

MINUTES OF ATHLONE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROSCOMMON, ON MONDAY THE 19th OCTOBER 2015 AT 9.30A.M.

PRESENT: Councillor Ivan Connaughton, Cathaoirleach **PRESIDED**

MEMBERS: P. Kilduff, L. Fallon, T. Ward, J. Keogh, J. Naughten

OFFICIALS: Majella Hunt, Director of Services
Diarmuid MacDonncha, Senior Executive Engineer
Antoinette Robinson, Administrative Officer

51.15. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Naughten
SECONDED by Councillor Ward

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Minutes of the Athlone Municipal District held on 19.10.2015 and Budget Meeting for Athlone Municipal District held on 09.11.2015.

Matters Arising:

- Update on request for meeting with TII regarding flooding issues on the M6 motorway
- Update on Kilbegley Cemetery
- Any further measures in place on Old Tuam Road in terms of speed
- Insufficient levels of funding available to address flooding issues
- Important to have maintenance program in place for dredging works
- Issue of culverts on the M6 needs to be addressed by the NRA
- When will flashing speed signs on Old Tuam Road be erected?
- Update on upgrading of L2025 to regional road status
- Issue with Bord na Móna silting up River Shannon and River Suck
- Update on completed cemetery survey – request completed report to be circulated to members
- Welcome overlay works on L2018
- Update on request for flashing speed sign and signage at Mount Talbot National School
- Report on Old Tuam Road be available at next Municipal District meeting
- What was the initial timeframe for completion of survey on Kilbegley Cemetery
- Welcome remedial works at Castlecoote National School
- 100km sign at bridge near Mount Talbot National School needs attention

Ms. Majella Hunt, Director of Services responded to issues raised as follows:

- Galway County Council is the lead authority on the M6 project. Roscommon County Council will seek a meeting with the Project Office on the new year.
- Members may need to meet themselves in advance of the meeting with the project Office to agree issues to be raised.
- The archaeological survey of Kilbegley Cemetery is not yet complete – it is expected in early 2016.
- €8 million was announced yesterday for river funding. Each local authority is responsible for submitting their own request. At present Roscommon County Council only funds arterial drainage works
- Roscommon County Council undertook to monitor speed on the Old Tuam Road in liaison with the Gardaí – no commitment was given to install signs.
- Improved signage and monitoring of speed will need to be investigated at Mount Talbot National School.
- A traffic count is currently being conducted at Castlecoote National School
- Works on the L2018 will be included in 2016 works programme – no traffic count has been conducted

- There was no timeframe outlined for the completion of the survey on Kilbegley Cemetery

Mr. Diarmaid MacDonncha, Senior Executive Engineer responded to the issues raised as follows:

- Roscommon County Council commissioned a report from Consultants and have identified the problems on the M6.
- Speed survey is complete on the Old Tuam Road – Roscommon County Council to discuss issue with Gardaí

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

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council write to the Minister for Finance and the Minister for Environment to request funding for repair to roads damaged by recent flooding.

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

It was **AGREED** to write to Bord na Móna to remove silt from the River Shannon and the River Suck.

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

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council write to the Archaeological Consultants requesting a response on the survey carried out on Kilbegley Cemetery as soon as possible.

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

It was **AGREED** if report is not back from Archaeological Consultant for Kilbegley Cemetery in 3 weeks that Roscommon County Council consider appointing a new consultant and any work done to date will not be paid for by Roscommon County Council.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Fallon
SECONDED by Councillor Ward

It was **AGREED** that the criteria needs to change on a national level in terms of hiring contractors

52.15. ATHLONE BOUNDARY REVIEW

Ms. Majella Hunt, Director of Services informed that meeting that a Boundary Review Committee has been set up by the Minister. There is a public consultation process in place and submissions are due before 27th January 2016. She stated that the members workshop held recently was very productive and that any changes to the boundary of Co. Roscommon will have a huge impact on both the Municipal District and the County as a whole. She confirmed that a special meeting of Roscommon County Council will be held on 6th January next to discuss the issue.

The members raised the following issues:

- Thanked Majella and staff of Roscommon County Council for their work on the boundary review
- Members workshop was very beneficial and very welcoming
- Welcoming to see Councillors present from other Municipal Districts of Co. Roscommon
- Need to organise to march on the bridge of Athlone and hand deliver a letter to Westmeath Offices
- Thanked Councillors for their input into the Committee
- State bodies such as Eircom and Department of Social Welfare have from to the East of the River Shannon
- Absence of female representative on committee is disappointing
- Concern on developing Athlone as a super town
- No representative from Roscommon County Council in attendance at Westmeath County Council meeting

- Need to fight for 100% retention and not 80%
- How do Roscommon County Council propose to improve the functionality of Athlone – need to formalise service level agreements, etc. between Westmeath Co. Co. and Roscommon Co. Co.
- Need to explore consideration of extending the boundary back to the natural boundary of the River Shannon
- Monksland has been identified as having bio-pharma potential for development in Action Plan for Jobs document
- All Westmeath Councillors are in favour of the proposed changes to the boundary
- Why were Westmeath County Council chosen as lead authority on the matter?
- Cannot let ‘land grab’ happen
- Monksland is a highly populated area with ‘clean’ industry
- Appeal to media to inform the public of public meeting scheduled for January 11th in the Athlone Springs Hotel

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Naughten

SECONDED by Councillor Kilduff

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council seek a meeting with An Taoiseach outlining the gravity of the situation and the impact it will have on Co. Roscommon

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Ward

SECONDED by Councillor Keogh

That the proposal requesting a meeting with the Taoiseach be brought before the Special Meeting of 6th January on the boundary review

Update on Matters:

Mr. Diarmuid MacDonncha, Senior Executive Engineer updated the members on the following:

- Progress made to address the back log on verge trimming.
- Monitoring of speed on Old Tuam Road by Garda Síochána.
- Contractors appointed for works on Derrycahill Bridge.
- L2018 – need to apply to Transport Infrastructure Ireland to request upgrade – based on traffic volumes.
- Esther Naughton’s – depending on 2016 estimates may be addressed through CIS Scheme.

Matters Arising:

Members raised the following issues: -

- Strategic approach required for verge trimming
- Welcome appointment of local Contractor to works at Derrycahill Bridge
- Update on report on Kilbegley Cemetery required
- Update on correspondence re: L2025
- Update on meeting re: Custume Barracks
- L2018 – Curraghboy to Kiltoom road – traffic count
- Flooding on M6
- Parking issues at Cloonakilla National School
- Investigate traffic issues at Mount Talbot National School
- Welcome works at Athleague Cemetery
- Works required on N63 and Four Roads to Ballyforan road
- Speed signs on the Old Tuam Road needs to be addressed immediately

- Infrastructure to link village of Athleague to Cemetery
- Update on assessment of vacant spaces in graveyards

Mr. Diarmuid MacDonncha, Senior Executive Engineer responded to the issues raised as follows:

- Kilbegley Cemetery – study is complete but report not yet back
- €30,000 allocation for verge trimming equates to 2 machines operating for 10 weeks at €1,500 per week
- No response back from the NRA re: flooding issue on the M6
- Cloonakilla National School – survey is complete and design is currently being prepared
- Mount Talbot National School is located on a national secondary route and therefore works are the responsibility of the NRA
- Survey on cemeteries is complete

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Naughten

SECONDED by Councillor Keogh

That the issue of speed on the Old Tuam Road is investigated and flashing lights erected.

44.15. APPROVAL OF CIVIC RECEPTION RECIPIENTS

A list of the proposed recipients to receive a civic honour from Roscommon County Council was circulated to the members.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Kilduff

SECONDED by Councillor Ward

It was **AGREED** to award a civic honour to the County Roscommon Minor Camogie Team who won All Ireland Championship.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Naughten

SECONDED by Councillor Keogh

It was **AGREED** to award a civic honour to the U14 Clann na Gael girls who won Feile final.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Ward

SECONDED by Councillor Fallon

It was **AGREED** to award a civic honour to St. Brigid's Boys U14 Feile All Ireland Champions 2015.

45.15. PRESENTATION BY RICHIE FARRELL, COUNTY LIBRARIAN ON ROSCOMMON IRELAND 2016 LOCAL PROGRAMME

Mr. Richie Farrell, County Librarian presented to the members a draft of the local programme of events organised throughout 2016 to commemorate the 1916 Rising.

He outlined that a numbers of events will take place under various headings such as:

- Ceremonial/Local Commemorative
- Historical Reflection
- An Teanga Bheo
- Youth & Imagination
- Cultural Expression
- Community Participation
- Global and Diaspora

The members raised the following issues:

- Complimented Richie and his staff on presenting such a huge and varied schedule of events to encompass the entire County of Roscommon.
- Challenge to organise the variety of events for 2016

- Disappointment that Drum Heritage Centre not included in programme.
- Welcome international reunion – positive development
- Queried if local groups can still be included in the programme.
- Inclusion of the schools in the delivery of the flag and the proclamation – excellent initiative
- Level of funding is available to groups?

Mr. Richie Farrell, County Librarian responded to the issues raised as follows:

- Programme is still a work in progress – groups must apply in the next 2 weeks to be included in the programme.
- Thanked his colleagues for all their hard work behind the scenes
- Committed to contact Drum Heritage Centre
- €150,000 approximately to run the programme of events

46.15. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from Department of Transport re: L2025
2. Letter from Department of Transport re: CIS Schemes
3. Letter from Department of Transport re: Galway – Dublin Cycleway

47.15. QUESTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER NO. 135.

Replies to the Question submitted by members were circulated (see schedule).

48.15. NOTICES OF MOTION – OCTOBER, 2015

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ALLOCATIONS

Notice of Motion from Councillor Naughten – 13/15.

“That Roscommon County Council report on request made to have funding allocated to take account of population in each Municipal District, as roads funding is presently allocated on a per kilometre basis.”

The Meetings Administrator read out the following reply:-

The following models were presented to the Corporate Policy Group on 25th May:

1. **Area Budgets based on length in new Municipal areas (the current situation)**
2. **Area Budgets based on population.**
3. **Area Budgets based on 50% lengths and 50% population.**

The population model would lead to a significant increase in funds to the Athlone Municipal District at the expense of the Boyle Municipal District.

At the request of the Corporate Policy Group (CPG), work was carried out to ascertain how other local authorities distribute funding. This work concluded that there are a number of models in place throughout the country. This information will be presented at the next CPG.

Councillor John Naughten thanked the Meetings Administrator for the response. However, he stressed that the issue needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency before the Budget meeting as Athlone Municipal District receive inadequate levels of funding at present.

The members raised the following issues:

- South Roscommon receive the lowest allocation of the three Municipal Districts
- Allocation per population may be a fairer method for distribution of funds.

- Municipal Allocations should be equal
- Athlone Municipal District is an extensive area with large population
- Athlone has the lowest electorate at 29.5%
- Leitrim County Council make provision to amend allocations in specific areas

49.15. VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS were extended to:

Athleague Camogie Team on winning County Senior Final
 Four Roads Hurling Team on winning 8th hurling final in a row
 Clann na Gael Footballers on winning County Final
 St. Dominic's Camogie Team in winning Connacht Junior Championship

50.15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Custume Barracks

Councillor Tony Ward queried if there has been any update on the proposed meeting in relation to Custume Barracks, Athlone.

Ms. Fíona ní Chuinn, Meeting Administrator confirmed that she had been in contact with the Meetings Administrator for Westmeath County Council and no date has been arranged yet.

CIE/Iarnród Éireann

Councillor John Naughten raised the issue of inadequate parking available at the Athlone train station resulting in many incidents of clamping.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Naughten

SECONDED by Councillor Ward

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council write to CIE voicing their concern with the implementation of strict clamping.

Development of Land in Monksland

Councillor Paddy Kilduff highlighted a concern that submissions are being made from individuals in Belfast and other areas outside of County Roscommon on planning applications in the Monksland area.

Councillor Tony Ward stated that the County Development Plan and Local Area Plan should reflect the views of the community and hoped development will continue in the Monksland area.

Mr. Des O'Dwyer, A/Director of Services confirmed that any person can make a submission regardless of where they are from.

Underground Bring Bank in Monksland

Councillor John Keogh informed the meeting that a community group have land available for the installation of an underground bring bank facility near Super Valu and Athlone Springs Hotel. He understands that Westmeath County Council have installed 6 underground bring banks in the Fairgreen area in Athlone. It reduces the problem of broken glass and vermin. The cost is €6,000 per bring bank.

The following issues were raised:

- A representative from the bring bank company should come to make a presentation to Roscommon County Council.
- Investigate underground bring banks for all towns throughout the county.
- Request Municipal District Engineer to examine the matter
- Inadequate monitoring of bring bank facilities

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Keogh

SECONDED by Councillor Ward

That Roscommon County Council make a piece of land available in Monksland to progress this project.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The foregoing Minutes are

Confirmed and Signed:

Meetings Administrator

Cathaoirleach

Countersigned

QUESTION - OCTOBER, 2015

Question No. 1 – Councillor Naughten:

Can Roscommon County Council carry out line marking in Clonown Village to clearly define who has the right of way?

The Meetings Administrator circulated the following reply:

The line markings requested will be undertaken at the next available opportunity when the Contractors are carrying out other road lining works in the Athlone Area. Road lining is normally undertaken when there is sufficient demand in a particular area and these works are also weather dependant. It is expected that these works will be completed over the coming weeks.