

MINUTES OF ATHLONE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD IN THE LOUGHNANEANE SUITE, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, ROSCOMMON, ON MONDAY 21ST MARCH 2016 AT 9.30A.M.

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

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

OFFICIALS: Ms. Majella Hunt, Director of Services
Mr. Diarmuid MacDonncha, Municipal District Co-ordinator
Mr. Eugene Dwyer, Senior Engineer
Mr. Ivor Kilcline, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Caitlin Conneally, Administrative Officer

02.16. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

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

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Minutes of the Athlone Municipal District held on 16.12.2015

03.16. MATTERS ARISING

The members raised the following issues:

- Update in Kilbegley Cemetery
- Update on Derrycahill Bridge
- New footpath and public lighting required to road at Creagh
- Outstanding works at Cluain Broc, Danesfort and Daneshill
- Flashing lights required at Mount Talbot National School
- Update on snagging on M6
- Update on works on New Tuam Road

Mr. Eugene Dwyer, Senior Engineer responded to the issues raised as follows:

- New Archaeologist appointed to survey Kilbegley Cemetery
- Contractors appointed to carry out works on Derrycahill Bridge
- Removal of grass verge at road at Creagh and install gravel will be investigated
- Commitment given for works at Cluain Broc
- Review of speed limits is ongoing by the TII
- New Tuam Road currently on list of roads to be surveyed

It was unanimously agreed by the members to write to Galway County Council to seek an urgent meeting in relation to outstanding issues on the M6 motorway project.

04.16. DRAFT LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN

Ms. Caitlin Conneally, Administrative Officer outlined to the members the seven high level goals of the Local Economic and Community Plan as previously circulated as follows:

1. Build and Support Local Communities and a Strong Sense of Place
2. Increase Economic Activity, Job Creation and Employment Opportunities
3. Develop a Roscommon brand image and promote the county as a location of choice to live, invest, visit or do business
4. Protect, enhance and maximise the value of Roscommon's natural, cultural and heritage resources
5. Provide, maintain and enhance strategic infrastructure that supports economic and community development
6. Support priority industry sectors to compete locally, regionally, nationally and internationally
7. Promote social inclusion by reducing poverty and alleviating disadvantage, ensuring that individuals living in the county feel included, valued and respected

The members raised the following issues:

- Shannon Blueway primarily focused on the north of the County – how is it expected to develop over the next few years?
- Private entities included in the inter-agency approach in relation to broadband expansion
- Disappointed by the pace of Leader programme and the Department delaying the programme
- A simplified process required to encourage start up businesses

Ms. Caitlin Conneally, Administrative Officer responded to the issues raised as follows:

- Leader Programme planned for September 2016
- All funding opportunities will be collated
- LECP process will involve consultation with private enterprises

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Fallon

SECONDED by Councillor Naughten

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council should create a dedicated team to examine all sources of funding available.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Ward

SECONDED by Councillor Naughten

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council write to the Department of the Environment to accelerate the approval of the Local Development Strategy and the roll out of Leader funding in Co. Roscommon.

05.16. CEMETERY GRANTS

Cemetery Grants for the Athlone Municipal District were circulated to the members.

Cemetery Improvement & Maintenance Scheme 2016			
Municipal District	Group	Cemetery	Proposed Grant 2016
Athlone	Suck Valley Development Co-Op	Athleague Church of I..	€400.00
Athlone	Athleague Tidy Towns Development Association	Athleague New (St. Patrick's)	€300.00
Athlone	Cam Cemetery Committee	Cam	€450.00
Athlone	Clonown Community Centre Committee	Clonown	€250.00
Athlone	Church of Ireland Select Vestry	Donamon Church of Ireland	€100.00
Athlone	Drum Cemetery Voluntary Group	Drum Cemetery	€500.00
Athlone	Drum Heritage Group	Drum Monastic site & Thomastown	€350.00
Athlone	Dysart Community Centre Committee	Dysart New and Old	€500.00
Athlone	Fuerty (New) Cemetery Development Group	Fuerty (new)	€200.00
Athlone	Fuerty Development Association	Fuerty (old)	€150.00
Athlone	Kilbagnet Development Association	Kilbagnet New & Old	€500.00
Athlone	Kiltoom Cemetery Committee	Kiltoom	€150.00
Athlone	Kiltoom Graveyard (C.O.I.) Group	Kiltoom C O I and St. John's Protestant	€400.00
Athlone	Moore Community Council	Moore New	€500.00
Athlone	Mount Talbot Cemetery Restoration Committee	Mount Talbot	€600.00
Athlone	Knockcroghery Heritage Society	Portrun/Kilmaine	€400.00
Athlone	Rahara Old Church & Heritage Centre	Rahara Cemetery	€200.00

Athlone	St Johns New Cemetery Committee	St. John's New Cemetery	€550.00
Athlone	St. John's Parish Heritage Group	St. John's Roman Catholic (Old) & Kilcommon	€100.00
Athlone	Taughmaconnell Cemetery Committee	St. Ronan's	€300.00
Athlone	Taughboy Cemetery Committee	Taughboy	€350.00
Athlone	Taughmaconnell Heritage & Historical Society	Taughmaconnell Old	€400.00
Athlone	Tisrara Cemetery Committee	Tisrara Old/New	€800.00

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Ward
SECONDED by Councillor Fallon
It was **AGREED** to adopt the cemetery grants for 2016 as presented.

06.16. ROADS WORKS SCHEME 2016

Mr. Eugene Dwyer, Senior Engineer and Mr. Diarmuid MacDonncha, Senior Executive Engineer detailed the Road Works Scheme 2016 to the members as circulated.

The members raised the following issues:

- A number of roads missing from scheme
- Timeframe sought for receipt of funding sought in relation to flooding
- Directional signs required for Dysart

Mr. Eugene Dwyer, Senior Engineer responded to the issues raised as follows:

- Funding cannot be used for improvement works
- Funding for flooded roads is not yet allocated
- Funding to be spent on road signage and markings

Cathaoirleach Connaughton suggested that the members email Eugene Dwyer or Diarmuid MacDonncha in relation to roads that are omitted from the road works scheme and plans for the 2017/2018 scheme would be made available at the next Municipal District meeting.

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

It was **AGREED** to write to the Minister to remove busy link roads from the CIS Scheme and revert back to the old CIS Scheme

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

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Road Works Scheme 2016 as presented

07.16. PRESENTATION ON THE NEW STRUCTURE OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Ms. Majella Hunt, Director of Services presented to the members the following:

- The new management structure for Roscommon County Council
- The new staffing structure for the Municipal Districts
- The economic & community development role of Roscommon County Council
- Local Economic & Community Plan
- Funding Opportunities

The members raised the following issues:

- When will allocation of €85,000 commence?
- Is €5 million of REDZ funding on an annual basis?

- Suggest that no 2 Municipal District meetings should be held on the same day

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

- The frequency of Municipal District meetings is tabled for discussion at CPG
- A workshop to identify criteria/scheme for the allocation of the €85,000 is planned in April 2016

08.16. FLOODING

The members raised the following issues:

- Complimented the work done in relation to flooding
- Concern in relation to high water levels at Lough Funshinagh – need to find a solution
- Need to look at protecting homes and farmyards in the future

09.16. BOUNDARY REVIEW

Ms. Majella Hunt, Director of Services informed the meeting that Roscommon County Council are awaiting a revised date for a meeting between the members and the Boundary Committee.

The members requested the no decision be made until the meeting with the elected members is held. They also requested that the members be refreshed on the issue if the meeting is delayed until later in the year.

10.16. CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport re: allocation for flooding

Letter from Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine re: fodder crisis

Letter from Department of Finance re: roads damaged by flooding

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Naughten

SECONDED by Councillor Keogh

It was **AGREED** to write to the Minister for Agriculture requesting an extension of the fodder scheme in place as a result of recent flooding.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Ward

SECONDED by Councillor Fallon

It was **AGREED** to send a reminder to An Post seeking a meeting with an Executive from An Post following on from Aonghus Laverty's meeting in relation to the issue of eircodes in Co. Roscommon.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Fallon

SECONDED by Councillor Kilduff

It was **AGREED** to send a reminder to Bord na Móna to remove silt from the River Shannon and the River Sick to help alleviate flooding.

11.16. QUESTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER NO. 135

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

12.16. NOTICES OF MOTION

TRAFFIC CALMING IN DYSART & BALLYFORAN

Notice of Motion from Councillor Connaughton 1/16

"That Roscommon County Council put traffic calming measures in place in the villages on Dysart & Ballyforan in the interest of road safety."

The Meetings Administrator read out the following reply:-

Traffic surveys to monitor speed and level of traffic will be carried out at these locations within 3 months.

Councillor Connaughton welcomed the response and stated that there are huge safety issues in the villages of Dysart and Ballyforan.

The members raised the following issues:

- R446 – Galway Co Co have erected flashing speed signs
- Request traffic survey on Old Tuam Road – make results of survey and costings for flashing signs available at next Municipal District meeting

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

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council put traffic calming measures in place in the villages on Dysart & Ballyforan in the interest of road safety.

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

It was **AGREED** to include the village of Brideswell in the traffic survey

UPGRADE OF NEW TUAM ROAD

Notice of Motion from Councillor Naughten 2/16

“That Roscommon County Council presents proposals for the upgrade of the New Tuam Road between River Village Roundabout and the Taughmaconnell road junction and a timeframe for when works will take place.”

The Meetings Administrator read out the following reply:-

The preparation of proposals for the upgrade of this section of road is premature until Roscommon County Council receives confirmation regarding the status of Monksland/Bealnamillia

Councillor Naughten stressed that works should progress immediately as there are road safety concerns.

Mr. Diarmuid MacDonncha, Senior Executive Engineer confirmed that no funding is available at present for the works required.

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

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council presents proposals for the upgrade of the New Tuam Road between River Village Roundabout and the Taughmaconnell road junction and a timeframe for when works will take place.

WORKS AT CALTRAGH JUNCTION

Notice of Motion from Councillor Ward 3/16

“That Roscommon County Council carry out improvement works at Caltragh junction. This is an extremely dangerous junction when you turn right for Four Roads with no visible view of oncoming traffic when approaching the Curraghboy – Four Roads road, which is road number L2023-47 from the direction of Curlea L7720-0.”

The Meetings Administrator read out the following reply:-

Improvements to the junction of the L2013 (Curraghboy – Four Roads) and L7720 (Caltragh) have been approved under the Minor Improvements Scheme 2016

Councillor Ward welcomed the works and stated that land should be acquired via CPO if required.

13.16. A.O.B.

Suck Valley Co-op

Councillor Keogh read a letter from the Suck Valley Co-op seeking funding of €1,000 - €1,500 from the Athlone Municipal District to assist in the funding of a documentary which will be shown during Heritage Week.

The members unanimously agreed that the application should not be considered until a scheme has been adopted for the allocation of the Municipal District funds.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The foregoing Minutes are
Confirmed and Signed:



Meetings Administrator

Cathaoirleach

Countersigned

QUESTIONS – MARCH 2016

Question No. 1 – Councillor Ward

Can the Director of Services inform the meeting when will work commence on the dangerous junction at Cuilleenirwin, Dysart – road number L2015-24?

The Meetings Administrator circulated the following reply:-

This project has been funded under the Dept. of Transport's Low Cost Safety Improvement Works on Regional & Local Roads Scheme 2016 and will be completed before November 2016.

Question No. 2 – Councillor Ward

Can the Director of Services inform the meeting what plans if any have Roscommon County Council to carry out improvement works on the Corramore Road, road number L2022-2. The road is very narrow and there is no view of oncoming traffic due to severe dip in the road. The road is just nine feet wide at this location and it is not possible for two cars to pass each other at this spot.

The Meetings Administrator circulated the following reply:-

There are no current plans to improve the section of road referred to. It can be included in our next application under the DoT's Low Cost Improvement Scheme.