

MINUTES OF ATHLONE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COURTHOUSE, ROSCOMMON ON MONDAY THE 23rd FEBRUARY, 2015. AT 9.30 A.M.

PRESENT: Councillor Paddy Kilduff, Cathaoirleach **PRESIDED**

MEMBERS: I. Connaughton, L. Fallon, J. Keogh, J. Naughten and T.Ward

OFFICIALS: Majella Hunt, Director of Services
Fiona ni Chuinn, Meetings Administrator.

13.14. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

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

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Minutes of the Athlone Municipal District held on 6.10.2014.

Matters Arising:

Members raised the following issues in relation to the proposed cycle route from Athlone to Ballinasloe:-

- The cycle route could utilize bog roads that are not in use at present.
- Need the NRA to come on board and work with the landowners
- No need to CPO lands in South Roscommon for a cycle route as the old N6 route could be used.
- Need to have the CPO process off the table and the matter dealt with through consultation.
- Severing of small farms is unnecessary.
- Insurance issue with moving stock
- A compensation scheme should be in place.
- Allocation of €400,000 for a cycle route on the old N6 was withdrawn.
- Single Farm payments to farmers may be affected.
- I.F.A. must support farmers.
- Notification of consultation period inadequate.

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

It was **AGREED** that the Athlone Municipal District of Roscommon County Council write to the NRA suggesting that the only way forward with the proposed Cycle Route is to co-operate with farmers and to use existing state owned lands for the cycle route where available.

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

It was **AGREED** that the Athlone Municipal District members of Roscommon County Council issue a letter to the NRA urging them to use the old N6 route – Athlone to Ballinasloe railway line where available for the cycle route.

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

It was **AGREED** that the Athlone Municipal District members of Roscommon County Council issue a letter to the I.F.A. requesting them to become involved on behalf of the farmers who have an issue with the proposed cycle route.

14.15. ROADS ACT, 1993, SECTION 11 & ROADS REGULATIONS 1994, PART 2 – DECLARATION OF PUBLIC ROADS –

- **Road measuring approx 400m. from its junction with the R363 at Pollalaher Td, Brideswell, Athlone, Co. Roscommon.**

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

It was **AGREED** that the road measuring approx 400m. from its junction with the R363 at Pollalaher Td, Brideswell, Athlone, Co. Roscommon be declared a public road.

15.15. MUNICIPAL DISTRICT BUDGET PLAN 2015:

Eugene Dwyer Senior Engineer highlighted to the members the Municipal Districts Budget Plan including the Draft Works scheme 2015 for the Athlone area. He referred in particular to previous meetings held with the Councillors and the Area Engineers at which stage all requests had been discussed at length and agreement in principle had been reached regarding the document before them today.

Members raised the following issues:-

- Footpaths , lighting and litter needs to be addressed in the Cluain Brock and River Village housing estates.
- Concern that the Athlone Municipal District only received 20% of the overall County Council roads budget – funding should be divided equally between the three Municipal Districts.
- Queried why funding for road transport and safety in the Athlone Municipal District for 2015 is the lowest of the three Municipal Districts.
- Need to examine the division of funding as Athlone Municipal District received an unfair level of funding compared to the other two Municipal Districts.
- Requested that work on dangerous junction at Lacken Cross be carried out in 2015.
- Requested information on the winter maintenance of the N6 – Athlone to Ballinasloe.
- Need for significant funding for an extension to the play ground in Monksland.
- Update requested on Kileglan Springs and when the ‘Boil Water’ notice is likely to be lifted.
- Lack of social housing in the Monksland area is becoming a major problem.

- Queried if there were any plans to provide additional houses in the Monksland area in the coming year?
- Need for footpaths to the Community Centre in Taughmaconnell.
- Division of funding by kilometre is too crude – need to examine volumes of traffic per Municipal District.

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Ward
SECONDED by Councillor Kilduff

That Roscommon County Council make a submission, as a matter of urgency, for funding for flashing lights and pedestrian crossings at Cloonakilla, Mount Talbot and Ballybay National Schools in the interest of public safety at these locations.

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Naughten
SECONDED by Councillor Keogh

That the Cluain Broc and River Village estate would receive the funding necessary, out of the €20,000 allocated for public lighting, to address the serious situation that exists in relation to safety in these two estates.

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Naughten
SECONDED by Councillor Ward

That Roscommon County Council request the Department of Transport to address the issue of safety in relation to the Athlone to Clonown road which is now down to one lane of traffic.

Eugene Dwyer responded to all the queries raised and stated that the roads funding was determined by mileage in each municipal district and the county has a total of 4,000km of road of which 920km were in the Athlone area. He stated that the figures were based on mileage and unless the stipulations changed his hands were tied in relation to the matter. He continued that roads funding in 2008 was €20m and that figure is now down by 40%.

There is a severe infrastructural deficit in the county. The allocation for Boyle Municipal District is inflated due to the two EU Co-financed Schemes. It is hoped to secure funding from the NRA for Athleague Village. Archaeology testing is currently being carried out in Kilbegley.

Majella Hunt, Director of Services responded to queries raised and stated that the testing of mechanisms at Kileglan Springs is currently taking place and this will then be followed by a two month period of testing by the HSE and the EPA to monitor and evaluate the Scheme. It is expected that the 'Boil Notice' on the Kileglan Springs will be lifted towards the end of April/May, 2015 on the approval of the HSE/EPA.

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

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Municipal District Budget Plan 2015 as circulated.

16.15. CIVIC RECEPTION:

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

It was **AGREED** to adopt the List of participants for a Civic Reception as circulated.

17.15. QUESTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER NO. 135.

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

18.15. NOTICES OF MOTION:

6. AN POST:

Notice of Motion from Councillor Naughten – 6/15.

“That Roscommon County Council seek a meeting with An Post Management in relation to the postal address issue affecting a number of areas in South Roscommon.”

The Meetings Administrator read the following reply:-

This Notice of Motion requires a Resolution of the Council.

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

It was **AGREED** “That Roscommon County Council seek a meeting with An Post Management in relation to the postal address issue affecting a number of areas in South Roscommon.”

7. ROAD RESURFACING:

Notice of Motion from Councillors Ward & Keogh – 7/15.

“Call on Roscommon County Council and the N.R.A. to provide the necessary funding for the resurfacing of the Castlesampson road, which is road number L2025-0 and is in a very bad state of disrepair. This road is situated off the R363 Bealnamullia-Brideswell road and is approximately 3.5 miles in length from the junction at Bealnamullia to the entrance to Mannion’s Quarry.” This road has suffered significant damage in recent months as a result of large numbers of lorry vehicles supplying materials for the construction of the M6 filling station between Athlone and Moate”.

The Meetings Administrator read the following reply:-

Roscommon County Council will make a submission to the National Roads Authority in an attempt to secure funding towards the significant costs involved in the restoration of Local Road L2025-0 as soon as possible. Notwithstanding the response received from the NRA, the Council proposes to include part of this road in the 2015 Roads Programme but given the restoration costs involved, the works may have to be carried out on a phased basis, possibly over two years.

Members raised the issue that funding of €213,000 is inadequate for the amount of work that is required and are calling on Roscommon County Council to upgrade the road to a regional road.

19.15. A.O.B.

Road at Taylorstown:

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Ward
SECONDED by Councillor Naughten

That Roscommon County Council take in charge 300 metres of road at Taylorstown. This road is situated off the L2035-0. There are six dwelling houses on this road and four landowners use this road to access their land.

2016 Commemoration:

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

It was **AGREED** that in relation to the 2016 Commemoration that an invitation issue for relatives of people who died in the 1916 Rising living in County Roscommon to come forward so as to participate in the celebrations.

Department of Agriculture - Farmers Grant Aid:

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

It was **AGREED** that the Athlone Municipal District members of Roscommon County Council request the Government not to advertise on the Department of Agriculture's website the level of grant aid paid to individual farmers.

Housing -

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Kilduff
SECONDED by Councillor Ward

That Roscommon County Council, Planning Department, look sympathetically at the idea of a person undertaking to buy and finish an unfinished house in the county even though they may not be from the area thus removing the eye sore that exists with one-off unfinished houses throughout the county.

Labour Relations Committee: -

Majella Hunt, Director of Services read a Statement updating the members on the Implementation of new Municipal Structure as follows:

“At the request of SIPTU/SIPTU LAPO, the Council has agreed to revert to the LRC to clarify issues raised by the Union. A further LRC conciliation meeting has been arranged to progress the implementation of the new structures. It would not be appropriate to make any further comment while this process is ongoing.

Lands in Monksland:

Councillor Connaughton enquired if lands in Monksland adjacent to Athlone Springs Hotel comprising of 3 acres was being purchased by Roscommon County Council.

Majella Hunt, Director of Services responded that she was not in a position to comment on this matter at present.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The foregoing Minutes are
Confirmed and Signed:

Meetings Administrator

Cathaoirleach

Countersigned