

MINUTES OF BOYLE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL OFFICES, COURTHOUSE,BOYLE, ON MONDAY THE 27th APRIL, 2015. AT 3.00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillor Eugene Murphy, Cathaoirleach **PRESIDED**

MEMBERS: V. Byrne. J. Cummins, R. Doherty, M. Hopkins & M. Mulligan.

OFFICIALS: Martin Lydon, Head of Finance and Planning.
Fiona ni Chuinn, Meetings Administrator.

9.15 ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Cummins
SECONDED by Councillor Mulligan

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Minutes of the Special Municipal District Meeting held on 23.3.2015.

10.15 QUESTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER NO. 135.

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

11.15 NOTICE OF MOTION:

SIGNAGE POLICY:

Notice of Motion from Councillor Hopkins – 3/14

“Calling on Roscommon County Council to provide an update on application of advertising signs policy within the Municipal District”

The Meetings Administrator read the following reply:

Roscommon County Council continue to monitor and enforce the issue of unauthorised signage in line with the Implementation Policy adopted by the members.

A review of the Signs Policy, which is being led by the Environment Department, is expected to be completed in 2015.

Members raised the following issues:-

- Need to have the Signage Policy reviewed.
- Seeking information on applications granted and those refused.
- A number of calls have been received from business people who have applied for planning that has been refused.

- Should there be focus on getting a policy agreed through the town teams.
- Need to be cognisant of economic development in line with the town teams.
- Query what the practice is in other local authorities.

- Request clarity on the applications that will be accepted and on those that will be definitely refused.
- Auctioneer signage should be removed immediately after properties are sold.
- A lot of consultation is required with people regarding this matter.
- Blitz that was carried out 18 months ago in the Ballaghaderreen area should have been carried out all over the county.
- Are all Councils reviewing their policies.
- Need for a flexible and practical line of thinking on the matter.
- Policies of the NRA make it very difficult to erect any signage.
- Need for strategic signage for the transient tourist.
- Businesses will survive if key attractions are properly mapped out.
- Contradiction in the policy if EU signs are allowed to be erected for 12 years.

Martin Lydon responded to the queries raised and confirmed that the Policy is currently being re-examined as it is unambiguous and lacks clarity and as a local authority we need to come together as a collective to streamline the policy. He confirmed that the new Policy will go to the Environment SPC and will come to the Planning and Roads SPC for input. He confirmed that the NRA refuse all signs on national primary roads as a safety measure. He stated that the Council do not want businesses wasting money applying for planning permissions that will never be granted. He continued that the Policy needs to be measured and may need to differentiate between urban and rural signage.

12.15 A.O.B.

Attendance of Municipal District Engineers at Meetings:

Councillor Doherty raised the issue that this has been the fifth meeting of Municipal Districts and it is regrettable that at this point Area Staff are not attending meetings. She continued that it is difficult to have discussions without the appropriate personnel being in attendance at the meeting.

Martin Lydon confirmed that the Area staff had not been refusing to come to the meetings, however, with the issue of the Municipal Districts being tied up in the Industrial Relations mechanism it had made the matter more complicated. He confirmed that a ruling will issue in the next couple of days and once the matter has been resolved Municipal District Engineers will attend meetings. He continued that the Municipal District system had already been applied in the Planning Department and confirmed that the new structures are not just about the Area Engineers but the whole Area work force.

Irish Water:

Councillor Byrne raised the issue of who is funding the cost of reinstatement of roads following works carried out by Irish Water. She highlighted the need for an Engineer to check the work carried out by Irish Water to ensure that it is completed to a satisfactory standard.

The following issues were raised by members:-

- The two schemes in Keadue and Sheepwalk – roads were left in a better condition by the Contractor once works had been completed.
- Need for a Supervisor to check the works carried out.
- Water problem at Augharush - pumps that were replaced need to be rechecked.
- Need for an update on all the Schemes around the county.
- Queried why the date that Irish Water is holding their meetings with Councillors is the same as that of Plenary Meeting dates.

Garda Station in Boyle:

Councillor Doherty referred to a recent parliamentary question which highlighted the reduction in Gardai which she described as frightening. She referred in particular to the Garda Station in Boyle and how worrying it is to for people as burglaries had escalated. Boyle Garda Station has been on reduced hours since the 6th April and the Government is robbing us of our Gardai. She continued that Gardai cover provided from Castlerea Station is not providing a local knowledge based cover. It was agreed that the situation on the Boyle Garda Station would be listed as an item for discussion at the next Municipal District Meeting.

Safety Audit – Ballaghaderreen Bypass.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Hopkins
SECONDED by Councillor Cummins

It was **AGREED** that the findings of the Safety Audit on the Ballaghaderreen Bypass would be made public.

Float Bridge:

Councillor Mulligan queried whether any Contractor had been granted the Contract for the Float Bridge.

Martin Lydon confirmed that tenders were due in this week.

Electric Ireland:

Councillor Mulligan raised an issue regarding the matter of Electric Ireland issuing bills penalising Old Aged Pensioners for under usage of electricity.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Mulligan
SECONDED by Councillor Murphy

It was **AGREED** that the Boyle Municipal District members of Roscommon County Council request Electric Ireland to refrain from issuing penalties for under usage of electricity by Old Aged Pensioners.

Mental Health Services – Update:

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Doherty
SECONDED by Councillor Murphy

It was **AGREED** that the Boyle Municipal District members of Roscommon County Council write to Catherine Cunningham, PCCC, requesting an update on mental health services in County Roscommon.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**The foregoing Minutes are
Confirmed and Signed:**

Meetings Administrator

Cathaoirleach

Countersigned