

Ceantar Bardasach Carraig Mhachaire Rois – Baile Na Lorgan
Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin



The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney
Monaghan County Council

Minutes of proceedings of November 2015 monthly meeting of The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney held in the Civic Office, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Monaghan on Monday 23rd November 2015 @ 9.30am.

Present: - Mayor PJ O Hanlon

Cllrs Aidan Campbell, Colm Carthy, Jackie Crowe, Noel Keelan, Padraig McNally

In attendance: - Paul Clifford, Director of Services, Frances Matthews, Co-ordinator, John Lennon, Amanda Murray, Teresa McGuirk.

Also in attendance: -

Pat Boylan, Kevin Boylan, Breege Monaghan – Inniskeen Tidy Towns Committee

Declan McKernan and Nial O'Connor - Environment Section Monaghan County Council

Caoimhghín Ó'Caoláin TD, Brendan Smyth TD – Members of the Oireachtas

Sgt McCague - Garda Síochána

John McKernan and Paul L'Estrange - Monaghan County Council

Apologies:-

None

1. Representation from Inniskeen Tidy Towns Committee

Cllr O'Hanlon welcomed Pat Boylan, Kevin Boylan and Breege Monaghan from the Inniskeen Tidy Towns Committee stating that the executive hoped to meet with the group on an ongoing basis and acknowledged the work being carried out by the group for the village of Inniskeen.

Pat Boylan outlined the details of a list of works (circulated) which the committee would like to get done including a number of works to improve health and safety and general appearance of the village. In conclusion Mr Boylan thanked the council for the invite and their support.

Members all in turn acknowledged the work of the Tidy Towns Committee, congratulated them on their achievements, thanked the Committee members for attending and pledged to support the group in whatever way possible. A date to meet with the engineer would be arranged. The Committee then left the meeting.

2. Waste Management Plan Update and Brown Bin Update

Cllr Campbell proposed that this issue be dealt with at the outset. This was seconded by Cllr Carthy and agreed by all

Declan McKernan, Environment Section Monaghan County Council gave a power point presentation outlining details of the Connacht – Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2021 followed by a presentation from Nial O'Connor on the introduction of the Brown Bin Service.

Members then discussed a number of related issues. Cllr McNally proposed the following Motion. This was seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon and agreed by all.

"That this Municipal District write to the Department demanding that a watchdog service be put in place to oversee the roll out of the brown bin service in particular the cost of this to the householder in light of the huge cost of our existing bin service, it is essential that this service does not add to the above costs. This motion to be circulated to all other Municipal Districts countrywide"

Mr McKernan and Mr O'Connor then left the meeting.

3. Local and Regional Roads – Discussion with Local TD's

Cllr O'Hanlon welcomed Brendan Smith TD and Caoimhghín Ó'Caoláin TD to the meeting to discuss funding for local and regional roads in the district. Members all in turn expressed their disappointment that none of the Fine Gael Oireachtas members made themselves available to attend.

At the outset both members of the Oireachtas stated that this issue was to the forefront of their agenda having raised Parliamentary Questions in Dáil Éireann on the matter.

During a detailed discussion members highlighted a number of issues including

- the need for proper infrastructure to support and encourage local enterprise and agriculture
- the need to support and build on past investment on the road network
- the high dependency on the county's road network due to the lack of a rail network
- the higher than normal amount of tertiary roads in the county to be maintained in comparison to other counties

Members, in conclusion, asked that the level of funding for local and regional roads in County Monaghan be raised in Dáil Éireann. In replying both Members of the Oireachtas took on board all comments made, agreed to work together to prepare questions for the Minister, would seek to have questions prioritised and continue to lobby in this regard.

Deputies Ó'Caoláin and Smith then left the meeting.

4. Confirmation of the Minutes of October 2015 monthly meeting

On the proposal of Cllr Crowe and seconded by Cllr Keelan the minutes of the meeting held on 19th October 2015 were adopted.

5. Matters arising

- Safety rail on the Shercock road should be installed by the year end
- Road drainage works should commence pre Christmas to ensure an early start to the 2016 Roads Programme
- Following works on Derrylavin Bridge which was commended 4 x reflectors to be installed

- Acknowledge erection of Christmas tree and installation of lights in Castleblayney. Staff were complimented for their work
- Letter to be sent to the Men's Shed in Castleblayney and in Carrickmacross seeking information on what products they produce for sale. This was agreed
- staff were complimented for works on installing ramps in Cluain Alainn
- No response to date from application for Flood Protection in Inniskeen. Draft maps were on display in the Civic Offices
- Signage cleaning / maintenance in the District ongoing

6. Correspondence

Correspondence was received from

- Caoimhghín Ó'Caoláin TD – confirm attendance at meeting
- Heather Humphreys TD – unable to attend meeting
- Brendan Smith TD – Confirm attendance at meeting
- Housing Section – Reply regarding works at Ardross Avenue and Clough Valley in Carrickmacross
- Coiste Chuimhneachain Muineachain Theas – request contribution towards costs of 1916 monument
 - Refer to Finance Committee
- Castleblayney Drama Committee – requesting permission to cordon off areas in Castleblayney and Carrickmacross for an event to mark the All Ireland Drama Festival 2016
 - Cllr Campbell proposed that the Council approve the request. This was seconded by Cllr Crowe and agreed by all
- Ballybay Clones Municipal District – regarding provision of respite beds.
 - Members supported the motion

Additional Correspondence received from

- John Nugent, Manager IDA Ireland – reply regarding Bose Factory premises in Carrickmacross. Following a discussion Cllr McNally proposed the following motion. This was seconded by Cllr Carthy and agreed by all
 - *“That this Municipal District writes back to John Nugent, IDA to establish why the Bose factory facility is not being seen as attractive in securing a new tenant / industry. Is it a cost, condition, size or location issue that is making it difficult to find a new industry? Can we establish the cost of the facility on an annual basis”*

Safety issue on the N2 – Follow up meeting

Cllr O'Hanlon welcomed Sergeant McCague, Carrickmacross Division An Garda Siochanna, Paul L'Estrange, Acting Chief Fire Officer and John McKernan, Acting SEO, Roads Section Monaghan County Council to further discuss safety issues on the N2. A number of issues were discussed including:

- Pilot lining scheme for the N2 has been approved by the TII (Formally NRA) and has been forwarded to the Lining Division
- Proposed overlay of Tullyvaragh stretch will be discussed next week with the new Regional Safety Inspector with the TII
- Reports from the Coroner's Court indicate that fatal accidents on the N2 were not due to the engineering of roads
- Onus should be on TII to establish the cause of these serious incidents e.g. phones/ fatigue/ driver error / speeding

- Installation of proper junctions / shadow lanes / lighting at junctions needs to be looked at
- Extension of a system similar to the 2 + 1 on the Castleblayney By pass should be considered
- Statistics for fatalities on similar roads in the Country to be sought. Mr McKernan agreed to prepare figures for the next meeting

Copies of Clare County Council's Road Safety Strategy 2014-2020 were circulated for member's attention. Cllr O'Hanlon proposed to bring this item to the next monthly meeting for discussion. This was seconded by Cllr Campbell and agreed by all.

In conclusion Cllr O'Hanlon proposed the following Notice of Motion. This was seconded by Cllr McNally and agreed by all.

"That this District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney calls on the NRA to send the Chief Executive to the next monthly meeting along with John McKernan, Senior Engineer, Monaghan County Council"

In addition Sergeant McCague and Mr L'Estrange were also invited to attend this meeting.

Mr McKernan, Mr L'Estrange and Sgt McCague then left the meeting.

7. Consideration of Coordinators monthly report

Review of works

Cllr Campbell

- Welcomed
 - The signing of contracts commencement of works at Lough Muckno
 - Works undertaken in an effort to move the CCTV cameras in Castleblayney
 - Proposed letting the former Town Council Offices in Castleblayney
 - Ongoing works/training and meetings under the REDZ Funding
 - Launch of voucher scheme which are now available for purchase
 - Local roads being tabled

Cllr Crowe

- Welcomed Christmas lights and tree in Castleblayney and the resurfacing of Drumillard play park
- Acknowledged progress on the taking in charge of the Bog Road in cby taken in charge

Cllr Keelan

- Welcomed works done adjacent to Drumgossett NS
- Asked that a date for Road Area Meeting be set for end December / beginning of January

Cllr Carthy

- Welcomed display of art from Steadfast House at front entrance of the Offices along with the Book of Condolence for the victims of the Paris tragedy
- Thanked the council staff for footpath repairs
- Asked that something done with the loose paving / slabs on both sides of Main St
- Number of Residents have welcomed work on Crossmaglen Road
- Support and assistance given to groups in particular the delegation from Bosnia who were impressed with the facilities
- Thanked all involved with the Halloween festival
- Welcomed all work from Carrickmacross Chamber of Commerce and support received from the Council for Christmas Festival

Cllr McNally

- Asked that the Memorial Gardens be ready for February 2016 to allow for early opening.
- Suggested the opening would be photo opportunity

Cllr O'Hanlon

- Thanked and acknowledged the work involved in the switching on of the Christmas lights

8. **Questions**

The Following questions were asked by Cllr McNally

1. Has this Council arranged to have North and South signs erected on all our bypass signage as agreed previously

Response: The Municipal District will refer this matter to the Road Section, Monaghan County Council for discussion with Transport Infrastructure Ireland. (Formally the National Roads Authority)

2. Has this MD or Monaghan County Council ever sought funding to realign two of the most dangerous corners on the Culloville road R179? These are known locally as Cabra Corner and Doyle's Corner, and, if not, have we plans in place to allow us to make such an application.

Response: A Specific Improvement Grant application was made to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport for the R179 in March 2015. The Department replied 'While Councils could apply in the past for grant funding for certain road improvement projects, budgetary constraints mean the Specific Improvement Grants Scheme has been curtailed in order to maximise the funding available for repair and strengthening work of the road network'. Therefore any future realigning of the Culloville Road will have to be funded from Discretionary Grant or Restoration Improvement Grant.

3. When does this MD expect to carry out repairs to the streetscape in Carrickmacross following significant subsidence which has occurred since the upgrade of our sewerage network and can we obtain any funding for this work?

Response: The District Office in conjunction with Water Service has appointed a contractor to undertake a number of trench repairs in both Carrickmacross and Castleblayney Towns These repairs will be completed before the end of year. Additional trench repairs will be completed in 2016

4. Has this Council costed the proposed development of footpath and lighting on a two phase basis on the Drumcondrath road LP04800 Carrickmacross as promised at our October meeting. As this is necessary to have it considered as part of our 2016 budget.

Response: The District Office estimates that the cost to provide a new public footpath with public lighting along the Drumcondrath Road at €100,000. The District will be preparing a public footpath/lighting programme in 2016 which will be presented to the elected members for approval.

The following questions were asked by Cllr. Colm Carthy

5. Will this MD re-paint the 'Keep Clear' road markings on Farney street which have become faded over the last few years?

Response: The District Office has reinstated four Keep Clear road markings on Farney Street in recent weeks. A review of the remaining Keep Clear markings will be carried out in 2016.

6. Will this MD consider adding the cutting of grass in Foxfield and the green area between upper & lower Drummond Etra to their list of annual maintenance?

Response: The green area between upper and lower Drummond Etra is extremely over grown with a large volume of discarded building material. The District Office will attempt to clear this area in the spring of 2016, enabling grass cutting to take place. The Municipal District will not be adding any additional housing estates onto its current grass cutting programme in 2016.

7. What is the up-to-date position on the upgrading/refurbishment of the Market Square in Carrickmacross?

Response: The Council commission an estimate of the cost of works required to replace the roof and weather-proof the building. The cost of these works was estimated at €1.3million.

8. Has this MD Council been approved for funding to introduce a pedestrian crossing on the Donaghmoyne/Culloville road from the entrance of Cluain Alainn to the far side of the road?

Response: A Low Cost Safety Scheme application has been made to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport for 2016. No decision on the application has been received by the District Office.

9. How many roads are there in this Municipal District that are considered to be in emergency need of re-surfacing and how many of them will the 2016 roads budget allow to be completed (approximately)?

Response: The condition rating survey carried out in early 2015 indicated that 140km of the Non-National road network in the district was rated in the 1-4 categories and would require a full structural overlay. An allocation in 2016 similar to the road allocation received in 2015 would carry out structural overlay of approximately 10-15km of the network depending on its road classification.

The following questions were asked by Cllr. P.J. O’Hanlon

10. Can Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council look at the possibility of providing a new public light at Paul Burns’ house on the bad bend on the Donaghmoyne Road?

Response: Funding for public lighting is exhausted for 2015. However, consideration will be given to Cllr O’Hanlon’s proposal in the 2016 public lighting allocation.

11. Can Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council look at the possibility of providing public lighting at the entrance to the new Carrickmacross Emmets facility at Donaghmoyne Road, Carrickmacross?

Response: Funding for public lighting is exhausted for 2015. However, consideration will be given to Cllr O’Hanlon’s proposal in the 2016 public lighting allocation.

The following questions were asked by Cllr. Aidan Campbell

12. Can the MD look at the upgrading of the pedestrian crossing at St. Mary’s Church, Castleblayney to improve road safety?

Response: Consideration will be given to Cllr Campbell proposal to upgrade the pedestrian crossing at St Mary’s Church in the 2016 public lighting allocation.

9. Notices of Motion

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Cllr Campbell and seconded by Cllr Crowe and agreed by all

“That the MD of Castleblayney/Carrickmacross introduce a bye-law under the Local Government Act 2001 in relation to the control and regulation of street collections and begging on the McGrath Road in Castleblayney”.

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr O’Hanlon and agreed by all

“In light of the proposed upgrade of the road from Dundalk to Cavan R178, that this Municipal District seeks in the first instance, a meeting with Louth County Council to discuss their plans to get the heavy traffic from Cavan and Monaghan to the Ports at Greenore and Dundalk and

further seek a meeting with the TII – Transport (NRA) to lobby for funding for such an interchange or connection road”.

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Cllr Carthy seconded by Cllrs Keelan and Crowe and agreed by all

“That this Municipal District will carry out a review of all housing estates in its charge with a view to finding out where speed ramps are required. This study should be carried out as quickly as possible so that the MD will have a plan in place to fit temporary ramps while seeking funding for permanent ramp”.

10. Director of Services Orders

- 59/2015 Power Capital Renewal Energy – PSCS + PSDP – Solar Panels at Civic Offices
- 60/2015 T H Moore – PSCS – Resurfacing at Drumgosset NS
- 61/2015 NC Plant Hire – PSCS + PSDP – Lough Muckno Car Park
- 62/2015 Francis McGuigan – PSCS – Hope Castle Refurbishment
- 63/2015 Alan Clarke – PSDP – Hope Castle Refurbishment
- 64/2015 Crawford Group – PSCS + PSDP – Drumillard Play Park
- 65/2015 NC Plant Hire – PSCS – Urgent Reconstruction Works on R180
- 66/2015 Council seal affixed to Short Term Letting Agreement with Carrickmacross Camera Club

11. Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations

The following votes of Sympathy were passed, a minutes silence was observed with all present standing:

- Shirley Woods on the death of her husband Benny Woods
- Tom Larney and Family on the death of his father Tom Larney
- Brian and Alice Finnegan on the death of his sister Rose Mulvany – McKitterick
- Declan McKenna on the death of his brother Sean McKenna
- Pauric and Sonya Duffy on the death of their daughter Lucia
- Kevin Marron on the death of his wife Lizzie
- Deirdre Cumiskey on the death of her husband Tony Cumiskey and their children Conor and Matthew Cumiskey
- Leo and Sheila Cumiskey on the death of their son Tony Cumiskey
- Paul Clifford on the death of his uncle

The following votes of congratulations were passed:

- The Patrician High School on winning the Rannafast Cup recently. Cllr O’Hanlon proposed that the Municipal District hold a Civic Reception in their honour. This was seconded by Cllr McNally and agreed by all. It was agreed to invite them to the next meeting of the Municipal District to be held on 21st December 2015

12. Any Other Business

Cllr Campbell extended congratulations to Declan McKernan Chairperson of The Peace Link Sports Facility in Clones – the facility received two awards earlier in the week

Cllr McNally

- Requested details on Dog Fouling/ Littering legislation be presented for next meeting
- Asked that the road to the running track which has gotten run down and overgrown be cleaned up
- 2-3 new lights needed in the Co Monaghan side of Killanny Village – near the graveyard. Item to be added to road area meeting agenda

- Asked that something be done to alleviate flooding on Ballybay Road; the river leading to the Mile River is in urgent need of work by OPW –as the pipe is full of silt. The Engineer agreed to discuss the matter with the OPW representative
- Asked that the possibility of installing a right hand turning lane at the junction beside the Oasis on the Kingscourt road

Cllr Keelan

- Asked that all trenches (from road openings) be properly reinstated around the town-trench at Donaghmoynne junction in dangerous condition
- Urgent need for drainage near Oscail Dove as water from Donaghmoynne Road is flowing onto it
- Requested that a Litter Bin on the Bridewell Lane adjacent to residence and business be moved to allow wall be revamped
- Informed members of the Public meeting that night in the Glencarn Hotel regarding Eirgrid application
- Asked that date for area meeting be set. Following a brief discussion it was agreed to meet on Friday 15th January 2016 @ 10.00am (Provisional booking)

Cllr Carthy

- Drainage required in estate to the rear of Cuchullan Terrace
- Some gully's blocked in Drummond Etra
- Lighting required near the OPD's in Crann Nua

Details of proposals to take the Old Coach Manor in charge were circulated. Cllr Campbell proposed that the Council take the Old Coach Manor in charge. This was seconded by Cllr Crowe and agreed by all

It was agreed to hold the next monthly meeting of the Municipal District on 21st December 2015 @ 10.00am

Request received from Steadfast House to attend a meeting of the council. It was agreed to invite the group to attend the next monthly meeting at 11.30am.

This concluded the business of the meeting at 2.30pm

Next month's meeting – Monday 21st December 2015 @ 10am

Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____