

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



**The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney
Monaghan County Council**

Minutes of proceedings of December 2015 monthly meeting of The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney held in the Civic Office, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Monaghan on Monday 21st December 2015 @ 10am.

Present: - Mayor PJ O Hanlon

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

Also in attendance: - Frances Matthews, Co-ordinator, John Lennon, Amanda Murray, Teresa McGuirk

Apologies: - Paul Clifford, Director of Services

1. Confirmation of Minutes

a. November 2015 monthly meeting

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan and seconded by Cllr Carthy the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd November 2015 were adopted

b. Minutes of Finance Meeting

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan and seconded by Cllr Carthy the minutes of the Finance Meeting held on Friday 16th October 2015 were adopted

2. Matters arising

Cllr McNally asked that as no reply has been received from Louth County Council regarding the East West link road that a follow up letter be issued. If reply received that it be forwarded on to members

3. Correspondence

Correspondence was received from

- Carrickmacross Festival Committee – seeking permission for use of public areas in Carrickmacross for 2016 festival
 - Cllr McNally proposed the approval of request. This was seconded by Cllr Carthy and agreed by all

- Monaghan Integrated Development – re agenda slot to show short film ‘Include Us’ at council meeting
 - Cllr Keelan proposed that the group be invited to the January meeting. This was seconded by Cllr McNally and agreed by all
- Carrickmacross Arts Festival Committee – seeking meeting to discuss future funding for Carrickmacross Arts Festival
 - Cllr McNally proposed that the committee be asked to submit details of expenditure in advance of meeting with the council.
- Patrick Kavanagh Centre – re funding for the centre
 - Cllr Keelan proposed to invite the group to meet with the Finance Committee to discuss their financial commitments. This was seconded by Cllr McNally and agreed by all.
- Carrickmacross/Carhaix Twinning Association – inviting one member of District as official delegate on twinning visit to Carhaix at Easter
 - Following a discussion it was agreed to reply seeking permission for both the Mayor and the Coordinator to attend.
- All Ireland Drama Festival Committee – acknowledging receipt of funding
 - Cllr Crowe thanked committee for all done in promoting the festival and the county.
- Mayor of Marseillan – acknowledging receipt of condolences from the District following Paris tragedy
 - Cllr Campbell acknowledged the twinning works between Castleblayney and Marseillan and asked that Carrickmacross Town be more involved. To this end it was agreed that a delegation from both Municipal District Towns would visit the French Embassy to deliver the books of condolences
- Brendan Smith TD – forwarding a reply from Minister Paschal Donohoe regarding Non National Roads grant allocation increase

And

- Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin TD – forwarding a reply from Minister Paschal Donohoe TD regarding roads allocations for local and regional roads
 - Members again expressed their dissatisfaction at the lack of support received from the Department for local and regional roads. Following a discussion the following was proposed by Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Keelan and agreed by all.
 - *“That Carrickmacross – Castleblayney Municipal District writes back to Minister Paschal Donohoe pointing to our road condition survey which shows approximately 500km of Monaghan Roads in need of urgent attention. However with present levels of funding we will only manage to reconstruct 10% of these. Carrickmacross – Castleblayney Municipal District itself has 140 km of roads almost impassable at present.”*
 - Cllr McNally also asked that the Roads Survey would be forwarded to TD’s as well.
- John Nugent, IDA Ireland – regarding Bose Facility in Carrickmacross
 - After a detailed discussion regarding the issues raised in the correspondence, the following was proposed by Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Keelan and agreed by all
 - *“That this Municipal District writes back to the IDA seeking that an elected member be a member of the Task Force presently in place dealing with BOSE along with our Manager, Paul Clifford”*
- Office of the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation – noting request to be included in future events regarding Job Creation in County Monaghan
 - In addition Cllr Carthy asked that going forward elected members nationwide would be notified of future public meeting like this one
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland – reply regarding N53 closure
 - Concerns were raised regarding the long delay in replying to our letter of July 2015
 - Cllr O’Hanlon stated that some heavy vehicles still using the detour as a short cut and asked engineer to review possibility of restrictions for HGV’s

4. Consideration of proposed Bye-Laws for McGrath Road

Members were informed that the next stage of the process included the issuing of a public consultation notice in the local paper in early January.

5. Consideration of Coordinators monthly report

Review of works

Cllr Campbell

- Acknowledged and complimented all the positive works outlined in the report being undertaken in the Municipal District
- Queried the launch date of brochure and whether it was a full county brochure or specific to the district – In reply members were informed that the brochure was for this District. A draft copy would be forwarded to all members

Cllr Crowe

- Complimented staff on the report
- Welcomed resurfacing of Drumillard play park

Cllr Carthy

- Solar panels on Speed Sign on the Drumcondrath Road pointing wrong direction
- Lighting at Crann Nua to be reviewed

Cllr Keelan

- Commended outdoor staff also on carrying out works of the District

Cllr McNally

- Welcomed the extension to Clough Valley playground
- Some sign cleaning and trimming still needs to be done
- Lights out around the town some with no numbers on poles for reporting – ask that a survey be undertaken to re number poles for ease of reporting faults

6. Set Date for Budget Committee Meeting

Members agreed to hold a Budget Committee Meeting on Monday 25th January @ 12noon (after the monthly meeting)

7. Questions

The following questions were asked by Cllr McNally

1. Has this Municipal District appointed a Consultant to examine Inniskeen Village? What level of public consultation will take place and what will the time scale be to complete the plan?

Response – Taking account of the limitations on funds for new works, Monaghan County Council will undertake a review of footpaths in Inniskeen in 2016, using our own engineering staff. Members will be consulted in relation to all aspects of the review and the normal Part 8 planning consultation procedures will apply

2. Will this Municipal District have all signs washed and trimmed before December 31st in the interest of road safety?

Response: - Maintenance works to improve traffic signs visibility is on a rolling works programme for the District Office, therefore traffic sign maintenance will continue into 2016

3. Following a speed limit Committee meeting held on December 1st, will this Authority furnish John McKernan, Engineer, the necessary distance in which the 50 KPH limit should be moved northwards to include the large number of houses presently just outside the existing limit on the old N2 Castleblayney Road, Carrickmacross?

Response: - A Submission has been made to the Roads Section in relation to the relocation of the 50KPH on the old N2 Castleblayney Road for consideration as part of the National Speed Limit Review process to be carried out in 2016

4. Has this Municipal District received any response from the TII (NRA) regarding the combined junctions at Tullyvaragh on the N2?

Response: - A response from the TII in relation to the combined junctions at Tullyvaragh on the N2 has not been received to date.

The following questions were asked by Cllr Carthy

1. Will this Council consider modifying road markings on N2 (at the Castleross/Old Castleblayney Road turn) to allow for a right-turning lane to be added, along with cats-eyes, for traffic coming south (from Castleblayney direction)? If this is under the remit of the NRA/TII – will this council highlight the urgent need for this work to be carried out by them?

Response: - The modifying of junction layouts on the N2 is under the remit of the TII. Roads engineering staff will bring the junction and the concerns of the Councillors to the attention of the TII's Road Safety Inspector for his consideration

2. Will this council consider adding some roads outside the urban area of Carrickmacross to the proposed cycle lanes?

Response: - The Municipal District office is currently seeking Consulting Engineers to prepare a walking/cycling strategy for Carrickmacross Town. Where feasible the strategy will investigate the possibility of developing walking and cycling routes on the outskirts of the town, as part of the overall strategy.

3. Has the Municipal District met with representatives from the South Monaghan Industrial Heritage Committee and the Carrickmacross Photography Club to set out a plan to find suitable accommodation for both groups into the future?

Response: - The coordinator contacted the South Monaghan Industrial Heritage Committee in September and advised them that the Council was not in a position to accommodate their requirement for storage space within the Market House. The Photography Club have a short term lease in the Market Square building.

4. Has the recent flooding highlighted any weak spots in the Municipal Districts drainage network and if so are there any plans to try and prevent any future problems?

Response: - The majority of areas that flooded in the Carrickmacross – Castleblayney Municipal District occurred in areas that are historically prone to flooding. The District Office will carry out minor flood alleviation works i.e. opening channels and jetting of storm water networks, but for major alleviation works, assistance will be required from the Office of Public Works

5. Has there been any response from the OPW in relation to flood relief works being carried out to Derrylavin/Drumgowan area of Magheracluone (i.e. cutting back of verge, unblocking drains and clearing parts of the river) with particular emphasis on the reintroduction of the pre-existing dam?

Response: - A non-costal Minor Work application for funding to reinstate dam gace has been made to the Office of Public Works for 2016. No decision on the application has been received by the District Office

The following questions were asked by Cllr Keelan

1. In welcoming the traffic calming measures being put in place in Inniskeen Village, what works are now outstanding and can the council confirm that a number of additional speed ramps will be put in place adjacent to Deery Tce, Dunard and St. Daig's Tce?

Response: - The Low Cost Improvement Scheme for Inniskeen Village will be completed shortly. Consideration will be given to Cllr Carthy's proposal to install additional ramps in Inniskeen Village in 2016

2. Will this Council give a report as to what areas in the Carrickmacross – Castleblayney District suffered from the worst flooding in recent days and what actions will be taken to ensure that those areas don't flood again; is there a fund available for flood prevention measures and have we applied for it?

Response: - The District Office received 6 reports of flooding. The most extensive flooding occurred at Inniskeen pitch and putt course, and Annadruman Road. When these reviews have been completed the appropriate action will be taken by Monaghan County Council

3. Will additional drainage be put in place along the Donaghmoyne Road adjacent to the Ascaill Dubh before the Christmas break as discussed and agreed some time ago?

Response: - the drainage at Ascaill Dubh will not be completed until early 2015

4. In welcoming the provision of a safety barrier at St Michael's Little Scholars facility in Donaghmoyne Village, will this council consider putting in place a Bicycle Stand at St Michael's National School in the village as discussed some time ago?

Response: - Consideration will be given to Cllrs Keelan and Carthy proposal to install a bicycle stand at St Michael's Little Scholars facility in 2016

5. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the provision of new speed limits and changes to extending speed limits across the area, including the provision of a 50km speed limit at Lisanisk?

Response: - The modifying of junction layouts on the N2 is under the remit of the TII, Roads engineering staff will bring the junction and the concerns of the councillors to the attention of the TII's Road Safety Inspector for his consideration.

8. Director of Services Orders

- 67/2015 NC Plant – PSCS & PSDP – Inniskeen Village, Low Cost Works
68/2015 Patrick Hamilton – PSCS & PSDP – Signs at Tullyvaragh
69/2015 NC Plant Hire – PSCS & PSDP – Additional Fencing at Barford Meats
70/2015 Affixing of Council Seal to Short Term Letting Agreement – Men's Shed, Castleblayey
71/2015 S Wilkin – PSCS & PSDP – Pavement Patching, Carrickmacross and Castleblayney

9. Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations

The following Votes of Sympathy were passed, a minutes silence as observed with all present standing.

- Former Councillor Mariea Kelly on the death of her son Patrick Kelly
- Brooke Carolan and Family on the death of Frank Carolan
- Joanne and Noel Mullins on the death of her father Frank Carolan
- The Morris Family on the death of Seamus Morris

10. Any Other Business

Cllr Carthy

- Hedges in an area of road to rear of estate hedge gets out of control – be included in programme for 2016. Also that a 'blind spot' would be fenced off
- Some small remedial flood alleviation works are required Derrylavin area

Cllr Keelan

- Issues regarding illegal dumping in the area need to be followed up legally
- Groups erecting temporary signage for charity events without permission need to be contacted and made aware of policies rather than signs being removed without warning

- Letter to be sent in to the council in the New Year from St Vincent de Paul Society seeking support from them in new year to be put onto budget meeting agenda

Cllr McNally

- Queried if the District had any serious flooding incidents in last few weeks following very heavy rain. In reply John Lennon reported that there had been no major instances
- Asked that following the lack of a response from TII regarding the realignment of junctions on the N2 an email is sent again on the matter. Any response subsequently received to be forward to all members.

Cllr O’Hanlon

- Wished all members, staff and press a Happy Christmas and New Year and thanked them for support during the year.

Presentation to Rannafast Cup Winning team

Mayor O’Hanlon welcomed the winning Patrician High School Rannafast Cup team members, their mentors Martin Mills, Eamon Dunne and Brendan Lennon; Vice Principal Sean Rafferty and former Councillor Aidan Murray (grandfather of team member) to the Civic Reception to honour their great achievement on winning the Rannafast Cup.

Members all in turn congratulated the team and mentors on their success and wished them well in future competitions.

Eamon Dunne, on behalf of the mentors, the team thanked the council for invite and for the honour of a civic reception to mark the team’s achievement

Sean Rafferty on behalf of the school also thanked the council for the invitation, acknowledged the hard work of the team and the teaching staff and pledged the schools support to the team in following rounds of the competition. Team members were then presented with individual certificates by the Mayor.

Everyone was then invited to partake of light refreshments. This concluded the business of the meeting at 12.15 pm

Next month’s meeting – Monday 25th January 2016 @ 10am

Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____