

Municipal District of Monaghan

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held in Council Chamber, M-Tek 1 Building, Knockaconny, Co Monaghan on Monday, 19th February 2024 at 11.30a.m.

Chair: The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Cathy Bennett presided.

Present: Cllrs. Sean Conlon, Seamus Treanor, Raymond Aughey, Paudge Connolly and David Maxwell.

Patricia Monahan, Director of Services, Donal McElwain, Municipal District Co-ordinator, Michelle Curran, Administrative Officer, Ruairi O'Neill, Executive Engineer.

In Attendance: Laura Hannon, Monaghan Business Support Executive, Denise O'Neill, Clerical Officer, Planning.

Absent: Cllr. Brian McKenna joined meeting at 12.27p.m.

1. Confirmation of minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. Conlon, seconded by Cllr. Aughey, it was agreed that the minutes of the Municipal District meeting held on 15th January 2024 be confirmed.

2. Matters Arising

The following updates were provided from Matters Arising:

- Park Street & Market Street Town & Village Renewal Scheme - The painting works will commence when weather conditions are suitable. The Town Regeneration staff are in discussion with derelict site owners.
- Scotstown to Ballinode Link –The draft feasibility study and options considered will be presented to the Members at the April meeting.
- Low Cost Safety Scheme- Scotstown –Mr. Mc Elwain confirmed that the €20,000 investment is for Low Cost Safety Scheme on Knockatallon Road. He undertook to seek answers from the Roads Department and Climate Action Department re other schemes queried by Cllr. Bennett.
- Emyvale Road Safety Improvement Scheme – An update is included in the February Co-ordinators report.
- Rossmore Park Numbers Trail – Mr. McElwain met the sculptors in the previous week with design proposals expected by end of February.
- Rossmore Park Giants QR Code – IS Dept are investigating if a location point for QR code can be achieved with the use of the solar panels as a power supply. The alternative option will be signage placed at each giant throughout the park, detailing name and background.
- Emyvale Bus Shelter Location – Community meeting to be held next week to discuss the bus shelter location and installation.
- Glen Road Culvert Works – Members requested assurance that roadworks notices would be advertised on Monaghan Co. Council website.

- Cllr. Aughey requested an update on his question regarding pedestrian crossings at Scotstown, Ballinode & Tydavnet. Requests have been forwarded to Roads Department.
- Belgium Park – Mr. McElwain confirmed that MD is the keyholder for Belgium Park, all users must book through MD office and provide a copy of their insurance at time of booking.
- Members welcomed the upgrade works at Hollywood Park.
- Members extended their thanks to Municipal District Outdoor Staff regarding the clearance of trees and cleanup following the recent storm.
- Following discussions regarding road conditions and slipping verges, Mr. McElwain advised elected members to submit road numbers for investigation by engineers.

3. Coordinators Report

Mr. McElwain answered the councillors' queries on the information provided in the Coordinators Report.

- Dublin Street Regeneration works are funded through the Historic Town Initiative.
- Monaghan Town CCTV Update- Civil works are now 80% complete. The tender for the cameras will close 20th February and following assessment of the tenders, initial letters are expected to be posted within 2 weeks to contractors.
- Active Travel for the Greenway at Old Cross Square roundabout, Mr. McElwain confirmed that works are proceeding in this area on the Mall Road under the Active Travel Team.

Cllr. Treanor left the meeting for 1 minute.

- Non-National Roads Program- Glen Road Culvert – Mr. McElwain advised the diversion works have commenced with traffic reduced to 2 lanes. Mr. O'Neill noted Members' complaints of long delays on the Clones Road and the traffic lights sequence. He will refer both to the Roads Section for investigation. Members requests for a stop sign at Park Street and a Yield sign on Clones road at the roundabout to be referred to Roads Section.
- Regarding the request for a by-pass to reduce congestion on the Clones Road, Ms. Monahan advised that a Strategic Assessment has been submitted to TII and MCC has been advised that as the project is not listed in the NDP it is not currently listed for progression as a funded scheme. Cllr. Connolly requested this Council write to Minister of Transport to reactivate the proposal and to get an update on the status of this project. This motion was seconded by Cllr. Bennett and supported by members present.
- Cllr. Aughey requested a detailed timeline of all submissions to TII through the Roads Section. Cllr, Aughey also requested that a copy of this timeline is also shared with Monaghan Oireachtas Representatives.

- Cllr. Treanor requested that Roads Section review the pedestrian traffic lights sequence at The Diamond with a view to introducing an intermittent red light to allow clearance of traffic from Church Square onto Dublin Street.
- Cllr. Treanor requested that the pedestrian crossing at Macartan road be removed.
- Members welcomed Ms. Laura Hannon, new Monaghan Business Support Executive within Monaghan MD office.
- The members extended an invite to all community groups and businesses to participate in this year's St Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday 17th March at 3pm in Monaghan Town. This year's theme is Monaghan Folklore.
- Monaghan Country Music Festival will return this year on 18th July to the 21st July.

Cllr. Brian McKenna joined the meeting at 12.27pm.

4. Questions and Motions

Cllr. R. Aughey asked:

1. Is there an Active Travel Plan either approved or in development that incorporates the Clones Road section from the Retail Park to Agrihealth?
 - a) If so, please provide details of the proposed plan for this section of road.
 - b) Please provide the results of the most recent Road Traffic Survey conducted along this section of the N54 Clones Road including the average speed percentiles.
 - c) Please confirm any plans that MCC have to reduce speed limits and improve safety for Active Travel Users along this stretch of road.

Response:

- a. **The plan is to extent the Ulster Canal Greenway from Monaghan to Smithborough, picking up the Greenway at the Threemilehouse Junction, Part 8 planning is to be submitted for this section within the next month. In addition to the Greenway the Local Area Transport Plan will assess the need and provide recommendations for active travel scheme within Monaghan Town. This section of road is within the study area.**
- b. **There are no up to date speed surveys for this location, MCC will carry out a traffic survey and revert for next MD council meeting.**
- c. **This section of road is currently 50KPH, if the recommendations from the national speed limit review are realised it is possible that this section of road could be reduced to 30KPH.**

Cllr. S. Conlon asked:

1. Following the launch of the National Outdoor Recreation Strategy by the Department of Rural and Community Development last November titled 'Embracing Ireland's Outdoors', and the subsequent failure for County Monaghan to secure funding for an Outdoor Recreational Officer post aligned to that Strategy, when is it anticipated that the allocation of €30,000 being made available to all Local Authorities will become available to our Council to commence work on developing a County Outdoor Recreation Plan and establishing a Committee?

Response:

This funding requires an expression of interest to be submitted by the 1st of April. The council are currently working to complete this application. If successful it is expected that the plans will be fully developed during 2024.

2. Will the Council confirm that place names and routes such as Quarry Walk, Davnets Row, Davnets Plaza and Infirmary Hill, as indicated on the Part 8 application recently advertised for the proposed civic offices at Rooskey, are of an indicative nature only, and that future naming will be initiated through a public consultation process?

Response:

The names on the roads and walkways (Quarry Walk, Davnets Row, Davnets Plaza and Infirmary Hill) referred to in the Part 8 Planning Application for the Civic Offices were reference names from the Variation No. 4 (Roosky Lands, Masterplan) to the County Monaghan Development Plan 2019-2025 which states "Street names are indicative only and used for identification".

Future naming will involve a public consultation process.

3. For the purpose of encouraging Active Travel measures, will Council Executive and Roads Section engage with the landowner in the centre of Annyalla in relation to accessing a small parcel of land for the purpose of coordinating with the relevant agencies in installing a bus shelter?

Response:

The council will investigate the possibility of installing a bus shelter at this location.

Cllr. P. Connolly asked:

1. What plans have Monaghan Municipal District to improve road safety at Davagh Cross (T-Junction) for traffic coming from Emyvale direction i.e. L 11531/L 1153?

Response:

This junction is currently not part of any Low-Cost Safety Scheme; however the Municipal District of Monaghan will carry out a review of this junction to determine if any improvement works are required.

2. What plans have Monaghan Municipal District to improve road safety at Tierney's Cross for traffic coming from the Emyvale Road direction i.e. L 51153/ L 1153?

Response:

This junction is currently not part of any Low-Cost Safety Scheme, however the Municipal District of Monaghan will carry out a review of this junction to determine if any improvement works are required.

3. In view of the fact that in the past 6 months 2 cars travelling towards Glaslough and 2 cars travelling in the opposite direction have gone off the road into the fields on either side of the junction of the Glaslough/Tirevera road junction (R 185-2 & L53111) what plans have Monaghan Municipal District to erect high vis signage or crash barrier to prevent recurrence of these incidents? —Cars losing control at this stretch has been an ongoing feature.

Response:

The council have carried out an initial assessment of this location to determine if additional safety measures are required. Upgrading of line marking and signage is planned in Q1, 2024.

Motions:

That this Council write to Garda Chief Superintendent Alan McGovern seeking his attendance at a sub-committee meeting of the Municipal District to discuss the issue of increasing resources required to escalate the presence of a dedicated Garda Drugs Unit and Community Engagement Officer in Monaghan Town.

Cllr. S. Conlon

This motion was seconded by Cllr. Bennett and supported by all present with requests to also include Superintendent Pat O'Connell and Monaghan County Council Tenant Liaison Officer.

That this council write to the Ministry of Justice that amendments be made to current legislation that uncontrolled migrants arriving into our country with no documentation be deported within 48 hours.

Also, migrants habitual criminal offenders be immediately deported.

Cllr. S. Treanor

This motion was seconded by Cllr. Connolly and supported by all present.

5. Section 183: Lease of the 1st Floor in the Motor Tax Building to CMETB.

Members considered a proposal under Section 183 for a retrospective lease to be approved for the Lease of the 1st Floor of the Motor Tax Building to Cavan and Monaghan Education & Training Board from 2008 to 2024 inclusive. A lease agreement for a period greater than one year requires a Section 183 notice to be approved.

The Section 183 was proposed by Cllr. Connolly and seconded by Cllr. Treanor. Cllrs. Maxwell & Conlon abstained from this decision as they are both members of the Cavan and Monaghan Education & Training Board.

6. Votes of Congratulations and Sympathies

It was proposed that the sympathy of the Council be extended to the Pascal Rooney, Water Services, on the passing of his mother Molly Rooney, Tullyhatina, Castleblayney, Monaghan.

7. A.O.B.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Dated this 19th February 2024.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____
Meetings Administrator