

MINUTES OF ATHLONE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD IN THE LOUGHNANEANE SUITE, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, ROSCOMMON, ON WEDNESDAY 27TH JULY 2016 AT 10.00A.M.

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

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

APOLOGIES: Cllr J. Keogh

OFFICIALS: Ms. Majella Hunt, Director of Services
Mr. Conor Fallon, T/Executive Engineer

28.16. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Ward

SECONDED by Councillor Kilduff

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Minutes of the Athlone Municipal District held on 26.05.2016

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Fallon

SECONDED by Councillor Ward

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Minutes of the Athlone Municipal District AGM held on 26.05.2016

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Fallon

SECONDED by Councillor Naughten

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Minutes of the Athlone Municipal District Special Meeting held on 27.06.2016

29.16. MATTERS ARISING

The members raised the following issues:

- Update on Cluain Broc
- Update on Kilbegley Graveyard - Majella Hunt, Director of Services to forward update to members on Kilbegley graveyard
- Update on Letter to Transport Infrastructure Ireland re: request for meeting, funding for rivers, culverts and non-maintenance of drains
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Mr. Conor Fallon, T/Executive Engineer responded to the issues raised as follows:

- Just received some street lighting design proposals and quotations for Cluainbroc, works to be complete in next two months in terms of footpath and street lighting.
- Majella Hunt advised members that letter to TII issued and referred to Galway County Council

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Naughten

SECONDED by Councillor Ward

It was **AGREED** to send a letter to TII requesting a meeting with Athlone Municipal District Members before end September 2016 (in advance of winter season).

30.16. SPEED LIMIT PRE-DRAFT CONSULTATION REPORT

Majella Hunt, Director of Services, outlined to members that we are at point of drafting policy document for SPC in September.

Councillor Ward informed all that he would like to see some traffic calming measures introduced on the N61 national secondary road from Cornaseer to Ganly's.

The following speed limits were suggested:

Cornaseer to Hodson Bay – 60km/h

Hodson Bay to Ganly's – 80km/h

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

It was **AGREED** that speed limits be introduced from Cornaseer to Ganly's.

Councillor Kilduff would like to see some traffic calming introduced at Knockcroghery village. The TII won't allow a pedestrian crossing, but suggested that at a minimum, flashing lights with radar speed sign that displays motorist's speed be installed instead.

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

It was **AGREED** that letter be sent to TII to upgrade road as suggested.

31.16. UPDATE ON FLOODING

Councillor Fallon briefed members on the current situation at Loughfunshinagh - Unless something is done soon to bring the water levels down on Lough Funshinagh many families and businesses will be in a dire situation by winter. To get to a normal July level you would need the water to fall by a further six feet and then a further five feet to reach the levels normally present going into the winter. As the lake is only receding by just two inches a week, a significant drop in levels is unlikely. At the rate it's falling it will be 5th September before the highest winter level is reached. There is a substantial amount of silt in swallow holes and asked that a long-arm digger be sent in to stir up silt that is there.

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

It was **AGREED** to request that a long-arm digger be sent in to Loughfunshinagh to stir up silt.

Councillor Ward thanked the many organisations who had given their help over the months, including the IFA, the local sports clubs, the defence forces and the staff of Roscommon County Council. However, he highlighted that the number of outdoor workers had decreased substantially and proposed that Roscommon County Council employ additional staff for the Athlone Municipal District Area.

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

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council employ additional outdoor staff for Athlone Municipal District.

Majella Hunt, Director of Services outlined that many meetings have taken place in last two weeks about flooding in Roscommon and explained that OPW are the responsible body and Roscommon County Council need to be aware that it is a national issue with OPW to take the lead.

Ms. Hunt also advised that recruitment of additional staff has not been approved by Department, embargo is still in place and a balance will need to be found when the workplace plan is finalised.

32.16. ROADS PROGRAMME 2016 - UPDATE

Members raised the issues in relation to Roads programme

- Raising road at Lisphelim
- Derryneile road is in poor condition
- Antron Road and Racepark Road – include on Programme for 2017
- Every year additional money is received, has anything being received this year

Conor Fallon, T/Executive Engineer noted that they are currently investigating raising the road at Lisphelim, albeit it requires significant work, and seems premature should permanent drainage works be completed. Majella Hunt, Director of Services advised that no additional funds received yet.

33.16. ATHLONE BOUNDARY REVIEW

Majella Hunt, Director of Services informed the members that no report received yet, possibly end of month. The decision is to be then made by the current Minister, however if government collapses, legally it falls with government. Cllr Ward mentioned that Alan Kelly no longer in office and maybe have default there.

34.16. NOTICE OF MOTION

Notice of Motion from Councillor Kilduff 6/16

"That Roscommon County Council take in charge the section of road located in Co. Roscommon and directly opposite Shines Bar, Baylough, Athlone"

The Meetings Administrator read out the following reply:-

This Notice of Motion refers to the proposed taking in charge of a private road located off the R446 Old Galway Road at Monksland, Athlone, Co. Roscommon. This Cul-de-Sac road is situated on the border between the Municipal Districts of Athlone, Co. Roscommon and Athlone, Co. Westmeath. The road is a total of 308m long. From its junction with the R446, the first 60m of this road is in Athlone, Co. Westmeath. The remaining 248m is in Athlone, Co. Roscommon. The innermost section of the road measuring 89m in length is completely overgrown. The road surface is in reasonable condition.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Kilduff

SECONDED by Councillor Naughten

It was **AGREED** that the road be taken in charge by Roscommon County Council

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Ward

SECONDED by Councillor Fallon

It was **AGREED** that write to Westmeath County Council in relation to the 60m of road, asking that it should be taken in charge

Majella Hunt, Director of Services advised that will have to clarify if Westmeath County Council have taken in charge and that it will have to be a joint effort.

35.16. A.O.B.

SIGNAGE

Councillor Ward requested that a sign for Clonown be erected at head of Shamrock Lodge.

UNFINISHED ESTATE

Councillor Naughten raised concerns over the unfinished Parkway Estate in Monksland that is posing a serious health and safety risk to residents in nearby houses. Mr. Naughten said that it is in a very dilapidated state and very unsightly on the Tuam Road.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Naughten

SECONDED by Councillor Connaughton

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council report back to members outlining what measures have been taken to secure the Parkway Site at Monksland.

CENSUS

Councillor Fallon highlighted the two-tier system that appears to be a growing trend in Ireland as highlighted by the Census. We need to look at planning system – which is very restricted and preventing people from coming to Roscommon.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The foregoing Minutes are
Confirmed and Signed:

Diarmuid Mac Donacha,

Meetings Administrator

Cathaoirleach

Countersigned