

Ceantar Bardasach Carraig Mhachaire Rois – Baile na Lorgan
Comhairle Contae Mhúineacháin



The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney
Monaghan County Council

Minutes of proceedings of January monthly meeting of The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney held in the Iontas Centre, Castleblayney, Monaghan on Monday 26th January 2015 @ 11:30am.

Present:- Mayor Jackie Crowe, Cllrs. Aidan Campbell, Noel Keelan, PJ O Hanlon, Padraig McNally, Colm Carthy

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

Press:- Michael Fisher, The Northern Standard. Martin Shannon, the Anglo Celt. Joe McCabe, Carrick Gazette, Tessa Fleming and Ronan O'Reilly, Northern Sound Radio and Jimmy Walshe Photographer

Apologies:- None

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of December 2014 meeting

Mayor Crowe welcomed all and opened the meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan and seconded by Cllr McNally the minutes of the meeting held on 19th December 2014 were adopted

2. Matters arising

- No change on the situation with regard to social clause in the procurement of public contracts.
- Letter was issued to Irish Water inviting a representative to attend the District Council meeting. No reply received to date. Request to be renewed.
- Letter issued to Louth County Council regarding the upgrading of Inniskeen Road. No reply received to date.

3. Correspondence

Correspondence was received from

1. Martina Carroll regarding the R179 Donaghmoynne/Culloville Road
This item was dealt with under Cllr Carthy's Notice of Motion below.

2. Lithuanian Community regarding a location to hold an Art Competition
Cllr Keelan proposed the competition be held in the foyer of the Civic Offices. This was seconded by Cllr Crowe.

3. Private Secretary to the Minister for Primary Care regarding Dental Services in Castleblayney.

Following a short discussion Cllr Crowe proposed that the council write back to the Primary Care Unit for at least part time services to be provided in Castleblayney. This was seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon.

Additional Correspondence received from

- a) Hudson's Funfair seeking permission to use Drummond Etra Car Park to hold the 2015 funfair in conjunction with the St Patrick's Day celebrations.

During a discussion Cllr McNally proposed the approval of the request subject to the necessary insurance being in place and asked that pending works for the car park area be carried out prior to this event. In seconding the proposal Cllr Carthy requested that the necessary security and support for residents be put in place. This was agreed by all

4. Consideration of Coordinators monthly report

Coordinator, Cathal Flynn circulated copies of his January report and outlined works which had been undertaken during December / January along with proposed works for the coming months. During a discussion which followed members commended the coordinator on his monthly report which was a huge benefit to members and commented, as follows?

Cllr Crowe

- Complimented the works undertaken in the Winter Maintenance programme recently

Cllr Keelan

- Raised concerns about the time taken to repair potholes and the potential availability of staff going forward (given the moratorium on staff recruitment).
- Welcomed the flood works at Lisnagunnion.
- Asked that works on flood prevention in relation to houses in danger of flooding in Inniskeen area (River Fane) would be raised with the OPW.
- proposed that *"That this Municipal District write to the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government requesting a special fund to repair or replace some of the bridges in the area, some of which are in a very dangerous condition"*. This was seconded by Cllr Carthy.

Cllr Campbell

- Asked if the possibility of assigning workmen to clear gullies along roadsides could be reviewed and implemented in coming years (similar to practices in the past).
- Requested the provision of public toilets at Lough Muckno Park would be kept on the agenda for possible funding when Cross-Border EU Funding Agencies would open for applications.

Cllr McNally

- Asked that a section of road in Dun Ard, Inniskeen would be repaired if in the charge of the County Council.
- In welcoming the signs at Mokeeran Quarry asked that the possibility of providing 'pull in' areas on crests be examined as it was difficult for two lorries to meet on the approach road.
- Enquired as to the timescale for the works at Clough valley play park In reply the Coordinator reported that the contract for the skate park was already signed, the contract for the MUGA would be signed following this meeting. Expect to have works finished for the summer period.
- Asked if there were any plans to improve the existing football pitch and install netting on the goal posts in Clough Valley. The facility is extensively used by individuals and could be more available to clubs if some improvements were undertaken
- Enquired if the flooding problem at Lisnagunnion was manmade. In reply Mr Flynn reported that the problem was due to excessive ground water and the nature of local landscape/ ground conditions. Works were expected to be completed by the end of April.

Cllr O'Hanlon

- Asked that the Coordinator and Engineering staff review other areas prone to flooding so that funding could be sought for flooding prevention works.
- Asked that the Office of Public Works be contacted with regard to flooding near Nelsons Quarry in Carrickmacross to see if anything can be done to sort the problem
- Asked that the Roads Programme of works be implemented as soon as possible following the receipt of the districts allocation for 2015 to avoid works being done late in the year

Cllr Carthy

- Acknowledged the meetings held with the Community Groups and enquired to the current status of the Carrickmacross Youth Cafe Project. In reply Mr Flynn stated that tenders had been received and reviewed. Works should commence shortly
- Enquired as to the timescale for the appointment of a Road Safety Audit Consultant. In reply members were informed that the appointment will be made in the coming weeks.

5. Notices of Motion

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Cllr Carthy.

That the Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District write to the RSA, the Minister for Transport, Pascal O'Donohoe TD and the Oireachtas members from County Monaghan requesting extra funding to fix the R179 (Carrickmacross to Donaghmoyne Road) as this road has been left in ruin over the years from lack of funding.

This was seconded by Cllr Keelan. Cllr Keelan asked that the a reply be issued to Ms Carroll commending her for her action in writing in to the council about this road (see item of correspondence)

In supporting the motion Cllr McNally asked that Ms Carroll be informed that the item was discussed at the District Meeting and that any recent traffic counts for the road be forwarded to the Department along with photos of its condition. Cllr McNally proposed that the worst sections of the road needed be repaired anyway under our regional road allocation. Mr Flynn

informed members that following a meeting with the Senior Engineer in Roads Section that the R179 was a priority road for investment of future regional road locations.

The motion was supported unanimously.

The following Notices of Motion (part a + b) were proposed by Cllr O'Hanlon.

On foot of an article published in the Sunday Independent on the 18th January 2015 in relation to the disposal of waste from an illegal fuel plant in South Armagh:

- (a) That the Carrickmacross – Castleblayney Municipal District request Monaghan County Council to confirm the exact levels of reported toxins in Lough Muckno'*

This was seconded by Cllr McNally

Cllr O'Hanlon further proposed

That this Municipal District calls on the Minister for Justice and the Minister for the Environment to come together and have a meeting to make sure that everything should be done in relation to stamping out the scourge of wash diesel and immediately set up a Task Force to stamp out this illegal activity once and for all.

This was seconded by Cllr McNally and agreed unanimously.

- (b) That the Carrickmacross – Castleblayney Municipal District request the Sunday Independent reporter, Mr Jim Cusack, to present a report on his findings to the Carrickmacross – Castleblayney Municipal District's February meeting.*

The Motion was seconded by Cllr McNally.

Cllr Keelan expressed his concerns about inviting a reporter to the District Meeting to discuss his findings. During a long and detailed discussion which followed Cllr Keelan proposed the following amendment to Cllr O'Hanlon's (b) proposal. This was seconded by Cllr Carthy and agreed by all.

That the Municipal District of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney call on Mr Jim Cusack (Sunday Independent) to send on all findings relating to water quality and criminality to all relevant authorities; namely the Municipal District, Gardai, PSNI, EPA, Irish Water, Minister of Environment and Minister of Justice.

6. Questions

The following questions were asked by Cllr Carthy

- 1. Can the County Council seek to take over the running of external lighting to the entrance and car park of Gaelscoil Lorgan, Castleblayney? Since the closure of business premises adjacent to the school they have not been turned on.*

Response – Gaelscoil Lorgan is located in a private industrial park and outside the control of Monaghan County Council. Monaghan County Council will not seek to take over the running of these private lightings. It is likely the external lighting in question is part of the MPRN network for the adjacent building (In private ownership)

2. *What is the status of Inver Park housing estate, Carrickmacross regarding the Council taking over its upkeep?*

Response – an application was made to take the development in charge. Information was sought by the Planning Authority from the developer in question in 2013. To date, the information sought has not been received by Monaghan County Council.

3. *Are there any developments on getting a pedestrian crossing for the Donaghmoynne Road leaving the town adjacent to the Cluainn Alainn Housing Estate?*

Response – The Municipal District is currently seeking the services of a Road Safety Audit Consultant to carry out a number of audits in the Carrickmacross Castleblayney Municipal District. The audit reports and recommendations will be reviewed and recommendations implemented accordingly.

4. *Can the Council furnish the members with details on safety measures relating to dog ownership in urban areas i.e. are there certain breeds that should be muzzled when being walked?*

Response – The Control of Dogs Regulations 1998 impose rules in relation to the following breeds (and strains/cross-breeds) of dog:

- American Pit Bull Terrier
- English Bull Terrier
- Staffordshire Bull Terrier
- Bull Mastiff
- Dobermann Pinscher
- German Shepherd (Alsatian)
- Rhodesian Ridgeback
- Rottweiler
- Japanese Akita
- Japanese Tosa
- Bandog

The rules state that these dogs (or strains and crosses of them) must:

- Be kept on a short strong lead by a person over 16 years who is capable of controlling them
- Be muzzled whenever they are in a public place
- Wear a collar bearing the name and address of their owner at all times

The legislation on muzzling and leashing do not apply to dogs used by the Gardaí, the Dublin Harbour Police, State Airport Police and bona fide rescue teams in rescue operations. The rules on muzzling do not apply to guide dogs for the blind.

The following questions were asked by Cllr Keelan

1. *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 concerns of local residents and school management around road safety?*

Response – An Application to fund new safety measures was made under the 2015 Low Cost Safety Improvement programme to the NRA. No decision regarding this application has been made by NRA.

2. *In relation to Drumgossatt National School, what is the up-to-date position regarding the provision of safety measures, including a safety railing, as discussed some months ago with school management?*

Response – An application to fund new safety measures was made under the 2015 Low Cost Safety Improvement Programme to the NRA. No decision regarding this application has been made by NRA.

3. *In relation to the historical village of Inniskeen and as a follow on from a meeting with our senior engineering staff, community organisations and local residents in the village some time ago, what is the up-to-date position in relation to the planning out and provision of walking links/footpaths that will link up at the Patrick Kavanagh Centre, McNello's Public House, cross the River Fane and out to McGee's and onward past the very dangerous corner towards Finnegan's Cross?*

Response – the Municipal District office will prepare mapping detailing the footpath / walking links proposals for Inniskeen. The Footpath Master plan will be prepared in 2015 to allow applications for necessary grant aid to be made.

4. *In commending Monaghan County Council and Lisanisk Residents Association for the improvement works carried out in the Lisanisk area, will this Municipal Council extend the footpath link at this location and also ensure that the 50km speed limit as agreed, be put in place as soon as possible?*

Response – a meeting to discuss 2015 footpath restoration proposals will be arranged with the elected members. Speed limit signage will be provided following the adoption of speed limit committee proposals by the elected members at County Council level.

5. *Will the District Council prepare a plan to put in place infrastructure such as public lighting and footpaths at Lough Egish and that if this proposal is accepted it would link up the church / Community Centre on the Regional Route R181 and also link up from Gaffney's Motor Factors out to Lavelle's Hardware & Plumbing Supplies on the Regional Route R180, given the employment that has been created in this area and also given the substantial commercial rates that Monahan County Council receive from businesses in this area on an annual basis; will our District Co-ordinator agree that these businesses should see some of this rates funding being spent back in the area and also this programme of works could be carried out over the term of this Council?*

Response – The Municipal District Office will consider Cllr. Keelan's proposal at Lough Egish under the 2015 Roads and Footpaths restoration programme. A meeting to discuss the 2015 roads and footpath restoration proposals will be convened with the elected members in the coming weeks. The allocation of Municipal District funding is within the remit of the Municipal District Members.

7. Director of Services Orders

- 20/2014 Appointment of NC Plant Hire, Project Supervisor, Raise Faulty/damaged iron work identified in both towns
- 01/2015 Appointment of NC Plant Hire, Project Supervisor, remove boundary row of high and overgrown coniferous trees, Dun Ard, Inniskeen
- 02/2015 Appointment of NC Plant Hire, Project Supervisor remove boundary row of high and overgrown coniferous trees, Dun Ard, Inniskeen
- 03/2015 Appointment of Airtricity Utility Solutions Ltd, all public lighting maintenance in Municipal District
- 04/2015 Appointment of Airtricity Utility Solutions Ltd, all public lighting maintenance in the Municipal District

- 05/2015 Appointment of Motorwaycare, de-tension of existing wire rope crash barrier cables on Castleblayney By Pass
- 06/2015 Appointment of Monaghan County Council for all road works and construction works carried out in locations in the Municipal District
- 07/2015 Appointment of Monaghan County Council for all road works and construction works carried out in locations in the Municipal District

Following queries members were informed that

- all works undertaken are procured
- Monaghan County Council follow up costs of repairs following accidents with the relevant insurance company when the persons involved are known to the council

8. Votes of Sympathy / Congratulation

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

- Liam Bermingham & Family on the death of their mother, Mary
- Ursula O'Hanlon, on the death of her mother Mrs Lucy Kerley
- Patricia Keoghan on the death of her father Brian Keoghan
- Irene Rouse & Family on the death of her husband Evan Rouse
- Peadar Byrne on the death of his sister Teresa Murray
- Agnes Maguire on the death on John Maguire
- Caroline Plunkett and Padraic McNally on the death of Molly Fleming
- Noel McNally on the death of his father John McNally
- Tommy Martin, Valley Close on death of brother Michael

9. Any Other Business

Members all in turn expressed their disappointment and concerns over the pending closure of the Bose factory in Carrickmacross, pledged their support for the employees and would do all they could to seek new company to set up in the premises. Cllr McNally proposed that a letter of support be sent to the employees of Bose.

The following items were raised by members

Cllr McNally

- Some lights out of order on Convent Avenue
- Section of Convent Avenue with no lights erected. Request additional lighting (as far as old tennis court site) be sought
- Request that the wording 'North' and 'South' be added to the exits signs on the N2 for both Carrickmacross and Castleblayney
- Landowners in the locality of Donaghmoynne water supply received correspondence from Monaghan County Council outlining their exemptions from spreading fertiliser or slurry. Propose that the District Council write to the Department of Environment and the Department of Agriculture asking if compensation was going to be made available to farmers. This was seconded by Keelan and agreed by all.
- In order to determine the road allocation for the district and as the criteria for how it is to be divided for the county seemed to be unclear I ask the council to write to the Chief Executive seeking clarity on how this allocation is to be divided. This was seconded by Cllr Crowe. Response to be circulated within the next few days

Cllr Carthy

- Raised the issue with regard to the gritting lorry passing by the Montessori School on L4290 and requested that the possibility of gritting the road to the school be reviewed. In reply Coordinator Cathal Flynn reminded members of the 'Purchase a Salt Bin' scheme

Cllr O'Hanlon

- Requested an update on the proposed works at Emmet Park for next meeting.

Cllr Keelan

- Commended the outdoor staff for their work on gritting and salting.
- Queried staffing levels in the council given the number of retirements taken and pending. In reply Mr Flynn reported that there was still a moratorium in place on staffing levels

The meeting concluded at 1.45pm. Next month's meeting is scheduled for Monday 23rd February 2014.

Cathaoirleach.

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____