

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held in the Council Chamber, M-Tek I Building, Knockaconny, Monaghan on Tuesday, 29th April 2025 at 4.45pm.

Present: Cllr Seán Conlon, Cathaoirleach
Cllrs Pauric Clerkin, Raymond Aughey, Niamh McCooey, Alan Johnston, Seamus Treanor and Bronagh McAree

In attendance: Ms. Patricia Monahan, Director of Services, Mr. Donal McElwain, Municipal District Co-Ordinator, Mr. Ruairi O'Neill, Executive Engineer and Ms. Liz Brannigan, Administrative Officer

1. Confirmation of Minutes of MD Meeting held on 18th March 2025

On the proposal of Cllr R. Aughey, seconded by Cllr N. McCooey, it was agreed that the Minutes of the Monaghan Municipal District Meeting held on 18th March 2025 be confirmed.

2. Matters Arising

On a proposal by Cllr Seán Conlon, seconded by Cllr Allan Johnston, that the Belgium Park football field be made available to the residents of the new housing development, Railway View, with gates being opened/locked daily by MD Staff and the pitch being available to paying teams, when required. As there are numerous issues to consider, including having the pitch available for football team and minimising damage to the pitch for football teams, it was agreed the MD Executive would assess possibilities in relation to Belgium Park and report back to Members at the May Meeting.

3. Report from Municipal District Coordinator

Mr. D. McElwain, MD Coordinator, took Members through the April report. The Members noted the Report which had been circulated with the agenda.

The Director of Services and MD Coordinator responded to queries raised by the Members:

- MD Executive to provide Members with information on what projects are being considered under funding schemes such as Town & Village and CLÁR, and what match funding requirements will be.
- Regarding €135,000 allocated to the Emyvale Road Safety Scheme, versus the €1million sought, it was confirmed that the €135,000 will facilitate planning and design costs of the scheme. Members were informed that the commitment of funding from TII for the planning and design element of the works is an indicator of their commitment to the scheme.
- In relation to repairs needed to roads on the Pound Hill adjacent to McCarron's pub, it was confirmed there will be substantial patching works carried out in this area.
- Regarding the culvert works near Monaghan Credit Union, it was confirmed these works will not commence in 2025; money has been allocated towards the design stage only.
- In relation to the Town Centre First Plan and the establishment of a subcommittee of the Town Team to consider projects to develop from the Action Plan, it was confirmed that EOI's are being sought; to be submitted by end of May. It was agreed to bring any project considerations to Members attention.
- In relation to a proposal regarding a bus shelter in Emyvale, it was agreed to follow up with MCC's Community Section on previous conversations with local community groups in relation to this matter.

On the proposal of Cllr Pauric Clerkin, seconded by Cllr Seamus Treanor, it was agreed that Monaghan MD write to both the Minister for Justice, Jim O'Callaghan, TD, and the Minister for Transport, Darragh O'Brien, TD, seeking clarity as to who polices e-scooters and e-bikes on all local roads.

This call follows an incident where an elderly lady was knocked over in a hit-and-run incident in Monaghan Town, which led to a lengthy hospital stay. We always encourage active travel and we must do all in our power to keep all road users safe.

On the proposal of Cllr Bronagh McAree, seconded by Cllr Niamh McCooey, it was agreed that Monaghan MD write to the NTA and the Minister for Transport, Daragh O'Brien, asking again that they urgently provide a bus shelter at Ballyoisin and Emyvale ensuring the safety of those using school / public transport.

4. Correspondence

There was no correspondence circulated with the meeting agenda.

5. Questions and Motions

Questions:

Cllr Bronagh McAree:

1. Could Monaghan County Council please provide an update on taking in charge of estates at Ballyoisin, Knockconan, Emyvale

Response:

Oisín Vale and Oisín Briain are served by a standalone wastewater treatment plant. This is classed as developer provided infrastructure. In a letter to Local Authorities in 2024, Uisce Éireann have advised that they have been assigned responsibility for the remediation / maintenance of developer provided infrastructure. They further advised that this will take time to resolve and that a range of resolution options are likely to be considered and used.

When taking in charge of an estate, the Local Authority is obliged to take in charge all infrastructure and cannot decide to omit certain elements (such as standalone wastewater treatment systems). In the case of the taking in charge of Oisín Vale and Oisín Briain, if the Local Authority proceeds to take in charge the development before any decision by Uisce Éireann, it could be liable for the future maintenance and repair of the wastewater treatment system. The Planning Authority have been advised by UE in February 2025 that a sectoral DPI Steering Group has been established and the Terms of Reference for the group have been agreed. It is being led by DHLGH and has representation from UÉ and from the LA sector. The purpose of the Steering Group is to give effect to the decision made to assign responsibility for the remediation / maintenance of DPIs to UÉ and on the range of tasks required. This is expected to take some time.

2. Could Monaghan County Council please consider installing public toilets at Emy Lake?

Response:

This is a community run facility, and the community will mostly likely have to apply for Planning Permission depending on the detail of the facilities considering the sensitivity of the lake amenity. The Council will work with the local committee to explore possible options.

3. Could Monaghan County Council please provide an update on funding for works at the "Red boys" Emyvale and could MCC provide an update on maintenance works to the exterior of the building?

Response:

The Council is finalising documents for the engagement of consultants following the public consultation evening. It is planned to have consultants in place before end of Q2, 2025.

The Municipal District removed the vegetation and cleared the area. They are obtaining quotations to have the exterior painted in the short term.

Cllr Niamh McCooey:

1. Can Monaghan County Council confirm whether any correspondence has been received from Coillte in relation to the query I raised at the January 2025 Municipal District meeting concerning fence repairs at the entrance to the forest along the N2? If correspondence has been received, could the response from Coillte be shared?

Response:

Correspondence was received from Coillte in January confirming that they had planned to remove the fence. This was delayed following Storm Éowyn but the fence has now been removed.

2. Can Monaghan County Council advise when we can expect an update on the outcome of the funding applications submitted for the following schemes:

- a) Safety measures at the Castleshane junction with R213

Response:

The TII have provided a small allocation in 2025 to progress the safety scheme at Castleshane, however, the TII have not signed off on the Feasibility and Options report submitted by Monaghan County Council. Works on the scheme will likely be completed in 2026 subject to funding from the TII.

- b) Resurfacing works on the N12, from the Coolshannagh roundabout to Tyholland.

Response:

It is planned to deliver the resurfacing works on the N12 from Coolshannagh to Tyholland under the TII's HD28 allocation in 2025.

3. Can Monaghan County Council confirm how many applications have been received to date under the Affordable Housing Scheme, and of those, how many applicants currently reside within the Municipal District?

Response:

The portal for the affordable purchase scheme opened on Thursday 10th April and will close on 1st May.

Once the portal has closed applications will be assessed in line with the agreed scheme of priorities. Therefore, currently Housing are unable to provide this information.

4. Further to the question I raised at the January Municipal District meeting, can Monaghan County Council confirm whether Castleshane Village has been investigated to determine if additional road markings

could be installed in the area? If such an assessment has been carried out, what were the findings? If not, when does the Municipal District intend to undertake this investigation?

Response:

The regional road, R213 through Castleshane village, has been assessed and it is planned to install additional road marking over the coming months.

Cllr Alan Johnston:

1. How many festivals or shows has the Monaghan MD granted funding which take place in 2025 and the following two points apply:
 - The applicant provided a submission where it showed MD funding was required to cover event costs i.e. without MD funding the event would not be able to meet all its costs; and
 - The terms of drawdown require submission of invoices AND proof of payment before drawdown can take place

Response:

The Municipal District have only granted funding for one event in 2025 to date but there are other events planned. These conditions are standard conditions and are in line with good governance. The Municipal District work closely with event organising committees to assist in organising events for the district.

Motions:

On the proposal by Cllr Raymond Aughey, seconded by Cllr Alan Johnston, and agreed by all, that the Council invite the An Garda Síochána to our next Municipal District meeting to discuss the drugs situation in the Municipal District area.

On the proposal by Cllr Pauric Clerkin, seconded by Cllr Seán Conlon, and agreed by all that Monaghan County Council write to the Minister for Children, Norma Foley TD, asking that the Building Blocks Capital Programme for 2025/2026 be increased substantially taking onto consideration the current crisis in the Childcare Sector.

6. Votes of Congratulations and Sympathy

It was agreed to extend a vote of sympathy to Mr. Colm Lynch, GSS, Monaghan MD, on the passing of his brother, John.

It was agreed to extend a vote of sympathy to the family of Francis 'Frankie' Corrigan, former Monaghan Town Council and Monaghan MD Staff, who passed away on Monday 31st March.

It was agreed to extend a vote of sympathy to the family of PJ Holland, former Monaghan County Council staff, who passed away on Tuesday 8th April.

On the proposal of Cllr Alan Johnston, seconded by Cllr Raymond Aughey, it was agreed to extend a vote of congratulations to Cllr Pauric Clerkin and Laura on the birth of their daughter, Eala.

7. A.O.B.

Concerns were raised by Members regarding a parking issue outside Sloane's shop and the need for safety measures at this location.

Members enquired if a commitment had been given to Foróige for the provision of a MUGA at the Peace Campus.


In relation to a reduced speed limit on the N12 at Tyholland GAA Complex, MD Executive to contact Roads Dept for an update.

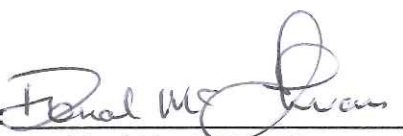
Members requested that the issue for residents parking in the area opposite McCarren's pub, be included in the next draft of the Parking bye laws, as this area is currently being used by the public for parking for long periods as it is outside the pay parking area.

The Cathaoirleach referred to correspondence received from Ms. Agnes Callaghan regarding a delegation, of 15, from Saint Avertin and Tours, France who are arriving on 27th May. It was agreed to look at holding a possible tour of the Peace Campus and/or a meal for the visitors.

The Cathaoirleach advised he is liaising with Corporate Services in relation to a proposal to invite the recently appointed Canadian Ambassador, Mr. Denis King, to Monaghan, while also being cognisant of Canada Day on July 1st.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: 
Cathaoirleach

Signed: 
Municipal District Coordinator

Dated this 19th day of May 2025