

Municipal District of Monaghan.

Minutes of Meeting of the Municipal District of Monaghan held in the Boardroom, Mtek 1 Building, Knockaconny on Monday, 19th October, 2015 at 3.00pm.

Cllr. Robbie Gallagher presided.

Present: Cllrs. David Maxwell, Paudge Connolly, Sean Conlon and Brian McKenna.

Apologies: Cllr. Seamus Treanor

In Attendance: Mr. John Murray, Director of Services, Mr. Donal McElwain, Municipal District Co-Ordinator, Ms. Bernie McElvaney, Senior Staff Officer.

Cllr. Gallagher welcomed all to the meeting.

1. Confirmation of minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr. McKenna, seconded by Cllr. Conlon, it was agreed that the minutes of the Municipal District of Monaghan meeting and the Budget Sub-Committee meeting held on the 21st September, 2015 be confirmed.

2. Matters arising:

Cllr. Conlon requested that a letter be re-issued to Bus Eireann emphasising that we have been seeking a meeting since January and requesting a meeting as soon as possible. Details were provided on the 3.15am bus route, one months statistics. Cllr Conlon requested a profile/punctuality programme for the entire year be sought.

Cllr Connolly suggested that we should outline issues that the members want to raise at the meeting with the Bus Eireann Representative – Trackers on buses on the whereabouts of a bus at a certain time, a window display/real time bus indicator at the station to show where the bus is.

Cllr Gallagher requested that the issue of the run-down appearance of the station be included in the invitation. Cllr McKenna suggested the school bus route is an issue to be included.

Cllr Gallagher requested a response to the low water pressure issue on the Lower Section of Mall Road. He congratulated all concerned in the Marathon and also The Taste of Monaghan. Cllr.

Connolly added his congratulations on a well organised Marathon and the voluntary work from Monaghan Pheonix.

Cllr Gallagher asked had we a timeframe in relation to our request for funding for the Mullaghmatt Remedial Scheme. Mr Murray responded that the Housing Section are in constant contact with the Department, that the Department have given their commitment in principle, and that we are confidentially persuing the Department.

Cllr Conlon advised that there is a change of personnel in An Coillte and that it is a huge footprint to start. The Marathon held on the 4th October was a good start and the Pheonix put their own resources to transform the Park, liasing with An Coillte. It shows the potential that exists and the partnership approach taken to re-establish the beauty of the Park. Cllr Conlon asked Mr McElwain to re-engage with Coillte. Cllr Gallagher concurred with Cllr Conlon's comments and hoped that things will progress. Cllr McKenna sought clarification on discussions/meeting going on between An Coillte and this Council. Cllr Connolly informed the members that there is a committee formed and Paul Clifford and Dympna Condra are on this committee. Mr McElwain advised that he has requested a report and that this will be available at our next meeting.

3. Report from Municipal District Co-Ordinator:

The Report was circulated to the members.

Cllr Conlon stated that the Stylefix event was very successful and a great morale boost for Monaghan has it. He added that it is a community endeavour, all about working in groups but in much larger numbers, demoralising when everyone does not get involved and made an appeal for everyone to get involved.

Cllr McKenna asked had we got approval for the footpath to Emyvale. Mr Murray responded that at a recent Management Team Meeting, Mr McKernan advised that in relation to Phase 3, they have agreed accommodation works, completed transfer documents and hope to receive approval before the end on 2015.

Cllr Gallagher congratulated all entrants in the Tidy Towns competition and the Junior Tidy Towns who won an award.

4. Questions:

Cllr Brian McKenna asked:

1. That this Municipal District request from the Garda Síochána, or any other relevant agency, the number of accidents and fatalities that have occurred on the N2 from Aclint bridge to Moybridge over the past 20 years.

Response: This matter will be researched and a report prepared for our next Municipal District meeting.

2. What is the current or designation status of the old N2 Clontibret to Castleblayney road since the opening of the Castleblayney by-pass; is the changing of the designation of a road a reserved or executive function?

Response:

When a new road is constructed as was the case here the old road reverts to the status of a local road. There is no need to reclassify it. Section 10 (d) of the Roads Act 1993 refers.

Cllr Robbie Gallagher asked:

1. In reference to a number of recent accidents involving pedestrians can the council contact the NRA with a view to improving the location and safety of the pedestrian crossing on the Broad Road side of the "Magic" Roundabout?

Response:

This location will be reviewed with Transport Infrastructural Ireland , Road Safety Inspector.

2. Can the council, in the interests of safety, investigate traffic calming measures for Glaslough Street?

Response:

Refreshment of Line Markings are to be carried out this year in Glaslough Street.

3. The footpath between Emyvale and Corracrin has become overgrown with weeds to the degree that it has become quite narrow - can the Council take steps to rectify this and restore the path to its full width?

Response:

The Council will investigate this issue and carry out the necessary works subject to resources.

4. Would the council consider upgrading the surface of the carpark at Emylough in view of the very considerable use being made of it by the local community and by tourists due the excellent circular walk provided there?

Response:

There is no current funding to upgrade this carpark. An application for Funding could be made by the owners for Leader funding.

Cllr. Seamus Treanor asked:

1. That Monaghan Municipal District write to Alan Kelly, T.D. Minister for the Environment, regarding funding for lighting on the Ulster Canal walkway, from Grahams roundabout to Rooskey Vale following the announcement that a fund of €30m was available for such projects.

Response:

As part of the planning process for the development of the Monaghan Greenway a Bat Survey Report (Greenway) was necessary and an important extract of this report is attached.

There is also a fear that if lighting or low level lighting is installed this will encourage anti social activities onto the Greenway.

Extract from the Ulster Canal Bat Survey Report (Greenway)

4 Lighting

Lighting should not be installed as part of the proposed works as it deters some bat species from foraging. Studies have shown that illumination levels as low as 0.06 lux can have an effect on the behaviour of bats. Even a full moon night (0.02 lux) can reduce bat activity to more sheltered, darker wildlife corridors and foraging areas (e.g. woodlands). The slower flying broad-winged species (Natterer's bats, Daubenton's bats, whiskered bats, Brandt's bats, lesser horseshoe bats and brown long-eared bats) have been shown to avoid street lights. In a study of a roost in Suffolk, UK, the numbers of Natterer's bats, whiskered bats, Daubenton's bats and brown long-eared bats fell after the installation of street lights adjacent to the roost being monitored.

A study on the above controls was undertaken by Emery (2008) and concluded that shielding and masking of street lights can reduce light spillage by as much as 40%. While internal and external louvers are more effective, the external louvers can reduce light spillage by as much as 97%.

- It is important to maintain Dark Zones for foraging bats in areas where lighting is not necessary. However, where lighting is required, this lighting should be placed at a minimum height using the lowest lux value permitted for health and safety.

The lighting should be directional on to the buildings only with no spillage of light to adjoining habitats. To reduce light spillage from luminaries, lights that are designed not to emit light at angles greater than 70o from the vertical plane should be used.

Consequently a flat glass protector is often used to reduce light spillage. Other methods to control light spillage:

a. Shields: these can be mounted on lamps to control direction of the light

b. Masking: part of the luminaries is painted to block light to control the direction of the light

c. Louvers': either as internal or external slates organized in rows or at angles depending on the direction of light control.

- No white light should be permitted as this has the greatest impact on bats. Low pressure sodium lights have a minimum impact on bats. Lighting that has little or no UV content have the least impact on bats.

2. Will Monaghan Municipal District write to Alan Kelly, T.D. Minister for the Environment, requesting funding to complete the Mullaghmat Residential Scheme as there are 72 houses remaining still to be completed. This scheme has been ongoing for almost a decade.

Response:

Following several years of meetings and representations to the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government it was agreed in April 2015 that Monaghan County Council could submit an application for funding for the completion of the Mullaghmat Remedial Works Scheme. The intention is to undertake a fourth and final phase to include work to 76 houses (13 social and 63 private). The Council applied for €3million in funding and, in a series of letters, the Department has requested further information and clarification regarding numerous aspects of the work proposed. The staff in the Department of the Environment Community & Local Government have supported Monaghan County Council's application for funding but some aspects of the work proposed had to be rationalised and/or justified. In communication with the Department on 15 October 2015 it was intimated that there is a good possibility that there will be a reasonably favourable funding decision regarding Phase 4 of the Mullaghmat Remedial Works Scheme in the near future.

5. Correspondence:

Letter dated 30th September, 2015 from An Garda Síochána acknowledging receipt of our correspondence dated 28th September in relation to the Halloween period in the Town.

Letter dated 2nd October, 2015 from Pieta House conveying their gratitude for our generous support and contribution.

Motions No. 4 from the Regional Health Forum- Dublin and North East.

Cllr McKenna proposed that we accept the HSE's invitation of a site visit to St. Mary's Hospital, Castleblayney, to include all members of the Municipal District and perhaps come back to the St Davnet's Complex. This was seconded by Cllr. Gallagher. This visit will be an opportunity to understand the structural standard that is required for the refurbishment of buildings to HIQA standards in relation to nursing homes.

All agreed to accept the invitation.

Letter from Josephine O'Hagan from the Margaret Skinnider Appreciation Society dated 2nd October, 2015 requesting that the North Road, Monaghan, from Cash n Carry to Flack's Garage, be named the Margaret Skinnider Road. A discussion took place on the matter.

Cllr Gallagher stated that it is worthy of consideration and requested Mr McElwain to check out the protocol/procedure and revert to next meeting. All agreed. It was also agreed that, as a matter of courtesy, to write to the 1916 commemoration committee, informing them that the amendment of a road name is being considered, and outline the details.

Email from Dermot McNally, Chairman of the Association of Furniture Manufacturers Ireland, dated 13th October, 2015, requesting an opportunity to make a presentation at the next meeting to request some start up funding.

Decision from An Bord Pleanála dated 14th October, 2015 in relation to CPO at Dublin Street.

Mr Murray suggested that we may have to get a Parking Survey carried out to establish where the greatest need is, look at the overall parking requirements and then see what we need to do.

Invitation from Blackwater Regional Partnership to the launch of the new Art Piece at the Coolshannagh Roundabout on Friday, 30th October, 2015.

Email from Pauline O'Brien, Insurance Department, advising that in order for Insurance to cover Killycarron Road, it would have to be repaired immediately if taken in charge.

Letter from Christmas Lights Committee regarding Monaghan Town Christmas Lights Switch On, Sunday, 22nd November, 2015.

Cllr Gallagher announced that there will be free Christmas Parking from the 14th December to 2nd January from 12 noon daily. He complimented the foresight of his fellow MD members and hoped

that the extended period will facilitate business and attract more people to come into the town to shop.

6. Budget 2016:

Mr Murray gave an update on the document circulated.

7. Sympathy:

Votes of sympathy were extended to the following:

Sean Treanor and Family, a member of the outdoor staff, on the death of his wife, Patricia.
Sean and Paul Treanor, both members of staff of Monaghan County Council, on the death of their uncle Jimmy Treanor.

8. Congratulations:

Congratulations was extended to the following:

Eabha Campbell, Corryarabeg, Carrickroe, Emyvale, on winning the Foróige Aldi Junior Bake-Off at the National Ploughing Championship 2015.

The Scotstown Senior Football Team on winning the County Senior Championship Final and wish them all the best in Club competition.

The Donaghmoyne Minor Team on winning the County Minor Championship Final.

Meeting concluded.

Dated this the 19th day of October, 2015

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Meetings Administrator

