

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



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

Minutes of proceedings of March 2017 monthly meeting of The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney held in the Civic Offices, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan on Monday 27th March 2017 at 10.30am

Present: - Mayor Campbell

CLrs Jackie Crowe, Noel Keelan, Colm Carthy, Pdraig McNally, P J O’Hanlon.

In attendance: - Paul Clifford, Director of Services; Gareth Mc Mahon , Co-ordinator; John Lennon, District Engineer, Amanda Murray Staff officer , Deirdre Power A/ Assistant Staff Officer , Veronica Corr Northern Standard.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

(a) Presentation by Mr Dermot Donovan TII

On the proposal of Cllr. Pdraig Mc Nally and seconded by Cllr. Keelan the minutes of the TII meeting held on 27th February 2017 were adopted .

(b) Carrickmacross Castleblayney Municipal District February 2017 Monthly Meeting

Ammendments were made to the minutes of the February Meeting at the request of Cllr. Keelan proposed by Cllr. O’Hanlon, seconded by Cllr. Carthy. On the proposal of Cllr. Mc Nally and seconded by Cllr. Keelan the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 27th February 2017 were adopted .

2. Matters arising

Replies to queries:

- Members welcomed Gareth Mc Mahon in new role as Coordinator and also welcomed back Veronica Corr from the Northern Standard.
- Members commended all staff and groups involved in the organisation of the St. Patricks Day Parade in Carrickmacross which once again was a great success

3. Correspondence

- Cllr. O Hanlon voiced his dismay at the lack of response from Minister Humphries, An Taoiseach and Minister Ross concerning shortage of funding. Cllr. O Hanlon also outlined that the correspondence from the Taoiseachs office lacked any reference to the matter. Cllr. O Hanlon asked for a letter to be sent to the Department of an Taoiseach asking for clarity on acknowledgement of correspondence from Carrickmacross Castleblayney Municipal District regarding the lack of Roads Funding. Cllr. O Hanlon also suggested that each member contact their own constituents regarding the matter.
- **Letter from the Arts Office Monaghan Co .Council** concerning the Per Cent for Art funding regarding the Water Treatment Plant in Carrickmacross.
- Response from **Department of Arts , Heritage Regional , Rural and Gaelthacht Affairs** and **Department of Transport , Tourism and Sport** regarding a request for additional funding under the Clár programme.
- **St Macartans Villas letter requesting permission to erect plaque.**
Cllr. Carthy congratulated the community work at St Macartans Villas and proposed permission to erect a plaque seconded by Cllr. Mc Nally and supported by all. Cllr. Keelan requested for replacement trees to be planted at St Macartans Villas.
- Request for Donation from **Our Ladies Secondary school Castleblayney** Host School for Cycle against Suicide 27th April 2017 it was agreed to refer to Community and Enterprise.
- **Letter from Tidy Town Castleblayney regarding Picnic Area on Castleblayney Road**
Gareth Mc Mahon Coordinator agreed to consider costs such as fencing and labour.
- **Correspondence regarding Green Ribbon campaign HSE mental health Event May 19th**
Cllr. Carthy requested that Carrickmacross Library assist as a designated area to collect green ribbons and help promote the campaign.
- **Response from Deputy Caoimhghín o Caoláin TD and Deputy Brendan Smith TD regarding ground rents**
Cllr. O Hanlon thanked the TD's for their correspondence and highlighted Deputy Smith's response regarding the need for a referendum to change the constitution concerning ground rent. Cllr. Mc Nally proposed, seconded by Cllr. O Hanlon and agreed by all

“ that Carrickmacross Castleblayney Municipal District writes to Deputy Smith and O’Caoláin requesting them to bring all the various spokesmen/women on the issue of ground rents to bring forward an agreed motion to the Dail in order to deal with this terrible problem “.

- Cllr. Mc Nally proposed, seconded by Cllr. O’Hanlon that a letter is sent to the CEO Eamon O’Sullivan requesting him to investigate the extent of the ground rents with other County Councils.

“That Carrickmacross Castleblayney Municipal District writes to our Chief Executive Eamon O’Sullivan to ask him to establish the extent of the ground rent problem on a countrywide basis through the association of Chief Executives. This will help our Oireachtas members put together a motion calling for its abolishing”

4. Consideration of Coordinators monthly report

Issues Raised Discussed

- Cllr. Carthy outlined the litter problem in the town and asked for a mobile litter camera to be installed. Gareth Mc Mahon requested for a specific location to notify Environment with details.
- Cllr. Mc Nally requested a letter to be sent to the Patrick Kavanagh Committee for consideration for a councilor to become a board member.
- Cllr. Mc Nally requested that Irish Water is contacted concerning the delay in connection of the Cloughvalley Toilets.
- Cllr. Mc Nally enquired about the progress on the Convent wall and asked that the item is placed on the next agenda. Director Paul Clifford informed the meeting that a grant application has been submitted concerning the wall.
- Cllr. Mc Nally asked about progress on surface dressing and drainage works Coordinator Gareth Mc Mahon agreed to have a report for the next Municipal District meeting.
- Cllr. Crowe requested that the new street lighting for Castleblayney matches the existing lights. Coordinator Gareth Mc Mahon replied that all lights will match.
- Cllr. Crowe asked that two lights at Mullyash Community Centre are fixed
- Cllr. Keelan asked that the Main Street footpath is monitored due to a number of claims.
- Cllr. O Hanlon asked for an update on the Angling group. Director Paul Clifford said that the Tourism Officer Dymrna Condra who supports the group would be in contact.
- Mayor Campbell enquired about the re-registering of lands at Minzenty Park, Castleblayney Amanda Murray Staff Officer replied that according to the solicitors the matter was with the Land registry and the land had a dealing number.

5. Questions

Questions raised by Cllr. Colm Carthy for March 2017 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

- 1. What plans are in place to deal with latest flooding issues to have occurred just off the old N2/Ardee road recently where flood relief works were completed in 2016?*

Response:

A site inspection was carried out and it was found that an outlet to a stormwater pipe which crosses the Old N2 was blocked, resulting in flooding upstream. The blockage was caused by slippage of verge material due to heavy rains. We have removed the blockage and the water upstream is now at an acceptable level. The District Office will continue to monitor the situation over the coming weeks.

- 2. When will this Municipal District be presenting proposed upgrading/safety works to be carried out on housing estates in the area, in 2017, to the members for consideration?*

Response:

The Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District received an allocation of €20,000 from the Housing Section of Monaghan County Council for Operational Maintenance in council estates and estate taken in charge by Monaghan County Council. The allocation is specifically for maintenance works e.g. trimming hedgerows, repair boundary lines, drainage jetting, repairing footpaths. This allocation cannot be used on upgrading or safety works.

3. *What is the budget allocation for footpath repairs/installations this year (2017) and how much is the total amount required to carry out works already on the list in the Municipal District?*

Response:

Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District received this year €42,098 for Signs/Lines/Footpaths. We estimated that the cost to install all the additional footpaths requested by the elected members at €300,000. An additional €50,000 is required to repair existing footpaths within Municipal District.

4. *Will the Municipal District Council consider digitalising archive minutes of the Town Council meetings for both Carrickmacross and Castleblayney and adding them to the county Website?*

Response:

The MD will liaise with the IS section, Monaghan Co. Council with a view to digitalising archive minutes.

Questions raised by Cllr. Jackie Crowe for March 2017 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

5. *Would this Municipal Council check and fix the sunken manhole covers in the town of Castleblayney?*

Response:

The damaged manhole lid on the Shercock Road, R181 has now been repaired.

6. *In the interest of safety for motorists, pedestrians and animals, would this Municipal District Council put in place traffic counters on the old N2 road at Moneyvolan, Annyalla to survey the volume traffic travelling that road during the frequent closures of the Castleblayney Bypass?*

Response:

Yes, the Municipal District will install a traffic counter on the Old N2, when the Castleblayney Bypass is next closed. The next planned closure for the N2, is June 2017 for maintenance works.

7. *What progress has been made in relation to returning the signs for the Shercock and Monaghan roads which were removed during the re - alignment of the roundabout in Castleblayney?*

Response:

The MD will review the existing signage on the approach roads to the roundabout to see if additional direction signs are required.

8. *Has an inspection of the serious potholes at Ballinacarry Bridge wall been carried out in regards to repairing it and consideration also to a skid path at the Monaghan side of the bridge?*

Response:

The District Office has inspected the road pavement on the N53, including the Ballinacarry Bridge. A number pavement defects were identified and will be repaired

shortly. Monaghan County Council plans to overlay the N53 in 2017 and this office has forwarded Cllr Crowe's requested to have a high friction surface applied to the pavement surface at the approach to the Ballinacarry Bridge to the Road Section of Monaghan County Council for consideration.

Questions raised by Cllr. Noel Keelan for March 2017 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

9. *In relation to the Inniskeen area, when is it hoped to have the roads resurfaced in the village including an area in Dunard estate, what is the up to date position in relation to the provision of footpaths/walking routes linking up all the areas throughout the Village, including the provision of a new footbridge across the river fane.?*

Response:

It is proposed to resurface Inniskeen Village in June/July 2017. Dunard estate will be resurfaced at this time, but will be subject to funding being available.

The Municipal District has begun to review the possibility of a new footpath linking the village to The Monaghan Way. The review includes a new footbridge over the River Fane.

10. *What is the up to date position in relation to enhanced safety measures at Blackstaff National School including the provision of a special speed limit?*

Response:

A road safety audit was undertaken by McMahon Associates on behalf of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District. The audit makes 11 recommendations, ranging from the realignment of the approach road to cutting back of vegetation. 4 of the recommendations specifically highlight the need for Blackstaff National School having a designated car park and drop off/pick area within the school ground. Monaghan County Council is proposing a new 50km/h periodical speed limit be introduced on the approach road to the school and as part of the Clar programme, funding has been provided to refresh the car markings on the approach road.

11. *What is the up to date position in relation to works at Corduff Cross on the Shercock road.?*

Response:

A contractor has been procured and works will commence this week.

12. *In relation to the Lisanisk area have the Council a costing to surface this footpath Link, and when is it hoped to carry out works given the safety concerns at this location?*

Response:

A meeting will be held shortly with the elected members to discuss and agree a footpath programme for 2017. Costing for Lisanisk will be presented at this meeting for consideration.

13. *What is the up to date position in relation to the provision of enhanced safety measures at a number of schools in the area including Lisdoonan / Donaghmoynne / Corduff / and Ballaghneearn National School.?*

Response:

The District Office is currently procuring contractors to complete the safety measure works funded by the Clar programme at Lisdoonan, Donaghmoynne and Corduff schools. It is envisaged that these works will commence in the second quarter of 2017. There are no planned works for Ballaghneearn School in 2017.

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6. Notice of Motions

Motion put forward by Cllrs .Padraig Mc Nally and P.J. O'Hanlon

"In light of the flooding incident on the Aghaile road (no. LP04000) on March 4th, which saw the road flooded despite flood prevention works carried out as well as a serious threat to an agricultural slatted shed and a number of dwellings, we ask the OPW to examine the area with a view to elevating flood levels while at the same time , not cause flooding downstream"

Coordinator Gareth Mc Mahon and District Engineer agreed to apply to the O.P.W for funding.

7. Directors Orders

The Directors orders 11 /2017 to 25/2017 attached to the agenda were noted.

8. Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations

Votes of Sympathy were passed with the following:

- Haughey Family on the death of Maureen wife and daughter of former Taoiseach
- Bernie Mc Guinness and family on the death of Martin
- Bernadette Curran on the death of her husband Eamon
- Marian Mc Ardle on the death of her mother Kathleen Farrelly
- Paddy Cunningham on the death of his wife Delia

9. Any Other Business

- Cllr. Mc Nally enquired when Cloughvalley Toilets would be fully operational. Gareth Mc Mahon Coordinator replied that the toilets were complete and were awaiting water connection.
- Cllr. Mc Nally stated that car parking in the town was still an issue especially at the Fiddlers Car Park. Coordinator Gareth Mc Mahon agreed to look at an overall car parking strategy.
- Cllr. Mc Nally enquired about the progress on the Old Castleblayney road at the schools District Engineer stated that the design was now at preliminary stage.
- Cllr. Mc Nally asked for a traffic counter to be installed on the Magheraboy road District Engineer John Lennon confirmed it would be installed over the next number of weeks.
- Cllr. Mc Nally asked for an update on land transfer for the Carrick Rovers soccer pitch Paul Clifford replied that the transfer was progressing with the land now in the County Councils name.
- Cllr. Mc Nally voiced his concern regarding the lack of response from Louth Co Council Regarding the link roads to the M1.
- Cllr. Crowe asked for details on commencement of works on the road into Sruth Na Nuir Estate, Oram. District Engineer John Lennon said the tarmac would be applied shortly
- Cllr Crowe asked for land ownership details for lands beside Oram Church in order to assist in alleviating a flooding issue at the graveyard. District Engineer John Lennon agreed to investigate the drainage problem
- Cllr. Carthy asked for an update regarding ramps at Chapel lane.
- Cllr. Carthy highlighted the fact of the waiting list for appointments at the GP Service in Carrickmacross are still a serious matter and requested that the letter is resent to the HSE.
- Cllr. Keelan requested that the 30Km Sean Carraig Estate speed limit is changed District Engineer John Lennon agreed to look into the matter.
- Cllr Keelan outlined that roads around the town and on Main Street are depressing and requested Coordinator Gareth Mc Mahon to investigate.
- Cllr Keelan raised the matter regarding the closure of the Ulster Bank in Carrickmacross and the loss of another service to the town.

It was proposed by Cllr O Hanlon, seconded by Cllr Keelan and agreed by all

“ That Carrickmacross Castleblayney Municipal District request to meet the Chief Executive of the Ulster Bank in relation to the closing of the bank in Carrickmacross , the serious negative impact it will have on the town and surrounding area’s”

- Cllr. O Hanlon asked for an update on Broadband and requested a report concerning Broadband supply in the town and its surrounds. Director Paul Clifford agreed to supply a report for the next municipal meeting in April. Gareth Mc Mahon informed the meeting that Eir have a report on the website outlining what the role outs are within each county.

- Cllr. Carthy said that the road at Barford Meats had a sink hole which needed to be addressed and also a loose corner panel on the fence needs fixing.
Cllr. Carthy asked that proper signage is put in place as cars are constantly parking on the footpath at Chapel lane at collection times. The traffic wardens presence has been an improvement in the area at school times.
- Cllr. O Hanlon asked that an audit on junctions and a visibility study to be carried out at James Cunningham shop.
- Cllr. Mc Nally asked that the traffic problem at Coolreagh cottages in Killanny be addressed. District Engineer John Lennon said that a traffic counter was installed and details will be brought to the next Municipal District meeting.
- Cllr .Mc Nally requested double yellow lines in Dunard
- Cllr .Mc Nally asked that more dog fouling bins are installed in the town.
- Cllr. Mc Nally outlined that there were particular roads laced with potholes due to sewerage trenches on Main Street and Ballybay road.
- Cllr .Mc Nally asked for signs to be displayed at the GAA grounds regarding Lorries parking overnight. Contact to be made with the GAA jointly to discuss the issue.
- Cllr. Mc Nally asked that the Engineer investigates the Aghnafarcán junction District Engineer said that the contractor had been procured and contracted to commence shortly.
- Cllr .Mc Nally said that consideration should be given to a right turning lane at junction at the Oasis on the Kingscourt road.
District Engineer John Lennon agreed to investigate the matter.
- The members agreed that the reception for “Born to Perform” would be held 19th April Wednesday at 6pm.
- Mayor Campbell proposed , seconded Cllr Crowe for the April Municipal District meeting to take place at the Gate Lodge In Castleblayney on 24th April 2017 at 10.30am to coincide with the launch of WIFI in the town.

Meeting concluded at 12:45 p.m.

Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: 27th March 2017.