

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, ROSCOMMON, ON MONDAY THE 22ND FEBRUARY, 2016 AT 2.15 P.M.

PRESENT Councillor Paddy Kilduff, Cathaoirleach **PRESIDED**

MEMBERS: Cllr V. Byrne, Cllr I. Connaughton, Cllr M. Creaton, Cllr D. Connolly, Cllr N. Dineen, Cllr R. Doherty, Cllr L. Fallon, Cllr P. Fitzmaurice, Cllr M. Hopkins, Cllr J. Cummins, Cllr J. Keogh, Cllr O. Leyden, Cllr M. Mulligan, Cllr E. Murphy, Cllr J. Naughten, Cllr K. Shanagher, Cllr T. Ward.

OFFICIALS: Mr. Eugene Cummins, Chief Executive
Mr. Martin Lydon, A/Director of Services
Ms. Majella Hunt, Director of Services
Mr. Derek Caldbeck, A/Head of Finance
Mr. Eugene Dwyer, Senior Engineer
Ms. Patricia Bohan, Meetings Administrator

19.16. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Ward

SECONDED by Councillor Cummins

It was **AGREED** to adopt the minutes of the monthly plenary meeting held 22.01.2016

20.16. CONSIDERATION OF MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT SUBJECT TO SECTION 51, SUB-SECTIONS (3) & (4) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM ACT, 2014:

• **December 2015 & January 2016**

Members noted the Monthly Management Report for the months of December 2015 & January 2016.

21.16. DRAFT LITTER PLAN

Councillor Laurence Fallon, Chairperson of Environmental & Emergency Services SPC presented to the members the Draft Litter Plan 2015 -2018. The plan was developed from the current plan and included some changes as a result of submissions received.

The members raised the following issues:

- Litter control costs Roscommon County Council €400,000 per annum
- Education is the key to success
- Issue of black plastic and indiscriminate dumping on roadsides
- Acknowledged the work of Roscommon Tidy Towns in the IBAL competition
- Is SPC reviewing the advertising signs policy ?

Councillor Laurence Fallon confirmed that the advertising signs policy is currently under review

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Fallon

SECONDED by Councillor Ward

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Litter Plan as presented

22.16. THE EIGHTH AMENDMENT

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Dineen

SECONDED by Councillor Ward

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council call on the Government not to take any action which could lead to change or repeal of the 8th Amendment of the Constitution and this be circulated to all other County & City Councils.

23.16. PRESENTATION FROM MR. FRANK SMITH, CHAIRPERSON OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, ATHLONE SCHOOLS AMALGAMATION PROJECT, COLÁISTE CIARÁN, SUMMERHILL, ATHLONE – AMALGAMATION OF ST. ALOYSIUS AND ST. JOSEPHS SUMMERSHILL SECONDARY SCHOOL

Mr. Frank Smith, Chairperson of Project Management Committee and Mr. Liam Nally, Principal of St. Josephs Summerhill outlined to the members the plans in place to amalgamate St. Aloysius and St. Josephs Schools in Summerhill Athlone Co Roscommon on a new 28 acre site. Construction is due to commence on site in 2018 with an estimated construction period of 12 months. Mr. Frank Smith invited the members to visit the site at any time.

The members welcomed the initiative made the following comments:

- Great co-operation from parents and pupils to the changes required in advance of the move
- The new school will take in a large catchment area around Summerhill
- Great location for a school and will provide a wide variety of subjects and sports

Mr. Eugene Cummins, Chief Executive congratulated the committee on their progress to date and offered the assistance of Roscommon County Council to help move the project forward.

24.16. UNFINISHED HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

Mr. Martin Lydon, A/Director of Services advised the members that there are currently 211 housing estates in Co. Roscommon not yet taken in charge. The 2015 National Housing Development Survey has recognised 40 of these developments as unfinished. He stated that the twenty five developments highlighted in the report are apartment blocks and will not be taken in charge.

The members raised the following issues:

- Park View, Warren/Drum, Boyle – could taking in charge be investigated?
- Query the timeframe for taking in charge
- Unless bonds are secured residents will be left with huge problems
- How many developers are in discussion with Roscommon County Council?
- At what stage is the bond sought on a development?
- Is it policy not to take apartment blocks in charge?

Mr. Martin Lydon, A/Director of Services responded to the issues raised as follows:

- MUDS Legislation looks after the management of apartment blocks
- Funding for public lighting is provided for in the Municipal District budgets
- Funding received from bonds needs to be spent as effectively as possible in the estate
- Contact made with Department of Finance in relation to bonds not being paid
- Process is driven by both the developer and the residents

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Fitzmaurice

SECONDED by Councillor Leyden

It was **AGREED** that public lighting should be provided in all estates

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Leyden

SECONDED by Councillor Doherty

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council send a revised list to the Department to reflect the exact number of housing estates taken in charge

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Doherty

SECONDED by Councillor Leyden

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council provide a status update on each housing estate at the next Planning SPC

25.16. ETHICS REGISTER 2015 – RETURN OF ANNUAL DECLARATION FORM

Ms. Patricia Bohan, Meetings Administrator reminded the members that the Ethics Declaration Forms for 2015 which were previously circulated are due back by Monday 29th February.

26.16. CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Office of the minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine regarding fodder crisis

Letter from Minister for Justice & Equality regarding rural Garda stations

Letter from OPW regarding CFRAM Study

Letter from Department of Finance regarding credit unions

Letter of acknowledgement from Office of the Taoiseach regarding meeting request

Letter of acknowledgement from Micheál Martin's Office regarding boundary review

27.16. SEVERE WEATHER ALLOCATION

A letter from Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport was circulated to the meeting outlining the severe weather allocation for Roscommon County Council of €4.5 million.

Mr. Eugene Dwyer, Senior Engineer confirmed that there are 133 schemes in need of work as a result of severe weather. He recommended that Roscommon County Council need to set up emergency depots in each area to deal with future flooding. He also suggested that Roscommon County Council should consider purchasing emergency vehicles and pumps to tackle flooding problems in the future. He stated that the list of schemes must be prioritised to spend the allocation as effectively as possible.

The members raised the following issues:

- Disappointed by the allocation considering the request was for €10.5m
- Suggest building a levee wall in Castleplunkett to alleviate flooding
- Need to look at models in Holland and embrace the way they operate
- Requested breakdown of €4.5m and to look at 2016 roads allocation in tandem with the allocation received.
- Flooding at Correal cross
- Should Major Emergency Plan have been put in place?
- Purchase of pumps is a good idea
- Where will be depots be located for flooding?

Mr. Eugene Dwyer, Senior Engineer responded to the queries raised as follows:

- Need to examine all options for Castleplunkett - OPW & CFRAM Consultants need to examine turloughs that are currently at record high levels
- Options for Correal Cross to be examine – need to look at River Suck in Castlestrange
- Depots would be located in Council Depots in a locked container
- Need to develop a sub-group from the Major Emergency Plan to deal with floods

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Mulligan

SECONDED by Councillor Ward

That there should be one body responsible for looking after works on the River Shannon

28.16. COUNCILLORS CONFERENCES

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Ward

SECONDED by Councillor Leyden

It was **AGREED** to adopt the list of Conferences as circulated to the members.

Cllr. Fitzmaurice	Govt's Construction 2020 Strategy, White's Hotel, Wexford Local Authority Budgets 2016, White's Hotel, Wexford
Cllr. Kilduff	Govt's Construction 2020 Strategy, White's Hotel, Wexford AILG Training (Module 1), Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan
Cllr. Naughten	E.U Cohesion Policy, The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford
Cllr. Connaughton	Govt's Construction 2020 Strategy, White's Hotel, Wexford AILG Autumn Seminar, Inchydoney, Clonakilty, Co. Cork AILG Training (Module 5) Roads, Transportation and Safety, Landmark Hotel, Carrick on Shannon LAMA Autumn Seminar. The Lobbying Act, Hotel Kilkenny, College Road, Kilkenny AILG Training (Module 6), Red Cow Hotel, Dublin Local Authority Budgets 2016, White's Hotel, Wexford Building & Control (Amendment) Regulation, Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal
Cllr. Dineen	AILG Training (Module 1), Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan Govt's Construction 2020 Strategy, White's Hotel, Wexford Boundary /Changes "Urban and County", Mount Errigal Hotel, Letterkenny

29.16. A.O.B.

Roscommon Mental Health Services

Councillor Leyden stated that potential closure of the Jigsaw Hub serving the young people in Co. Roscommon would have a negative effect to the mental health services in the county.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Leyden

SECONDED by Councillor Doherty

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council call on Tony Bates to meet with the Youth Advisory Panel to address the issue of mental health services for the youth in Co. Roscommon

Housing Allocations

Cllr. Doherty queried the amount of funding received by Roscommon County Council for housing over the last number of years. She was of the understanding that the allocation for housing was very low however, Minister Alan Kelly has stated that local authorities has received funding for refurbishment of voids and new builds.

Mr. Derek Caldbeck, A/Head of Finance & Housing confirmed that capital funding was received as outlined in the Capital Programme.

Mr. Eugene Cummins, Chief Executive stated the following:

- In November 2014, the Government under the Social Housing Strategy 2020 allocated €690 million for social housing to local authorities
- In 2016 Roscommon County Council will be moving towards the construction of social housing where housing needs have been identified
- The issue of derelict properties in town centres needs to be investigated

- The return of voids needs to be accelerated and returned to housing stock in a timely fashion
- May be a possibility to acquire units in unfinished housing estates if units can be acquired less than cost of construction
- Unit to be set up in Planning and Housing to identify lands or sites that will be suitable for social housing
- Roscommon has one of the highest refusal rates in the country of 40%
- Will prepare a report on number of houses purchased, leased and where the monies were spent for the last 3 years and present at next plenary meeting

The members raised the following issues:

- Is funding available to build houses?
- What was done with funding received by Roscommon County Council over the last few years?
- What is the reason for high refusal rates?

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Doherty

SECONDED by Councillor Ward

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council write to the Department of the Environment confirming that no allocation has been received for the voids programme.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The foregoing Minutes are

Confirmed and Signed:

Meetings Administrator

Cathaoirleach

Countersigned