

Ceantar Bardasach Carraig Mhachaire Rois – Baile na Lorgan
Comharile Cantae Mhúineachain



The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney
Monaghan County Council

Minutes of proceedings of December monthly meeting of The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney held in Carrickmacross Civic Offices, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, on Friday 19th December 2014 @ 11:00am.

Present:- Cllrs. Aidan Campbell, 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, Stephanie McEneaney.

Press:- Martin Shannon, The Anglo Celt. Joe McCabe, Carrick Gazette. Michael McDonnell, The Northern Standard. Tessa Fleming, Northern Sound.

Apologies:- Cllr Jackie Crowe.

Cllr. O Hanlon took the chair. At the outset, he wished Cllr. Crowe a speedy recovery, who is currently in hospital.

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of November 2014 meeting

On the proposal of Cllr. Carthy and seconded by Cllr. Mc Nally the minutes of the meeting held on 24th November 2014 were adopted.

2. Matters arising

Cllr. O Hanlon issued his previous concerns in relation to local companies not winning local authority work contracts and stated that there should be a social clause included in the contract award process. Mr. Flynn stated that there is currently no provision for local preference in the procurement of public contracts, nor was there reference to local preference in the current draft bill;- 'Social Clauses in Public Procurement Bill 2013'. He added that he would circulate a copy of the draft Bill to each of the members.

Cllr. Mc Nally agreed with Cllr. O Hanlon and said that a balanced approach to the awarding of public contracts, in the context of social clauses, was required.

2. Correspondence

1. Ulster Bank Ltd regarding the closure of the Castleblayney Branch.

Cllr. Campbell and Councillors from Ballybay – Clones Municipal District had met with representatives of Ulster Bank in relation to the closure of banks in Castleblayney and Clones. The bank made it very clear that the decision to close both branches was made and will not be overturned. Cllr. Campbell was also upset to hear that Ulster Bank had no plans to leave an ATM machine in its current position in Castleblayney. The only way an ATM will be in the town is if local businesses will take on same.

2. Irish Water's response to a query regarding the high levels of lime in the drinking water

Cllr. Keelan felt that the response was outrageous and proposed that this Municipal District write to Irish Water requesting a presentation be made by Irish Water to the members to discuss the problems that local people are having with lime scale etc in the area. Cllr. Mc Nally seconded Cllr. Keelan's proposal.

3. Brendan Smyth TD re reply from Minister Kathleen Lynch TD regarding meeting to discuss dental services
4. Email from Sean Conlon TD re making representations to Minister Varadkar in relation to provision of dental services in Castleblayney
5. Reply from Department of Health concerning the provision of dental services in Castleblayney

Cllr. O Hanlon stated that the Ministers in the area will meet with the members in the near future. He added that by the January meeting there should be an update.

6. Request from the Casual Traders to trade on Tuesday 23rd December 2014

Cllr. Mc Nally asked that the Chamber of Commerce be contacted in relation to same and pending favourable response it was unanimously agreed by all to allow trading to take place.

Cllr. Keelan commended all involved with the Christmas "shop local" signage around the town.

7. Request for financial support from Castleblayney Drama Festival

Cllr. Campbell proposed that the Municipal District support the Castleblayney Drama Festival in any way they can. This was seconded by Cllr. Mc Nally and it was agreed to include provision for same in the local financial contributions budget 2015.

3. Consideration of Coordinators monthly report

Mr. Flynn said that there was no report for the meeting. The 2014 work programme was complete and all operations were currently focused on normal maintenance duties for the months of December and January.

4. Notices of Motion

The following Notice of Motion was put forward by Cllr McNally:

That Carrickmacross / Castleblayney Municipal District seeks a meeting with our counterparts in Louth County Council to discuss upgrading the road from Inniskeen to Conlon's Pub as it is a heavily used road as well as being the designated route for all Bus Eireann services between Carrickmacross and Dundalk.

Cllr. Mc Nally added that given the importance of this road, a joint approach from Monaghan and Louth County Council needed to take place and see what can be done to make the road safer. He requested that Monaghan County Council meet with members of Louth County Council on site and take it from there. He said that if there was a cross-county approach it may help with getting funding from the Department.

Cllr. Keelan seconded the proposal and said that he was very conscious that road funding grants have been reduced in the last number of years. He said that this road was a strategic link into the historic village of Inniskeen and also an important bus route for the area.

5. Questions

The following Question was asked by Cllr. Carthy:

1. Will the council consider erecting Business signage to the end of the Carrick Aces running track / Recycling centre road where it meets the main road (across from the new C:Tek building) so as to highlight where these and other businesses are to passing traffic, allowing also for future companies to be highlighted?

Response: Carrickmacross – Castleblayney Municipal District will erect a Business Information signage at the junction of the R927, Oriel Road and the LP4934, Convent Lands Industrial Sites. The signage will be produced and erected in 2015.

2. Can the Council update the members on the required 'Children at Play' signs that are to be fitted on the Drumconrath Road (Approx. 5km outside Carrickmacross)?

Response: The "Children at Play" signs have been installed on the Drumconrath Road.

3. Will the council confirm if they encourage land owners to trim hedges where there are health and safety issues (i.e. growing out onto roads, block sight-lines etc) even during the spring and summer months?

Response: Carrickmacross – Castleblayney Municipal District Office advise landowners of their obligations regarding hedge cutting. Hedge cutting notices are issued where landowners fail to respond to hedge-cutting requests.

The following question was asked by Cllr Keelan:

1. What plans has this District council to upgrade the R179 Regional Road from Carrickmacross to Culloville which is in a deplorable state of repair, and also given how important our regional

road infrastructure is for the economic development of this area, and also given that our citizens deserve to be driving on better roads?

Response: The District Engineer has had a number of discussions with Senior Engineers of Monaghan County Council regarding the need for restoration works on the R179. Monaghan County Council will make a specific Regional Road funding application to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, in January 2015.

6. Director of Services Orders

- 15/2014 Appointment of Lu-Bit Ltd, as Project Supervisor Design Process for Magheross Cemetery/Church Grounds, Carrickmacross
- 16/2014 Appointment of Lu-Bit Ltd as Project Supervisor Construction Stage for Magheross Cemetery/ Church Grounds, Carrickmacross
- 17/2014 Appointment of NC Plant Hire, Project Supervisor Construction Stage for Aughrim More, Carrickmacross
- 18/2014 Appointment of NC Plant Hire, Project Supervisor Construction Stage for Lisnagunnion, Carrickmacross, Co Monaghan
- 19/2014 Issue of Casual Trading Licence, Pitch No 36, Main St, Carrickmacross

7. Votes of Sympathies / Congratulations

Votes of sympathy was extended to the following:

- Annette Shevlin, Ballymackney, Carrickmacross on the death of her brother Alo Callan.
- Emmet Duffy, Essexford, Carrickmacross on the death of his father Tommy Duffy.
- Paddy Rankin, Magheracluone, Carrick across on the death on his brother Michael.

Votes of congratulations:

- Gavin Quigley and his Born to Perform group on willing the All Ireland Talent Competition.
- Tommy Maguire, Muckno Mania Committee on winning an All Ireland Award.

8. Any Other Business

Cllr. Mc Nally asked that clarification be sought for the next meeting in relation to a well that was sunk adjacent to Mannan Castle, Donaghmoynne. He stated that a number of landowners in the area were issued with maps and instructions stating they can't spread slurry in certain areas. He asked were these landowners going to be compensated.

Cllr. Mc Nally welcomed the new ramps on Mullinary Street. He said that there were still double yellow lines to be done in the area.

Cllr. Keelan congratulated all involved in the opening of the new St. Vincent De Paul shop on O'Neill Street. He added that St. Vincent De Paul has been in operation in Carrickmacross for over 100 years. He asked that the budget committee look favourably toward a financial

contribution being made to St. Vincent De Paul in the New Year. Cllr. Campbell also requested that a contribution be also made to St. Vincent De Paul, Castleblayney.

A number of Convent Lands residents had contacted Cllr. Keelan in relation to an issue where Santa Claus usually visits the centre and arrives by Fire Engine. This year, however, he was unable to avail of the fire engine health and safety issues. He said that Santa had been arriving via Fire Engine for the previous 6 years and couldn't understand why this had changed. He asked, who would have made the decision to disallow same. He requested that the situation be looked into and an answer be obtained for the next meeting.

Cllr. Keelan commended the outdoor staff for their work salting during the recent frost.

Mr. Flynn updated the meeting in relation to the Barford Meats junction. He said that the next step was to proceed with acquisition of the lands. Cllr. O Hanlon proposed that €70,000 would be allocated to the Barford Meats junction from the 2015 budget. Cllr. Mc Nally seconded same and requested that a copy of plan of works be forwarded to each member prior to the commencement of works.

Cllr. O Hanlon wished members, staff and families, the press and the people of Carrickmacross and Castleblayney a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Next meeting 26th January 2015 at 11.30am in Castleblayney.

The meeting concluded at 12:15pm.

Cathaoirleach.

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____