

Municipal District of Monaghan.

Meeting of proceedings of the Municipal District of Monaghan held in the Boardroom, Mtek 1 Building, Knockaconny on Monday, 21st July 2014 at 3.30pm.

Cllr. Sean Conlon presided.

Present: Cllrs. David Maxwell, Seamus Treanor, Paudge Connolly, Robbie Gallagher and Brian McKenna.

In Attendance: Mr. John Murray, Director of Services, Mr. Donal McElwain, Municipal District Co-Ordinator, Ms. Frances Matthews, Co-Ordinator of Municipal District Meetings, Ms. Bernie McElvaney, Senior Staff Officer, Mr. Dermot Deeney, Executive Engineer, Mr. Adrian Hughes, Senior Planner and Ms. Sandra McQuaid.

At the outset, Cllr. Conlon welcomed all to the meeting and welcomed John Murray, the Director of Services for the Municipal District of Monaghan.

1. Confirmation of minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr. Treanor, seconded by Cllr. Gallagher it was agreed that the minutes of the Municipal District meeting held on the 1st July 2014 be confirmed.

2. Matters arising:

Cllr. Connolly in correcting the minutes of the previous meeting confirmed that he suggested that each party be allocated a year as Cathaoirleach for the first four years. He also corrected the minutes to say that he had raised the issue of 'Canada Day' and not Cllr. McKenna.

Cllr. Maxwell thanked the Chief Executive, Mr. Eugene Cummins, for hosting a meal on Thursday, 17th July for the Canadian Ambassador. He stated that this County has great links with Canada and Willie McKenna has worked hard in creating these links.

Cllr. Treanor referred to previous items on minutes of Town Council meetings dated 19/5/14 and 28/5/14 and proposed to adopt Part 111 of the Gaming and Lotteries Act 1956 in respect of premises at No.6 Dublin Street. Following a lengthy debate on the matter, Cllr. Maxwell requested a roll call to adopt Part III of the Gaming and Lotteries Act, 1956 which resulted as follows:

For: Cllrs. Connolly and Treanor 2

Against: Cllrs. Maxwell and McKenna 2

Abstentions: Cllrs. Gallagher and Conlon 2

The Cathaoirleach declared the motion not carried.

Cllr. Conlon raised concerns on the stagnation of water, weeds and overgrown grass outside the fence along the Greenway. Cllr. Connolly stated that the Greenway is in good condition and the grass is allowed to grow wild to encourage wildlife and bio-diversity. Donal McElwain concurred with Cllr. Connolly comments and agreed to give the matter consideration.

On the proposal of Cllr. Conlon, seconded by Cllr. Gallagher, it was agreed to write to the Minister for Justice seeking an update on the current status of Garda recruitment, when it is anticipated that additional numbers of qualified Gardai will be joining the force and how many will be stationed within the

Cavan-Monaghan division, and to provide a five year analysis of Gardai numbers in this division and in this County.

Cllr. Gallagher referred to item number 19 on minutes of Monaghan Town Council meeting of the 19/5/14 in respect of Canal View. Donal McElwain confirmed that the municipal District would investigate this matter.

Following a discussion on the purchase of a canopy structure for the town, it was agreed that Mr. Dermot Deeney would consult further with other Councils and revert with his findings at a future next meeting.

3. Adoption of Standing Orders:

On the proposal of Cllr. Maxwell, seconded by Cllr. McKenna, it was agreed to adopt the Standing Orders as agreed and to circulate a copy to each member.

4. Taking in Charge of Housing Development known as Coolshannagh View

On the proposal of Cllr. Maxwell, seconded by Cllr. Treanor, it was agreed to take housing development known as 'Coolshannagh View' in charge.

5. Taking in Charge of Housing Development known as Drumbear Wood

On the proposal of Cllr. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Maxwell, it was agreed to take housing development known as 'Drumbear Wood' in charge.

Following a request from Cllr. Conlon on the procedure for taking in charge, Adrian Hughes outlined the procedure to the members. Mr. Hughes then took leave from the meeting.

6. Harvest Times Blues Festival:

Cllr. Conlon advised the meeting that this year's festival will take place on the 5th, 6th and 7th September 2014 and that a notice had been inserted in the local newspaper for the closure of the Lower Courthouse Car Park .

7. Proposed Town Twinning with Mechelen, Belgium:

Following a discussion on twinning, it was proposed by Cllr. Maxwell, seconded by Cllr. Conlon, that a Twinning Committee meeting , to include all six members be held on Monday 15th September at 2pm. It was agreed that all three relevant groups would be invited along to discuss Twinning with Monaghan, i.e Brendan Monaghan and Raymond Wilkinson on behalf of Chepalare, Sheila McKenna and Marie McQuillan on behalf of Tydavnet/Geel, John Creighan and Pauline Martin on behalf of Belgian Square.

It was agreed by all members to extend an invitation to the Belgian Ambassador to Ireland to attend the Belgian Square Centenary event to be held in the Market House, Monaghan on the 30th October, 2014 at 8pm.

8. Questions:

Cllr S. Conlon asked:

1. When will the long overdue annual programme of road resurfacing/overlay works commence on the agreed fifteen locations throughout the County, including the Ardaghey road, LP1500, from Tamlet to Greaghglass?

Reply: The re-surfacing works contract commenced second week of July and the Ardaghey road is planned to be surfaced in mid August.

(b) When will the replacement playground facility be installed at the Glen Road - Killygoan location?

Reply: Go Play Limited have been appointed to carry out the proposed development at Killygoan. The proposed works will take approximately twelve weeks for completion,(mid-October).

Cllr R. Gallagher asked:

2. What is the current position with regard to works planned for the roundabouts at Coolshannagh on the Monaghan Bypass and Clontibret on the N2?

Reply: A planting scheme and layout is being developed by Council staff and the works will be carried out in August or September of this year.

Through the Blackwater Regional Partnership the Arts Council NI has awarded £50k to commission a piece of art to depict the importance of the Ulster canal to the town. The site selected is the triangle of ground facing out on to the roundabout from the by-pass/ Armagh rd/ Greenway.

Commissioning on this piece of art will begin shortly. It is likely to be next year before the artwork is in place.

Cllr. Maxwell questioned the funding of Art projects to this value in the current financial climate.

At the request of Cllr. Conlon, it was agreed that a letter be sent to Blackwater Regional Partnership seeking flexibility on how the £50k can be spent.

John Murray stated that the original application for funded would be viewed and would revert back to next meeting with his findings.

(b) Can the council investigate the need for repairs to the stone bridge at Ballyalbany?

Reply: The council has investigated this bridge. A substantial section of the bridge has been repaired. Subject to available funding further maintenance works will be carried out.

9. Notice of Motion:

Cllr. Treanor advised the meeting that he wished to forward a motion which needed to be addressed before the September monthly meeting. This request was agreed by all the members. The motion proposed by Cllr. Treanor was as follows:

“ That the Municipal District of Monaghan call for an upgrade of Monaghan Bus Depot, to improve their facilities at their depot on the North Road and that more buses be made available to facilitate passenger numbers at this depot”

The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Connolly. It was agreed to invite Bus Eireann to a future meeting with the Municipal District. All members also unanimously agreed to write to the NTA requesting 'Passenger Information Display Panels' be erected at the bus depot, as previous commitments were given to the Town Council members for same.

10. Correspondence:

A letter was received from the Department of Social Protection in relation to Rent Supplement rent limits. Cllr. Gallagher thankfully acknowledged the correspondence.

On the proposal of Cllr. McKenna, seconded by Cllr. Conlon, it was agreed to write to the Minister for Social Protection requesting an update on the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) and how it is evolving.

- A letter was received from the Department of Social Protection in relation to the abolished annual telephone allowance.

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. McKenna, it was agreed to write to the Minister for Social and Family Affairs requesting the reinstatement of the telephone allowance for elderly people.

- A letter was received from the private secretary to the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation in relation to IDA site visits to County Monaghan.

On the proposal of Cllr. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Conlon, it was agreed to write to the IDA requesting a five year analysis on Jobs created in this County and a copy to Minister Bruton.

A discussion took place on the Jobbridge Internship Schemes.

Cllr. Conlon advised the members that there were no extra antennae erected on the Killygoan mast. Cllr. McKenna requested that a report from Planning Section be sought confirming what is existing.

On the proposal of Cllr. McKenna, seconded by Cllr. Conlon, it was agreed that a list of the Roads Programme for next year be submitted to the Department as a matter of urgency. It was also agreed that the members forward their lists to Mr. Dermot Deeney and a meeting be held on the 8th September 2014 at 11am to discuss same.

Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations:

Congratulations were extended to the organisers of the Country and Western Music Festival on its great success. Tributes were also paid to the good work carried out by the outdoor staff on the cleanliness of the town in the aftermath of the festival.

Congratulations were also extended to Heather Humphries on her new position as Government Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

The meeting concluded at 17.45pm

Signed

Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator
15th Day of September, 2014.

