

Municipal District of Monaghan

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held in Council Chamber, M-Tek 1 Building, Knockaconny, Co Monaghan on Monday, 18th September 2023 at 11.25 a.m.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Cathy Bennett presided.

Present: Cllrs. Paudge Connolly, David Maxwell, Brian McKenna, and Seamus Treanor.

Apologies: Cllrs Raymond Aughey & Sean Conlon

In Attendance: Brendan Smyth, Deputising Director of Services, Donal McElwain, Municipal District Co-ordinator, Michelle Curran, Senior Staff Officer, Darren Flanagan, Assistant Engineer, Stephen Donoghue, Assistant Engineer.

1. Confirmation of minutes

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

2. Matters Arising

Cllr Treanor requested an update on Killyvane lane.

Mr McElwain advised we are awaiting final agreements signed by all parties.

Cllr Treanor regarding the optics at Coolshannagh, passed congratulations for works at the Customs Site, structures to the front of the building has been removed and grass cut, thanks to Revenue.

3. Municipal District Co-Ordinator's Report

Cllr Connolly queried Emyvale renaming of Steele's Corner. Any submissions yet?

Mr McElwain advised none received yet, but this was only the first week.

Cllr Connolly spoke of the Rossmore Park toilet's vandalism to condemn same and asked should we install non-intrusive CCTV at Rossmore Forest Park?

Cllr Bennett agreed with this CCTV, asking if mobile CCTV could be utilised?

Mr McElwain advised of further vandalism last week to toilets. This has been reported to the Gardai and they investigated it last Friday.

Cllr Maxwell, can we put up signage re CCTV to discourage vandals?

Cllr Connolly Appeal to public if anyone has seen anything.

Cllr Maxwell asked for update on CCTV Monaghan Town – Time frame?

Mr. McElwain advised Civil Works Contractor to be completed by year end. Camera and maintenance contract to be tendered and completed Q1, 2024.

Cllr Treanor noted hedges/trees cutting at Castleshane, Ask Coillte to cut at their roadside hedges.

Also Beechgrove Lawns at back of houses, make contractor cut the trees down. The Municipal District needs to take urgent action.

Mr McElwain advised the District has written to the landowner again – no reply as yet.

Cllr Treanor asked are there laws regarding tree types and heights?

Mr McElwain advised no, once the trees are not a danger.

Cllr Bennett – Welcomed footpath works.

Cllr Connolly regarding Emyvale Road Corner asked if the new Speed Discrimination Traffic Light System could be installed and implemented here?

Cllr Connolly asked for a timescale for works by TII in this corner?

Mr McElwain – Road Section to meet TII to discuss in detail.

Cllr McKenna advised the safety of this road came up at SPC last week advising lights will automatically go red if you are in excess of speed limit, will stay green if within speed limit – sounds like a good system. No maps received yet but hopeful for this new system.

Cllr Bennett Town Team Report – Commend all involved in Giant Festival and Monaghan Town Business Awards launch. Encourage all to vote.

4. Presentation to the Municipal District Council by MCC Horticulturist Michael Carroll and Monaghan Tidy Towns Representative Emer Brennan.

Detailed presentation from Michael Carroll and Emer Brennan on the works completed around the Monaghan Municipal District and the judging of Monaghan in the National Tidy Towns Competition. Works included biodiversity and sustainable planting, wildflower beds, apple trees and wild rose plants, cut grass and biodiversity green areas, work along the Greenway and around Monaghan town.

Praise from councillors and additional areas mentioned for future works.

Thanks and congratulations passed by all Councillors present to the District and the Tidy Towns team on a job well done. Ms. Brennan advised the priorities going forward for Tidy Towns will be plants in ground and advised the Tidy Towns National Awards take place in October.

5. Parking Bye Laws

It was proposed by Cllr Treanor, seconded by Cllr McKenna and unanimously agreed that the Parking Bye Laws be adopted.

6. Naming Development

It was proposed by Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr Treanor and unanimously agreed the adopted name of *Ard Cúil Seana (Height of Seanach's Refuge)* for proposed development of 10 residential units at Coolshannagh for PDES Ltd under permission ref. 21/549.

7. Questions and Motions

Cllr. C Bennett asked:

1. Can Monaghan County Council please investigate the possibility of ramps on the Roslea road out of Scotstown. There are 3 housing estates on this road and traffic calming measures are urgently needed. Corcaghan recently had ramps installed.

Response:

The council will investigate this road and assess the need for Traffic Calming within the 50kph.

2. Can I please have an update on road repairs on the Smithboro Rd out of Scotstown. The road is in a terrible state following on from the construction of houses in Lui na Greine.

Response:

The Municipal District have procured a contractor to complete patches on the LP2021 Scotstown to Smithboro Road. These works to be complete in Q4 2023

3. Can I please have an update from the Active Travel team on the footpath between Ballinode and Scotstown.

Response:

Roads Section/Active Travel have tendered for the feasibility design of a footpath from Ballinode to the Kilmore GAA pitches. Tender submissions are currently being assessed.

4. I previously asked if it was Irish waters responsibility to fix roads after they had damaged them laying pipes etc Can I please get a response.

Response:

There are generally retention periods for this type of construction contract and during this (defects) period it is the responsibility of the contractor to make good any defects.

5. Can the Bridges at Lemaculla, Tydavnet and Lennaght, Knockatallon please be repaired.

Response:

The Municipal District are planning these works and have included them in the works scheduled to be complete by year end.

Cllr. S. Conlon asked:

1. Following my previous question tabled in March, what progress has occurred regarding installation of a pedestrian crossing at Latlorcan in the vicinity of Bogues garage which will enhance pedestrian and road user safety, especially considering the substantial current and proposed new housing in the area, along with a new creche facility opening next year?

Response:

There are plans to develop Active Travel facilities along the N2 via Corlat roundabout which would include a pedestrian crossing in the vicinity of Bogues.

2. Across the three Municipal District areas, what number of temporary outdoor staff were recruited during the summer season, and for what duration of employment?

Response:

6 no. general operative staff were recruited during the summer season to the 31st October 2023.

3. With water mains work substantially completed on the Mall Rd., will drainage and resurfacing works follow soon after Uisce Éireann complete their upgrade works?

Response:

The Uisce Éireann watermain replacement works are near complete on the Mall Road. The works are ongoing on the Glen Road. The proposed Road Restoration Improvement works, i.e. drainage and road resurfacing have been deferred and are due to be completed in 2024.

4. For the purpose of reducing Heavy Goods Vehicles travelling through Glaslough Street and Dublin Street, when are the HGV restrictions anticipated to come into force?

Response:

There are two elements to the signage installation, the TII are to erect the signage on the National Roads and the Council are to erect the signage on the Non-National Roads. All signage due to be erected by end of October 2023 and at this stage the HGV restrictions can be put in place.

5. What progress has occurred following a site meeting at Latlorcan with Elected Members and Housing Officers, and follow up agreement with the Housing Section to proceed with sale of additional serviced sites at this extensive land bank?

Response:

5 additional sites suitable for the construction of individual houses have been identified.

The sites vary in size from circa 550 square metres (similar size to the 6 sites sold previously) to 1,200 square metres (3 times the size of sites sold previously).

The process of procurement of an agent to advertise and deal with the sales of the sites on behalf of Monaghan County Council is in progress.

It is intended that the agent will be appointed in late September or early October and the sites will be advertised following that.

Cllr. P. Connolly asked:

1. What plans have Monaghan MD to resolve flooding issues which occur on the North side of Tydavnet Village during wet weather and proves hazardous to all traffic?

Response:

The Municipal District have cleared the gullies at this location. They will engage with the landowner to organise additional drainage/gully in the location.

Motions:

That Monaghan Municipal District Councillors:

- **Stands in solidarity with FÓRSA members in Monaghan County Council and other local authorities across the state as they commence industrial action to address issues around job evaluation and pay;**

- **supports their call for a formal job evaluation process to ensure workers jobs are properly graded and enumerated;**
- **calls on Minister for Housing Darragh O'Brien, the LGMA and the executive of Monaghan County Council to return to negotiations with FÓRSA and to agree a mechanism for progressing the job evaluation process.**

Cllr. Sean Conlon

Cllr McKenna proposed Cllr Conlon motion re Forsa Seconded by Cllr Connolly.
Cllr Treanor stated Forsa union needs to support Libraries in their disagreement.
The motion was agreed unanimously.

That in view of the health related issues and addictive problems associated with vaping, that Monaghan Municipal District Council call on the Government and Minister for Health to introduce legislation to ban the sale of vaping products to Under 18 years of age, to ensure that vapes are kept in closed containers in retail outlets, to ensure that vapes are labelled with health warnings, to ban the advertisement of vapes and ensure that vapes are banned from school grounds and on school transport.

Cllr. Paudge Connolly

Cllr. Connolly proposed this motion and was seconded by Cllr. Bennett.

8. Sympathies

All members passed a vote of sympathy with the O'Reilly family on the death of Cllr. Damien O'Reilly, Meath County Council member

All members passed a vote of sympathy with Bishop Larry Duffy on the death of Bishop McDaid.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Dated this 18th day of September 2023

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____
Meetings Administrator