

MINUTES OF ATHLONE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROSCOMMON, ON MONDAY THE 27TH JULY 2015 AT 4.00P.M.

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

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

OFFICIALS: Majella Hunt, T/Chief Executive
Diarmuid MacDonncha, Senior Executive Engineer
Fíona ní Chuinn, Meetings Administrator

37.15. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Ward

SECONDED by Councillor Naughten

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Minutes of the Athlone Municipal District and A.G.M. held on 15.6.2015.

Matters Arising:

Members raised the following issues:-

- Seek clarity in terms of funding for verge trimming – visibility issues at junctions
- Old Tuam Road – ongoing concern with speed – request for Gardaí to show a greater presence
- Flashing speed signs required for Old Tuam Road
- Update on Derrycahill Bridge
- Disappointment that meeting with Aonghus Lavery from An Post was not minuted as some information discussed at the meeting was misleading
- Disappointment with the rollout of the Eircode system
- L2025 – upgrade to regional road status due to high volumes of traffic
- Update on road outside Esther Naughten’s
- Update on L2018 traffic count
- Update on Custume Barracks and deputation to meet the Minister
- Provision of a separate chargeability code for verge trimming required

It was **PROPOSED** of Councillor Ward

SECONDED by Councillor Naughten

That there should be at least two operational verge trimmers on South Roscommon.

It was **PROPOSED** of Councillor Ward

SECONDED by Councillor Naughten

To investigate the possibility of the L2018 being upgraded to regional status.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Ward

SECONDED by Councillor Fallon

It was **AGREED** to write to An Post stating Athlone Municipal District object to the new Eircode system in place.

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

It was **AGREED** to write to the Minister expressing the annoyance of the Athlone Municipal District members with the roll out of the Eircode system.

Majella Hunt, T/Chief Executive responded to the queries as follows:

- €25,000 was allocated per municipal district for verge trimming in 2015
- Propose the arrangement of a meeting with Eircode/An Post to discuss the issue with Eircodes
- L2018 is on the list of roads to be included in a traffic count
- Westmeath County Council are organising the meeting with the Minister in relation to Custume Barracks and will notify Roscommon County Council once this is arranged
- The provision of a separate code for verge trimming could be discussed at the Budget meeting later in the year

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

It was **AGREED** to arrange a meeting with Eircode or An Post or a representative from both.

Diarmaid MacDonncha informed the meeting of the following:

- A meeting was held with the Gardaí in relation to the Old Tuam Road. There is an increased Garda presence on the road and will put a speed monitor in place
- One machine is working 10 hours a day on verge trimming in the Athlone Municipal District. One other machine is not in use due to organisational change however, Gateway staff are trimming verges at junctions

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

It was **AGREED** to request the installation of flashing speed signs on the Old Tuam Road.

38.15. ADDITIONAL FUNDING UNDER ROADS RESTORATION /IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

A letter from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport was circulated to members informing them of an additional allocation of €967,750 in funding under the Restoration Improvement Grant giving a total allocation of €6,935,561 for 2015.

Diarmaid MacDonncha, Senior Executive Engineer presented to the meeting a breakdown of how the additional allocation will be spent in the Athlone Municipal District.

Road No.	Road Name/Townland	Operational Area	Works Type	Length of Work (m)	Total Area of work (sq.m)	Estimated Cost of Work (Euro)	Cumulative Cost of Work (Euro)	Notes
R362	Coolusty, Athleague	Athlone	RR	230	1380	25,000	25,000	Extension of overlay
R363	Ballina, Dysart	Athlone	RR	185	1100	20,000	45,000	Extension of overlay
LS-7529	Torpan More, Ballyforan	Athlone	RR	700	2240	20,000	65,000	
LS 7558	Cloonakille, Athlone	Athlone	RR	740	2240	20,000	85,000	

LS 7611	Curragnaboll, Athlone	Athlone	RR	700	2240	20,000	105,000	
LS 7537	Cornalee, Curraghboy	Athlone	RR	350	1120	10,000	115,000	
LS 7567	Camlagh, Taughmaconnell	Athlone	RR	700	2240	20,000	135,000	
LS 18131	Clooneen, Athleague	Athlone	RR	740	2240	20,000	155,000	
LS 7644	Dolanstown, Ballydangan	Athlone	RR	350	1120	10,000	165,000	
LP 2024	Kilkenny, Taughmaconnell	Athlone	RR	300	1120	10,000	175,000	
LP 2008	Carnagh East, Kiltoom	Athlone	RR	620	2240	20,000	195,000	
LP 7544	Barnacullen, Rahara	Athlone	RR	460	1660	15,000	210,000	
LP 76012	Correen Ford, Oldtown	Athlone	RR	335	1120	10,000	220,000	
LT 20422	Beagh (Brabazon), Ballinasloe	Athlone	RR	200	660	8,900	228,900	200m of road & 80m of 150mm surface water drainage

The members raised the following issues:

- Complimented Diarmaid on his work
- Welcomed the allocation of additional funding for the area
- Allocation not sufficient for the Athlone area based on the geographical size of the Municipal District
- The Athlone Municipal District has the largest number of rate payers in the county
- Athlone receives 23% of allocation – not acceptable going forward
- Have other counties adopted the budget based on road usage
- Need to look at LIS and CIS Schemes next year
- Any update of workforce plan for County Roscommon
- Allocation not acceptable due to high population and heavily trafficked roads in state of rapid disrepair
- Include Athleague to Mount Talbot road and Four Roads to Ballyforan road in next year's programme
- CPG have requested information from neighbouring authorities on how their allocations are made

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

That consideration be given to the allocation of budgets within the municipal districts based not only on road mileage.

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

It was **AGREED** to adopt the list of roads as presented

Majella Hunt, T/Chief Executive responded to the queries raised:

- Revision of allocations per municipal district as well as LIS and CIS can be done as part of the budgetary process.
- Workforce Plan is currently with the Department awaiting approval.

39.15. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from Minister for Defence re: Post 1994 Contracts
2. Letter from Minister for Defence re: Custume Barracks, Athlone
3. Letter from Minister for Defence re: Custume Barracks and the “21 year rule”
4. Letter for the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine re: Publication of information of CAP beneficiaries
5. Letter from the NRA re: L2025
6. Letter from Westmeath County Council re: meeting with the Minister to discuss Custume Barracks
7. Letter from Western Alzheimers re: request to make a presentation at the September plenary meeting

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

It was **AGREED** that Western Alzheimers will make a presentation to the plenary meeting in September

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

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

41.15. NOTICES OF MOTION – JULY, 2015

Local Road Network

Notice of Motion from Councillor Naughten – 11/15.

“That Roscommon County Council write to the Minister for Environment, Alan Kelly seeking additional funding for upgrade of the local road network in the Athlone Municipal District.”

The Meetings Administrator read out the following reply:-

Roscommon County Council receives it’s roads grant allocation for the full county from the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport. The 2015 allocation has already been received along with an additional allocation of €967,750, notification of which was received on Friday 17th July 2015. The allocation of this funding between the Municipal Districts is a matter for the Council to decide and accordingly the Minister is unlikely to allocate funding to any particular Municipal District.

Councillor John Naughten welcomed the additional funding for the area. He stated that the local road network is in a serious state of disrepair and deterioration.

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

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council write to the Minister outlining the gravity of the situation of roads in the Athlone Municipal District and request additional funding.

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

That Roscommon County Council write to the NRA requesting them to carry out a snag list on the M6 and also request them to address the issue of flooding on farms adjacent to the M6.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Keogh

SECONDED by Councillor Ward

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council write to the Minister for Transport for funding for the L2025

ATHLEAGUE CEMETERY

Notice of Motion from Councillor Connaughton – 12/15

“That Roscommon County Council provide additional car parking at Athleague Cemetery located on the main N63 Roscommon/Galway road and footpaths and lighting to connect with the village.”

The Meetings Administrator read out the following reply:-

The necessary lands to extend Athleague Cemetery have already been acquired and the Council has drawn up a suitable layout for the car parking area. Consideration will be given to the commencement of the works within the cemetery as soon as possible, within the resources available. There are no lands acquired and there is no funding available to extend the footpaths or public lighting from Athleague Village to the Cemetery.

Councillor Ivan Connaughton welcomed the commencement of the works. He stated the road from the village to the cemetery is dangerous for pedestrians. He acknowledged that a number of issues would need to be addressed for the provision of a footpath but suggested that some land owners may be willing to offer some land in order for these works to go ahead.

The members raised the following issues:

- Provision of footpath from village to graveyard very important in the interest of public safety
- Is the land available for cemetery car park
- Update sought on Kilbegley Cemetery
- Funding should be allocated in 2016 Budget to ensure works at Athleague Cemetery are carried out

It was agreed to proceed as outlined.

Majella Hunt responded to the queries as follows:

Athleague Cemetery

- Roscommon County Council have purchased lands for a car park but have no lands acquired for the provision of a link to the village by means of a footpath
- Significant amount of work involved in the project
- The land suggested by Councillor Connaughton available for a footpath is on the opposite side of the road and would be a safety issue for pedestrians

Kilbegley Cemetery

- An archaeological dig is complete and lands have been examined
- Second part for investigation agreed with public and the members but no decision is available until the report is complete

42.15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Signage

Councillor John Keogh informed the meeting the Clann na Gael GAA Club were refused permission to erect a finger sign for their football pitch as it was deemed to be advertising. This is a facility serving the community and he requested that the application be reviewed and reassessed.

Cemeteries

Councillor Laurence Fallon requested the carrying out of an assessment of vacant space and capacity in cemeteries.

Parkway Site

Councillor John Naughten stated that the frontage of the Parkway site is unsightly and request that Planning Enforcement Department would examine the matter.

Kileglan – Irish Water

Councillor John Naughten welcomed the lifting of the boil water notice in Kileglan but stated it was regretful that Roscommon County Council was not mentioned or acknowledged in any advertising used.

Councillor John Keogh stated that residents in Clonown are still complaining about the quality of their water despite it coming from the new water treatment plant in Kileglan

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Keogh

SECONDED by Councillor Naughten

It was **AGREED** to write to Irish Water querying how the water coming from a state of the art treatment plant is of such poor quality

Letter to New Political Parties

Councillor Ivan Connaughton suggested a letter is sent to the new political parties such as Renua regarding the future of health services in the area including the A&E in Roscommon and maternity services at Portiuncula Ballinasloe. He stated his disappointment at the lack of response from the existing political parties

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The foregoing Minutes are
Confirmed and Signed:

Meetings Administrator

Cathaoirleach

Countersigned

QUESTION - JULY, 2015

Question No. 1 – Councillor Naughten:

Can Roscommon County Council seek a meeting for the Members of the Athlone Municipal District with the NRA in relation to significant drainage issues still outstanding on the Athlone/Ballinasloe section of the M6 Motorway?

The Meetings Administrator circulated the following reply:

Arrangements will be made to make a formal submission to the National Roads Authority seeking the meeting as requested.