

**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL
IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, ROSCOMMON
ON MONDAY, 23RD JULY, 2018 AT 2.15 PM.**

PRESENT: Councillor Ivan Connaughton **PRESIDED**

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

OFFICIALS: Eugene Cummins, Chief Executive
Majella Hunt, Director of Services
Martin Lydon, Director of Services
Pat Murtagh, A/Director of Services
John O'Rourke, Senior Engineer
Patricia Bohan, Meetings Administrator
Michelle Carney, Assistant Staff Officer
Patricia Bohan, Meetings Administrator

Apologies: Cllr J. Keogh and Cllr J. Naughten

94.18 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Ward
SECONDED by Councillor Fallon
It was **AGREED** to adopt the Minutes of Plenary Meeting held on 25.06.2018

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Cummins
SECONDED by Councillor Mulligan
It was **AGREED** to adopt the Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 25.06.2018

95.18 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

96.18 MANAGEMENT REPORT

Members noted the Management Report for Quarter 2 2018

97.18 DISPOSAL OF LANDS (HOUSING)

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Leyden
SECONDED by Councillor Shanagher
It was **AGREED** that the Council consent to the disposal of lands pursuant to the Provisions 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: 0.046 Ha. at Site No. 24 Ardsallaghmore, Td, Barony of Ballintober South, County Roscommon.
The persons from whom the land was acquired: Martin & P Kelly.
The person to whom the land is to be disposed: Gary Hoare, Ardsallagh, Athlone Road, Roscommon.
Consideration: €25,000

98.18 LEASE OF LANDS (CORPORATE)

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Ward

SECONDED by Councillor Kilduff

It was **AGREED** that the Council consent to the lease of property pursuant to the provisions of Article 206 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001. Particulars of the property which the County Council proposes to lease:-

The Property: Units 3, 4 and 5 Monksland Civic Centre, Monksland, Athlone, County Roscommon.

The person(s) to whom the property is to be leased to: Monksland Community Company, Limited by Guarantee

Consideration: €300 per annum

Term of Lease: 10 years

99.18 LEASE OF LANDS (ASSETS AND ENERGY MANAGEMENT)

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Cummins

SECONDED by Councillor Byrne

It was **AGREED** that the Council consent to the lease of property pursuant to the provisions of Article 206 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001. Particulars of the property which the County Council proposes to lease for the purposes of facilitating the continued use of the lands as a Community facility in the Keadue area:-

The Property: 0.31 hA (0.766 acres) at Keadew West Td, Keadew (Keadue), Co. Roscommon.

The person(s) to whom the property is to be leased to: Keadue Development Association.

Consideration: €100 per annum

Term of Lease: 10 years

100.18 UPDATE ON IRISH WATER

Mr. John O'Rourke, Senior Engineer in Water Services gave a presentation to the Members on the current and recent projects in Water Services Unit under the Service Level Agreement with Irish Water:

The main points of the presentations were as follows:

- Roscommon County Council act as agents of Irish Water under a Service Level Agreement (SLA) that commenced on 1st Jan 2014 for period of 12 years.

- An Annual Service Plan (ASP) with set and measurable Key Performance Indicators for the operation of water services. A total of 82 KPIs in 2018 that are monitored monthly and reported quarterly. In 2017 achieved a 97% compliance with KPI's and every year IW ask to reduce headcount and budget for same work.
- Measures under ASP grouped into Learning & Growth, Customer, Internal process/compliance and Financial. Meet Bi Monthly with regional office in Castlebar.
- Budget 2018 – 82 FTE staff; €8.4m cost to be recouped for Staff €4.4m, Goods & Services €2.4m, Energy €1m, overheads and capital office payroll. This represents 14% of Councils overall budget.
- Capital Expenditure on Water schemes since 2014:
 - €25m on Boyle Ardcarne RWSS, South Roscommon RWSS (Killeglen and Lisbrock) North East RWSS, Castlerea Urban and Regional, Ballyfarnon RWSS, Ballinlough Lough Glynn RWSS Roscommon Central RWSS. These works removed 20,000 and the EPA Remedial Action List from Boil Water Notices
 - Current upgrade on North Roscommon RWSS at cost of €5m and Grangemore WSS are only remaining schemes on Remedial Action List.
 - Water Conservation Programme is ongoing at cost of €5m
- Monksland Sewerage Treatment plant has undergone process upgrades recently and tender documents have issued for upgrade of inlet work and construction of storm overflow tank.
- Ongoing Capital Scheme upgrade works include:
 - Roscommon Town Main Drainage Scheme
 - Roscommon Town Serwer and Manhole Rehabilitation Contract
 - Boyle WSS extension to Grangemore
 - Castlerea WSS Phase 2 – extension from Williamstown (Lough Mask supply)
 - Ballaghaderreen WWTP upgrade
 - Monksland and Boyle Drainage Plans
- Capital portfolio works include satellite dewatering, flow monitoring and sampling programme, small mains rehabilitation programme, District Metering and reservoir cleaning programmes.
- Other works ongoing on the water network include planned watermains rehabilitation; lead pipe replacement, find and fix programme, first fix programme and non-domestic water replacement.
- Asset Transfer to Irish Water involve a total of 226 assets of which 79 have been transferred by end of 2017
- There is a considerable onerous process involves in the Take in Charge of group water schemes i.e. semi private schemes connected to the public network – there are a total of 96 schemes.
- The Rural Water Programme funds water conservation upgrades to Private group water schemes – schemes with their own supply. Roscommon is now part of a pilot scheme for developing source protection plans to improve the safety and security of drinking water.

Members thanked Mr. O'Rourke for his very informative presentation and discussed the following:

- How soon will the water supply from Lough Mask come to Castlerea?
- Good news that we have no boil water notices and €35m spent is substantial sum. Whether assets are active or inactive, Roscommon County Council should insist all assets are transferred to Irish water unless it's land we can use.
- First fix Scheme would be of benefit to older people
- Would like to stay with the current water supply in Castlerea as it is good and the urban and rural schemes as is were due an upgrade – is the solution now to bring Lough Mask water?
- Need to make efforts to reduce Unaccounted for water(UFW). Roscommon County Council

received bad press for water quality but it was down to lack of money and this has now come through Irish water.

- We should not be worried about the ending of SLA in future as IW are getting good value for money.
- Concerns about capacity of Monksland Wastewater treatment plant to satisfy potential future demands.
- Legacy issues with Veolia and metering now that Irish water have taken over this contract – there are people with bills that were working out solutions with Veolia and are now in limbo with their bills.
- Welcome the connection of Cavetown supply to Boyle regional scheme as there has been quality issues for number of years.
- Irish water recently stated they expect to be an entity in their own right in a couple of years time – is this the situation?
- Will staff costs continue to be covered by Irish Water?
- Is there regulation on use of chlorine in water – some houses have very heavy taste
- Concern about inconvenience of having to ring call centre in Cork to report leak – can one not ring the Council directly?
- Are there any water schemes under pressure in Roscommon as result of the current drought? Are there concerns about schemes in the future?
- Ongoing concern about farm and domestic supplies combined and the outstanding issues with from when Veolia were in charge are not being taken on board by Irish Water.
- Some public not aware North East Scheme is off the boil water notice. Does the installation of filters not minimise the necessity for chlorine?
- Do we know what 5 of people are paying for water? Is this fair in relation semi-private schemes?
- Compliment the staff working in water Services on behalf of Irish water.

Mr. O'Rourke responded as follows:

- Billing is handled now exclusively by Irish water and we no longer regarding payments etc. and only those with non-domestic connections pay water charges now.
- We do not any water supplies under pressure currently. There was an issue with the Grangemore supply but with network management carried out by the caretakers, the supply is adequate.
- The Lough Mask to Ballinlough supply is now in operation and consultants have been appointed to design the extension to Castlerea although the completion is not expected for some 2 – 3 years. Irish water has decided to go with this option rather than upgrade the current Castlerea Scheme(s).
- The 'First Fix' Initiative is being run by Irish Water and anyone interested should contact IW Customer Services directly.
- The staff in Water Services are still employed by Roscommon County Council but the budget to pay their wages comes from Irish water. IW are a significant contributor to our budget The SLA is not due to finish until 2025 but it is unclear what will happen before then or after that.
- There is chlorine in the supply and it's important that there should be as this is the final phase of disinfecting the water after it leaves the plant and before it gets to the customer.
- Lough Gara is an unusual source as the supply for Ballaghaderreen – there is a highly complex process being put in place at the moment to upgrade the plant and deal with the taste and odour issues.

Pat Murtagh updated the members on the status of Irish Water as it has been decided by the Government that it will be a stand alone utility, separate from Ervia and that this will be done by 2023. No decision has

been made yet on the status of the Service Level Agreements with the Local Authorities. The Minister has set up a structure within the WRC to look at structures etc. but this is at a very early stage.

101.18 PRESENTATION ON REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

Ms. Majella Hunt, Director of Services, outlined the details of the new Regeneration Funds and application process recently announced:

Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF):

- The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government has the responsibility for implementing the URDF and nationally has an allocation of €2bn to 2027. The fund is being established to promote more compact and sustained development through regeneration and rejuvenation of cities and towns in line with the objectives of the National Planning Framework.
- The Scheme is aimed at the main cities and larger urban towns with greater than 10,000 pop or less than 10,000 pop but with more than 2,500 jobs.
- The fund is based on a competitive bid based programme and from the public sector and ideally local authority led but may include community and/or private sector partners
- The proposed project should be of a value of more than €2m and matching funding of 25% will be required.
- The project should be a catalyst for development that would not otherwise occur and likely to leverage significant further public and private sector investment.
- Roscommon Town is the only eligible town for consideration for this fund and an application can be submitted as a Ready to Go project (Category A) or have some design done (Category B)
- Closing date for bids is 28th September.

Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF):

- This scheme is similar to the Urban Scheme but on a smaller scale and will be delivered by the Department of Rural and Community Development.
- Fund of €1bn available to 2027 and is available to towns and villages not eligible under the Urban Scheme.
- The first call for proposals are for Category 1 – Ready to go Projects and Category 2 – proposals that have clear potential and quantifiable objectives but require further development to be potentially submitted under category 1.
- Matching funding as above of 25% including 10% cash.
- The Minimum cost of the project must be €500,000 with no upper limit.
- Schemes should involve collaboration across Local Authority boundaries and well as inside and the key criteria includes relevance to National Strategic Outcomes of Project Ireland 2040, a collaborative approach with other state agencies, a strategic vision, additionality and value for money, leverage of funding from partners and have a sustainable impact on the social or economic development of rural communities.
- Closing date for bids is 27th September.

The members discussed the schemes as follows:

In response to concerns about community groups ability to put forward schemes, given the short lead-in time, Majella Hunt clarified that there are a number of other funding streams for these groups but these

are much larger projects whereby the Local Authority or other state body will be the lead. She also informed the members that details of the schemes were received on 3rd and 4th July.

Members welcomed the funding opportunities but had a number of queries as follows:

Not sure of the collaborative process – towns and villages are feeling very left out and we need to focus on small villages

- How will the applications to be submitted be decided?
- There are no plans ready for most villages – perhaps a number of villages could collaborate on an application?
- The funding appears to be too far away in the future and the bar has been set too high. It will be hard to get matching funding unless we have a strategic plan.
- This is good news if we can draw down the funding and while we must be concerned with economics and jobs, we also need to consider social needs.
- We don't have critical mass in County Roscommon as is specified in the NDP so it is unlikely we will get any of this funding.
- Can property be part of matching funding?
- County Roscommon needs regeneration and our challenge is finding matching funding in a county where every €100 is accounted for. We should ask for additional funding to help meet the matching funding requirement.
- It is important that the Cortober part of Carrick on Shannon is not left out should Leitrim seek funding for Carrick on Shannon.

Majella Hunt clarified as follows:

- Only Roscommon town qualifies under the Urban Fund. We need to identify a project under Category B to move to Category A over a period of time. Significant work has been done by the Planning Department over a number of years on Local Area Plans and this would develop those plans. This would be a flagship project.
- With regard to rural fund, we have been looking at Boyle 2040 and there have been a number of presentations on plans for its regeneration. We need to be committed to start work on our vision and this is the mechanism where we hope to get funding.
- Villages need to have plans and have them costed as there are opportunities to gain from many sources.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Leyden

SECONDED by Cllr. Doherty

It was **AGREED** to write to Central Government seeking additional funding to allow Roscommon County Council generate matching funding for these projects.

102.18 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2018

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Connaughton said that a number of councillors have been contacted about the process whereby the councillors can choose to exercise their right with regard to someone seeking a nomination from Roscommon County Council for the forthcoming Presidential Election. It is envisaged that there will be an election by the end of October but the Presidential Order is not expected until the end of

August. Any prospective candidates can contact any Councillor or the Meetings Administrator in writing and they will be facilitated with a special meeting early in September or as appropriate.

Cllr. Ward stated that as we live in a democracy, we enjoy the right to vote and the right to run as a candidate. He would like to see that Roscommon County Council propose and endorse an independent candidate. Cllr. Kilduff also spoke in favour of a special meeting as did Cllrs. Shanagher, Callaghan and Fallon

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr Ward

SECONDED by Cllr. Byrne

It was **AGREED** to hold a Special meeting, at a date to be decided to hear representations those anyone interested in seeking the nomination for the Presidential Election from Roscommon County Council.

103.18 COUNCILLORS CONFERENCES - PAYMENT/ATTENDANCE

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Ward

SECONDED by Councillor Shanagher

It was **AGREED** to adopt the list of payments for attendance at conferences as circulated to the Members.

104.18 CORRESPONDENCE

- Email from Longford County Council dated 16th July, 2018 regarding a Notice of Motion calling on the Minister for Health to pay an interim payment of €50,000 be made to the women and families affected by the cervical cancer misdiagnosis.
- Letter from Wexford County Council dated 26th June, 2018, regarding the Notice of Motion calling on the Department of Local Government to undermine Local Authorities and the increased centralisation of power in Ireland, to establish an independent convention on the future of local government, that will examine powers, autonomy and funding.

105.18 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Flexi Dispute: Cllr. Leyden asked the Chief Executive for confirmation that following recent agreement reached at the WRC, the staff are being treated in the same manner as other public service workers and allowed to generate flexi-leave. The Chief Executive said that he would not be commenting as this as it is an executive matter. Cllr. Leyden replied that it was disappointing that the members could not be given confirmation of what has been agreed and that it is being put into operation.

Roderic O'Connor Exhibition: Cllr. Callaghan asked the Council to support world renowned, Castlerea born artist Roderic O'Connor's Art Exhibition of paintings that are currently on exhibition in the National Gallery in Dublin. The Cathaoirleach confirmed that he will ensure a presence from Roscommon at the Exhibition.

EROG in Ballaghaderreen: Cllr. Callaghan said that news has broken today that the contract for the running

of the Emergency Response Orientation Centre in the former Abbeyfield Hotel in Ballaghaderreen was not being renewed by the Department of Justice and asked if the Council had received any information about this. The Chief Executive replied that he is in constant contact with the Department and represents the City and County Managers Association (CCMA) in relation to EROC. He will give an update at the September meeting.

Castlerea Festival and Somers Park: Cllr. Fitzmaurice spoke about the Castlerea Festival that is commencing next Saturday. On Sunday, there will be an official opening of Somers Park at 2.00pm in The Demesne. The park is dedicated to the Somers family as a recognition of the great community work done by Mr. John Somers, President of Harmac Inc.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Monday, 24th September, 2018.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The foregoing Minutes are
Confirmed and Signed:

Petrizis Bohan
Meetings Administrator

Alan Conroy
Cathaoirleach

Petrizis Bohan
Countersigned