

MINUTES OF ROSCOMMON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD IN THE LOUGHNANEANE SUITE, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, ROSCOMMON ON MONDAY, 21ST DECEMBER 2015 AT 11.30 A.M.

PRESENT: Councillor Kathleen Shanagher, Cathaoirleach **PRESIDED**

MEMBERS: Cllr M. Creaton, Cllr D. Connolly, Cllr N. Dineen, Cllr O. Leyden, Cllr P. Fitzmaurice

OFFICIALS: Ms. Mary Lindsay, A/Director of Services
Ms. Antoinette Robinson, Administrative Office
Ms. Deirdre Fallon, Executive Engineer
Mr. Adrian Reynolds, A/Supervisor
Mr. Adrian Gorman, General Services Supervisor

53.15. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Creaton

SECONDED by Councillor Dineen

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Minutes of the Municipal District Meeting held on 19.10.2015.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Fitzmaurice

SECONDED by Councillor Dineen

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Minutes of the Budget meeting held on 09.11.2015.

54.15. PRESENTATION BY MOTE PARK CONSERVATION GROUP

Ms. Eilish Feeley, Ms. Patricia Blighe and Ms. Martina Larkin from Mote Park Conservation Group presented to the meeting the plans to develop interactive walking trails in Mote Park, Roscommon. They wish to raise awareness of the area and promote Mote Park as a tourist attraction. The development of a new trail called St. Coman's Walk will link Mote Park to Roscommon Town.

They confirmed that Coillte are fully supportive of their project and are using the Mote Park project as a prototype and are promoting it via their website. Wi-fi has been improved in the area as well as improved mobile phone coverage.

The members raised the following points:

- Compliment the work of the group over the last number of years in promoting the attraction
- Fully support the project
- Large volumes of people use Mote Park especially at weekends
- May be useful for Roscommon Municipal District members to organise a meeting with Una ní Chuinn to discuss tourism funding
- What cost is involved in creating the project?

Ms. Martina Larkin responded as follows:

- The cost of the project is approximately €7,000
- Hope to launch the final phase of the project in March 2016

55.15 UPDATE ON FLOODING REMEDIAL WORKS

Ms. Deirdre Fallon, Executive Engineer informed the members that an application for emergency funding for flooding remedial works has been submitted to the Department totalling €600,000.

She outlined the main projects included as follows:

1. Box culverts in Sleaveen – Golf Links Road €274,000
2. Works at Ballymurray to upgrade drainage pipes to increase capacity €322,000
3. Reopen drain and replace culvert at Galway Road and upgrade system lines
4. General works cleaning drains and gullies

The members raised the following issues:

- Can any works be done on Lanesboro Road to prevent flooding
- Need to change the way Roscommon County Council operate and need to seek the advice of experts from other countries in terms of flooding
- Local knowledge is important
- Need to look at incorporating flooding remedial measures into our County Development Plan and avoid development being granted on flood plains
- Main issue with flooding on N60
- Planning Enforcement should follow developers for damaging culverts at Tarmon School
- Could maintenance works be done in late summer to try and alleviate some problems associated with winter flooding
- Is there any funding available for private individuals?
- Need a unified approach to flooding issues
- Thank staff of Roscommon County Council, Fire Services and Civil Defence for their work in dealing with flooding issues

Mr. Adrian Reynolds, A/Supervisor responded to issues raised as follows:

- Some drains and gullies have been cleaned up to 3 times since 2009 flooding through local funds
- Works will need to be done on Lanesboro Road to divert the river
- Existing developments on swamp lands in the area is causing problems
- In 2009, there was opposition from landowners on the Lanesboro Road
- Much of the surface water is due to development
- There was a consultancy carried out in 2009

Mr. Adrian Gorman, General Services Supervisor responded to issues raised as follows:

- Still issues with rising waters in the Castlerea Area
- Issue with a collapsed culvert on Castlerea to Castleplunkett road
- Problems with blocked swallow holes and blocked stone culverts on private lands
- Need to be careful not to push the flooding problems to other areas while solving them in others

Ms. Mary Lindsay, A/Director of Services replied as follows:

- Roscommon County Council are not aware of any issues of flooding in local authority dwellings
- Roscommon County Council did provide emergency accommodation to a small number of private households
- The Department of Social Protection (DSP) operates a Relief Scheme and DSP staff engage with local authorities and other agencies to ensure supports are being provided to those affected as swiftly as possible.
- The Community welfare Service remains on alert and ready to respond as required based on the level of support required.
- In dealing with emergency events of this nature, the DSP generally adopts a three stage approach as follows:

Stage 1 is to provide emergency income support payments (food, clothing and personal items) in the immediate aftermath of the event. A relatively small amount of financial

assistance is generally provided initially with payments around the country ranging from €100 to €500 depending on family size.

Stage 2 generally involves the replacement of white goods, basic furniture items and other essential household items. It is not until the flood water abates and houses dry out that the full extent of the damage to homes will become known.

Stage 3 is to identify what longer term financial support or works are required. It could take several months before this stage of response commences and this involves a cross Departmental/Agency response. Works carried out can include plastering, dry-lining, relaying of floors, electrical re-wiring and painting.

- The Humanitarian Assistance scheme, which is means tested, will be made available to assist people whose homes are damaged by flooding and who are not in a position to meet costs for essential needs, household items and in some instances structural repair.

The Government has not set a limit on the amount that can be paid to an individual household under this scheme. Levels of payment depend on the relative severity of damage experienced and the household's ability to meet these costs.

The scheme has certain conditions attached to ensure that funding is targeted to those most in need.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Leyden

SECONDED by Councillor Dineen

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council will seek funding to divert the river on the Lanesboro Road

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Leyden

SECONDED by Councillor Fitzmaurice

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council seek the expertise of a Flood Engineer from a country such as Holland to examine the issue of flooding in Roscommon.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Fitzmaurice

SECONDED by Councillor Dineen

It was **AGREED** to seek funding from the NRA to raise the N60 and seek agreement from Galway County Council to allow Roscommon County Council to maintain their stretch of the N60 to ensure it is kept open at all times.

56.15. A.O.B.

Roscommon Community Sports Park

Councillor Orla Leyden circulated to the meeting a map of the proposed 400m running track and part of Roscommon Community Sports Park. She requested the support from Roscommon County Council to make 4 acres of land available for this development. She stated that this development would have huge economic benefits to the town and could be used as a satellite base for events taking place in Athlone I.T.

The members raised the following issues:

- Compliment the work of Councillor Leyden and the group
- Welcome and support the development
- Very important development for the county

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

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council would make 4 acres of lands available for the development of the 400m running track in Roscommon Community Sports Park

Junction at the top of Lisnamult

Councillor Kathleen Shanagher stated that the junction at the entrance to the Community Sports Park is very dangerous and installation of lights or a roundabout is required. She requested a schedule of works be prepared for the next Municipal District meeting.

New Town Car Park

Councillor Kathleen Shanagher raised the issue of lack of directional signage in the new town car park. She stated that the exit from the car park is very narrow and may cause some difficulties for drivers in the future. She also said that the bollards at the Courthouse are very unsightly and in need of some works.

Councillor Orla Leyden stated that the lamp poles may require some kerbing around them to avoid cars hitting them as they are parking.

Mr. Adrian Reynolds, A/Supervisor confirmed that the Contractor are currently erecting signage around Áras an Chontae and directional signage in the car park will be included in this. He also confirmed that the Contractor is currently working on the erection of a stone wall to the side of the car park and this area is cordoned off which may be restricting access a little.

Ms. Mary Lindsay, A/Director of Services stated that a snag list is currently being drawn up and the issues raised at today's meeting will be included in same. She confirmed that the demolition of the Courthouse Annex will be taking place over the coming weeks and the remedial works to the Courthouse and its environs will be incorporated into this.

Old Toilet Block

Councillor Orla Leyden queried if the Old Toilet Block beside the Garda Station could be demolished as it is unsightly.

Phone System in Áras an Chontae

Councillor Paschal Fitzmaurice queried why only 3 options – Housing, Planning and Motor Tax are available when the public ring through to Áras an Chontae.

Ms. Antoinette Robinson, Administrative officer explained that Housing, Planning and Motor Tax are the 3 busiest sections in the Council. There is a facility to add more sections if required.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The foregoing Minutes are
Confirmed and Signed:

Meetings Administrator

Cathaoirleach

Countersigned