

## **Municipal District of Monaghan**

**Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held in Council Chamber, M-Tek 1 Building, Knockaconny, Co Monaghan on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> February 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, Carmel Murphy, Assistant Staff Officer.

### **1. Confirmation of minutes**

On the proposal of Cllr. Treanor seconded by Cllr. McKenna, it was agreed that the minutes of the Municipal District meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023 be confirmed.

### **2. Matters arising**

#### **Greenway**

Cllr. Conlon stated that great improvements had been made to the Greenway and suggested that a photo shoot take place to highlight these positive improvements

#### **Broad Road Car Park**

Cllr. Maxwell enquired why work had not started on the development and that the delay was unacceptable. Mr. McElwain stated that the council were in the process of finalising a wayleave agreement with the St Louis Convent which should be completed shortly

#### **Bridges**

Cllr. Bennett referred to a bridge that had been closed for safety reasons at Mullyera in Tirnaskea South on the LT20201 and asked that emergency funding be made available to fix the bridge so that access could be provided for local residents. She also requested that the road in question be resurfaced as it was in very bad condition.

#### **Killyvane Lane**

Cllr. Treanor asked if Killyvane Lane could be Taken in Charge? Mr. Deeney stated that agreement would be required from all the residents to take this lane in charge.

#### **Parking on Greenway**

Cllr. Treanor stated that people were still parking at the OPDs in Rooskey Vale while they went walking and were causing problems in relation to access for healthcare workers. He appealed for walkers to park at Monaghan Harps. Traffic Wardens to be asked to monitor the situation. MD to investigate a new sign.

### **3. Municipal District Co-Ordinators Report**

#### **Canal Bog Garden**

In response to a query from Cllr. Connolly, Mr. McElwain informed the members that the Canal Bog Garden was located along the Ulster Canal walkway at Killyconnigan, funding had been acquired for it and Michael Carroll, Council Horticulturist, was completing the design

### **Signage at Mullaghmatt**

Cllr. Conlon asked if there was any update on the signage for Mullaghmatt housing estate. Mr. Deeney responded that the engineers were working on it with Housing Section.

### **Customs Depot at Coolshannagh**

Cllr. Treanor referred to the derelict condition of the customs depot. It was also noted that there is also a mobile home on the site now. Ms. Woods said that the MD would write to the Revenue Offices and ask what their future plans are for this building?

### **Events**

Cllr. Conlon informed the members that the Rás Tailteann cycling event, would be coming through Monaghan on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

Cllr. Aughey updated the members on the progress for the St Patrick's Day Parade and thanked the members for attending the meetings of the organising committee.

## **4. Questions & Motions**

### **Cllr Aughey asked:**

Would the Municipal District look at the installation of an appropriate bus shelter on the North Rd as there are frequently people waiting there in the rain?

### **Response:**

**The MD will investigate the feasibility of a bus shelter in this area, land ownership, space, design and explore an appropriate source of funding for a bus shelter if suitable.**

Would the Municipal District examine the paving on footpaths on Hill Street which is badly cracked and seems to have been damaged by vehicles parking on it. A traffic bollard has also been damaged there recently.

### **Response:**

**The Municipal District have examined this area of paving and will arrange the required remedial works.**

Would the Municipal District contact the owners of the derelict building at the Coolshannagh junction regarding littering, anti-social behaviour and other activities at and around the premises?

### **Response:**

**The Municipal District will contact the owners of this building regarding the issues raised. This building is also on the Derelict Sites Register.**

Can Monaghan Municipal District investigate the road safety aspects of moving courtesy/pedestrian crossings around the Magic Roundabout/ Broad Road as traffic coming off Clones Road or Park Street down to Broad Road is extremely dangerous.

### **Response:**

**The Margaret Skinnader roundabout was designed as a safety scheme to the appropriate standards and subjected to road safety audit, including a Stage 3 audit when the works were completed. The audits did not identify any safety issues. Currently there are no proposals to revisit the layout.**

Can the Municipal District further investigate the roads surface between Cortolvin and Killyconnigan as they are in vital need of repair?

**Response:**

**The Municipal District will investigate and arrange the necessary repairs.**

**Cllr Conlon asked:**

With an over-reliance by the Housing Section on outsourcing Council Housing repair and maintenance works, resulting occasionally in protracted delays in having necessary works undertaken by contractors experiencing staff shortages, and huge demands on their trades and services, will this Council initiate a recruitment programme of craftsmen such as plumbers, carpenters, electricians, which has previously been the standard practice of local authorities

**Response:**

**Monaghan County Council employs plumbers and craftworkers for various repairs and maintenance work. The feasibility of employing an electrician directly has been examined and it was found that it is not feasible to employ an electrician to carry out electrical repairs and maintenance due to the sporadic nature of the work arising and the geographic locations involved. Vacancies arising for existing craftworker positions will continue to be filled. Monaghan County Council has a Housing Framework in place for repair and maintenance work. The main contractors currently appointed under the Housing Framework for repair and maintenance work are local firms and rate payers employing people living in the County Monaghan.**

In consideration of the severe shortage of housing accommodation, can the Council owned vacant property at 4/5 Mill St. be converted into apartments that will help reduce lengthy Council housing waiting lists?

**Response:**

**The building referred to is a protected structure of regional importance located at the junction between Mill Street and the North Road in Monaghan town. From a Housing perspective the conversion of a protected structure to residential accommodation is known to be exceptionally expensive and in many such cases it is simply not feasible. The building in question is situated in a very prominent location that would be better suited to a commercial use.**

What progress has been made that will put in place Heavy Goods Vehicle traffic restrictions in Monaghan Town for the purpose of improving pedestrian safety and ease traffic congestion, as well as contribute to the County Council's Active Travel ambitions in improving a safer environment for all road users on the Town's narrow streets?

**Response:**

**The TII are seeking assurance that no other streets will be subject to HGV restrictions in the future before committing to replacing signs on the National approach roads. Several other items regarding the proposed signage raised by the TII have to be addressed. Costs of all other signs in the town will be borne by the MD.**

What delays are causing the lack of addressing overdue remedial repairs to subsidence and road surface completion at Knockroe Glen?

**Response:**

**The housing estate at Knockroe Glen has not been taken in charge, it is in the control of the Developer and there are 9 houses currently under construction there that will be completed in Q2 of 2023. There is a Planning Bond in place and the Developer is required to complete the development to a standard acceptable to Monaghan County Council before the Planning Bond can be released and the development taken in charge.**

In an effort at addressing urban dereliction, and pursuing financial supports provided by the Department of Housing to tackle long term vacant and abandoned properties, has this Council appointed a Town Centre First Co-ordinator as provided for in this year's Council budget allocation?

**Response:**

**This council have commenced the process and the Interviews for the Town Regeneration Officer are scheduled to take place in March 2023 and a person will be appointed to the post thereafter.**

**Cllr McKenna asked:**

Further to the correspondence received from Emyvale Development Association on 3rd November 2022, what progress has been made to-date on the three requests, namely – To make the Mill Road, Emyvale a one-way system going from Glaslough road to the Main Street.

**Response:**

**Traffic count to be carried out and data to be assessed in accordance with the Traffic Calming Policy adopted in 2018.**

That speed controls be erected on the Mullan road.

**Response:**

**A Traffic count was carried out and the data is to be assessed in accordance with the Traffic Calming Policy adopted in 2018**

Renaming of corner at the northern end of Emyvale village as "Steele's Corner" in memory of Ronnie & Lyla Steele who provided great employment in the North Monaghan area.

**Response:**

**It is noted that no local consultation has taken place to date, therefore the Municipal District will have to complete consultation and the formal process. This to commence in March.**

#### **5. Irish Water Presentation re Sewerage Schemes and Taking In Charge - Peadar McGuinness, A/Senior Engineer**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Peadar McGuinness, A/Senior Engineer, Water Services, to the meeting. Mr. McGuinness stated that there were a number of estates currently in the taking in charge process at present which were with Irish Water for assessment, and progress was slow. He informed the members that he had made enquiries in relation to Milltown, the Clones Road and the Scotstown Road, and Irish Water had responded that they had no plans to extend the public sewer in these areas. Cllr. McKenna said that Irish Water offered councillors an opportunity to meet them on occasions and suggested that that the MD members meet as one with them to discuss these issues. Cllr. Connolly stated that the Municipal District would have to outline to Irish Water exactly what the issues were in advance of the meeting so that the members could get proper answers. Cllr. Treanor asked that Rafeenan in Ballinode also be included in the above discussions. Cllr. Aughey thanked Mr. McGuinness for his input to the meeting.

## **6. Correspondence**

### **Ambulance Service**

Cllr. Connolly referred to specific commitments that had been given in the past in relation to ambulance services in County Monaghan and said these commitments were not being upheld. Cllr. McKenna recalled the issue being raised at County Council level and a proposal that had been forwarded asking the National Ambulance Service to attend a future county council meeting. He suggested that the MD ask that this be followed up at county council level.

## **7. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations**

A vote of sympathy was passed with the Carroll family on the death of Riona Carroll. The members acknowledged the contribution that she had made to the Taste of Monaghan event.

A vote of sympathy was also passed to Ms. Nuala Woods, Director of Services, on the death of her uncle John McCaffrey.

A vote of sympathy was passed to the Boylan family on the death of Mickey Joe Boylan, former Council employee.

The members congratulated Ryan Sheridan on winning the International Acoustic Award in America.

The members congratulated Conor Curley from Tyholland on winning the International Group of the Year Brit Award with his band Fontaines D.C.

## **8. AOB**

Cllr. Conlon queried when a craft worker was last appointed by Monaghan County Council and asked for a response for the next meeting

Cllr. Connolly referred to hedges which need cutting at Crosses. Mr. Deeney informed him that letters had gone out to the landowners.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Dated this 20<sup>th</sup> of February 2023

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

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Meetings Administrator