

Ceantar Bardasach Carraig Mhachaire Rois – Baile na Lorgan
Comharile Contae Mhuineachain



The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney
Monaghan County Council

Minutes of proceedings of February monthly meeting of The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney held in the Civic Office, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Monaghan on Tuesday 24th February 2015 @ 10.00am.

Present: - Mayor Jackie Crowe, Cllrs Noel Keelan, PJ O Hanlon, Padraic McNally, Colm Carthy

Also in attendance: - Paul Clifford, Director of Services, Cathal Flynn, Co-ordinator, John Lennon, Amanda Murray, Teresa McGuirk.

Press: - Michael Fisher, Northern Standard; Joe McCabe, Carrick Gazette; Tessa Fleming, Northern Sound

Apologies:- Cllr Aidan Campbell

At the outset Cllr O'Hanlon proposed a vote of sympathy with the two daughters of the late Tom McCartney, former member of Carrickmacross Urban Council and former Mayor of the town. This was seconded by Cllr McNally. All present wished to be associated with same.

A minutes silence was observed with all present standing.

The business of the Council was then adjourned for a short period as a mark of respect for the late former member.

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of January 2015 meeting

On the proposal of Cllr. Carthy and seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon the minutes of the meeting held on 26th January 2015 were adopted.

2. Matters arising

- Work on the MUGA to commence in the next few weeks.
- Works on the Skate Park will commence as soon as weather permits.
- During a discussion members expressed their annoyance at the level of funding allocated for the 2015 Roads Programme which they felt was back to the level received

some 10-15 years ago. Some roads in the district were in a very bad condition Cllr O'Hanlon asked that a full analytical report and analysis of the allocations received be presented to the members for the forthcoming Roads Area Meeting. Following the discussion Cllr Carthy proposed

- *"The Municipal District of Carrickmacross Castleblayney should write to the Taoiseach and the Minister for Transport and request extra funding for Roads in this constituency in order to upgrade roads that are in serious disrepair. We also call on Local Oireachtas members to push this issue with the Department involved".* This was seconded by Cllr Keelan and agreed by all.

Suspend Standing Orders

The following Proposal to Suspend Standing Orders was proposed by Cllr McNally and seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon.

"We, the undersigned, proposed that Carrickmacross Castleblayney Municipal District suspends Standing Orders to discuss the possibility of introducing Bye-Laws in Carrickmacross to prevent the establishment of Gambling Arcades or any other such Gambling Facilities."

During discussion members:

- Expressed their concerns regarding the 'private members club' proposed for the town of Carrickmacross and the effect it would have on its people.
- discussed the enactment of the 1956 Gaming & Lotteries Act and the fact that it was never adopted by Carrickmacross Town Council
- requested that the Gaming & Lotteries Act 1956 be put on the agenda for the next meeting for adoption

In reply Mr Flynn circulated an extract from the Department of Justice report on Regulating Gaming In Ireland 1998, explaining that the Gaming & Lotteries Act dealt primarily with fun fairs and arcades; the current planning application was for a change of use to a 'private members gaming club'; Notwithstanding a proposal to adopt Part 3 of the 1956 Act, the members may not be in a position to prevent the development, on the basis that the legislation did not provide for the licensing of 'private members club'.

Mr Clifford further explained that private members would not be required to seek a licence for their premises. The planning application decision was due on the 17th March 2015.

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

"That we write to the Minister for Justice, Frances Fitzgerald to immediately legislate to allow Local Authorities adopt bye-laws that would prohibit gambling facilities, including private members clubs, in the jurisdiction."

3. Correspondence

Correspondence was received from

1. Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in acknowledgement of restrictions to farmers on the spreading of slurry and pesticides

Cllr McNally proposed that the council write again to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to move on the matter urgently as this was a critical time of year for farmers. If they are not allowed to spread slurry how do they utilise their land and what do they do with the slurry? This was seconded by Cllr Keelan.

2. Louth County Council regarding the upgrading of the Inniskeen to Dundalk Road
Cllr McNally asked that this road be put on the agenda for the Road Area Meeting.

3. Monaghan County Council – Notice of Motion re additional road signs.

In supporting the motion members requested that a reply is issued to the Local Authority requesting them to liaise with An Post so as to include proposed postal codes on the signage. Members also requested that signage would display information in English as well as in Irish.

4. Monaghan County Council Local Enterprise Office – request for support for Ballybay Enterprise Park

Mr Clifford explained the context in which the request was issued. Cllr McNally proposed that we accept the request for support for this year only. Any future requests would need to be reviewed. This was seconded by Cllr Crowe.

Cllr O’Hanlon requested that a letter be sent to the Local Enterprise Office seeking information regarding the number of companies being supported by this project and how it would benefit the area. In supporting Cllr O’Hanlon’s request Cllr Keelan asked that for a report on how the money was spent over the next 6 months.

Additional Correspondence received from

- Reply received from John McKernan, Senior Engineer with Monaghan County Council regarding the criteria for the division of Non National Roads funding.

It was agreed that the topic would be discussed at the proposed Roads Area Meeting.

During a discussion on road conditions and the recent roads allocation, Cllr McNally proposed that the council write to the Chief Executive of Monaghan County Council; seeking an explanation as to how we will meet our commitments to the roads programme as adopted at the last roads meeting and following his comments last autumn that no town would be a disadvantage following the closure of the town councils. This was seconded by Cllr Keelan.

- Acknowledgement to our correspondence regarding our request for extra funding to fix the R179 was received from Minister Heather Humphreys TD

Cllr O’Hanlon asked that the council send a further letter to Minister Humphreys to make her aware of the condition of the road. Members were disappointed at the brief reply received.

- Correspondence received regarding Carrick Goldmine Ltd from concerned locals regarding their Planning Application for a Private members gaming club.

This item was discussed under Suspension of Standing Orders above. Members were all in support.

4. Consideration of Draft Bye-Laws for Muckno Park

Cllr Crowe proposed the adoption of the Bye-Laws. This was seconded by Cllr McNally.

5. Consideration of Draft Schedule of Municipal District Works for 2015

Copies of the draft Schedule of Municipal District Works for 2015 was circulated to members and agreed by all.

6. Consideration of Coordinators monthly report

Items raised by members

Cllr O’Hanlon

- Complimented team effort in resolving issues on the Coalpit Road.
- Expressed his concerns at the removal of the Bus Eireann bus without any due consideration or notice to school pupils
- Proposed *“That the council write to Bus Eireann and the Minister for Transport, that under no circumstances should a school bus and service bus be taken off the road due to the bad condition of the road without notifying the relevant authority first. (i.e County Council) and that a period of 4 weeks be given for the works to be done.”* This was seconded by Cllr McNally

Cllr McNally

- Enquired as to proposals for hedge cutting for all junctions for 2015. In reply John Lennon informed the meeting that a schedule for hedge cutting is being prepared to include all junctions
- Asked if the hedge cutting programme had been compromised as result of additional Health & Safety requirements.
- Asked that the section of road towards the ‘finger post’ on Ballybay road to Duffys Cross be examined. Lorry’s are using the in middle of road to avoid overgrown hedges.

Cllr Carty

- Asked that the works on the MUGA and Skate Park would both completed by early may this year in time for the June bank holiday festival.

Cllr Keelan

- Stated that a more robust approach was needed to follow up land owners who constantly ignore hedge cutting notices.
- Asked as to the time scale for dealing with reports received for repairs to potholes for example. Mr Lennon replied that complaints received are recorded and dealt with in rotation

Cllr Crowe

- Acknowledged the work being carried out and in particular the repairs to the Frankfurt bridge
- Requested that the provision of a crash barrier be considered at the bridge

7. Notices of Motion

The following Notice of Motion was put forward by Cllr Crowe on behalf of Cllr Campbell. The motion was seconded by Cllr Carthy and agreed by all.

I wish to call on the Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney to take measures to reform the previous Castleblayney/Marseallian Town Twinning Committee.

8. Questions

The following questions were asked by Cllr Carthy

1. Can the MD clarify if Carrickmacross have still in place the policy of rescinding Part III of Gaming & Lotteries Act 1956 which prohibits the licensing for Gaming of amusement halls?

Response – Part III of the Gaming and Lotteries Act, 1956 was never adopted for the administrative area of Carrickmacross or part thereof, and the Local Authority has never rescinded an adoption of Part III of the Gaming & Lotteries Act, 1956 for its administrative area or part thereof.

2. Could the MD confirm if works to the Kingscourt Road (i.e. from the Red Door to ExCel (Production plant) that require moving of road signage and road markings will be carried out in the near future?

Response – the Municipal District Office will carry out a Road Safety Assessment on this section of road in the coming weeks. The assessment report and recommendations will be reviewed and implemented accordingly.

3. What is the updated position on the proposed cycle lane for Carrickmacross?

Response – the preparation of a Cycle Strategy for Carrickmacross is included in the Schedule of Municipal District Works for 2015. The project will commence with the preparation of a Consulting Engineers Brief and procurement of same in the next three months

4. Would the Municipal District Council consider

- a. Adding public lighting and extending the footpath on the left hand side of the Kingscourt Road (an additional 100m) to the entrance of the housing estate at the edge of Carrickmacross.

Response – The Municipal District Office will consider Cllr. Carthy's proposal to extend the footpath and public lighting on the Kingscourt Road under the 2015 footpath restoration and public lighting programmes. A Road District meeting will be convened in the coming weeks to agree the 2015 work programmes with the elected members.

5. Taking the Kingscourt Road housing estate into public ownership

Response – No formal application has been received for the 'Taking in Charge' of the houses in question.

The following question was asked by Cllr Keelan

1. In relation to the deplorable state of repair of the Carrickmacross to Culloville Road (Regional Road R179), what funding is available to have this important Regional Road upgraded; what response have we received from the Department in relation to a specific Regional Road funding application which is needed to upgrade and repair many of these regional routes which are vital for economic development?

Response – An application for a Specific Regional Road grant was made to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport for the R179. The 2015 Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations announced on the 3rd February, does not provide funding for a Specific Regional Grant for the R179. Therefore ongoing maintenance on the R179 will be funded from the 2015 discretionary and restoration maintenance grants.

2. In relation to Blackstaff National School, what plans has this District Council to carry out some improvement works as discussed with school management in 2014, including the upgrading of the signs and lines and also the provision of Drive Feedback Signs in the interest of road safety?

Response – there is no provision in the 2015 budget to implement the above upgrades at Blackstaff National School. Consideration will be given to these upgrades by the district Office subject to funding being available.

3. In welcoming funding for the provision of much needed safety measures, including a railing to be put in place at Drumgossatt National School as discussed with school management some time ago, when is it hoped to commence works at the school?

Response – The Municipal District will complete works at Drumgossatt National School during the summer holidays.

4. What plans has this District Council to carry out some improvement works to Essexfort Junction as discussed some months ago with local residents and those involved in the Transport business given how dangerous this junction is, in particular for those road users trying to access the busy Dundalk to Carrickmacross Regional Route R178 from the Inniskeen Road?

Response – Minor safety improvement works are to commence in the coming weeks at the junction between the one way system and the LP4620, Inniskeen Village road. Statistical Data provided by Monaghan County Council shows no accidents occurring at the junction in the period 1996 – present.

6. In relation to Inniskeen Village, what is the up-to-date position regarding the provision of much needed traffic calming measures including speed ramps, given the huge concern of local residents, parents and school management in relation to the speeding traffic in the village as discussed with senior council staff and local representatives?

Response – an application to fund new safety measures was made under the 2015 Low Cost Safety Improvement programme to the NRA. The 2015 Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations announced on the 3rd February, does not provide funding for Low Cost Safety Improvements at Inniskeen Village.

9. Director of Services Orders

08/2015 Lisnagunnion Flood Alleviation Works Scheme – Temporary and Permanent Wayleave Agreement at Tullyvaragh Upper, Carrickmacross

09/2015 Appointment of NC Plant Hire, Project Supervisor, carry out ancillary works at Tullyvin Roundabout

10. Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations

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

- Noel & Eileen McEneaney on the death of Neil's brother Pasty McEneaney
- Anne Traynor on the death of her husband Eddy
- John (JB) Byrne & Family on the death of his mother Mary Byrne
- Pauline and Jim Fox on the death of her mother Bridie Freeman
- Clive and Josephine McMahan on the death of his Mother Pat McMahan
- Pauline and Neil Pallant on the death of her father Thomas McKitterick
- Anna and Michael O'Reilly on the death of her mother Francis Gartlan
- Claire and Ian Marron on the death of her mother Eileen Duffy
- Anne Quigley on the death of her uncle Patrick McCahey
- Bernie and Liam Hickey on the death of her brother Mickey Rooney
- Catriona Larney & Family the death of her husband Brendan
- Bernie McCartney and Eilish Goodman on the death of their father Tom McCartney

11. Any Other Business

A discussion took place regarding a time and date for the districts Roads Meeting. Cllr O'Hanlon proposed Monday 2nd March 2015 @ 4pm in the M:Tek Building Monaghan (after the full council meeting). This was seconded by Cllr Crowe and agreed by all. Members requested that a reminder to be sent out.

Further to discussions under 'Additional Correspondence' above, Cllr McNally proposed that *'The Municipal District invites the Chief Executive, Eugene Cummins to our road area meeting in MTek on Monday 2nd March @ 4pm.* This was seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon and signed by all members present.

Cllr O'Hanlon also proposed

"That this District organise a meeting next week with the 5 Dáil Deputies for the constituency (including Minister for Arts) and for a follow up meeting to be arranged with the Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport Paschal Donohue". This was seconded by Cllr McNally and signed by all members present

Cllr McNally

- Asked that in light of the proposals on the table for the staff in Bose that they be reminded of the support of the Municipal District if there was anything they could do to help
- Requested that the engineer would examine the condition of the road at Drumgosset Church and National School along with the road to Ballaghnamearn National School

Cllr Carthy

- Associated with comments regarding the staff of Bose
- Informed the meeting that Matt Carthy, MEP had met recently with Mr Martin Shanahan, CEO IDA Ireland to stress the importance of investment in the town to replace that lost at the Bose factory

Cllr O'Hanlon

- Proposed *"That this District calls on the Minister for Jobs, Richard Bruton and the IDA, Enterprise Ireland that any new factories that are opened are not sold to private, commercial groups but are kept in the ownership of the State Agencies"*. This was seconded by Cllr McNally and agreed by all. The motion to be forwarded to all Local Authorities
- Thanked the Cavan Monaghan ETB and in particular CEO Martin O'Brien for their support of the poetry competition for the Kavanagh Centre in Inniskeen which has been extended into all schools nationwide and acknowledged the work of Cllr Carthy in getting this through.

Cllr Crowe –

- Congratulated Monaghan Ladies GAA and in particular Tessa Fleming (present) on their win over Cork along with the County Hurling Team on their success.

Next month's meeting – scheduled for Monday 23rd March 2015 @ 10am

The meeting concluded at 12.15pm

Cathaoirleach.

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____