

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, Mtek Building, Armagh Road, Monaghan, County Monaghan on Monday 12 June 2023 at 10.00am

Chair: Cllr S. Conlon, Cathaoirleach

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

Via Teams: Cllrs S Gilliland and P Conlon

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

Apologies: Ms C O’Hare, A/Director of Services

At the outset, the Cathaoirleach welcomed members of the Comhairle na nÓg Youth Council who attended as observers at Monaghan Co Co’s June meeting to the meeting gallery.

The Cathaoirleach also welcomed Mr Conal McCrudden and colleagues from Monaghan Library Services to officially launch a new app by Monaghan Library Service which facilitates a wide range of public interaction with its offerings.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

Minutes of Council Meeting held on 08 May 2023

On the proposal of Cllr N Keelan seconded by Cllr H McElvaney it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 08 May 2023, be confirmed.

2. Correspondence

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

- Letter from Ms. Martina McKeown, Rockcorry Community Centre Steering Committee, regarding development of the Rockcorry Community Centre.
- Email from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr. Darragh O’Brien, T.D., regarding the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant scheme.
- Email from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Justice, Mr. Simon Harris, T.D., regarding the introduction of EU wide legislation to combat online abuse.
- Acknowledgement email from the Department of Health regarding the opening of the North Monaghan Primary Care Centre on St. Davnet’s Campus.
- Letter from Ms. Mandy Doyle, Head of Service, Primary Care, Health Service Executive, regarding the opening of the North Monaghan Primary Care Centre on St. Davnet’s Campus.
- Acknowledgement letter from the Office of the Chief Executive Officer, Health Service Executive, Mr. Bernard Gloster, regarding the opening of the North Monaghan Primary Care Centre on St. Davnet’s Campus.
- Resolution from Mayo County Council regarding grant levels for the Croí Cónaithe Scheme.
- Resolution from Kerry County Council regarding a National Pension Scheme for the State.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr P Treanor , seconded by Cllr R Truell it was agreed that this Council support the Rockcorry Community Centre Steering Committee request seeking the support of Monaghan County Council as the lead party with their application to the Department of Rural & Community Development for funding under the Community Centers Investment fund to develop a much-needed Community.

On the proposal of Cllr S Conlon , seconded by Cllr P Treanor it was agreed that with reference to the soon to be opened Primary Care Services for North Monaghan and Primary Care Centre in Clones, that this Council seek clarification regarding how many hours of operation per week that each of the following will be available on site for consultant led appointments to the public: Occupational Therapy; Speech and Language Therapy; Physiotherapy; Podiatry; Ophthalmology; Psychology; Mental Health Services; and Dietetics?

Will all these services be available on site to both medical card holders, and non-medical card holders i.e. public patients? In addition, will the proposed GP Services available at the new Centres originate from within existing GP Surgeries currently available locally or are new posts being created?

On the proposal of Cllr B McKenna , seconded by Cllr N Keelan it was agreed that this Council write again to the Cavan / Monaghan Oireachtas members requesting their support in ensuring a meeting between Monaghan Co Co and the Minister for Environment, Climate Action & Communications, Eamonn Ryan TD.

On the proposal of Cllr H McElvaney , seconded by Cllr P Treanor it was agreed that this Council write to all Cavan / Monaghan Oireachtas members inviting them to attend a meeting of Monaghan County Council to discuss the significant issues of N2 Schemes and the North South Interconnector.

3. To consider amendment to approved Section 183 Notice for the lease of Castleblayney Enterprise Centre “The Ridge”

Members considered the amendment to the approved Section 183 Notice relating to the lease of Castleblayney Enterprise Centre “The Ridge”.

On the proposal Cllr N Keelan seconded by Cllr D Maxwell it was agreed that the Council approve the amendment to the Section 183 Notice relating to the lease of Castleblayney Enterprise Centre “The Ridge”, in accordance with the terms of the notice dated 13 April 2023 and attached site location map under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

4. To consider Section 183 Notice relating to the sale of Lands (Site C and Site D) at Latlorcan

Members considered the Section 183 Notice circulated relating to the sale of Lands (Site C and Site D) at Latlorcan, Co. Monaghan.

On the proposal Cllr D Maxwell seconded by Cllr R Aughey it was agreed that the Council approve the sale of Lands (Site C and Site D), Latlorcan, Co. Monaghan, in accordance with the terms of the notice dated 21 April 2023 and attached site location map under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

5. To consider the Artist Support Grant Scheme 2023

The Members considered the report from the Arts Officer recommending the allocation of grants under the Artist Support Grant Scheme 2023. Mr. S. Mac Conghail, Arts Officer advised that the total amount of funding available under the scheme is €12,000. The independent Assessment Panel recommend the following 6 Emerging Talent and 12 Established Artists for funding in 2023:

Emerging Talent

	Applicants	Art Form
1	Julieanne Black Reel, Castleblayney	Singer/Songwriter
2	Lorraine Coffey, <i>Clones</i>	Pastel & Clay Sculpture
3	Aisling Slattery Fanning, Scotstown	Mixed Media
4	Benedict Lambe O' Sullivan, <i>Monaghan Town</i>	Musician/Songwriter
5	Claire McCluskey, <i>Clones</i>	Sculpture/Installation
6	Hannah Nic Eindrí, Ballinode	Music/Songwriting

Established Artists

	Applicants	Art Form
1	Jonathan Hughes, <i>Castleblayney</i>	Film maker
2	Claire McCabe, <i>Rockcorry</i>	Film maker
3	Rachel Mae Hannon, <i>Monaghan Town</i>	Musician
4	David Marron, <i>Carrickmacross</i>	Musician/Composer
5	Niamh McPhillips, <i>Carrickmacross</i>	Performance Artist/Dance
6	Orlagh Meegan Gallagher, <i>Carrickmacross</i>	Visual Art
7	Emily McGardle, <i>Carrickmacross</i>	Printmaking/Drawing
8	Gráinne Hunt, <i>Carrickmacross</i>	Singer/Songwriter
9	Shay Sweeney, <i>Castleblayney</i>	Drummer/Producer
10	Sorcha McCague, <i>Scotstown</i>	Musician
11	Declan Gorman, <i>Skerries</i>	Theatre
12	Ben Reel, Castleblayney	Composer/Musician/Singer

Mr McConghail responded to members queries.

On the proposal of Cllr D Maxwell seconded by Cllr N Keelan it was agreed that the Council approve the allocation of grants under the Artist Support Grant Scheme 2023 as outlined.

6. To receive an Introduction and Presentation from the Climate Core Team

Mr Marc Coyle, Climate Action Co-Ordinator and Mr Jamie Nolan, Community Climate Action Officer joined the meeting to provide members with an update on Monaghan's new Climate Action Plan. M. Coyle outlined that in accordance with the Climate Action and Low Carbon (Amendment) Act 2021, each local authority must prepare and make a Local Authority Climate Action Plan. He outlined the provisional programme for development of the plan which is required to be adopted by the elected members by 23 February 2024.

During the course of his presentation, M. Coyle provided a summary of the measures and themes of the plan. He outlined the role of the elected members and advised that the pre-draft consultation period is now opened and submissions can be made before 12 noon on 14 July 2023.

J. Nolan outlined the objectives of the Community Climate Action programme and provided an overview of funding. He stated that there are two 18-month funding periods. Monaghan Co have received an allocation of €392,000 for Strand 1 'Building Low Carbon Communities' over the next 18 months and await confirmation of funding under Strand 1A 'Shared Island Community Climate Action'. He concluded his presentation by outlining eligibility for funding and the five themes for potential projects.

M. Coyle and J. Nolan responded to members queries. Members thanked M. Coyle and J. Nolan for their very informative presentation.

On the proposal of Cllr S Conlon, seconded by Cllr PJ O'Hanlon it was agreed that this Council write to Department of Environment, Climate and Communications seeking additional funding under the Community Climate Action Fund to realise our Climate Action plans.

7. To receive a presentation on the Affordable Purchase Scheme

Mr. Nial O'Connor, A/Senior Executive Officer joined the meeting to update members on the Affordable Purchase Scheme. He commenced his presentation by providing an overview of the current secondhand market and affordable housing options. He outlined the existing supports available to purchasers through First Homes Scheme, Help to Buy Scheme, Croí Conaithe property refurbishment grant and services sites.

N. O'Connor advised that the Department has issued a circular to local authorities, who do not have a demonstrated affordability demand, to make an application for inclusion in the Affordable Purchase Scheme. Affordable Purchase seeks to address the affordability gap that exists for moderate income households who are constrained from accessing sufficient finance to purchase new homes on at open market prices. A 'shared equity' aims to make the new house purchase price more affordable by reducing the initial cost burden a house purchaser faces in acquiring a property.

N. O'Connor proceeded to outline how the scheme will work, eligibility, thresholds and benefits of the scheme. He concluded his presentation by outlining the next steps which include completing the survey and analysis of the results, seeking opportunities to develop a scheme with a developer, working on a Council own scheme and developing an application for submission to the Department.

N. O'Connor responded to members queries. The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr O'Connor for his very informative presentation.

8. To consider recommendations and minutes from Corporate Policy Group Meeting on 23 May 2023

The members noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 23 May 2023, 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 23 May 2023 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

9. To receive Management Report – May 2023

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

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

10. To receive Reports from Members attending Conferences/Training events

The members noted the Reports from Cllrs, Carthy, Conlon, Connolly, Keelan, Maxwell, McKenna, P. Treanor and Truell in relation to their attendance at the following Conference/Training events:

- AILG, Spring Training Seminar, 19 April 2023, Hotel Kilkenny, County Kilkenny
- AILG, Climate (Environmental Issues), 25 March 2023, Dundalk, County Louth
- LAMA Spring Seminar, Apprenticeships Training and Future Building Initiatives, 2-4 March 2023, West Lodge Hotel, County Cork
- Climate Action Plan, 25 March 2023, Fairways, Dundalk, County Louth
- Electoral Register Reform, 24-25 February 2023, Raddisson Blu, Limerick
- AILG Training Module 1, Electoral Reform Act, 23 February 2023, Tullamore Court Hotel, County Offaly

11. Business submitted by Chief Executive

The Chief Executive informed the members that Ms N Woods, Director of Services was leaving Monaghan County Council to take up a very senior position with Uisce Eireann. Ms Monahan congratulated Ms Woods and wished her well in her new post. She stated that Ms Woods will be a huge loss to Monaghan County Council and has done excellent work in her short time as Director. She stated also that Ms Woods had a long career in Housing Section which she had left in very good shape.

The Cathaoirleach, on behalf of all the members, stated that Ms Woods would be a tremendous loss to the organization and that she had made huge strides in her new Directorate. On behalf of the members he wished her every success on her continuing career journey.

12. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 08 May 2023

There were no matters arising out of the Council meeting held on 08 May 2023.

13. To receive update on N2 National Primary Road Scheme

Discussed under item 2 – Correspondence. No further update

- Letter from Mr. Matt Carthy, T.D., regarding correspondence received from the Minister for Transport, Mr. Eamon Ryan, TD, regarding N2 Road Schemes.

14. To receive update on North South Interconnector project

- Letter from Mr. Matt Carthy, T.D., regarding correspondence received from the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, Mr. Eamon Ryan, TD, regarding feasibility of undergrounding the North-South Interconnector project.

On the proposal of Cllr N Keelan, seconded by Cllr P Treanor it was agreed that as requested by the Co Monaghan Anti Pylon committee, that this council respectfully requests that the Public Participation Network (PPN) do not engage with Eirgrid or its agents until such time that a proposal is brought forward to underground the interconnector which is the express wish of the democratically elected members of this council and the communities affected by the proposed interconnector.

15. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project

No further update on the Ulster Canal project. Cllr H McElvaney informed the meeting that the Ballybay/Clones Municipal District members would be given a guided tour of the project in the coming week to view its progress.

16. Questions & Replies:

Cllr C. Carthy asked:

1. What is the up-to-date position of the 'Taking in Charge' of Alderwood (Carrickmacross) and Conabury Hill (Castleblayney) estates?

Reply: Conabury Hill: A Taking in Charge application was received in April 2021. The Local Authority has carried out a technical assessment of the development. In addition, it has consulted with Uisce Eireann and are awaiting their response. The process shall be progressed upon receipt of their comments. In addition, the Local Authority have recently carried out upgrading works to the pumping station compound.

Alderwood: The Local Authority has engaged with the developer's agent regarding resolving previously identified defects. The Planning Authority understands that the developer is currently resolving these. Following completion of these works, consultation shall take place with Uisce Eireann.

2. How many 2 bed social housing units are expected to be delivered in Co. Monaghan between now and the end of 2024 and can you give a breakdown on where these units will be made available?

Reply: Monaghan County Council and Approved Housing Bodies propose to deliver 86 2-bedroom properties in County Monaghan between 2023 and 2024. Please see Table below for number of units, location and delivery breakdown.

Housing For All 2023-2024				2 Bedroom
Ballybay - Clones	Crossmoyle, Clones	MCC	2023 *	1
Ballybay - Clones	Cornamucklaglass, Ballybay	MCC	2023 *	7
Monaghan	Roskey, Monaghan	AHB	2023 *	1
Monaghan	Knockroe, Monaghan	AHB	2023 *	5
Monaghan	Kilnacloy, Monaghan	AHB	2023 *	6
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Drummond Otra, Carrickmacross	MCC	2024**	1
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Kilmactrasna, Carrickmacross	MCC	2024 **	27
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Knockcarrick, County Monaghan	MCC	2024 **	12
Ballybay - Clones	Cornamucklaglass, Ballybay	AHB	2024 **	4
Monaghan	Aghnasedagh, Monaghan	AHB	2024 **	22
PROJECTED TOTAL:				86

* Completion anticipated in 2023

** Commencement in 2023 and completion

3. At the time of this question being submitted, works to tidy up the Hope Castle, Castleblayney, have not yet started; can the executive follow this up and ensure that every effort is made to have this work carried out as soon as possible?

Reply: Works are currently in progress and are due for completion at the end of the month

4. Are there any plans in place to regularise and streamline road patching in Co. Monaghan owing to the different finishes and quality of pothole repair we see on different roads?

Reply: CBY/CMX MD are trialling a Hotbox Bitmac pothole repair system to try and improve the quality and durability of the repairs. However, it must be noted that pothole repair is only a temporary measure to help prolong the life of the road until a permanent overlay is completed.

5. Following last month's update on Clos na Droimainne, Carrickmacross, regarding the 12no. 4-bed units on the site, has the council executive received any update on the remaining 14no. unfinished 2-bed apartments on the site; can our housing section continue to push for their delivery as quickly as possible?

Reply: The latest update Housing Section have is that negotiations are ongoing between the developer and the AHB regarding delivery of the 14 apartments for social housing, but no agreement has yet been reached.

Cllr P. Connolly asked:

6. Could an update be provided in relation to the Unfinished Housing Development at Chapel Court Carrickroe?

Reply: The lands have been entered on to the Derelict Sites Register. Following a period of time permitted to allow for specified works to be carried out to address the dereliction, to which no works have been carried out, notices will issue shortly of the Council's intention to proceed to compulsorily acquire the lands.

Cllr A. McCooey asked:

7. Referring to the previous proposal of Cllr A McCooey, seconded by Cllr PJ O'Hanlon, it was agreed that based on the data collected in the Housing Needs

& Demand Assessment carried out by Monaghan Co Co, we propose that this Council create a Housing Action Plan for Co Monaghan and should reasonable demand for affordable housing options arise, that we, as a local authority, create our own proposal to Minister for Housing & Local Government, Darragh O'Brien TD to develop an affordable housing scheme for Co Monaghan. We must use our own function to assess and determine any affordability constraints in our County.

(i) Can the County Council inform members, has the housing needs and demands assessment been completed?

(ii) When can we expect to see the results and findings of this assessment?

Reply: Consultants are due to complete a Housing Need and Demand Assessment report for the local authority by mid-June.

Cllr S. Conlon asked:

8. What legislation does Monaghan County Council invoke in regulating the discharge of pyrotechnics / fireworks from commercial premises?

Reply: Legislation governing pyrotechnics / fireworks primarily falls under the Explosives Act 1875 (as amended by the Criminal Justice Act 2006), the Fire Services Act 1981 & 2003, and subject to EU legislation Directive 2013/29/EU4.

The Explosives Act 1875 requires that pyrotechnics/fireworks can only be imported under licence and stored and sold in accordance with Irish law.

Monaghan County Council regulates the discharge of pyrotechnics/fireworks in accordance with Department of Justice 'Guidance Document for Organised Pyrotechnic Displays-2006, revised 2020'.

9. In line with the creation across all Local Authorities of Local Healthy Age Friendly Homes Co-ordinator posts, what plans have Monaghan County Council in introducing this role that will greatly enhance Council's outreach with our aging population?

Reply: The Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme will be rolled out nationally across all local authority areas as part of Phase 2 of the programme and a total of 44 Local Coordinator positions will be in place across 6 Regions. Please be advised that the Local Coordinators will be employed by Meath County Council but will be based with a host local authority in their region. The recruitment process is ongoing.

10. During the consultation process currently underway of forming a new five-year tourism development plan, will an in-person workshop/meeting be scheduled between the consultant and elected members?

Reply: The consultation for the tourism strategy is a combination of on-line surveys, site visits to a selection of providers and in-person focus groups of which there have been three in total (community, trade and marketing). A separate survey was set up specifically to garner the views and comments of the elected members.

17. Notices of Motion

Cllr D. Maxwell proposed, Cllr H McElvaney seconded:

1. That Monaghan County Council include the Eircode H18 EK46 in all literature and Marketing relating to Rossmore Park to direct tourists and visitors to the proper car park.

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

Cllr S. Conlon proposed, Cllr P Treanor seconded:

2. That for the purpose of facilitating the safe running of recreational and sporting events that occur on public roads, and alleviating the burden of the Gardai attending for marshalling duties when their time and resources could better serve the community, that this Council write to the National Transport Authority, the Department of Transport, the Department of Local Government and Minister Darragh O'Brien seeking amendments to the Road Traffic (Signs) Regulations for the purpose of creating appropriate signage required to implement the introduction of the Accredited Road Marshal Course.

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

Cllr C. Carthy proposed, Cllr D Maxwell seconded:

3. That Monaghan County Council support the Retained Fire and Rescue Service personnel and their continued struggle for improvements in pay, conditions and a decent work/life balance with agreed time off and call on the Minister for Local Government and the Minister for Public Expenditure to provide the funding necessary to sustain and enhance the service now and for future generations.

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

18. Votes of Sympathy

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

- Michael Carroll, Horticulturist, on the death of his father, Seamus Carroll.
- Gary Keenan, Water Services, on the death of his mother, Kathleen Carroll.
- Peadar McGuinness, Water Services, on the death of his father, Michael McGuinness.
- Marcella Carey, Housing, on the death of her brother, Joe McQuaid
- Management & Staff of Northern Standard, on the death of former colleague, Tom Swift

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

- Monaghan Senior Hurlers and Management on winning the All-Ireland Larry Meagher Cup

- To Mary McElroy, Tydavnet on winning the Gold Award as ‘Operational Support Worker’ of the ear for her work with older persons social work teams.
- Deravoy National School, Carrickroe in their debating final of the All-Ireland Concern Primary debate competition in the Helix, Dublin on 15th June 2023.

On the proposal of Cllr S Conlon, seconded by Cllr D Maxwell, it was agreed to extend an invitation to Premier of Prince Edward Island, Dennis King, on the occasion of his next visit to Ireland.

19. Conferences

On the proposal of Cllr S Conlon seconded by Cllr D Maxwell 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
AILG	Uisce Éireann (Irish Water) Southern Region	Raddison Blu Hotel, Cork	20 July '23	Cllr David Maxwell
AILG	Uisce Éireann (Irish Water) Eastern and Midland/ Northern and Western	Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo	22 July '23	Cllr Pat Treanor Cllr Brian McKenna Cllr Colm Carthy Cllr Seamus Treanor Cllr Richard Truell Cllr Aoife McCooey Cllr Paudge Connolly Cllr Seamus Coyle
AILG	Irish Language Training	Online	30 June '23	Cllr Pat Treanor Cllr Brian McKenna Cllr Cathy Bennett Cllr Colm Carthy Cllr Aoife McCooey Cllr Seamus Coyle
AILG	Councillor Personal Security Awareness	Online	14 July '23	Cllr David Maxwell Cllr Seamus Coyle

The meeting concluded.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____