

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 April 2024 at 11.40a.m.

Chair: The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Cathy Bennett presided.

Present: Cllrs. Seamus Treanor, Raymond Aughey, Brian McKenna, 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.

Absent: Cllr. Conlon joined meeting at 12.10p.m.

1. Confirmation of minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. Maxwell, seconded by Cllr. Aughey, it was agreed that the minutes of the Municipal District meeting held on 25th March 2024 be confirmed.

2. Matters Arising

No matters arising.

3. Coordinators Report

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

- Mr. McElwain confirmed that Hollywood Park would be completed by early May 2024.
- Mr. McElwain confirmed that the Town Regeneration Team have written to the Park Street property Owner. Due process is being followed with regards to vacant buildings legislation for this property.
- Mr. McElwain confirmed the Glen Road Culvert Works are progressing well and on schedule despite the rain over the last number of weeks increasing the water levels within the culvert.
- Mr. McElwain will refer the issue of graffiti along the Aldi site hoarding to Planning and Roads Section for discussion with Aldi to repaint.
- Mr. McElwain confirmed that works are ongoing for the installation of the numbers trail within Rossmore Park. Funding of €30,000 has been secured under the ORIS funding scheme. This will also facilitate the installation of a further giant squirrel structure which will also be funded by Creative Ireland funding.
- Ms. Monahan confirmed that following Minister Humphrey's visit to Rossmore Park on 11th April and her assurance to assist in further funding streams, Coillte have submitted an application to her office for funding to complete upgrade works to the Rossmore Park Toilet facilities.
- Mr. O'Neill confirmed the next stage identified under policy for Mullan Village is additional line markings. A traffic survey will be completed in 6 months following the line markings and a review of the traffic calming measures will be undertaken.

- Members welcomed the film production work being undertaken in the area by Deadpan Pictures, bringing an estimated €1.2m boost to the local economy. Members noted with regret some negative social media posts about the venture.
- Mr. McElwain to follow-up with the Roads Section regarding the yellow Junction Box on the Clones Road (N54) exit from Park Road.

Cllr. Maxwell left the meeting at 11.43am and returned at 12.19pm

4.Housing Update 2024

Presentation of Housing Department Update 2024 by Mr. Nial O'Connor and his team to members. The Housing team answered the councillors' queries as follows.

- Mr. O'Connor confirmed that if a HAP landlord is selling a property, Monaghan County Council will attempt to purchase the property where possible.
- Mr. O'Connor confirmed that Monaghan County Council are always open to meeting with housing developers regarding new housing developments and obtaining properties.
- Mr. O'Connor confirmed the Monaghan County Council will develop a "Right-Sizing Policy" where tenants are encouraged to downsize their social housing in-line with the number residing within the property.
- Mr. O'Connor confirmed that affordable housing schemes are available to those who qualify within the affordable housing scheme income thresholds and criteria.
- Mr. O'Connor confirmed Monaghan County Council are ahead of target to deliver social housing in 2024.
- Mr. O'Connor encouraged all tenants to avail of the Energy Efficiency upgrades within the social housing sector as they have seen the results of properties retaining heat due to the increased insulation and as a result, a reduction in heating bills. The Housing Department will continue to engage with all tenants to achieve the Energy Efficiency across all Council owned properties.

5.Section 183: Lease of Lands to Glaslough Harriers Athletic Club

Members considered a proposal under Section 183 for a lease of lands located at Derrygassan Upper, Emyvale, Co Monaghan to Glaslough Harriers Athletic Club for the term of 20 years at a cost of €200.00 per annum.

The Section 183 was proposed by Cllr. Connolly and seconded by Cllr. McKenna and agreed by all members present.

6.Questions and Motions

Cllr. R. Aughey asked:

1. Can Monaghan Municipal District,
 - A) upgrade the raised crossing in Glaslough Village to recommended specifications given its current condition and install a ramp outside the community centre to ensure the safety of vehicles exiting same?

Response:

The Municipal District of Monaghan will assess this raised crossing and carry out any necessary repair works. The need for an additional ramp at the Community Centre will be assessed in line with the new Traffic Calming Policy.

B) Can Monaghan Municipal District provide additional signage before and after the ramp?

Response:

The signage currently installed at this location meets the requirements of the Traffic Signs Manual and is therefore sufficient for this raised crossing.

2. Further to my previous question of May 2023, where I sought an update about pedestrian crossings for the villages of Tydavnet, Scotstown and Ballinode given the problems with speed in the villages.

Can the council complete quality audits in each village to determine appropriate locations?

Response:

A request for funding for a study of the proposed areas can be resubmitted to the NTA. However the annual NTA funding for 2024 has been allocated.

3. Can Monaghan Municipal District install a Driver Feedback Sign at the entrance to Scotstown village at St. Dympha's Terrace in the interest of resident safety.

Response:

The Municipal District of Monaghan will carry out an assessment of this location in line with the recently adopted Traffic Calming Policy. This assessment will consider the most appropriate traffic calming measures for this location.

Please note, we are also carrying out assessments on the Knockatallon and the Rosslea Roads.

4. In the interest of safety for the residents of Tyholland new houses, can the council install a solid centre white line on the N12 to ensure that the residents safety while exiting their estate is paramount.

Response:

The Roads Section will assess the location and will consult with the TII. Any change to the National Road network requires TII approval.

Cllr. P. Connolly asked:

1. In order to facilitate the entry and exit of traffic from Knockroe Glen housing development onto the Clones Rd what plans have Monaghan Municipal District to create a yellow box to ensure a smooth flow of traffic?

Response:

The Roads Section will assess the location and will consult with the TII. Any change to the National Road network requires TII approval.

Motions:

That in view of the fact that it is the stated aim of Waterways Ireland to restore the Ulster Canal thus having a navigable waterway from Belfast to Limerick and the fact that the Canal route passes through Monaghan town centre that Monaghan Municipal District seek funding to undertake a feasibility study to restore the part of the canal that passes through the town and in particular the section from the Coolshannagh roundabout to the Threemilehouse / Clones Road junction which in turn would help to showcase our waterways heritage and its value to our island.

Cllr. P. Connolly

The motion was proposed by Cllr. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Treanor and supported by Cllrs. Bennett, Conlon, McKenna, and Aughey. Cllr. Maxwell abstained from the vote.

7. Correspondance

None.

8. Votes of Congratulations and Sympathies

It was proposed that the sympathy of the Council be extended to the Ruairi Duffy, Monaghan Municipal District General Operative, on the passing of his sister Genevieve Duffy, 168 Beechgrove Lawns, Monaghan Town.

9.A.O.B.

None.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Dated this 15th April 2024.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____
Meetings Administrator