

Ceantar Bardasach Carraig Mhachaire Rois – Baile Na Lorgan

Comhairle Contae Mhuineachain



The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney

Monaghan County Council

Minutes of proceedings of the Municipal District Monthly Meeting held in Carrickmacross Civic Offices, Riverside Road, Co. Monaghan on Monday the 27th of February 2023 at 10:00am.

Present: Cathaoirleach Aidan Campbell

Cllrs. Aoife McCooey, Colm Carthy, Noel Keelan, PJ O’Hanlon, Peter Conlon

In Attendance: Carmel O’Hare, A/Director of Services, Damien Thornton, A/District Co-Ordinator, Matthew Lambe, District Engineer, Deirdre Power, Staff Officer, Julieann O’Reilly, Assistant Staff Officer

Cathaoirleach Campbell commented on the terrible news about the recent attempted murder of DCI John Caldwell in Omagh, calling it a grotesque act. He stated that his thoughts are with the family, friends, and colleagues of DCI Caldwell.

Cllr. O’Hanlon formally seconded the message being sent out by this MD, commenting that he cannot get his head around it and this behaviour is “not Irish.”

Cllr. Conlon stated that there is no place in modern society for this – it is wrong and inhumane. He wished DCI Caldwell a speedy recovery.

Cllr. McCooey condemned the attack, stating that she hopes the perpetrators will be brought to justice.

Cllr. Keelan wished to be associated with the comments, stating that it is reprehensible and there is no place for this. Cllr. Keelan commented that he hopes that the democratic institutions are re-established in Northern Ireland as soon as possible.

Cathaoirleach Campbell offered condolences to the family of former Councillor Packie Jones (RIP) and expressed thanks for his years of service. Cllr. O’Hanlon formally seconded this vote of sympathy. Cllrs. Keelan, Carthy, Conlon and McCooey wished to be associated with the Cathaoirleach’s comments.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr. Carthy, the minutes of the January 2023 Monthly Municipal District Meeting held on Monday 23rd January 2023 were adopted.

2.0 Matters Arising

Cllr. Keelan:

Requested an update on public lighting at Magee's Corner.

Reply – the MD District Engineer met with the ESB and they are to revert with a proposal.

Asked that the Executive and Members keep the pressure on colleagues in Meath County Council and Louth County Council regarding the salting of the roads in severe weather.

Requested that the MD follow up on speeding issues at Blackstaff School.

Cllr. Carthy:

Mentioned AOB from the January 2023 meeting where concerns about the street lighting in Carrickmacross town were raised and has asked for consideration to increase the flood of the existing lights or for replacements. The town is dark in the evenings, and something needs to be done.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Suggested that we should wait for a response to existing issued correspondence regarding the salting of roads in Meath and Louth County Councils.'

Concurred with Cllr. Carthy's comments about the street lighting in Carrickmacross. Stated that a safety audit should be carried out if nothing can be done to change the lighting. .

Noted that the width of the Main Street may cause the issue. Commented "what is more important – an EU Directive or someone being knocked down in Carrickmacross?"

3.0 Correspondence

- i. Letter from Active Travel Unit re: Monaghan Walking & Cycling Forum
Cllr. O'Hanlon nominated Cllr. Keelan to sit on the Forum. Cllr. Carthy seconded this proposal. It was agreed by all Members that Cllr. Keelan shall sit on the forum.
- ii. Letter of Acknowledgement from Minister Catherine Martin's Office re: funding for gritting of roads leading to schools
- iii. Letter of Acknowledgement from Minister Norma Foley's Office re: funding for gritting of roads leading to schools
- iv. Letter from Matt Carthy T.D. re: funding for gritting of roads leading to schools
- v. Letter from Minister Norma Foley's Office re: funding for gritting of roads leading to schools

Cllr. O’Hanlon wished to acknowledge that the response from Matt Carthy T.D. voiced his support. He commented that the remaining T.D.’s letters were simply letters of acknowledgement and he would like to know what they are going to do? Cllr. O’Hanlon suggested holding off until the next meeting to see if there is a response. Cllr. O’Hanlon stated that when MCC and the MD are contacted about an issue on a road they respond quickly.

Cllr. Keelan noted that the response from Minister Foley’s office states that “it is a matter for MCC itself.” Cllr. Keelan commented that MCC do not have sufficient funding. Cllr. Keelan stated that he was very concerned at the responses and agreed with holding back until the next meeting to see what responses are received. He commented there is a need to call for more resources.

Cllr. McCooey wished to reiterate her support for the proposal to grit the roads leading to schools.

Cllr. Conlon stated that he is fully behind the issue – there is a need to keep everyone safe on the roads.

4.0 Presentation – Amendments to Parking Control Schemes

– Pdraig McBride, Assistant Engineer, Carrickmacross – Castleblayney MD

Cllr. Campbell:

Thanked Assistant Engineer, Pdraig McBride for the presentation.

Wished to acknowledge the traffic warden coming to Castleblayney.

Commented that parking issues remain in Castleblayney.

Queried if current works on York Street are included in this?

Reply – Yes.

Wondered if it would be worthwhile having a meeting with AGS now that all the signs and lines have been done. The 2-hour parking can be enforced.

Cllr. O’Hanlon:

Stated that the proposed criteria for residents’ parking permits is an improvement – it is only fair that somebody who is resident can apply for a permit.

Cllr. McCooey:

Welcomed the additional spaces.

Cllr. Conlon:

Welcomed the upgrades, extra spaces, and changes to the residents’ parking permits criteria.

Cllr. Carthy:

Welcomed the changes to residents’ parking permits criteria and additional parking spaces.

Commented on the extra spaces near Valley Lodge – the crossing guard at this location regularly asks for a ramp to be installed due to school children crossing. We need to take on board the call for safety measures.

Cllr. Keelan:

Thanked Assistant Engineer, Pdraig McBride for his presentation.
Wished to acknowledge all involved in the signing and lining works.

A/Director of Service Carmel O'Hare queried when the proposed new criteria for resident's' parking permits will need to be renewed.

Reply – on an annual basis.

On the proposal of Cllr. O'Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Carthy, the proposed amendments were unanimously agreed.

5.0 MD Co-Ordinator's Report

The Co-Ordinator sought agreement on a suitable date for a meeting and presentation concerning Active Travel Schemes in Carrickmacross and Inniskeen. it was agreed to hold the meeting on the 16th of March 2023 at 10am.

Cllr. Campbell:

Welcomed the public consultation for Ballynacarry Bridge.

Cllr. Keelan:

Acknowledged the continued work of the MD Co-Ordinator and team.

Voiced concern that no tenders were received for the Inniskeen Bike Rental Scheme. Noted that a considerable amount of taxpayers' money has already been spent on this project. Requested that the Executive do their utmost to establish this scheme.

Reply – To date, the Executive has sought to engage a scheme operator via a number of mechanisms including direct negotiation with Community Groups. The MD Executive will do their utmost to get the scheme up and running.

Queried if there will be public consultation, similar to that held for the preparation of the Spatial Plan, surrounding the proposed public realm enhancements in Inniskeen Village?

Reply - Yes

Asked what efforts have been made to acquire land at the back of BOI on Main Street, Carrickmacross?

Reply – The Executive is actively seeking to identify the owner.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Spoke about the Inniskeen Bike Rental Scheme and commented that MCC are not an insurance company. Opined that there needs to be engagement with representatives from the local community groups in Inniskeen.

Suggested that a letter is sent to IPB and phone calls made to local insurance companies. Dialogue needs to happen around the table.

Reply – this will be organised.

Sought clarification that works on the C:TEK II are due to begin after the Easter holidays?

Reply – Yes

Regarding the LAAPs and Shirley House Lane Carpark – how hopeful is the Executive that this will start in June?

Reply – That is the update that has been provided.

Requested a regular update on same.

Wished to clarify that there is a slight increase in Road funding?

Reply – TIS THE here is.

Commented that a bigger increase would be preferable. Requested that all members continue to put pressure on for additional funding.

Cllr. Carthy:

Welcomed safety improvement works funding.

Voiced concern that there is no provision for a pedestrian crossing on the Kingscourt Road.

Reply – a safety assessment will be organised and will try to get additional funding.

Noted the provision for ramps at Woodlands. Will there be one located close to the junction at the Kingscourt Road?

Asked if there is any provision for traffic calming works at the road rehabilitation works on the Ardee road?

Reply – this will be investigated.

Commented that he will keep a close eye on the effectiveness of the Nuremore pedestrian crossing.

Following a recent meeting with Carrickmacross Chamber of Commerce, is there an update on the cleaning of the footpaths?

Reply – works are due to commence in the coming weeks.

Commented on the poor state of the L3710.

Reply – this road is on this year's Roads Programme.

Cllr. McCooey:

When can we expect a report on the Mullyash extended loop?

Reply – Report expected by the end of Q1.

Is there an update on the ratings of Regional Roads?

Reply – no update at present. Will follow up on same.

Welcomed funding for Tullyvanus Bridge. Is there any update?

Reply – works commenced last week. It is envisaged that works will be completed within 5 to 6 weeks.

Welcomed funding for flood alleviation works at Annadrummond.

Cllr. Conlon:

Commented that it is exciting to see the funding allocations for both towns.

Welcomed funding for the old Ardee Road.

Concurred with Cllr, Carthy's comments about safety concerns on the Kingscourt Road.

Expressed thanks to the MD Executive and Minister Humphreys for all the works and funding received.

Cllr. Campbell:

Complimented the MD team for all the works ongoing in the District.

Commented that he is glad to see works commencing on the upgrade of the fishing pegs/stands in preparation for the upcoming World Club fishing Championship.

Noted that “The Ridge” is almost complete, stating that it is hoped the Hub will facilitate 60 to 70 Jobs.

Commended that works are due to commence in Q3 at Annadrummond and complimented District Engineer Matthew Lambe for using a common-sense approach to the problem.

6.0 Q&A

Questions raised by Cllr. Aidan Campbell for the February 2023 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

1. With the process now underway to appoint a new Traffic Warden for the Castleblayney/Carrickmacross Municipal District.

(A) When is it hoped that this appointment will be made?

Response

Pending a successful recruitment campaign, it is envisaged that a new Traffic Warden shall be appointed in Q2 2023.

(B) How many days in the month will the traffic warden be in Castleblayney?

Response

It is intended that the proposed Traffic Warden service shall be a shared service with Ballybay-Clones Municipal District, on the basis of a day attendance per week ratio of 3:2 in favour of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District. Of the 3 days per week during which the proposed Traffic Warden is assigned to Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District, it is intended that the Traffic Warden shall attend to both Carrickmacross and Castleblayney Towns, with prioritisation given to identified problem areas/hotspots as they emerge.

2. With poor Broadband coverage in some areas around Castleblayney town.

(A) What plans are in place to improve this?

(B) What is the update in terms of the roll out of Broadband?

Response

Under the National broadband Plan, there are 3651 premises in the area around Castleblayney which are due to receive high speed broadband under the National Broadband Plan in the period 2025-2026. The National Broadband Plan was developed to address the needs of all those who have less than 30 Mb/sec broadband. These premises (540,000 nationally) are mainly rural based.

The town area of Castleblayney itself is not going to be covered by National Broadband Ireland as it is deemed to already have a high-speed broadband service. This is currently being delivered by Openair/EirEvo. Under the National Broadband Plan, urban areas which are already served by other providers (principally EirEvo) are not included in the plan. So, most homes and premises within the urban area are getting fibre from the cabinet (FTTC) services with varying speeds of up to 100 Mb/sec.

Where users in the urban area are unable to achieve broadband speeds in excess of 30 Mb/sec through their existing internet providers, they can apply to be included as part of the National Broadband Plan. However, Eir has indicated that the Castleblayney area is part of their IFN network upgrade which will greatly improve speeds (up to 1 Gigabit/sec) and Eir expect this upgrade to be completed nationally by 2026. However, there are currently no dates available for the Castleblayney upgrade.

3. What plans are in place to start the roads programme for the Castleblayney/Carrickmacross MD?

Response

Tenders for the appointment of a Works Contractor are currently being assessed. The timeline for the delivery of the RI Programme in this Municipal District shall be dependent on the works programme submitted by the eventually appointed Works Contractor. It is envisaged that a Works Contractor shall be appointed within the next 4-week period.

4. What is the latest update on the maintenance and upgrade of the fishing pegs and stands at Lough Muckno including?

Response

It is intended that works shall commence within the coming week. It is further envisaged that these works shall be substantially completed within the next 4-week period.

5. What is the latest update on the CCTV for Castleblayney?

Response

On the request of An Garda Síochána, the Municipal District Executive is currently compiling documentation to support an updated application, in line with the recently revised Section 38 application process, for authorisation to operate the CCTV Scheme. It is intended that the revised application shall be submitted to An Garda Síochána within the coming weeks.

Questions raised by Cllr. Colm Carthy for the February 2023 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

6. Can the Executive confirm what works are outstanding on the new pedestrian crossing on the Ardee road, Carrickmacross (at the Nuremore entrance) and give an explanation as to why the crossing was not ramped as initially discussed?

Response:

Excepting the provision of some minor road markings, works on the new pedestrian crossing on the Ardee Road are substantially complete. The as-constructed crossing reflects the recommendations arising from a Stage 1/2 Road Safety Audit.

7. What measures have been looked at to reduce speed on the Keady Road, Castleblayney, at Lakeview/ Mindszenty park?

Response:

This Municipal District has received funding under the Low Cost Safety Improvement Scheme 2023 for the provision of additional road markings and signage at his location.

8. Can the MD give a breakdown description of road safety works in recently announced funded in the Municipal District? Does this funding provide for a pedestrian crossing on the Kingscourt road, Carrickmacross, as previously discussed?

Response:

The following schemes received funding under the Low-Cost Safety Improvement Scheme 2023:

Road Number	Location	Description of Proposed Scheme
R179	Kingscourt RD CMX	Lay 100m of high friction anti-skid surfacing
LT48002	Woodlands, Carrickmacross	Provide two speed ramps and new road markings
R181-4	Shercock Rd Castleblayney	Provision of additional road markings
R181-3	Muckno St Castleblayney	Provision of additional road markings and signage
LS8510	Cloughvalley Carrickmacross	Installation of Traffic calming measures

This funding does not provide for the installation of a pedestrian crossing on the Kingscourt Road, Carrickmacross.

9. When is it expected works will begin on the Gallows Hill plan and could the executive give a timeline for awarding of contract for plan, public consultation etc ?

Response:

It is intended that a tender for the engagement of an Urban Designer/Landscape Architect -led Multidisciplinary Design Team shall issue to the market within the coming weeks. Pending the outcome of this procurement process, it is envisaged that a Design Team shall be appointed in early May 2023. The programme for the delivery of the project anticipates a total project duration of 12 months from the date of the appointment of consultants. Broadly, the process shall involve two stages. Stage 1 (6 months) shall provide for analysis, engagement with key stakeholders, non-statutory public consultation, the development and appraisal of preliminary options and the selection of a preferred plan/strategy. Stage 2 shall provide for detailed development, including environmental evaluation, of the preferred option and the progression of the scheme through Part 8 Planning procedures.

10. Has everything been finalised in the provision of a sensory zone for the Carrickmacross St. Patrick's Day parade 2023?

Response:

Preparations for the provision of sensory space at Market Square are proceeding on schedule. Clones Library and Down Syndrome North-East have agreed to lend furnishings and play equipment for the afternoon of the Parade. The Municipal District Executive is currently liaising

with Monaghan Institute and Monaghan Volunteer Centre to secure the services of personnel with Childcare experience to provide oversight at the facility.

Questions raised by Cllr. Peter Conlon for the February 2023 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

11. Can we receive an update on the road programme planned timeline for 2023.

Response

Tenders for the appointment of a Works Contractor are currently being assessed. The timeline for the delivery of the RI Programme in this Municipal District shall be reliant on the works programme submitted by the eventually appointed Works Contractor. It is envisaged that a Works Contractor shall be appointed within the next 4-week period.

12. With the planned surface upgrade works on the Dundalk road, can the council review Essexford Junction and determine if additional safety measures can be implemented.

Response

The MD Executive shall commission a safety assessment of Essexford junction to determine feasible additional safety measures. The Executive shall explore all potential sources of funding to provide for the installation of any additional safety measures identified.

Questions raised by Cllr. Aoife McCooey for the February 2023 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

13. Can the MD provide details on funding opportunities for resident associations in the district for grass cutting, tree cutting and litter management?

Response

Monaghan County Council is committed to continuing to support and provide funding to local community groups which assist in the delivery of projects that enhance their local areas. The funding supports also recognise the contributions and level of voluntary work being carried out in our localities by community groups, Tidy Towns committees and Residents Associations on an annual basis. It acknowledges the fact that their work vastly improves their local communities.

These grants are intended to sustain community activities, active citizenship, promote social inclusion and support environmental initiatives.

This commitment is supported by the provision of the Environment & Community Development Fund 2023, where both departments are liaising and have launched a joint funding call, on Thursday 23rd February, for applications. The closing date for receipt of applications is **4pm Thursday 16th March 2023.**

Applications may be submitted online, via email, written or posted to the appropriate department.

Guidelines on criteria and application forms for the Community Development and Environment Services Fund may be obtained from <https://monaghan.ie/community-environmental-services-funding-scheme-2023/> or by emailing comenv23@monaghancoco.ie

14. Can the MD provide any update on the taking in charge for Conabury Hill Estate and Killycard Manor in Castleblayney.

Response

Conabury Hill:

A taking in charge application was received in April 2021. The Local Authority has since carried out a technical assessment of the development. New palisade fencing was erected around the

pumping station in August 2022. In addition, the Monaghan County Council has consulted with Irish Water and are awaiting their response on outstanding issues. The taking in charge process shall be progressed upon the receipt of their comments.

Killycard Manor:

A taking in charge application was received in May 2022. The Local Authority has carried out a technical assessment of the development. There remains a number of unresolved issues with regard to the standard of the estate infrastructure. The Planning Authority are pursuing enforcement with regard to non-payment of a planning bond. Additionally, the Planning Authority has held several meetings with the owner of communal areas of the estate with a view to resolving outstanding issues.

15. Can the MD liaise with the environment section to see the addition of a bag disposal and dog litter bin in Oram village to service Struth An Luir and Cois Cill Oram. This location has been identified by residents as a particular black spot for dog litter in the village.

Response

The Municipal District Executive, in collaboration with the Environment Section, shall seek to install a dog waste bin, in a suitable public space, to service this area of the village.

16. Does the MD currently provide information to Councillors on all funding applications it makes?

Response

The Municipal District Executive endeavours to keep the Elected Members regularly informed on the status of all funding applications made of behalf of this Municipal District. It is intended that any such updates are effectively communicated at monthly Municipal District meetings.

Questions raised by Cllr. Noel Keelan for the February 2023 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

17. What is the up to-date position in relation to the roll out of the proposed bicycle rental scheme for the Inniskeen area and beyond?

Response

A tender for the engagement of a suitably qualified third party, to operate, maintain and develop the proposed bike rental scheme issued to the market in January 2023. The closing date for receipt of tenders was Wednesday the 15th of February 2023. Unfortunately, no tenders were received. To date, the Executive has sought to engage a third-party operator via a number of alternative processes/arrangements. The Executive continues to explore options to advance the operation of the bicycle rental scheme.

18. What is the up to-date position in relation to the proposed CCTV camera system for Carrickmacross town and its environs, What is the up to-date position in relation to the CCTV camera system for Castleblayney town and its environs?

Response

Carrickmacross:

The appointed consultants, J&N Security Consultants Ltd., are currently reviewing the completed Section 38 application documentation. It is intended that the Section 38 application, seeking authorisation to operate the CCTV Scheme, shall be submitted to An Garda Síochána within the coming week.

Castleblayney:

On the request of An Garda Síochána, the Municipal District Executive is currently compiling documentation to support an updated application, in line with the recently revised Section 38 application process, for authorisation to operate the CCTV Scheme. It is intended that the revised application shall be submitted to An Garda Síochána within the coming weeks.

19. What is the up-to-date position in relation to putting in place park & ride facilities adjacent to Carrickmacross town, and Castleblaney town given that the design for the Ardee to Castleblaney road scheme is almost complete?

Response

The Ardee to Castleblaney N2 Road Project is currently in the Design & Environmental Phase. Monaghan County Council in conjunction with our Design Team have held discussions with senior officials in TII, to discuss the feasibility of providing a Park and Share facility in Carrickmacross, which would include EV Charging Points. The outcome of the meeting was positive, with TII agreeing in principle that Carrickmacross would be a suitable location for a Park & Share facility as part of the N2 Ardee – Castleblaney Road Scheme. A number of locations are currently being assessed as potential candidate sites for the facility and once finalised, it is envisaged that it will be included in the Planning application for the road scheme.

20. In relation to the recent funding announcement for our county road network, will this municipal district council be in a position to add additional local roads to this years (2023) upgrading and resurfacing works programme?

Response

The resurfacing of local roads is carried out under the Restoration Improvement Programme. Tenders for the appointment of a Works Contractor are currently being assessed. The extent of resurfacing works to be completed in this Municipal District over the coming year shall be conditional on the rates submitted by the eventually appointed Works Contractor. It is envisaged that a Works Contractor shall be appointed within the next 4-week period.

21. What was the outcome of the proposed meeting on site between our municipal district council engineering staff and Louth county council in relation to the feasibility of upgrading and improving the main access route (L1140) from Channonrock into Inniskeen village, given the importance of this route as a public transport and economic link ?

Response

On Thursday the 2nd of February last, engineering staff from this Municipal District met with a representative from Louth County Council to promote the undertaking of a joint feasibility study into upgrading and improving the main access route (L1140) from Channonrock into Inniskeen village. To inform further discussion and potential agreement between the parties, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council would obtain outline costings to undertake the proposed feasibility study. It is envisaged that these costings shall be made available to Louth County Council within the coming weeks.

Questions raised by Cllr. P.J. O’Hanlon for the February 2023 meeting Carrickmacross/Castleblaney Municipal District Council:

22. When is it expected for works to start on the new pedestrian crossing opposite the church in Inniskeen?

Response

It is anticipated that the construction of the proposed pedestrian crossing shall commence in Q2 2023.

7.0 CE Orders

The following Orders were noted: CMX-CBY 06/2023; CMX-CBY 07/2023; CMX-CBY 08/2023. CMX-CBY 09/2023; CMX-CBY 10/2023; CMX-CBY 11/2023; CMX-CBY 12/2023; CMX-CBY 13/2023 and CMX-CBY 14/2023.

8.0 Motion

On the proposal of Cllr. O'Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. McCooey the following motion was unanimously agreed:

"Following on from my motion in May 2022, wherein I requested that a letter be sent to the Court Services in relation to the future upkeep of the Courthouse in Carrickmacross Town, I am now requesting that a letter be sent directly to the Minister for Justice, Simon Harris T.D., and each of our local Oireachtas Members, seeking their assurances, that under no circumstance, will this iconic building be allowed to fall into disrepair."

Cllr. O'Hanlon commented that he means no disrespect to the Courts Services, but he believes that the Courthouse belongs to the people of Carrickmacross. It has been lying idle for 2/3 years and needs to be used. Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that he would like to see the building come under the control of the Local Authority.

Cllr. Carthy voiced his support for the motion, stating that we do not want the building to fall into disrepair like the Market House in Castleblayney. He suggested that possible future uses should be investigated, commenting that a number of local community groups are crying out for spaces.

Cllr. McCooey stated she fully supports the motion, commenting that it is all about sustainability. Now is the time to act.

Cllr. Conlon also fully supported the motion stating that each day it is unused, it will become more expensive to repair. The building needs to be future-proofed. Cllr. Conlon queried if there is any funding available for these types of buildings, using the example of the Government buying unused Bank buildings for community use.

Cllr. Keelan voiced his support for the motion, noting that in 5-10 years it will be too late.

Cllr. Keelan stated that there should be zero tolerance for public buildings sitting idle in our towns.

Cllr. Campbell supported the motion, noting that Castleblayney have suffered the consequences of inaction re: The Market House.

Cllr. O'Hanlon thanked the members for their support. He stated that he presumes there is a preservation order on the building. The first thing is to find out what the current status is.

Cllr, O'Hanlon stated that he has no doubt that the local Oireachtas Members will chase the matter up.

7.0 VOS/VOC

Votes of sympathy were extended to the family of Packie (Patrick) Jones (R.I.P.); to the family of Valerie Oliver (R.I.P.); to Pascal McEvoy and family on the death of Philomena

(Phyllis) McEvoy (R.I.P.); to Fiona Farrell, Noel & Maggie Farrell, and Mary and Peadar O'Shea on the death of Noel Farrell (R.I.P.)

8.0 A.O.B

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

Noted that at the recent meeting with Carrickmacross Chamber of Commerce it had been agreed to issue a joint letter to the owner of The Nuremore Hotel. Cllr. O'Hanlon commented that the owner received support from a passport scheme and believes the attached obligations were not fulfilled. Cllr. O'Hanlon requested that Cathaoirleach Campbell speak to the Chamber Chairperson John Tobin regarding getting the letter sent out.

Requested that an urgent appeal is made to local Oireachtas Members to meet on this issue. The Nuremore Hotel needs to be on the top of the agenda. Asked that a letter is issued, and a personal follow up phone call made to request that the meeting is facilitated. If unable to facilitate, please offer that the Members will meet them in the Oireachtas if necessary. Asked that the MD investigate safety concerns at Ascail Dubh, going onto the Donaghmoynne Road and at Rock Daniel Road.

Cllr. Carthy:

Concurred with the comments made by Cllr. O'Hanlon regarding The Nuremore Hotel and stated that he will speak to Matt Carthy T.D. about keeping the matter on the agenda. Advised that the Carrickmacross – Carhaix Town Twinning Association have recommenced activities, with two visits planned. Can the Executive investigate the funding provided and release same.

Has received complaints regarding heavy/major works near Rosevale in Castleblayney. The heavy machinery has caused damaged. Can the Executive speak to the Housing Section to address getting the entrance to Rosevale repaired.

The roadway at St Macartans Villas needs attention, also the back entry way.

Thanked Staff Officer Deirdre Power and Caretaker Jim Gartlan for their works on the Sensory Friendly Space for this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Cllr. Conlon:

Commented that there is a lot of works going on, both publicly and privately, regarding The Nuremore Hotel issue. Expressed fear that the building could fall into disrepair. Wished to thank all who are working on the issue.

Cllr. Keelan:

Voiced support regarding all previous comments made about The Nuremore Hotel.

Commended the employees of the hotel, who turned out for work, despite being owed wages. Stated that it is unacceptable that monies are owed to employees and other service providers. Commented that the ultimate goal should be for the hotel to reopen fully and for the State to step in if necessary. Stated that the potential of this business is huge.

Cllr. Campbell:

Stated that he does not agree with the statement that the State should step in, that this sends out the wrong message.

Commented that the situation is horrible, and it is a disgrace what is going on. Noted that he has spoken to Minister Humphreys about this issue and that Senator Gallagher and Matt Carthy T.D. are also “on the case.”

Voiced support to the workers, stating that he will endeavour to help them anyway he can.

Proposed reapplying for funding for Low-Cost Safety works on the LP4801, at the Rock Chapel, Magheracloone. Cllr, O’Hanlon seconded same. Requested that the MD engineering staff investigate some safety feature in the meantime.

Cllr. McCooey:

Mentioned potholes located at Tullyrahan.

There is an issue with illegal dumping on Muckno Street.

Streetlights are out at Drumlynn Manor, approaching Oram.

The meeting concluded at 12:10

Cathaoirleach

Date

Meeting Administrator