

Municipal District of Monaghan

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held in Council Chamber, M-Tek 1 Building, Knockaconny, Co Monaghan on Monday, 15th May 2023 at 11:15 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, Michelle Allister, Staff Officer.

1. Confirmation of minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. Bennett, seconded by Cllr. McKenna, it was agreed that the minutes of the Municipal District meeting held on 17th April 2023 be confirmed.

2. Matters Arising

Community Development Plans

Cllr. Bennett enquired is there a list of villages, as there is a need for fairness for all villages and requested that Community Section come to all villages. The pick-up from school in Scotstown is dangerous and there is a requirement for a carpark.

Mr. McElwain advised he contacted C&E, who confirmed they do not have capacity to go to all villages but are working the through the villages.

Cllr. Connolly stated there is a requirement from each village/Community Group to develop their own plans and apply for Development Fund.

CCTV

Cllr. McKenna asked for an update on the Monaghan Town CCTV Scheme

Cllr. Connolly suggested we borrow money from MCCs own account to cover CCTV costs.

Cllr. Maxwell asked what is the exact figure in CCTV account?

Mr. McElwain stated €80,000 is from the MD allocation and €40,000 promise from Department which is to be verified. MCC have met with a civil contractor to obtain civil work costs and from this to confirm overall costs. Mr. McElwain will have a more accurate cost for the next meeting. Civil works will be from a framework tender.

Cllr. Maxwell asked have Consultants been appointed. Mr. McElwain confirmed they have.

3. Report from Municipal District Coordinator

Hollywood Lake

Cllr. Bennett requested an update re Hollywood.

Mr. McElwain advised the update is included in the Municipal Coordinators Report and stated the works were currently out to tender with a closing date of end of May. Work will commence in Summer.

Broad Road Car Park

Mr. McElwain advised the contractor S.Wilkin & Sons has commenced works which are a three-month contract.

Events

Cllr. Aughey stated Féile Oriel and the Monaghan Street Food Festival were very beneficial to the town

Cllr. Connolly stated fantastic works are being done by Active Travel on the Greenway.

Cllr. Conlon advised members of a photo shoot before Rás Tailteann leaves Church Square at 12 pm, on Sunday 21st May. MCC are co-funding.

Local Restoration – Roads

Cllr. Maxwell stated there were a lot of complaints regarding the road works that took place on the Cootehill Road.

A discussion took place regarding the complaints including the official diversion being too long and lack of signage.

Mr. McElwain advised the macadam contract for the works were managed by Roads Section and Health and Safety requirements must be adhered to, hence the road closure. Traffic must be diverted to like-sized roads therefore the reason for the long detour.

Cllr. Aughey asked about planned resurfacing works at the traffic lights.

Mr. McElwain advised those works are planned to be completed at night.

Town Team Report

Cllr. Maxwell questioned are there €1 million unspent vouchers in circulation.

Ms. Curran confirmed yes there is, due to large purchases over Christmas period, however this is almost €400,000 in historic vouchers unspent included in this amount. Ms. Curran encourages those with vouchers to spend same.

Cllr. Maxwell asked will the Greenspace be put in front of Courthouse?

Mr. McElwain advised there are no plans due to redesign of the area and costing of same.

Cllr. Maxwell proposed rollout of Greenspace at cost to the MD allocation and all members agreed.

4. Questions & Motions

Cllr Aughey asked:

Can the Municipal District provide an update on my previous question about pedestrian crossings for the villages of Tydavnet, Scotstown and Ballinode given the problems with speed in the villages.

Response:

A request for funding for a study of the proposed areas can be submitted to the NTA. However, the annual NTA application for 2023 has been submitted and the funding has been received. Therefore, NTA funding for this study will not be available in 2023.

Can the Municipal District explore more parking for the villages of Scotstown and Ballinode.

Response:

The Municipal District can explore the need for more parking in these villages. Should the need arise, solutions will be subject to suitable land and available finance.

Cllr Connolly asked:

In relation to the Giants in Rossmore Forest Park, soon to be 11 in total, and the fact that each giant has a name, a piece of folklore and local history associated with them, what plans have Monaghan Municipal District to ensure that QR code readers are placed both centrally (car park) and at the site of each of the Giant structure?

Response:

The Municipal District has no current plans to install QR Codes at the seven Giants in Rossmore Forest Park, but this can be explored.

Cllr. Connolly acknowledges there is poor network coverage at Rossmore Park but wishes QR codes to be placed at Giants as he feels this would be of benefit.

Members felt this could be difficult due to poor network coverage.

Ms. Woods suggested a single place at beginning of walk where all QR codes could be scanned, perhaps at the carpark.

5. Section 183 Request for Sites C & D, Latlorcan Housing Development

Cllr. Conlon proposed, seconded by Cllr. Bennett

6. Correspondence

None

7. Votes of Sympathy/ Congratulations

A vote of sympathy was also passed to Cllr. David Maxwell, on the death of his uncle Kenneth Maxwell.

8. AOB

Pay Parking

Cllr. Treanor stated he met with a lady who had concerns regarding parking app and not receiving a text to advise her parking ticket was due to expire. He also queried administration charges on the parking app.

Ms. Curran advised regarding administration charges and the expiry text message charges which customer must select and pay for same in order to receive.

Aldi Site, Dublin Road

Cllr. Bennett enquired what is happening with the Hoarding at Aldi?

Mr. McElwain advised it is accommodation works for the transportation of wind turbines.

Cllr. Bennett asked was there any update re Aldi Shop?

Ms. Woods advised the Chief Executive is committed to a positive outcome and currently underground drainage is the focus. Ms. Woods stated drainage works are expensive and requires funding from different sources.

Stray Dog roaming

Cllr. Treanor asked can MCC deal with the stray dog roaming around town and in Manor Wood. A lady contacted him stating she is afraid to walk her small dog. Mr. McElwain said efforts are continuing to catch the dog and this matter will be brought to the attention of the County Vet again for an update on the matter.

Paving

Cllr. McKenna noted the condition of the paving stones on the footpath at the Pastoral Centre and asked was there any update since last meeting noting there are also 2 to 3 places in Dublin Street, have staff looked at issues?

Mr. Deeney advised arrangements are being made to get the footpaths repaired at a number of locations.

Cllr. Maxwell asked would the works take place in the next number of months?

Mr. Deeney confirmed yes.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Dated this 15th day of May 2023

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Meetings Administrator