

## **Municipal District of Monaghan**

**Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held in Council Chamber, M-Tek 1 Building, Knockaconny, Co Monaghan on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 11:50 a.m.**

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Cathy Bennett presided.

**Present:** Cllrs. Raymond Aughey, 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. Maxwell, seconded by Cllr. McKenna, it was agreed that the minutes of the Municipal District meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023 be confirmed.

### **2. Matters Arising**

#### **CCTV**

Cllr. Maxwell requested an update on CCTV in Monaghan Town. Mr. McElwain advised consultants and contractors are slow to respond. Consultant has been asked to progress tender documents. Camera Specifications to be finalised.

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

Cllr. Maxwell asked if the contract was still on programme. Mr. McElwain advised works have commenced, provided an overview of works completed to date and advised duration of contract remains the same.

#### **Hollywood Lake**

Cllr. Conlon asked why there were no submissions for the request for tender for works at Hollywood Lake?

Cllr. Bennett asked can MCC staff complete the works?

Mr. McElwain advised he spoke to contractors who explained they have little capacity. MCC are going back to re-tender on a framework this time.

#### **Ramps in Corcaghan, Newbliss & Threemilehouse**

Cllr. Aughey asked how ramps were installed at the above locations in Ballybay/Clones MD and Members have been advised they cannot be installed in Monaghan MD?

Mr. McElwain advised he has spoken to Roads Department who have agreed to examine traffic calming for the whole county.

All MDs are working from the same policy which will achieve consistency with all villages.

#### **QR Codes for Giants**

Cllr. Connolly asked was there any update on QR codes for Giants at Rossmore Park?

Mr. McElwain advised it will be Q.3 for QR codes.

### **3. Report from Municipal District Coordinator**

#### Community Awards Night

Cllr. Bennett commended people who received Community awards for their hard work throughout the year.

#### Monaghan Town Tours

Cllr. Conlon commended the Town Tours Team and he had shared the history when in Prince Edward Island. Cllr. Conlon stated there are tours coming to Monaghan all the time and it would be beneficial to work with Tourism Section with a view to a rural based tour around Monaghan visiting for example, Patrick Kavanagh Ctr., Inniskeen, the Carrickmacross Work House. He commended the trojan work by Peadar McMahan. Cllr. Conlon stated there should be no charge for these tours.

Cllr. Bennett suggested Slieve Beagh could be included in the rural tours.

Cllr. Connolly wished to commend people who do this on a voluntary basis.

#### Market St. & Park St. Streetscape Project

Cllr. Connolly asked when the work will commence.

Mr. McElwain advised works will commence immediately after tenders are returned and the Contractor has been appointed.

#### Canada Day

Cllr. Conlon advised Members the Canadian Ambassador Nancy Smyth and her husband Lex Burger will briefly visit Monaghan on July 1<sup>st</sup> and appealed to Members and MCC staff to attend the Flag Raising Ceremony.

#### Active Travel Ballinode to Scotstown

Cllr. Bennett noted no update this month regarding this matter and requested monthly updates.

Mr. McElwain advised an update has been provided in the Questions Responses.

#### Roundabout Enabling Works for Wide Load – Turbines

Cllr. Aughey expressed concerns regarding the roundabout enabling works for the wide loads transporting the wind turbines and hopes the works will not affect the judging process for Tidy Towns.

Mr. McElwain stated that he too hoped the works would not affect the judging process as the turbines are important for the Climate.

Ms. Woods stated the MD would write to Tidy Towns judging Committee and explain the reason for the enabling works.

#### Footpaths

Cllr. Aughey asked have the MD completed a comprehensive walk through town to survey footpaths in town and also expressed concerns regarding the wall at The Convent as he feels it is very dangerous.

Mr. McElwain advised the town footpaths have been surveyed and a number of issues identified. He also advised the MD will write to The Convent regarding the wall.

Cllr. Conlon stated the footpaths are important to Tidy Towns and asked that areas be targeted for powerwashing.

Cllr. McKenna stated there are loose stones which have not been addressed yet.

Cllr. Connolly stated this is dangerous for wheelchair users in particular.

Cllr. Treanor stated the footpaths are dirty.

## ROADS

### Local Restoration – Roads

Cllr. Treanor stated there are undrivable roads in Monaghan and wanted it noted the Government are awash with money at present and should be investing in roads.

### Killyvane Lane – C.I.S.

Cllr. Connolly has spoken to residents in Killyvane regarding the CIS Scheme, they would like to be placed on the scheme.

### Emyvale Road Safety Improvement Scheme

Cllr. McKenna stated planned works at Steels Corner, Emyvale are moving very slowly, he has requested a copy of The Options Report.

Mr. McElwain advised the report is currently in draft form and he will make Roads Section aware of this request.

## **4. Questions & Motions**

### **Cllr. Paudge Connolly asked:**

What plans have Monaghan Municipal District to develop the 400 metres strip of land to the right of the Greenway from Coolshannagh Roundabout to the Sheriff's Bridge?

### **Response:**

**The proposal is to develop a linear park along this strip of land along the Greenway. Initial meetings were held with a number of educational stakeholders to develop the plans. The Municipal District will again look at options for this land and bring forward a proposal to the members by Q4, 2023.**

What plans have Monaghan Municipal District to repair the bridge on the town side of Coolshannagh Graveyard?

### **Response:**

**The Monaghan Municipal District will investigate the repairs of this wall and ascertain who is responsible for the repairs and progress the necessary procedures.**

### **Cllr. Raymond Aughey asked:**

Can the MD give an update on progress with the new car park on the Broad Road?

**Response:**

Construction started on the Broad Road carpark at the end of May. The storm drainage outlet pipeline has been completed through the Convent grounds. Site clearance has also been completed and existing petrol and oil storage tanks have been de-contaminated and removed. The boundary has been removed and hoarding erected. The completion date is still as planned.

How many EV charging points are there in Monaghan Town and each of the villages in the area and how many extra are planned in the next year?

**Response:**

The Municipal District have two EV charging points at Rooskey car park. Under the FASTER Project two EV charging points are to be provided in the Upper Courthouse carpark. As part of the Broad Road carpark development, an additional 9 nr. EV charging points are to be provided over a phased timeline.

When will the barrier at the pedestrian crossing in Church Square which has been lying damaged for three months be repaired?

**Response:**

Quotations were obtained for the repairs of this barrier and the works were completed last week.

Can the Municipal District provide an update on when the footpath sweeper will be deployed in Monaghan Town?

**Response:**

The footpath sweeper has been deployed in Monaghan town numerous times since it has been procured. An additional scuffing attachment has also been procured in April 2023 to improve the machines capabilities. This has been used in early morning sweeps last week to avoid the pedestrian traffic, if successful, these clean-ups will continue. Other villages also require sweeping. In addition to the sweeper, litter picks are carried out daily during the week and over the weekends sweeps.

**Cllr. Cathy Bennett asked:**

Can Monaghan Municipal District please investigate the possibility of a Beach at Hollywood park. This has recently been done in Ballybay and Emyvale. It would make a great asset for the community. Can I also please have an update on the current works at Hollywood Park.

**Response:**

The Municipal District have an active ORIS grant to complete for the upgrade of Hollywood Park. The construction contract will need to be re tendered as no contractors tendered for the work in May. This project will need to be completed prior to any further application being made.

Can Monaghan Municipal District please investigate the unused OPW land on the Roslea Rd in Scotstown Village. Could this be used for a playpark.

**Response:**

As part of the construction of Lui na Greine the council constructed a park and a play area. The Municipal District also applied for funding under the Town and Village renewal

**scheme to install play equipment into this play area but were unsuccessful. The council will be actively applying for funding to equip this play park.**

Is there any update on the possibility of a footpath between Scotstown Village and Ballinode Village and could this be a considered application for the Outdoor Recreation fund.

**Response:**

**The Active Travel Team are currently looking at a feasibility option report to assess the feasibility of a footpath from Ballinode to Scotstown. On completion of this study the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme funding may be an option to progress this scheme.**

Is there any update on traffic calming measures in Scotstown Village. Numerous accidents have happened in the Village and it is extremely dangerous.

**Response:**

**Roads Section and the Municipal Districts are to carry out a review of the Traffic Calming policy for the county. During this review they will be developing a traffic calming treatment for the towns and villages in the county.**

Have Irish Water been contacted in relation to the resurfacing of roads that they have previously dug up and not resurfaced.

**Response:**

**These works were carried out over ten years ago by Water Services. The resurfacing and reinstatement of the works were completed in full at the time. The maintenance periods have passed on both these contracts. Monaghan Municipal District will carry out pothole repairs at these locations.**

#### **5. Section 183 Request for Disposal of Lands at Tirkeenan**

3 Plots to be transferred to the Estate of Michael O’Gorman.

Legal costs only paid.

Cllr. Maxwell proposed, seconded by Cllr. Aughey

#### **6. Section 183 Request for Disposal of Lands at Feebaghbane, Scotstown**

Area 0.69 Hectares which has been farmed by The McKenna Family for 12+ years.

Proposed fee is €1 with Roads Department recommendation that both parties will cover their own legal costs. Proposed by Cllr. McKenna and seconded by Cllr. Maxwell.

#### **7. Correspondence**

None

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

A vote of congratulations to Mary McElroy on winning the Gold Award in the UK’s National Health Heroes 2023 in the category “Operational Support Worker of the Year”

A vote of congratulations to Aaron McKenna on becoming the new WBC International Champion at Middleweight.

A vote of congratulations to Daisy Walker on being selected to represent Ireland at the Mannheim Junior International in Germany.

## **9. AOB**

### Grass Cutting

Cllr. Treanor stated the grass is not being cut at the Revenue building which is unsightly on an approach road to the town. Mr. McElwain advised the MD will write again to Revenue and ask them to cut the grass.

Also the hedge along the footpath to Cornacassa was overgrown.

### Feasibility Study for the Ballinode/Scotstown link

Cllr. Connolly requested a copy of the completed Ballinode Feasibility Study and would welcome a presentation to the MD Council.

### Derelict Building

Cllr. Treanor asked was there any development with the derelict house opposite the Social Welfare Office at Rooskey.

Ms. Woods advised there are a number of derelict houses in that area which are privately owned, Housing Section are aware and have spoken to the owners who have their own plans for the buildings.

### Hanging Baskets

Cllr. McKenna stated the lack of hanging baskets are amiss in the town.

Cllr. Maxwell stated not everyone agreed with hanging baskets, The MD had received a presentation regarding hanging baskets in the past.

Mr. McElwain explained there were a number of issues, biodiversity and lack of resources regarding the task of watering the baskets. There is a need for a collaborative approach.

Cllr. McKenna requested Michael Carroll, Horticulturist attend next months meeting to discuss.

### Fire in Castleshane Forest

Cllr. Treanor thanked Dermot Brannigan, Chief Fire Officer for issuing a warning regarding the dangers of lighting of fires in forests in hot weather.

### Ms. Woods taking up a senior national position with Uisce Éireann

Members congratulated Ms. Woods on her new post and thanked her for her committed service to MCC.

Ms. Woods thanked Members for their kind words.

### Emyvale

Cllr. Connolly would like an update regarding making Mill Rd one way, renaming Steels Corner, speed signs at Mullen Rd and a pedestrian crossing outside the Enterprise Ctr. He said these issues had been raised in November.

Cllr. McKenna stated if there is a need for public consultation then it should be commenced. Lack of feedback is a problem, we need to make the community aware of the timescale.

### Clones Road

Cllr. Aughey stated the traffic coming from the Clones Rd into town was a major issue. He asked will Roads Section do anything regarding a link to the N2 south of town. All Elected Members have raised this issue and it is having an impact on residents that live on that road. He requested a representative from Roads come to the meeting and explain why its taking so long to get sorted. Cllr. Aughey suggested opening the discussion and getting it out in public.

Further discussion took place with the Members.

Mr. McElwain advised it is a TII funding issue and initial funding is also required from TII to complete a feasibility study. He will discuss with Roads Section.

### Sewerage System Milltown

Cllr. Treanor wanted it noted there is no proper sewerage system in Milltown.

### Greenway – Middletown to Monaghan

Cllr. Aughey wanted it noted this Greenway was announced in 2017 and there is still no Greenway. Members are deflated, everything is taking too long.

Cllr. Conlon stated he is 24 years elected, the wheels of motion in the Local Authority move excruciatingly slow. We seem to prepare plans, review plans etc., it is frustrating.

### July meeting of Monaghan Municipal District

Cllr. Bennett requested to amend 17<sup>th</sup> July meeting to 2pm.

Agreed by all.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Dated this 19<sup>th</sup> day of June 2023

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

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