

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, ROSCOMMON ON MONDAY THE 28th NOVEMBER, 2016 AT 2.15 P.M.

PRESENT Councillor Tony Ward, Cathaoirleach **PRESIDED**

MEMBERS: Cllr V. Byrne, Cllr I. Connaughton, Cllr M. Creaton, Cllr D. Connolly, Cllr N. Dineen, Cllr R. Doherty, Cllr L. Fallon, Cllr P. Fitzmaurice, Cllr J. Cummins, Cllr O. Leyden, Cllr J. Murphy, Cllr J. Naughten, Cllr K. Shanagher, Cllr P. Kilduff, Cllr M. Mulligan, Cllr L. Callaghan, Cllr J. Keogh.

OFFICIALS: Mr. Martin Lydon, A/Director of Services
Ms. Majella Hunt, A/Chief Executive
Mr. Derek Caldbeck, A/Director of Services
Ms. Patricia Bohan, Meetings Administrator

Cathaoirleach Tony Ward welcomed everyone to the meeting. Cllr Kilduff expressed condolences on behalf of all present to Cllr Fallon on the recent death of his mother. A minutes silence was observed as a mark of respect to the late Joan Burke, who served as a Fine Gael TD for Roscommon/South Leitrim from 1964-1980 following the death of her husband James.

126.16. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Kilduff

SECONDED by Councillor Dineen

It was **AGREED** to adopt the minutes of the plenary meeting held 24.10.2016.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Creaton

SECONDED by Councillor Fallon

It was **AGREED** to adopt the minutes of the plenary budget meeting held 18.11.2016.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Cummins

SECONDED by Councillor Murphy

It was **AGREED** to adopt the revised minutes of the plenary meeting held 26.09.2016.

127.16. CONSIDERATION OF MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT SUBJECT TO SECTION 51, SUB-SECTIONS (3) & (4) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM ACT, 2014

Members noted the Monthly Management Report for the month of October 2016.

128.16. DISPOSAL OF LANDS:

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Dineen

SECONDED by Councillor Leyden

It was **AGREED** that the Council consent to the disposal of lands pursuant to the provision of Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001. Particulars of the land which the County Council proposes to dispose of:-

The land: 0.0258 ha. at Lisnacrogghy or Gallowstown, Roscommon, Co. Roscommon

The persons from whom the land was acquired: Not known

The person to whom the land is to be disposed: Biotech Europe Meditech Inc. Ltd

Consideration: €10 (nominal)

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Mulligan

SECONDED by Councillor Byrne

It was **AGREED** that the Council consent to the disposal of lands pursuant to the provision of Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001. Particulars of the land which the County Council proposes to dispose of:-

The land: 0.016 ha. at Gortanure, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon

The persons from whom the land was acquired: John Richardson

The person to whom the land is to be disposed: Christopher Richardson

Consideration: €1

129.16. LEASE OF LANDS:

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Kilduff

SECONDED by Councillor Fallon

It was **AGREED** that the Council consent to the lease of lands pursuant to the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001. Particulars of the land which the County Council proposes to lease:-

The land: Playing pitches and dressing rooms at Monksland, Athlone, Co. Roscommon.

Owner: Roscommon County Council

The person to whom the land is to be leased to: Monksland Community Development Ltd.

Consideration: €5 per annum.

Term of lease: Extension of existing lease to total period of 35 years (from 15th October 2007) subject to covenants and conditions.

130.16. PRESENTATION BY ROSCOMMON LEADER PARTNERSHIP ON LEADER PROGRAMME 2014-2020

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Martina Early CEO and Tomás Beades, A/CFO from Roscommon Leader Partnership to the meeting. A presentation on the LEADER Programme 2014 – 2020 was made to the members by Thomás Beades. He acknowledged Martin Lydon and Pat Murtagh's role to date co-ordinating the LCDC who are the Local Action Group (LAG) for the LEADER Programme in Co. Roscommon. Roscommon LEADER Partnership is the Implementing Partner while Roscommon County Council is the Financial Partner for the delivery of the LEADER Programme 2014-2020. The total allocation is €8,852,658. This includes Project Funding of €6,581,282 broken down as follows:

Economic Development	€3,600,000
Social Inclusion	€2,381,282
Rural Environment	€600,000

Leader Programme is currently open for calls that require an Expression of Interest (EOI) form to be completed. Following submission, each application will be assessed by an independent committee for recommendation to LCDC. To apply for LEADER funding the applicant or their project must be located in Co. Roscommon. Applications can be made by rural businesses and rural community organisations. New to the programme are:

- Minimum Funding (Grant) Threshold is €5,000
- LEADER can support micro, small and medium enterprises
- Matching funding from other public funded sources (e.g. Fáilte Ireland, local authorities, Waterways Ireland, etc.) is permitted providing it does not derive from an EU fund.
- Targeted Calls for projects

Councillors raised queries and made comments as follows:

- If there is limited interest in rural environment – can funding be redirected to economic development if under spent?
- Welcome a more simplified process for drawing down funds.
- Important that LEADER programme is aligned with Local Authority and regular reports are received in relation to progress.
- Are Expressions of Interest Forms submitted over last three years still valid or is there a requirement to resubmit applications?
- Great to see there is matched funding and Municipal Districts will need to consider bigger projects to fund.
- As this is funding of last resort, is there a conflict with Municipal District Funding?
- Welcome the minimum threshold of €5,000.
- What are Creative Industries?
- Will there be a forward timetable for open and targeted calls?
- Since 2013, leader funding was the only available funding and did a lot of good work. Good to see private sector now being included as this will lead to job creation. How much do old projects make up overall budget?
- Will Leader staff be available in the evenings to attend local meetings and what does Rural Youth Funding entail?
- Request that Roscommon Leader Partnership lobby for more funding.
- Information for public is needed to encourage submissions and explain what type of projects is considered eligible.
- What projects are leader encouraging / promoting?
- How can council help rural villages and towns get funding?
- Welcome the RSS & Farm Assist Schemes.
- The last Leader programme had a budget of €12m and the current programme is now €8m – this is a 50% decrease.

Martina Earley and Tomás Beades responded as follows:

- There will be a mid programme review to look at the areas of spending and if resources need to be diverted from an under spending area. There will also be at least an annual report for the Local Authorities.
- Leader will try to ensure practicality in application process
- Leader & RCC have created good opportunities working together and so funding should go further as no longer working in a vacuum.
- Renewal energy is important to the Leader programme as now working in a changed landscape. Leader will make changes if required following consultation with the Department.
- Old Expressions of Interest are still valid and all community groups have been emailed however they will have to recomplete the forms.
- The M.D .funds cannot be used as matched funding but Leader maybe able to add value to the M.D. funding.
- Creative Industries area growing sector and part of Innovation Strategy. The funding is not constrained to microenterprises.
- Good idea to have a timetable and the LCDC will consider this.
- There were a large number of old projects but no actual breakdown of cost.
- Leader staff are available during office hours but will not complete E.O.I's on behalf of applicants.
- Information sessions are being held this week.

- Leader will not discourage any projects to be submitted and the funding is available to the entire county.
- There are a total of 500 places available nationally for the Rural Social scheme and Roscommon have applied for the maximum amount of places.
- The Leader programme is about adding value to projects but it cannot fund a project if it is eligible under another scheme.
- Leader welcomes the Rural Social Scheme and will also lobby for the TUS scheme to be increased from one to two years.

Martina Early and Thomas Beades thanked Roscommon County Council for the opportunity to make the presentation to the Members and will work with the members to ensure the delivery of the programme.

131.16. REBUILDING IRELAND ROAD SHOW EVENT - MEETING WITH MINISTER COVENEY, CARRICK-ON-SHANNON, FRIDAY 2nd DECEMBER 2016.

Members were reminded of this event that is a joint road show for Leitrim and Roscommon.

132.16 APPOINTMENT OF AN ELECTED MEMBER TO THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

- Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC
- Environmental and Emergency Services SPC

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Doherty
SECONDED by Councillor Leyden

It was **AGREED** that Cllr. Joe Murphy be elected to the Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Leyden
SECONDED by Councillor Dineen

It was **AGREED** that Cllr. Paddy Kilduff be elected to the Environmental and Emergency Services SPC.

133.16. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from South Dublin County Council re: resolution adopted by members in relation to Local Government funding.
2. Letter from Monaghan County Council re: resolution adopted by Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District re Appointment of Minister for Brexit.
3. Letter from TII re: right turning lane at Ballymurray.

134.16 REPORT OF THE ATHLONE BOUNDARY REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Cathaoirleach noted that the REPORT OF THE ATHLONE BOUNDARY REVIEW COMMITTEE has just been published and the main recommendation as follows:

The Committee recommends that no change be made to the existing boundary. As a part of the “no boundary change” recommendation, the Committee, added proviso that the process of planned and structured cooperation between the two local authorities for the future planning and delivery of services in the combined Athlone-Monksland/Bellanamullia area be immediately accelerated to deliver sustainable development for Athlone. In the event of substantial non-completion of the four tasks outlined in the report within a four-year period, the committee recommended that the boundary be extended in order to achieve coherent sustainable development for Athlone.

The following issues were raised by the members in response to the report:

- Welcomed the publication of the report but not happy with the four year timeframe.

- If there is not enough cooperation from County Westmeath the boundary extension will go ahead and Roscommon will have not been responsible for the situation.
- If there is a change of Government, what will be the position?
- Very onerous conditions all stacked against Roscommon.
- Roscommon in Catch 22 situation.
- Decision welcomed and validates the work done by Roscommon but with a sting in the tail.
- The fact that so much hanging on the decision there is more clarity required. Roscommon need to set up a working group to ensure that all of the regulations are complied with.
- No reason that what is in the report cannot be used to the benefit of the whole Athlone area if all work together.
- Report includes some positive recommendations.
- Legislation should be enacted that it would require a vote for the people to decide if there is ever to be a change.
- Confident that all requirements and conditions could be met within the four year timeframe.
- There is an opportunity to meet the Minister at the conference on Friday to discuss the report with him.
- The LAP for the Monksland Bealnamulia Area had regard to the National Guidelines – what is the purpose of the joint plan?
- Concern of impact of report on Retail Strategy.
- Grant funding is much higher in the West than East (Athlone). Investment has not been put into 'Old Roscommon' by Westmeath.

The Cathaoirleach thanked all of the members for their support over the past year in relation to the Boundary Review. He also thanked the people behind the 28,000 submissions. He informed the members that there would be a Save Roscommon meeting on Thursday night in Monksland community centre.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Kilduff

SECONDED by Councillor Creaton

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council write to Minister Simon Coveney to withdraw the provision of the four year timeframe in the Report of the Athlone Boundary Committee.

135.16 GAELIC GAMES – FREE TO AIR

Notice of Motion from Councillor Ward – 14/16

That the Minister for Communications, Mr. Denis Naughten T.D., designate all Gaelic Games as being 'Free to Air' under the Broadcasting Act 2009 given their distinct cultural significance and distinctiveness for the people of Ireland. Currently, it is only the football and Hurling All-Ireland finals that are designated as 'Free to Air'.

The Meetings Administrator read the following reply:-

This motion requires a resolution of the Council.

The following points were raised:

- People that have given lifetime of voluntary service to Gaelic Games have to pay to see matches on television.
- Affects the elderly and low income families.
- Praise for Irish television station TnaG for their coverage of local sports especially GAA.
- Impact on GAA and its 'amateur' status.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Ward
SECONDED by Cllr. Dineen

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council write to Pauric Duffy, Ard Stiurthoir of GAA to designate all gaelic games as being 'Free to Air' under the Broadcasting Act 2009 given their distinct cultural significance and distinctiveness for the people of Ireland. This letter to be circulated to all Local Authorities.

136.16. COUNCILLORS CONFERENCES PAYMENT

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Kilduff
SECONDED by Councillor Keogh

It was **AGREED** to adopt the list of Conferences as previously circulated to the members.

137.16 VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS/SYMPATHY

Votes of Congratulations were extended to:

- The Community Arts Group in Castlerea that won an award at the Pride of Place Awards in Belfast recently.
- The Solstice Choir that was also nominated for an award at the same event and to congratulate them for the work they do for charity fundraisers.

Votes of Sympathy were extended to:

- The Burke family, Tulsk on the death of Joan Burke.
- The Fallon family, Rahara on the death of Margaret Fallon.
- The Flynn family, Castlerea on the death of Joe Flynn.
- The O'Rourke family, Tarmon, Castlerea on the death of Teresa O'Rourke.
- The Moran family, Ballindrimley, Castlerea on the death of Teresa Moran.

138.16 AOB

Cllr. Shanagher expressed her disappointment that Irish TV has ceased to be on air. It had broadcast to 140 countries and had specialised in programmes on news that was local. Cllr Ward and Cllr Fallon also commented that this was a big loss and hoped that the financial problems of the station could be sorted.

Cllr. Murphy thanked all involved in settling the proposed strike.

Councillors were reminded about the Civic Reception on Friday 9th December in the Arts Centre in Roscommon town.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Monday 19th December 2016.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The foregoing Minutes are
Confirmed and Signed:

Meetings Administrator

Cathaoirleach

Countersigned