

## **Municipal District of Monaghan**

**Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held in Council Chamber, M-Tek 1 Building, Knockaconny, Co Monaghan on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 11.44a.m.**

**Chair:** The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Cathy Bennett presided.

**Present:** Cllrs. Sean Conlon, 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.

### **1. Confirmation of minutes**

On the proposal of Cllr. Conlon, seconded by Cllr. Maxwell, it was agreed that the minutes of the Municipal District meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024 be confirmed.

### **2. Matters Arising**

The following updates were provided from Matters Arising:

- The outcome following the recent community meeting regarding the Emyvale Bus Shelter Location- The Municipals District to provide a sketch of the proposal to the Emyvale Development Association.
- Rossmore Park Numbers Trail – Mr. McElwain met the sculptors in the previous week and a design proposal has been agreed for the first four sculptors.
- Rossmore Park Giants QR Code – IS Dept confirmed that coverage will not be adequate to allow scanning QR codes. MD Executive will proceed with signage placed at each giant. Laura Hannon is working with Paul Bond to produce this signage project.
- Scotstown to Ballinode Link –Mr. McElwain advised that following the draft feasibility study, no decisions will be made on this project until all of the proposals have been fully reviewed.
- Low-Cost Safety Scheme- Knockatallon Road, Scotstown. Mr O'Neill confirmed that this scheme will be assessed in line with the current traffic calming policy.
- Requested Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District Council with An Garda Siochana Superintendent Pat O'Connell. Cllr Mc Kenna requested the Cathaoirleach to follow up with S.I. Pat O'Connell's office to schedule this meeting.

### **3. Coordinators Report**

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

- Monaghan Town CCTV Update- Civil works are now 95% complete. The tender for the cameras were evaluated in February and assessment of the tenders is ongoing at present.
- Non-National Roads Program- Complaints noted from members regarding potholes, lying water, verge outlets closed and slipping verges. All members are asked to report issues including Road number, geolocation or Eircode for addition to the Defects App. Mr. McElwain advised recent weather has not allowed for repairs, however Velocity Patcher and full team are working to address all repairs as quickly as possible.
- Congratulations expressed to all participants involved in 2024 St. Patrick's Day Parade with special thanks to An Garda Siochana, Monaghan Fire Service, the Organising Committee, Stewarts, Volunteers and Monaghan Motor Club. Winners of St. Patrick's Day Parade to be awarded at next Municipal District meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

#### **4. Schedule of Municipal District Works**

Presentation of Schedule of Municipal District Works by Mr. McElwain to members. Mr. McElwain answered the councillors' queries as follows.

- Mr. McElwain advised that we are awaiting the tenders to be evaluated for the re-surfacing to confirm if all works will proceed on the 2024 Roads Restoration Programme.
- Mr. McElwain confirmed the increase to Sweep & Scavage budget due to increased costs & wages.
- The schedule of Works was proposed by Cllr. Aughey, seconded by Cllr. McKenna and agreed by all present.

#### **5. Questions and Motions**

**Cllr. C. Bennett asked:**

1. Can the Municipal District please give a completion date for the works at the Courthouse and the proposed plans there?

**Response:**

**The ongoing works at Church Square will be substantially completed by the end of April 2024. These works will transform Church Square into a new performance/event space incorporating urban planting, feature lighting and seating areas.**

2. Can Monaghan County Council please add road L6010 to the roads programme? I have made numerous enquiries about this road and I would like confirmation of this.

**Response:**

**Road number L-6010 is not on the current 2024 -2027 Roads Programme as adopted by the Elected Members in November 2023. The Municipal District of Monaghan will add this road to the list of roads for future consideration.**

3. Can Monaghan County Council please give me an update on the feasibility study and progress for the walkway/ cycle way between Scotstown and Ballinode Villages?

**Response:**

**The council are still progressing the feasibility study and option selection report. A number of options are being explored and it is planned to have this report completed in April.**

**Cllr. S. Conlon asked:**

1. Following on my previous appeals in holding the builder / developer accountable for multiple civil infrastructure flaws throughout Knockroe Glen, Clones Rd., and seeking remedial works to be undertaken, what is the update on enforcement proceedings being taken by this Council aimed at addressing multiple issues including:
- a) driveway and footpath subsidence
  - b) damaged drainage pipe network causing smell from gullies
  - c) culverting of polluted stream
  - d) wastewater treatment pumping station
  - e) unfinished tarmac overlay
  - f) damaged kerbing
  - g) speed reduction measures.

**Response:**

**The Housing, Planning and Monaghan Municipal District sections of the Local Authority remain in on-going discussions with the developer regarding the finishing out of the estate to taking in charge standards. Several site meetings have been held. At present the developer has contractors on-site remedying outstanding matters**

2. Following the retrofitting works on Council dwellings that results in a 100% reliance on electricity for heating and lighting, what emergency measures are in place during severe storm occurrences such as Storm Isha in protecting our most vulnerable citizens that may be left with no electricity for days on end?

**Response:**

**Oil fired heating systems, stoves with back boilers as well as heat pumps all require electricity to operate. Therefore, all vulnerable citizens should register with their Electricity Supplier to be placed on the Vulnerable Customer list irrespective of their heating system. For more information see [Vulnerable Customer Policy \(esbnetworks.ie\)](http://www.esbnetworks.ie).**

**All members of the community should also follow the advice contained in be winter ready guidance. [gov - Be Winter Ready \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie).**

**It should also be noted that the increased insulation and draughtproofing / airtightness provided for in an upgraded Council housing stock will result in homes that will stay warmer for longer when there is a power cut.**

3. For the purpose of enhancing our Tidy Towns appearance, and compensating for absences that occur during summer annual leave taken by staff, will the Municipal District Executive give assurances that two temporary outdoor staff will be recruited in May for the purpose of avoiding gaps in the provision of essential services in maintaining outdoor spaces, and additional duties undertaken during months of good weather? Similarly, can flexi-time hours be facilitated for Outdoor Staff that will allow them to extend / alter their working day when occasional dry weather conditions prevail for grass cutting?

**Response:**

**I wish to advise that we have a General Operative panel in place. HR will recruit two seasonal outdoor staff for Monaghan Municipal District similarly to previous years. Please note flexi-hours cannot be facilitated for Outdoor Staff as this would have to be considered nationally.**

4. As per the attached photograph of a large tree limb close to Horseshoe Bridge that collapsed following moderate to strong wind conditions on March 1st, will Council officials undertake an assessment of this tree to consider substantial trimming or removal? And can a similar exercise take place of trees located along parking bays at Connolly Park / Killygoan that have the potential to cause damage to parked cars?



**Response:**

**The trees pictured in the Horsebridge area are situated on lands not owned by Monaghan County Council. The Municipal District of Monaghan will assess the trees and make contact with the landowner for any necessary action.**

**The Municipal District of Monaghan will arrange for these trees in the Connolly Park/Killygoan area to be assessed to determine if they pose a risk to the public.**

5. Further to recent road drainage works and filling of potholes on the Lisdrumdoagh Road at Aghintamy, what long term solutions are planned for this road that will eliminate repeated and costly maintenance works?

**Response:**

**The Lisdrumdoagh Road is not on the current 2024 -2027 Roads Programme as adopted by the Elected Members in November 2023. The Municipal District of Monaghan will add this road to the list of roads for future consideration.**

**Cllr. B. McKenna asked:**

1. When will works to remove the dangerous corner at St. Patrick's N.S. Clara be carried out which has been allocated €18,000 under the Small Safety Scheme by the Dept. of Transport?

**Response:**

**The Low Cost Safety Improvement works on the LP- 11131 at St. Patrick's N.S. Clara will be completed in Q3 2024.**

2. What progress has been made in relation to discussions with sporting groups in Emyvale as to the possible uses of the recently purchased 'Red Peter's building in the village?

**Response:**

**Monaghan County Council has submitted an Expression of Interest for the Project Development Measure under Town & Village to secure funding to help progress this project to construction stage. Should we be successful in our application, during this process and to ensure that the Community Hub meets the needs of the entire community, a comprehensive consultation process will be conducted to ensure full engagement of the community to determine the design and end use of the building.**

**Motion.**

**That Monaghan Municipal District introduce the 50km speed limit from Connolly's Bridge, Ballinode to Ballinode Village.**

*Cllrs. Cathy Bennett, Sean Conlon, Brian McKenna*

Discussion on this motion followed. During discussion it was noted that this request has already been brought before the Speed Limit Committee previously.

Agreed to write to the Speed Limit Committee again and also to the Roads Section.

**6.Section 183: Lease of the Lands in Glaslough**

This request was deferred to next month's meeting.

**7.Correspondance**

As noted.

**8.Votes of Congratulations and Sympathies**

It was proposed that the congratulations of the Council be extended to Calum Sherry of Monaghan Harps Handball Club, on winning the Under 16 All Ireland 40x20 title. Calum is the grandson of former outdoor overseer in the North Monaghan Municipal District, Seamus Sherry.

**9.A.O.B.**

**Naming of Proposed New Housing Estates at Latlorcan, Monaghan Town**

Mr. McElwain advised of proposed names of Slí Lorcáin and An Leacht for two housing developments at Latlorcan, Monaghan Town.  
Both names were proposed by Cllr. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. McKenna and agreed by all.

**Coach Parking**

Cllr. Aughey requested Monaghan Municipal District to consider the creation of a Coach set-down and parking area and requested the executive to contact coach owners to discuss possible locations.

**Mullan Village.**

Cllr. McKenna requested that the next stage of traffic calming measures to be installed at Mullan village as a matter of urgency.

**Littering of Rubbish**

Cllr. Connolly noted the littering of our public amenities around Rossmore Park and requested additional signage regarding littering to be installed.

**Motion of Urgent Business**

That in view of the fact that the UK Government have postponed the proposed increase on excise duty on fuel & the impact this will have on the fuel price differential, North & South of the border and the negative impact this will have on the fuel retailers in our border areas, that Monaghan MD calls on the Minister for Finance to take similar action and postpone the proposed planned increases on excise duties on fuel scheduled for April 1<sup>st</sup> and August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Cllr. Paudge Connolly

A discussion followed regarding the motion.

This motion was proposed by Cllr. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Treanor and supported by all members present.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Dated this 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

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

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