

Municipal District of Monaghan.

Minutes of Meeting of the Municipal District of Monaghan held in the Boardroom, Mtek 1 Building, Knockaconny on Monday, 19th September, 2016 at 3.00pm.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. David Maxwell presided.

Present: Cllrs. Sean Conlon, Paudge Connolly, Brian Mc Kenna, Seamus Treanor and Raymond Aughey.

In Attendance: John Murray, Director of Services, Donal McElwain, Municipal District Co-ordinator, Dermot Deeney, Municipal District Engineer, Bernie McMahon, Staff Officer and Bernie McElvaney, Senior Staff Officer.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr. McKenna, seconded by Cllr. Treanor, it was agreed that the minutes of the Municipal District of Monaghan meeting held on the 18th July, 2016 be confirmed.

2. Matters arising:

Cllr Conlon thanked Mr Flynn and Ms Mallon for the update on the Milltown Sewerage Scheme and also for their work to have the project shortlisted to one of six in the Country. A discussion took place on the Scheme. Cllr Treanor thanked the good work done by landowners and stated that there are hedges that need to be addressed to which Mr Deeney responded that he would investigate ownership. Cllr McKenna added that Coillte should be trimming their hedges and should not need to be contacted.

Cllr Conlon advised that 20 Canadian visitors came to visit Monaghan last week and more from Miramishi arriving this week. This is because of our twinning links. He stated that a souvenir package should be available for these special occasions and that this is a huge deficit we need to address. Cllr Treanor expressed disappointment that no response was received from RTE in relation to the long wave radio service to the Irish community across the UK and requested that a reminder be issued again plus the Minister for Communication.

3. Rossmore Park:

Mr McElwain informed the members that funding of €115,000 had been received from the DOELG, this fund together with a contribution of €50,000 from the MD will be used for the upgrade of walking paths and signage in the Park before the end of this year. He added that an Advisory Group is currently being set up. Tenders had also been received for the drawing up of a Masterplan for the Park.

Cllr Maxwell thanked Minister Humphries for the funding. Cllr McKenna asked who was on the Joint Management Committee and thought there should be a member involved in the meetings. Mr Murray advised that he would check the Memorandum but thought it comprises of Executive and Coillte. A discussion took place on Rossmore Park. Cllr Conlon congratulated Dymrna Condra on her work in securing funding for the development of Rossmore Park.

4. Report from Municipal District Co-ordinator:

Mr. McElwain gave a brief overview on his report. Cllr Aughey wished all the towns and villages all the best in the Tidy Towns Competition and thanked the Tidy Towns committee, Council staff and Gateway staff for all their work.

Cllr Maxwell congratulated Seamus Sherry, his wife and family on his retirement after 48 dedicated service. All members and Executive associated with Cllr Maxwell remarks and wished Colm all the best in his new role.

Cllr McKenna asked was there any change made to the sequence at the traffic lights to which Mr McElwain responded that he was not aware of any changes.

Cllr Conlon welcomed the work done by Roads Section and MD on the proposed controlled pedestrian crossing at the Beech Hill Junction.

Cllr Treanor asked are we proceeding with the Q detection at the Diamond to which Mr McElwain responded that the funding will have to come from Pay Parking. All members agreed. Mr Deeney advised that that he will inform the Roads Section to precede.

Cllr Conlon expressed disappointment at the N2 Junction Assessment not recommending a right turn at Moyles, Castleshane. A discussion took place on the assessment. Cllr Maxwell stated that it was a disgrace and called on Cllr McKenna to bring the matter before the CPG. He also proposed that we write to Oireachtas members and Shane Ross to instruct TII to look at this policy. All agreed.

5. Questions:

Cllr Conlon asked:

1)Following the success of the recent Heritage Week, particularly the Walking Tours in Monaghan Town, that this Council gives encouragement and practical support to the Monaghan Town Team and interested stakeholders in ensuring this Walking Tour initiative becomes a scheduled fixture for the years ahead.

Response: Heritage Week, supported by the Heritage Council and Monaghan County Council has been held at the end of August in County Monaghan for over a decade. The annual audience and participation by voluntary and community groups increases each year. Events include guided heritage walks, open days at archaeological sites, walks exploring our natural landscapes, historical talks about key places and people, exhibitions and bus tours to local heritage sites such as ancient medieval graveyards.

The Heritage Officer of Monaghan County Council supports Monaghan Heritage Week by organising a Heritage Week launch night (this year it was in Cahans), a number of flagship heritage events for the week, by supporting others to hold events and through the promotion of heritage week and heritage awareness. Community and voluntary groups take part by organising their own heritage events during the week to show and talk about aspects of their local heritage. Other sections of MCC also organise events including Monaghan County Museum and the Monaghan County Library. This year the Monaghan Town Walking Tour was one of twenty-three events held during the week. All events are promoted equally by the Heritage Office as part of the overall Monaghan Heritage Week awareness campaigns and on www.heritageweek.ie

It is anticipated that Heritage Week will continue to be a feature of the annual cultural calendar in Ireland and in Monaghan. The Monaghan County Council Heritage Officer will continue to support organisations and individuals who organise events for National Heritage Week. It is an important part of the implementation of the County Monaghan Heritage Plan to promote an awareness of and enjoyment of our natural and cultural

heritage. The MCC Heritage Office is a one-person section, and is appreciative of the assistance, enthusiasm and co-operation of the community and voluntary sector who organise events such as walking tours to promote our heritage.

2) Regarding the recent advertisement by Monaghan County Council seeking expressions of interest to purchase land throughout the county for development of social housing, how has the request been met and what are the potential outcomes in meeting the huge demand for housing?

Response: Monaghan County Council received a good response to the advertisement for land and houses however most of the responses received related to the potential sale of houses to the Council. The Council is currently engaged in the purchase of more than 30 individual houses throughout the County and has made offers on a number of parcels of development land however private developers have made higher offers and have purchased the parcels of land in question. Monaghan County Council is pursuing all suitable avenues to deliver as many units for the county as possible.

3) Monaghan Town Council have previously considered constructing a Phase 2 of dwellings at Rooskey Vale, will the Housing Section give this prospect further consideration?

Response: Monaghan County Council has considered the possibility of constructing additional houses at Rooskey Vale, however the development of additional houses at this location is not to be progressed until the possibility of using the potential site in question to access other land is explored further.

4) Following the camera scoping exercise undertaken in sewer drains in Killygoan in recent months, what remedial measures are being considered that will alleviate the regular occurrence of blocked drains?

Response: Your query has been forwarded to the IW's Local Representative Support Desk for consideration.

5) In the interest of enhancing pedestrian safety along one of the busiest walkways in Monaghan that shares vehicle access, at the location of the Courthouse and St Patrick's Church in Church Square, will Council reinstate speed ramps that will ensure safer access through this archway?

Response: The existing ramp in this location is in need of attention and remedial works will be scheduled into the road maintenance works programme.

Cllr Connolly asked:

What is the update in relation to when Chapel Brae Court Clontibret will be taken in charge?

Response: Applications for both Chapel Brae Court in Clontibret and Annahagh Close in Monaghan to be taken in charge have been received and are being processed at present. It is anticipated that remedial works to complete both developments will be carried out by November 2016 with both estates being taken in charge by Monaghan County Council by the end of 2016.

Cllr Treanor asked:

When will Monaghan Municipal District take charge of Chapel Brae and housing estate and Annahagh Close?

Response: Applications for both Chapel Brae Court in Clontibret and Annahagh Close in Monaghan to be taken in charge have been received and are being processed at present. It is anticipated that remedial works to complete both developments will be carried out by November 2016 with both estates being taken in charge by Monaghan County Council by the end of 2016.

6. Correspondence:

Letter dated 12th July, 2016 from Deirdre Clune MEP in relation to TTIP.

Cllr Conlon stated that there is a secret approach to it and negotiations should be abandoned at the earliest opportunity.

Letter dated 18th July, 2016 from Lynn Boylan MEP in relation to TTIP.

Notice of Motion from Ballybay- Clones MD in relation to a call on Eirgrid to withdraw the planning application to ABP for the North South 400 kv Interconnector .

Letter dated 27th July 2016 from Jean-Pierre Thébault, Ambassador of France to Ireland.

Email dated 29th July 2016 from Mary Leech @ opw regarding Monaghan Customs Station.

Letter dated 2nd August 2016 from Minister for Justice & Equality regarding the provision of CCTV for Monaghan town.

Cllr Connolly stated that the facts for the need for CCTV are already stated in the letter and requested that the Minister be asked what scheme is he referring to. Cllr Aughey stated that CCTV is needed in the Garda Station and let the Gardai run it. All members agreed that we should write to the Minister regarding this.

Letter dated 29th July 2016 from Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation in relation to TTIP.

Email dated 8th August, 2016 from Mairead McGuinness MEP in relation to TTIP.

Email dated 4th September, 2016 from Shane Finnan regarding online petition calling on the resignation of Cllr Treanor. Elected members have no statutory power to seek resignation of any Councillor.

N2 Junction Assessment at the townland of Moyles, Castleshane

Email dated 16th September, 2016 from Cathy Brown regarding notification of Public consultation Day – Draft Flood Risk Management Plans for Monaghan Town.

8. Votes of Congratulations:

Congratulations were extended to the Monaghan GAA on winning the New York Senior Championship.

Congratulations were extended to the Monaghan singer, Lisa McNelis , who sang the National Anthem at the New York Senior Championship.

The meeting concluded.

Dated this the 19th Day of September, 2016

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Meetings Administrator