

**MINUTES OF ATHLONE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD IN THE LOUGHNANEANE SUITE,  
ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, ROSCOMMON, ON THURSDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2016 AT 10.00A.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. Conor Fallon, T/Executive Engineer

**14.16. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Kilduff

**SECONDED** by Councillor Ward

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Minutes of the Athlone Municipal District held on 21.03.2016

**15.16. MATTERS ARISING**

The members raised the following issues:

- Update on Loughfunshinagh - Cllr Fallon informed members that he wrote to Deputy Sean Canney, Minister of State for the Office of Public Works and Flood Relief requesting a site visit to discuss the crisis situation. He proposed that a letter be sent from all Councillors on behalf of Athlone Municipal District asking him to come and visit the Lough. All agreed that need to make provisions now for next winter, as water will not go down to summer levels.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Fallon

**SECONDED** by Councillor Ward

It was **AGREED** that Athlone Municipal District write to Minister Canney requesting a site visit to Loughfunshinagh to discuss the crisis situation.

- Update on Derrycahill Bridge
- Outstanding works at Cluain Broc, Danesfort and Daneshill
- Update on snagging on M6
- Upgrading of New Tuam Road – continue with preparatory works and not wait for boundary change.

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

- A permanent gravity solution is what we are looking for Loughfunshinagh. We are looking at different solutions to even lower water by a meter to alleviate the houses on the north end. Cross river has been cleaned regularly. Upper reaches will need to be done again which could take top meter off Loughfunshinagh.
- Derrycahill Bridge will be open shortly, remaining blocks at either end being taken away this week.
- Contractor will be appointed to complete works to roads, footpaths and public lighting at Daneshill, Danesfort and Cloonbrock estates.
- Re snagging on M6 - Following a meeting between Diarmuid and Galway Co Co, an agreed list of works has been drawn up which has been referred back to TII. No funding for CIS Schemes.
- New Tuam Road has been surveyed and drawings prepared. It is a capital project and not at Part 8 stage yet. Hodson Bay and Lough Funshinagh remain a priority.

### **16.16. DRAFT MUNICIPAL DISTRICT FUND SCHEME**

Majella Hunt, Director of Services, outlined the draft scheme for discussion. A total of €85,000 was allocated to each Municipal District and this Scheme sets out the eligible projects, calls for funding and the application process. The members today are asked to approve the draft MD Fund Scheme.

Members agreed the following conditions should be included in the Draft MD Fund Scheme.

- 10% match funding requirement in relation to Council / Community Projects
- €42,500 (50%) to be made available for match funding grant aided projects
- No contribution necessary for match funding grant aided projects i.e. Leader Projects
- Need to check that public funds can be used for LDS projects i.e. are funds coming from rates?
- Requirement for Roscommon County Council Executives to meet with Leader to clarify some issues around their application process.
- Dereliction – could lead to continual dependence. Can groups apply in Phases 1, 2, 3 of same project– rule to be considered.
- Need for screening system if point 3.3 is going to be given a priority.
- Timing of spending is critical as there will be no funds from Leader this year, at what stage are we going to commit money.
- Minimum amount of funding to be applied for by any group is €1,500.
- All successful applications to receive a letter of offer which will be valid for 6 months.

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

It was **AGREED** that groups going to Leader for funding be given six months to submit application after approval of matching funds is granted.

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

It was **AGREED** that Athlone Municipal District approve the draft fund scheme subject to above conditions.

### **17.16. TOWN TEAMS**

Town Teams Report to Municipal Districts May 2016 was previously circulated to members.

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

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Town Teams Report May 2016 as presented.

### **18.16. MUNICIPAL DISTRICT SCHEDULE OF WORKS**

Mr. Diarmuid MacDonncha, Senior Executive Engineer summarised the Athlone Municipal District Works Schedule 2016 to the members as circulated.

The members raised the following issues:

- Glanduff river is not listed, would like to see listed in future
- €69,000 allocated for Land Drainage is a very cautionary amount
- Extension to Playground at Monksland is required, no facilities for children under seven
- Maintenance of Roundabouts – is contract still in place with Fernhill?
- Blacktopping some roads that are in need of repair
- Sand drain from Four Roads to Mount Talbot
- Cut bushes on roads or they will close up

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

It was **AGREED** that a letter be sent to Department of Environment seeking an increase in funding for Land Drainage.

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

- Arterial drainage – list of watercourses that we are responsible for.
- Extension of Monksland Playground is a capital scheme, money is for maintenance of playgrounds at Monksland, Ballyforan and Lecarrow
- 3 year contract with Fernhill finished this year. Currently getting quotations to maintain roundabout at Monksland. Will cut grass at Summerhill at end of old N6.
- Roads in need of repair will be blacktopped as required.

#### **19.16. ATHLONE BOUNDARY REVIEW**

Majella Hunt, Director of Services informed the members of the Boundary Review Meeting for Members on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 4.00 p.m. in the Council Chamber in preparation for the Boundary Committee meeting on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June at 09.30 a.m.

#### **20.16. FIX DATE OF SPECIAL MEETING TO REVIEW DRAFT MONKSLAND/BELLANAMULLIA (ATHLONE WEST) LOCAL AREA PLAN 2015-2021**

Majella Hunt, Director of Services suggested 27<sup>th</sup> June 2016 at 11.00 a.m. to review Draft Monksland/Bellanamullia Local Area Plan. All members were in agreement with this date.

#### **21.16. CORRESPONDENCE**

Letter from Minister for Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) re: Snag list M6 Motorway

Letter from Galway County Council re: Resolution of Athlone Municipal District

Letter from Dept of Agriculture, Food and the Marine re: Cllr Naughten's resolution

Letter from Dept of Agriculture, Food and the Marine re: Extension of fodder scheme

Letter from Bord na Móna re: Silt in the river

#### **22.16. NOTICE OF MOTION**

##### **Notice of Motion from Councillor Keogh 4/16**

"That Roscommon County Council provide road sweeping in the Monksland area on a weekly basis. The lack of road/street sweeping in the area is leading to gullies being blocked when heavy rains fall resulting in roads becoming flooded".

##### **The Meetings Administrator read out the following reply:-**

Following recent tenders a contractor has been appointed to carry out bi-weekly road sweeping in the Monksland/Bealnamullia Area. This contract is due to commence on first week in June.

Cllr John Keogh welcomed the response but would like to see road sweeping in estates on a bi-annual basis to tidy up fallen leaves. Cllr Ward requested Curraghboy village be swept twice annually in spring and autumn. Cllr Kilduff requested Lecarrow village be considered for road sweeping. Cllr Connaughton requested Athleague village be swept before and after the Village Fair & Festival on 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

Diarmuid MacDonnacha outlined to members that a map has been drawn up for Contractors which includes estates that have been taken in charge.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Keogh

**SECONDED** by Councillor Ward

It was **AGREED** to carry out sweeping in estates bi-annually.

### **Notice of Motion from Councillor Ward 5/16**

"I am calling on Roscommon County Council to install footpaths and public lighting and resurface the road into Cluain Broc, Danesfort, Daneshill housing estates. Can the Area Engineer inform the meeting of when the improvement works will commence".

### **The meetings administrator read out the following reply:-**

The upgrade of the area referred to will be carried out by contract within the coming months. Works will include installation of footpaths, public lighting and surface water drainage. Re-surfacing of the road will be carried out as part of the 2017 Roads Programme or earlier if funds become available."

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Ward

**SECONDED** by Councillor Keogh

It was **AGREED** to carry out improvement works in Cluain Broc, Danesfort, Daneshill housing estates.

### **23.16. A.O.B.**

#### **Standing Orders**

The members unanimously agreed that there should be strict adherence to standing orders especially in relation to Notice of Motion.

#### **Community Tourism Office**

This office is located in Drum and is the focal point for tourism in South of County. The sounding area of the building needs some improvement works e.g. potholes etc.

#### **Creagh Area**

A notice of motion was brought about in January collectively by members regarding footpaths, lighting and grass verges in Creagh. An update on any progress made would be welcomed. Diarmuid MacDonncha noted that no works have happened yet but a basic job could be done.

#### **Monksland Playground**

ClIr Connaughton read out a letter from Caroline Reed, Chairperson Monksland Community Playground Group, seeking funds to build an extension to Monksland playground estimated at €21,000. Majella Hunt, Director of Services noted that this is what the MD Funds scheme is for and maybe this is an avenue for the group to pursue.

#### **Motorway**

ClIr Kilduff highlighted the closure of the motorway from Athlone to Ballinasloe in coming days and only recently became aware of this resulting in numerous phonecalls from public. Diarmuid MacDonncha explained that there are defects on motorway and for safety reasons it had to be done. A detour is in place.

### **This concluded the business of the meeting.**

The foregoing Minutes are  
Confirmed and Signed:



**Meetings Administrator**

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**Cathaoirleach**

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**Countersigned**