

Municipal District of Monaghan

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held in Council Chamber, M-Tek 1 Building, Knockaconny, Co Monaghan on Monday, 16th January 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Raymond Aughey presided.

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

In Attendance: Nuala Woods, Director of Services, 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. Maxwell, it was agreed that the minutes of the Sub Committee meeting held on 12th December 2022 be confirmed.

2. Matters arising

Yellow Box

Cllr. Connolly enquired who completed the works to the Yellow Box.

Mr. Deeney stated that the TII completed the design, and the works was arranged by the MD.

Google Update

Cllr Connolly asked if any update?

Ms. Curran confirmed that a ticket had been lodged with Google and we are still awaiting reply.

Broad Road Carpark

Cllr Aughey enquired re Broad Road Carpark works.

Mr. McElwain replied that the Way Leave for the storm drain with Convent is to be finalised in a couple of weeks.

Bridges

Cllr Treanor requested Slow sign be placed at Drumreask lake to Connolly Bridge on R186. Cllr Bennett added that numerous requests had been made regarding this.

Mr. McElwain stated that this required a review, looking at the entire section of road not an isolated bend.

Other Issues

Cllr Treanor stated that the hedges were overgrown and there was a sewerage leak on the footpath on the Drummully road, Emyvale. Mr. McElwain replied that the issue is being investigated.

Cllr Treanor mentioned the issue of speeding traffic at Berry's Brae. It was noted that speeding was an issue on many roads.

Co-Ordinators Report

Greenway

Cllr. Connolly enquired re Greenway at Teach na nDaoine and Canal View. Not finalised yet.

Cllr Connolly asked if the Horseshoe Bridge will connect at the Greenway. Mr. McElwain confirmed yes and that the bridge was at design stage.

Sliabh Beagh/Hollywood

Cllr Bennett welcomed the Sliabh Beagh Partnership and would like to see works completed at Hollywood Park before Summer.

Ballinode

Cllr Maxwell said that Ballinode Community Centre received €1/2 million from Community Fund and enquired if they will receive any funding assistance from the MD.

Mr. McElwain replied that the community had progressed and completed the project design, the planning permission and works to date. The project will also come under the supervision of the MD.

Taking in Charge

Cllr Maxwell enquired re progress on Taking in Charge of Tullyherim Lane. Mr. McElwain stated the road was taken in charge and that the details had been forwarded to the Roads section for inclusion

in the CIS Scheme. Cllr Connolly enquired if they didn't qualify for funding under the CIS, could they go onto the LIS. Mr. Deeney responded that LIS is for private lanes only. The section of Tullyherim lane that is Taken in Charge is 490 metres from Tullyherim Bridge as far as Forde's house.

Footpaths

Cllr Aughey enquired, if the footpath repairs being carried out at Clontibret Village was the pitted footpath. Mr McElwain confirmed that it was.

Cllr Aughey enquired regarding his question re Traffic Calming at Tydavnet. Mr McElwain stated it was sent to Roads last year for consideration.

Drainage Works

Cllr Conlon advised that drainage works were needed at Gerry McCann's house. Mr McElwain to discuss with Cllr Conlon after meeting to find the exact location.

Cllr McKenna mentioned water flowing onto road from private property at Coolshannagh.

Cllr Connolly also queried the overflow onto old Customs site. Mr. McElwain replied that jetting was carried out before Christmas on the long flat pipe behind Sam's Diner down to Blackwater there appeared to be another blockage. Mr Deeney stated that the blockage was cleared last Friday evening, now the MD have to CCTV the pipe for damage and possible repairs. Mr. Deeney confirmed that one gully required connection to storm drainage at Stanley Terrace.

Emyvale Traffic Management

The members requested an update from Roads section regarding Emyvale Traffic Management Design. Mr McElwain to contact the Roads Section for an update. Members continue to request a meeting with TII, a Stationary speed box in Emyvale previously requested. Ms. Woods to get Roads to investigate if any other TII boxed in place in other counties within Ireland.

Monaghan Town Vouchers/Christmas Lights

Congratulations expressed by all members to the administration team for the processing of orders and sales of Monaghan Town Vouchers. Public Encouragement to spend vouchers and shop local. Cllr Conlon queried the shortfall of vouchers and printing. Ms Curran explained the preparation process, and that sales exceeded all expectations, additional vouchers were ordered therefore no shortfall for Christmas. Digital options were noted.

The members gave great compliments on the Christmas lights in the town. A possible blackout area at Market house was raised. Mr McElwain advised that he was aware that a section of the Christmas lights went off of one instance, however the contractor the correct the fault when reported.

Expression that we add to the Christmas lights for 2023 to include more displays. Ms Curran to bring proposals to March MD Sub-committee meeting.

Questions & Motions

QUESTIONS:

Cllr Aughey will ask:

- 1) Can the council investigate the possibility of a footpath on the Ballybay Road as far as Tommy Martins as this particular road is very dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists?

Response:

The public lighting currently extends to the end of the existing public footpath which ends at Killyvane. There are no current plans to extend this footpath on the Ballybay Road.

- 2) With regard to the improvements to the Greenway including the new surface and excellent upgrade of landscaping along the Greenway, can the council,
 - a. Give an update on the completion of the project?
 - b. Advise with regard to the progress on the extension of the greenway?

Response:

- a. **Roskey Vale to Graham's Roundabout - works completed,
Ulster Canal Park, works completed,
Threemilehouse road to Oriel Way – works completed,**

Mullaghmatt to Glen Road – works advancing with final surface dressing to be completed in Jan 2023. Other section still under review.

- b. Consultants are currently preparing Part 8 planning documentation for the Smithborough – Monaghan section of the Greenway. It is planned to lodge the planning application in Q1 2023.
The CPO for lands required to construct the Greenway between Monaghan – Border was published in Sept 2022, MCC currently await feedback from An Bord Pleanála re the CPO and submissions that were received.

- 3) What plans are there to increase the number of EV charging points in Monaghan Town and the surrounding villages?

Response:

Monaghan County council is currently taking part in The FASTER scheme which has plans to put two new EV chargers in Monaghan. One of these will be in Monaghan Town at the Courthouse Car Park, the other at Carrickmacross Civic offices. There is also one being installed by EasyGo in Ballybay which should be operational if not already in the next few months. To help with expanding the current network of EV charging, we are currently working with the Department of Transport to develop an EV charging strategy for the county.

- 4) How many town vouchers were purchased this Christmas?

Response:

Monaghan Town Voucher sales.

November / December Sales	€1,593,470
December Redemptions	€199,040
Redemptions in January 2023 to date -	€275,340
Total Sales for 2022	€1,706,340
Total Redemptions 2022	€1,250,755

Clr Conlon will ask:

- 1) With the completion of the Mullaghmatt Remedial Scheme, and continued absence of long sought after directional signage in the area, will this Council undertake the installation of signage at the earliest opportunity that will give assistance to service providers and emergency related personnel seeking out addresses?

Response:

Monaghan County Council will investigate the provision of directional signage for Mullaghmatt.

MOTIONS:

Following the closure of the dog and cat rescue facility operated by the volunteer led Monaghan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals at Killydonagh, Emyvale, a gap in the provision of animal welfare services has become apparent. Will this Council undertake the following to address this issue?

1. Recognise that the issue of neglected and abandoned domestic animals is of a national and local concern that requires immediate attention.
2. The growth in dog and cat ownership has not been matched by an increase in this Council's financial and personnel resources in implementing legislation regarding dog control, micro-

chipping, muzzling of so-called dangerous breeds, and associated animal welfare and citizen safety issues.

3. That figures provided in the Local Authority Control of Dogs Statistics 2021 state that of 75 on-the-spot fines imposed, only 17 were paid by offenders.
4. That consideration is given to the reopening of a North Monaghan animal welfare shelter by way of a grant scheme in support of voluntary led efforts, or Council operated.
5. That for the purpose of covering leave entitlements of this Council's only dog warden, that an additional post is created that will ensure no gaps in this essential service exists that results in the neglect of this Council's obligations in providing year-round animal welfare protection and implementation of Dog Control legislation.
6. In an effort at reducing sheep worrying incidents, that this Council engage with the relevant farming organisations for the purpose of ensuring vulnerable livestock, and farmers livelihoods, are protected.

And to forward this motion to the County Council as correspondence for the February meeting agenda, and also to forward to the Minister for Agriculture Charlie McConalogue TD and Minister for Rural and Community Development for their attention and response.

Cllr. Sean Conlon.

Motion proposed by Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Connolly, and unanimously agreed by the members.

Cllr Maxwell There is a difference between Urban Living and Rural Experience i.e. Sheep Worrying Lurcher around town 4/5 years. No owner and running wild.

Sympathies

Cllr Treanor passed a vote of sympathy with the Smith family on the death of Sean Smith, Cavan County Council member CMETB - North West Regional Assembly

Cllr Bennett passed a vote of sympathy with Former Cllr. Ronaghan family on the death of Eleanor Ronaghan who was related to former Town Councillor Lorcan Ronaghan.

Congratulations

The members congratulated Louise McChesney & Hannah Potts, Monaghan Collegiate School who represented Ireland in the World Junk Couture Final in Abu Dhabi

AOB

Discussions continued regarding bridges within the MD which have been repaired, questions re heritage input and a number of bridges which requires repairs. The MD Executive took note of all concerns raised.

Concerns raised regarding overgrown hedges at Crosses on Milltown Road and Coyle Complete Panel Beaters.

D McElwain confirmed issued Standard hedge-cutting notice give measurements and standards. MD Executive to follow-up on these issues.

Concerns raised regarding Sewerage Scheme required in Milltown, Scotstown Road, section of the Clones and Rafeenan. Cllr Aughey asked N Woods to investigate and give MD a report in March/April. Water Service Senior Engineer has raised this issue with Department who advised no scheme in place.

Issues raised regarding the Taking in Charge of Estates been held up by Irish Water
N Woods can invite Water services to make presentation. Finance and Policy not there at present.
Discussions regarding delays with Planning Dept taking in charge estates due to Irish Water delays.

Cllr Conlon proposal:

“That this Council write to Irish Water making the appeal to expedite their assessment procedures
that will provide the final agreement to facilitate the ‘Taking in Charge’ process at Mullach Glas /
Rowantree estate.”

Emergency Motion

Cllr. Bennett raised emergency motion:

“That the Councillors in this Municipal District call on Minister Stephen Donnelly, to address the
shortfall in GP provision including out of hours services in the Monaghan MD”.

Cllr. McKenna 2nd Motion and detailed discussion followed regarding the capacity of GP’s to
increasing population within the district.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Dated this 16th of January 2023

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____
Meetings Administrator

