening hours of the Minor Injuries Unit at Monaghan General Hospital.

### Proposals arising out of correspondence:

*On the proposal of Cllr C Carthy, seconded by Cllr C Bennett, it was agreed that this Council supports the Mayo Co Co motion calling on the Minister for Housing & Local Government to make a fund available to enable the taking in charge of estates across Ireland that have not been taken in charge to address the legacy issue which is denying estates basic access services across our country.*

*On the proposal of Cllr P Connolly, seconded by Cllr S Treanor, it was agreed that this Council supports the Sligo Co Co motion calling on Minister for Social Protection for a complete review of the criteria for individuals to qualify for a Social Employment Scheme:*

- (i) to reduce the time required to be on Jobseekers Allowance*
  - (ii) to increase the payment on schemes from €20 to €100 over the Jobseekers allowance*
  - (iii) In cases where individuals want to continue their employment when time has elapsed, that their contract should be significantly extended if their position can't be filled by others.*
- Cllr A Campbell abstained.*

*On the proposal of Cllr P Connolly, seconded by Cllr S Treanor, it was agreed that this Council supports the Sligo Co Co motion calling on the Minister for Health to undertake a review of the numbers of doctors and nurses being trained annually with a view of doubling capacity within the system as is required. Furthermore, that the Minister for Health instructs the Department of Health and the Health Service Executive to implement a workforce strategy for the retention of nurses and doctors to stay working within our health service instead of paying millions for recruitment campaigns overseas.*

**3. To consider Section 183 Notice – Lease of Lands to Blayney Rovers Soccer Club**

Mr. C. Flynn, Director of Services, outlined the S183 circulated for the lease of 1.396 hectares of land at Drumillard Little, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan to Blayney Rovers Soccer Club.

*On the proposal Cllr A Campbell seconded by Cllr C Carthy it was agreed that the Council approve the lease of Land located at Drumillard Little, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan in accordance with the terms of notice dated 29 September 2022 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) for the upgrade of pedestrian facilities and carriageway alterations over approximately 300m of L2800 road opposite St Tiarnach's Park Clones**

Mr. A. Hughes, Planning Officer, referred to the Part VIII Report which had been circulated in respect of the upgrade of pedestrian facilities and carriageway alterations over approximately 300m of L2800 road opposite St Tiarnach's Park, Clones. He advised that no submissions had been received during the public consultation period.

*On the proposal of Cllr P Treanor seconded by Cllr R Truell it was agreed to approve the upgrade of pedestrian facilities and carriageway alterations over approximately 300m of L2800 road opposite St Tiarnach's Park, Clones. as detailed in the Chief Executive's Reports prepared in accordance with Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).*

**5. To consider the Audited Annual Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31st December 2021.**

- (i) To receive the Audit Committee Report on the Annual Financial Statement 2021 and the Local Government Auditors Report 2020 on the Accounts of Monaghan County Council for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.

Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance referred to the Audited AFS, Audit Committee Report on the Annual Financial Statement 2021 and the Local Government Auditors Report 2021 on the Accounts of Monaghan County Council for year ended 31 December 2021, all of which had been circulated to the members.

The D/Chief Executive and Head of Finance responded to members queries.

**6. Audit Committee**

- (i) To receive the Audit Committee Annual Report for 2021 which includes Performance & Effectiveness**

The members noted the Audit Committee Annual Report for 2021, which includes Performance and Effectiveness, which had been circulated with the agenda.

- (ii) To approve the Draft Audit Committee Charter for 2023**

The members noted the Draft Audit Committee Charter for 2023 which had been circulated with the agenda.

*On the proposal of Cllr D. Maxwell, seconded by Cllr R Aughey, it was agreed that the Draft Audit Committee Charter for 2023, as presented, be adopted.*

**(iii) To approve the Draft Audit Committee Work Programme for 2023**

The members noted the Draft Audit Committee Work Programme for 2023 which had been circulated with the agenda.

*On the proposal of Cllr H McElvaney, seconded by Cllr S Conlon, it was agreed that the Draft Audit Committee Work Programme for 2023 as presented, be adopted.*

**7. To fix a date for the January 2023 Council meeting**

The Members agreed that the January meeting be held on the 09<sup>th</sup> January 2023 and the February meeting will be 13 February 2023.

**8. To consider recommendations and minutes from Corporate Policy Group Meeting on 15 November 2022.**

The members noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 15 November 2022 which had been circulated.

*On the proposal of Cllr N Keelan seconded by Cllr R Aughey it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 15 November 2022 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.*

**9. To receive Management Report – November 2022**

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

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

*On the proposal of Cllr S Conlon, seconded by Cllr S Gilliland, it was agreed that members receive a presentation from the Active Travel unit at the January Co Co meeting to include update on MCC's level of engagement with local link.*

**10. To receive reports from Members attending Conferences/Training Events**

The members noted the Report from Cllr. Carthy, Maxwell and Truell in relation to their attending at the following Conferences/Training events:

- LAMA – Autumn Training Seminar – Co. Monaghan
- AILG – Development Plan – Co. Kilkenny
- AILG – Audit Committees – Co. Donegal
- AILG – Equality – Co. Meath

- AILG – Accessibility – Co. Sligo
- Celtic Conferences – Pensions – Co. Cork
- IPB – Accounts & Claims – Co. Athlone

## **11. Business submitted by Chief Executive**

The Deputy Chief Executive confirmed to members the Chief Executive, Mr Eamonn O’Sullivan’s decision to retire on 16 December 2022 for health reasons. She stated that when Eamonn first came to Monaghan as Chief Executive almost 7 years ago, he brought with him an abundance of experience, having worked in a number of other local authorities, including Wicklow, Sligo and Kildare. From the beginning, his enthusiasm and energy were hallmarks of his approach to the job. He very rapidly absorbed a wealth of information about the county, the Council’s operations and the staff. He very soon gained a reputation as a ‘people person’. Ms Monahan outlined some of the many highlights during Eamonn’s term in Monaghan:

- Local Authority of the Year 2017 at the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards.
- The preparation and roll-out of the current County Development Plan 2019-2025.
- Prominent capital projects including the civic offices at 1 Dublin St and at the refurbished Clones Market House, new Civil Defence HQ in Monaghan, and the new Fire Station in Castleblayney
- During the period of Eamonn’s tenure, Monaghan Co. Council invested well over €100million and made significant progress in providing social housing in the county This included innovative projects such as the award-winning and much-lauded Clones renewal scheme.
- Under Eamonn’s watch MCC became the first Local Authority to complete the retrofit of all of our public lighting, as the Council took on a new role in responding to climate change.
- The arrival of the pandemic in March 2020 brought exceptional challenges imposing severe restrictions on the way that we all communicated and carried out our work. Eamonn rose to the challenge and led the organisation in keeping essential services operating while keeping staff and public safe in unprecedented conditions, and at the same time very rapidly rolling out a range of supports for both businesses and Communities.

On behalf of the Executive, Ms Monahan sincerely thanked Eamonn for his service to Monaghan Co. Council, his commitment to this county, and his support for all of the Executive, staff and Members alike. She stated that the county has progressed and prospered greatly during his tenure, and Monaghan County Council are very grateful to him for everything he has done. She concluded by wishing him continued full and speedy recovery, and many years of good health to enjoy retirement, to enjoy his family and hopefully to indulge in some of the pursuits that he may not have had time for during a very busy working life. After a total of 42 years in public service, his retirement is well-deserved, and the Executive and all staff wish him all the very best with it.

All members joined with the D/Chief Executive and Executive in paying tribute to Mr O’Sullivan and wishing him well in his retirement.

## **12. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meetings held on 01 November 2022 and 21 November 2022**

- (i) Minutes of November Council Meeting held on 01 November 2022
- (ii) Minutes of Statutory Budget Meeting held on 21 November 2022

There were no matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meetings held on 01 November 2022. Minutes of Statutory Budget meeting on 21 November 2022 to be amended in accordance with Agenda item 1(ii) above.

## **13. To receive update on N2 National Primary Road Schemes**

Mr G. McMahon, A/Director of Services, advised members that geophysical surveys are currently being prepared and when completed, they will inform archaeological activities. Consultation meetings with landowners have now concluded. The next step is the development of an Environmental Impact Assessment report and CPO documents for submitting to An Bord Pleanála by end of June 2023 subject to TII approval and funding. This will see the project move to Phase 4 'Statutory Process'.

He advised that there may be a potential alternative source of funding for the Clontibret to Border scheme. Department approval is required to make an application to this EU Connecting Europe Facility funding.

## **14. To receive update on North South Interconnector project**

The following correspondence was received in relation to the North South Interconnector:

- Email from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Mr. Eamon Ryan, T.D., regarding the North South Interconnector.

*On the proposal of Cllr N Keelan seconded by Cllr P Treanor it was agreed that this council writes to Minister Eamonn Ryan TD and to Eirgrid seeking information as to what efforts were made to access the suitability of delivering the North South Interconnector using a (subsea)(undersea) link similar to the Celtic Interconnector between Youghal in Cork and Brittany in France.*

## **15. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project**

Members acknowledged the speed at which work is being carried out by the Contractors and also noted that quite a few local people have secured employment on the project. Members also acknowledged the efforts of Minister Humphreys.

## **16. Questions:**

**Cllr N. Keelan asked:**

1. In light of the decision by An Bord Pleanála to quash the Galway ring road project grant of permission given that due consideration was not afforded to the National Climate Action Plan, what impacts, if any, will this decision have on projects here in County Monaghan such as the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney road project and indeed other major planned projects?

**Reply: The decision by an Bord Pleanála to quash the grant of permission was due to the**

fact that the Climate Action Plan 2021 had been adopted less than 1 week before the grant of permission was issued by the Bord, and at the time of making their decision the Bord were not aware that a new Climate Action Plan 2021 had been adopted. The decision to quash the approval was made following the receipt and consideration of legal advice, as the Climate Action Plan had not been considered within the application or the decision made by the Bord.

Monaghan County Council and our consultants (Jacobs) are aware of the Climate Action Plan and are developing this Scheme with regard to it.

Climate change is a risk to delivering the project, as commitments around reducing greenhouse gas emissions may have implications for the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Scheme and all road schemes. The project team is planning the Scheme and developing the Environmental Impact Assessment Report in consultation with TII, Senior Counsel and other roads authorities to consider all risks and ensure, as far as reasonably practical, that this road Scheme considers climate change and the Climate Action Plan 2021.

2. Given that our Country's energy supply is on a knife edge at present and there are no guarantees that the lights will stay on in the time ahead, what additional actions if any will this Council take in terms of conserving energy measures & encouraging others to do likewise given that Monaghan County Council is one of the biggest employers in the County & also given that the Council is one of the biggest property owners in the County?

Reply: Monaghan County Council is currently participating in the "Reduce Your Use" campaign led by the OPW. In this campaign we have reduced the temperature and operational times of the heating systems in council owned buildings, where appropriate, to help reduce energy usage. We also continuously monitor the ESB readings for each building to ensure there is no spikes in usage. Moving into 2023 the Climate Action Plan will likely commence and contained within the Plan will be additional actions to further reduce Monaghan County Council's energy usage and carbon emissions to help achieve national targets for 2030 and beyond.

3. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the council grants available including mobility aids, housing aid for older people & the housing adaption grant in terms of grants paid to date & grant applications outstanding for inspection & approval?

Reply: In 2022 Monaghan County Council Housing Section have to date (21/11/2022):

- Received 312 applications.
- Approved 202 applications.
- Paid out on 202 applications and recouped 193 applications in the amount of €1,593,484(in both cases some of these applications are from 2021)

There is in excess of €1.34m at Recommendation/Works /Final/Recoupment Stages made up of approximately 165 grants.

There are approximately 96 applications at Registration /OT/Initial stages/ and in excess of 30 applications pending registration/processing.

The closing date for recoupment with the Department of Housing is in early December, therefore Housing will give an end of year report in the January CE Report

4. How many businesses are paying commercial rates to this council at present & how does this figure compare to pre Covid times? What is the average rates figure collected per annum in the county?

Reply: The number of businesses issued with Rates Bills in 2019 was 2456  
The number of businesses issued with Rates Bills in 2022 is 2438

The % collection to the end of October 2019 was 56%

The % collection to the end of October 2022 is 69%

5. How many homes are currently owned by Monaghan County Council and how many homes are currently owned by housing associations & approved housing bodies across the county?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council housing stock on 22/11/22 is 1726. Approved Housing body stock on 22/11/22 is 462.**

**Cllr C Carthy asked:**

6. Following the delivery of the Ard na Radhairc housing development in Carrickmacross, which is now council-owned; what plans are in place to proceed with further council-built/owned housing projects in Co. Monaghan?

**Reply: See below capital update including Monaghan County Council and AHB projects:**

Housing For All 2022-2024				
MD	Project Name	MCC or AHB	No of Units	Delivery Date
Monaghan	Lui na Greine, Scotstown	MCC	13	Delivered April 2022
Ballybay - Clones	An Bonnan Bui & Flower Shop Fermanagh Street	MCC	6	Delivered June 2022
Ballybay - Clones	63 Fermanagh Street Clones	MCC	3	Delivered June 2022
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Radhairc an Bhri, Bree, Castleblayney	AHB	13	Delivered June 2022
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Lakeview Apartments, Drummond Radhairc	AHB	12	Delivered June 2022
Ballybay - Clones	82 & 83 Fermanagh St., Clones	MCC	3	Delivered September 2022
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Ard an Radhairc, Ballybay Road, Carrickmacross	MCC	28	Delivered September 2022
Monaghan	Lui na Greine, Scotstown	MCC	8	Delivered September 2022
Ballybay - Clones	2a & 3 Analore St., Clones	MCC	2	Oct-22
Ballybay - Clones	13 Church Hill, Clones	MCC	2	Nov-22
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Coill Darach, Castleblayney	MCC	16	Nov-22
Ballybay - Clones	12 Church St., Ballybay	MCC	2	Dec-22
Monaghan	Lui na Greine, Scotstown	MCC	5	Dec-22
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Ard an Radhairc, Ballybay Road, Carrickmacross	MCC	7	Dec-22
Monaghan	Acquisitions & Part Vs (County Wide)	MCC	3	Dec-22
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Coill Darach, Castleblayney	MCC	14	Dec-22
Ballybay - Clones	13 McCurtain Street, Clones	MCC	1	2023
Monaghan	Emy, Emyvale, Co Monaghan	AHB	14	2023
Monaghan	Drumbear, Monaghan	AHB	17	2023
Ballybay - Clones	An Clós, Ballybay (Formerly Ballybay	MCC	7	2023
Ballybay - Clones	4 apartments at Birch Court Ballybay	AHB	4	2023
Various	Part V	MCC	4	2023
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Coill an Ri, Carrickmacross	MCC	30	2023 / 2024
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Knockcarrick, Annyalla, County Monaghan	MCC	30	2023 / 2024
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Part 2, Radhairc An Bhri. Bree, Castleblayney	AHB	10	2023 / 2024
Monaghan	Kilnacloy, Monaghan Town, Co. Monaghan	AHB	16	2023 / 2024
Monaghan	Macartan View Latlorcan (Aghnasedagh) Monaghan	AHB	41	2024
<b>PROJECTED TOTAL:</b>			<b>311</b>	

7. What is the up-to-date situation with the Clos na Droimmaine estate in Carrickmacross; has an agreement been reached between the Developer and Tuath Housing, and what is Monaghan County Council doing to find a resolution? If a resolution is not found, what measures can MCC take to ensure that this estate is not allowed to languish in an unfinished state indefinitely?

**Reply: Tuath Housing AHB (Approved Housing Body) has funding approval for the provision**



of 33 dwellings as social housing under the Capital Advanced Leasing Facility to be completed at Clós na Dromainne in Carrickmacross. On 23 November 2022 Tuath advised Monaghan County Council that they have negotiated an agreement with the Developer to arrange completion of the remainder of the development on a phased basis. Tuath envisage that the next 6 houses will be completed in Q1 of 2023 with the following 6 houses in Q3 of 2023 and the Developer has advised Tuath that they hope to have a revised arrangement for the completion of the 14 apartments in place shortly.

8. What is the up-to-date position in the 2no. EV Car Charging points for Co. Monaghan under the FASTER project?

**Reply:** Monaghan County Council is an Associate Partner in the FASTER EV Project, supported by the EU Interreg VA programme and managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

Louth County Council is acting as the lead partner for the delivery of the project in the Counties in the Republic and is currently in the process of assessing Tenders for Legal and multidisciplinary consultants and plan to have both appointed before Christmas.

An AA Screening Stage 1 has been completed on all sites. It is anticipated that installation is scheduled to commence in May/June 2023.

9. What is the total length of road network in Co. Monaghan with a PSCI rating of 1-4 (i.e. in urgent need of resurfacing)? Can you provide a breakdown as per each Municipal District?

**Reply:**

PSCI Rating 1-4 Summary			
	Total Road Length Km	KM Rated 1-4	%
<b>Total Road Network</b>	<b>2538</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>17.26</b>
<b>Monaghan MD</b>	<b>806</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>14.27</b>
<b>CMX/CBY MD</b>	<b>729</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>23.73</b>
<b>BBY/CLN MD</b>	<b>1003</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>14.96</b>

**Cllr P. Connolly asked:**

10. For an update in relation to the Unfinished Housing Development at Chapel Court Carrickroe?**Reply: Monaghan County Council has issued a notice on the property under Section 8(2) of the Derelict Sites Act with the intention of making an entry onto the derelict sites Register.**

11. What plans have Monaghan County Council in relation to The Locke House on the Canal Greenway, located approx. 500 meters from Old Cross Square and beside the bridge entrance to St Davnet's farmyard? Are there any plans to have this building restored under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme, Historic Structures Fund or other such heritage funds?

In the meantime, are there any immediate plans to prevent further dilapidation of this building or plans to do repair work to the East side of the roof which has caved in?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council do not currently have any plans in place in relation to the Locke House on the Canal Greenway.**

**The structure is not currently on the Record of Protected Structures but is on National Inventory of Architectural Heritage. As such funding opportunities may be limited for restoration but could be explored by the relevant section within Monaghan County Council.**

There are no immediate plans to carry out any works on the building. The roof can be examined to establish the current condition and possible interventions.

**Cllr S. Conlon asked:**

**12.** What progress is occurring with advancing the Dublin St. North and South Regeneration Schemes?

**Reply:** The Dublin Street and Backlands Regeneration scheme is currently being progressed through Design and Statutory Approval phases under Category B funding from the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF). The project is advancing under two phases: Dublin Street South and Dublin Street North.

**Dublin Street South:** A Planning Application, in conjunction with the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) was submitted to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) on August 31<sup>st</sup> 2022. Detailed design proposals for the scheme area are substantially complete and are expected to be finalised by the end of 2022/early 2023. Negotiations and communications with affected property owners in relation to property acquisition and accommodation works are ongoing.

**Dublin Street North:** Variation No. 3 of the County Development Plan for the Dublin Street North Masterplan was adopted in April 2022. After a procurement process Monaghan County Council recently appointed and met the Architect Led Project Design Team to progress the delivery of the project. Topographical and Utility Surveys were completed in advance of the appointment. The Design Team commenced Stage 1 Preliminary Design which involves the Masterplan and Policy review, site reconnaissance, additional surveys and preparation of preliminary design proposals. Stage 1 Preliminary Design is programmed for completion in Q2 of 2023 before moving into Stage 2 Developed Design and Statutory Approval processes.

## **17. Notices of Motion**

Cllr C. Carthy proposed, Cllr Bennett seconded:

1. That Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Health, Department of Health and the HSE to put in place proper, sensitive procedures to avoid any future retention of a baby's organs, at post-mortem, without the express permission of the parent, to request that:
  - Clear, written communication on consent forms be discussed with families at the time of death/prior to post-mortem taking place
  - Best practice models be examined from other countries to ensure the Irish system is fit-for-purpose & with proper oversight
  - Communication of post-mortem results be respectful and delivered by meeting with assigned medical professional – clear definition of this process should immediately become standard procedure for all hospitals
  - Post-mortem documentation should include a clear, concise and fully completed document for families
  - In cases where organs need to be retained; reasons must be clearly explained and a swift timeframe for their return must be communicated to parents.

Monaghan County Council demand that an investigation take place into the cases outlined by Primetime (RTE) on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022 and any other similar case that were not highlighted and that:

- Families who have had organs from their baby retained, be informed of what was taken and why, and what happened to the organs. These families should be afforded an in-person meeting to be given details.
- An independent inquiry takes place to determine why Consultant A was continuously used as a private pathologist after being found to be negligent in his former public-sector pathology role. This inquiry should also find reason as to why earlier recommendations, made by independent reviews, were not implemented.
- Clarification is needed on whether Consultant A is still conducting perinatal post-mortems.

Monaghan County Council also asks that in cases where Parental Consent is not requested (Coroner’s post-mortem) that parents are still fully informed on organ retention and length of retention period.

Following a short discussion on the motion, the Cathaoirleach put it to the meeting and the motion was agreed unanimously.

### 18. Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations

It was agreed votes of sympathy would be extended to the following:

- The family of Sean McCague, former Chairperson of GAA Ireland

It was agreed votes of congratulations would be extended to the following:

- Rory McMahon and Clones Town Team for the production of the film ‘Clone Alone 2 – Lost in Clones’ to promote a campaign to shop local this Christmas.
- Bishop Noel Treanor of Down & Connor on his recent appointment as apostolic nuncio to the European Union
- Former Council colleague, Brenda McAnespie, on her induction into the Ladies Football Hall of Fame
- Donaghmoynne Ladies GFC on reaching the All-Ireland Club final again
- Aaron McElroy (Northern Sound) who recently took up a role with RTE

### 19. Conferences

*On the proposal of Cllr N Keelan seconded by Cllr S Gilliland it was agreed that the Council be represented at the following training events by the members listed.*

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members Selected
Celtic Conferences	The Finance Act 2022	The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	
Celtic Conferences	Local Authority Procurement Process	O’Donovan’s Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	20 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> and 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2023	Cllr S Gilliland

The Cathaoirleach concluded the meeting by wishing everyone a very happy festive season.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Cathaoirleach**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Meetings Administrator**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_