

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN ST JOHN'S COMMUNITY CENTRE, LECARROW, CO. ROSCOMMON ON MONDAY THE 23rd MAY, 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 J. Cummins, Cllr J. Keogh, Cllr O. Leyden, Cllr J. Murphy, Cllr J. Naughten, Cllr K. Shanagher, Cllr T. Ward, Cllr M. Mulligan.

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
Mr. John O'Rourke, Senior Engineer
Ms. Patricia Bohan, Meetings Administrator

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to Lecarrow for his penultimate plenary meeting as Chairman. He welcomed Rev Ray Menton, P.P. and thanked the teachers and pupils from five schools in the locality for attending – Rahara, Knockcroghery, Ballymurray, St John's and Glanduff. He invited well-known local man Donald Feely to speak. Mr. Feeley took the opportunity to thank Paddy for bringing the council meeting to the parish. He congratulated Paddy on a career well run and a job well done.

The Cathaoirleach congratulated Mr. Terry Leyden and Ms. Maura Hopkins on their nomination to Seanad Éireann and Mr. Denis Naughten TD on his appointment as Minister for Communications, Climate Change and Natural Resources. Finally he welcomed Adrian Hogan, Limerick who is attending a Council meeting in every County in 2016 which is a unique way of marking the 1916 rising.

52.16. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Ward

SECONDED by Councillor Dineen

It was **AGREED** to adopt the minutes of the monthly plenary meeting held 25.04.2016

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

• **April 2016**

Members noted the Monthly Management Report for the month of April 2016.

54.16. UNAUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 31.12.2015:

Derek Caldbeck, A/Head of Finance informed the members that the Annual Financial Statement (AFS) for 2015 has been completed and circulated in its unaudited form for members' attention and provided a summary of the financial activity for the year in relation to the content of the AFS 2015. Mr Caldbeck presented a report to members and he explained that 2 resolutions were necessary in line with the content of his report:

- 1) Approval of over expenditure compared to budget (in the main counterbalanced by increased income over that budgeted for the year)
- 2) Approval of the transfers to/from Revenue to Capital for the year (in the main amounts that had been approved by members as part of the budget process for 2015)

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Byrne

SECONDED by Councillor Cummins

It was **RESOLVED** that Roscommon County Council authorise the over expenditure under the Divisions as set out in Mr Caldbeck's report of 28/04/2016 which accompanied the AFS 2015 pursuant to Section 104 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and the transfers to/from Capital Revenue accounts.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Connolly

SECONDED by Councillor Ward

It was **AGREED** that the unaudited Annual Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December, 2015 be adopted.

55.16. DISPOSAL OF LAND:

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Cummins

SECONDED by Councillor Byrne

It was **AGREED** that the Council consent to the disposal of lands pursuant to the provision of Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001. Particulars of the land which the County Council proposes to dispose of:-

The land: 0.027 ha. at Warren or Drum (Hanly Avenue, Boyle, Co. Roscommon .

The persons from whom the land was acquired: Messers. Candon

The person to whom the land is to be disposed: Frank Geelan, 18 Hanly Avenue, Boyle

Consideration: €300

Any covenants, conditions or agreements to have effect in connection with the disposal: None.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Cummins

SECONDED by Councillor Byrne

It was **AGREED** that an audit of all derelict houses and sites in the county be carried out and made available to the public for purchase.

Majella Hunt, Director of Services, informed members that an Asset and Energy Management section was setup at the beginning of the year for this purpose. When audit is complete we will revert back to members at end of year.

56.16 GALWAY 2020 – EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE 2020

Martin Lydon, Director of Services, Planning and Enterprise informed members that Galway is bidding to be the European Capital of Culture in 2020 and are seeking members support. The bid represents an opportunity for Roscommon to become involved in projects that will require regional engagement, resulting in an economic spin-off for Roscommon.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Ward

SECONDED by Councillor Shanagher

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council support the Galway 2020 bid to be the European Capital of Culture in 2020.

57.16. PRESENTATION FROM CONNACHT-ULSTER WASTE REGION ON PAY BY WEIGHT

Mr. Kevin Smith, Regional Co-ordinator of Connacht-Ulster Waste Region outlined to members the arrangements of the new Pay By Weight (PBW) system which will be introduced on 1st July 2016. The introduction of PBW, which is a key target of Regional Waste Management Plans (RWMPs) 2015-2021, is to encourage waste prevention, increase recycling and lower dependence on landfills and help RWMPs achieve a recycling rate of 50% of managed municipal waste by 2020. The key features of PBW include:

- Two elements to waste charges
 - fixed service charge, determined by collector and payable in advance
 - weight charge per kg (based on weight type) charged in arrears.

- The regulations set minimum costs for each waste stream and individual collectors may exceed the minimum costs.
- Waste collectors are decreed to collect recyclable and food waste at least fortnightly
- Waste collectors are only obliged to provide food waste bins to households in town or villages with a population in excess of 500 people
- Householders not availing of a kerbside collection service may use Civic Amenity sites but will be subject to similar requirements as the kerbside system. Only general waste will be weighed at Civic Amenity Sites.

All councillors were in agreement with the principle but outlined the following concerns:

- Need for designated areas of collection in rural areas
- May lead to increase in illegal dumping
- Need for regulator to oversee fixed price charges
- Low-income families depend on bag collection – will this continue in civic amenity sites
- Service to local and narrow roads will be difficult

Mr. Smyth responded to the issues raised.

Majella Hunt, Director of Services, outlined to members that regulations apply only to contractors. PBW will have to be applied in Civic Amenity Sites and will require considerable funding. There are four in the County, available on restricted hours. Based on 2015 figures, there was €298,368 shortfall which is a significant figure that we have to subsidise. To get to a breakeven point we need a 65% increase in usage on a weekly basis. Viability of this service will be examined.

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

It was **AGREED** that it is a requirement for Roscommon County Council to have civic amenity sites open and that funding be found centrally to bring our municipal sites up to standard.

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

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council review opening hours of civic amenity sites in light of the implementation of Pay by Weight.

58.16. NATIONAL AWARDS FOR ÁRAS AN CHONTAE AT THE CMG IRISH BUILDING & DESIGN AWARDS 2016

Áras an Chontae was awarded Architectural Project of the Year and Sustainable Project of the Year at the CMG Irish Building & Design Awards 2016. The awards are the industry's most prestigious recognition of excellence in the building and design sectors, acknowledging the best in all areas of construction and design. John O'Rourke, Senior Engineer outlined some of the main features of the building including sustainable environmental features such as rain water harvesting, solar panels to heat water, integrated control of heating, ventilation and lighting through a Building Management System (BMS), wood chip boiler. Total contract amounted to €12.8m plus additional works of €800,000.

Official opening day is planned for 17th June and will include an open day for the public to visit.

All members congratulated Mr. O'Rourke and his team on delivering the project on time and on budget. Special thanks to Mr Tommy Ryan and other staff for their role in the delivery of the project. All welcomed the fact that a Roscommon man, Minister Denis Naughten, will officially open the building.

59.16. EXTENSION OF STANDING ORDERS:

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Cummins

SECONDED by Councillor Keogh

It was **AGREED** to extend Standing Orders to the close of business.

60.16. ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL CORPORATE BRANDING

Mr. Eugene Cummins, Chief Executive outlined the move to the new Civic Headquarters marks the launch of a modern era of doing business and connecting with communities. The launch of the new logo will complement and emphasise a new appetite for change and the desire for a more connected approach to serving the people of Roscommon. The aim of the new corporate identity is to create a uniquely identifiable brand image for Roscommon County Council.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Ward

SECONDED by Councillor Mulligan

It was **AGREED** to accept and launch new corporate branding for Roscommon County Council

61.16. SPEED LIMITS IN HOUSING ESTATES IN COUNTY ROSCOMMON – 30KM

Eugene Dwyer, Senior Engineer of Roads Department gave an update on the National Speed Limit review 2015 – 2017. The Department of Transport Tourism and Sport issued Guidelines in March 2015 outlining a 24 month mandatory process up to April 2017 to which Local Authorities shall adhere in delivering their policy. The key points addressed in the Guidelines include:

- New criteria for setting speed limits for rural and urban roads
- New rural speed limit sign.
- New Urban ‘Slow Zones’ – 30km/h for housing estates

Eugene Dwyer stated that the policy will be implemented as one bye-law in Quarter 4, 2016. The process will include a public consultation in September. The draft speed limit bye laws will be presented to the SPC for recommendation and full Council meeting for adoption in late 2016.

At a meeting of the Economic Development & Enterprise Support (including Roads & Culture) SPC on 13th April Councillor Leyden proposed that we proceed with erection of New Urban ‘Slow Zones’ – 30km/h signs for housing estates immediately. This proposal was defeated. Councillor Leyden informed members that she is seeking to have these works done immediately and is looking for support. A broad discussion took place and Eugene Dwyer informed members that no road death should be judged differently and there should be equality for all and would like to proceed as planned.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Fitzmaurice

SECONDED by Councillor Ward

It was **AGREED** to erect the new urban ‘Slow Zones’ – 30km/h for housing estates immediately post the adoption of the speed limit bye-laws by the Council.

62.16. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter dated 26.04.2016 from Meath County Council on behalf of Navan Municipal District to Minister Alan Kelly RE: sewerage issues affecting householders in Navan, other parts of Meath and in locations throughout the country.
2. Letter dated 26.04.2016 from Donegal County Council seeking support for a Motion re the relocation of National Children’s hospital to Connolly Hospital, Blanchardstown.
3. Letter dated 26.04.2016 from Donegal County Council seeking support for a Motion RE: Adoption and Implementation of the all party Oireachtas Committee on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation Report on the “All Island Economy”.
4. Letter dated 12.05.2016 from Waterford City and County Council re calling on the Dept of Social Protection to increase its range of interaction with the Post Office Network.
5. Letter dated 16.05.2016 from Dept of Finance RE: Assets of IBRC

63.16. LOUGHGLYNN AMBULANCE SERVICE

Notice of Motion from Councillor Fitzmaurice – 06/16

“That Roscommon County Council call on the new Fine Gael/Independent Government to put a proper 24/7 ambulance service in place at the Loughglynn base including dedicated Paramedics , EMT staff and an ambulance instead of a borrowed ambulance and staff from Roscommon Town. This will ensure the people of West Roscommon have a safe Ambulance service“

The Meetings Administrator read the following reply:-

This Notice of Motion requires a Resolution of the Council.

Councillor Fitzmaurice stated that there is no backup ambulance and the current service being offered is very poor. He acknowledged Mr. Denis Naughten TD, Minister for Communications, Climate Change and Natural Resources on his work to date on this issue.

Members highlighted the following concerns in relation to the existing service:

- Ambulance service promised when Roscommon A&E was closed not delivered
- An ambulance was transferred from Roscommon to Loughglynn
- Risk of no ambulance in County Roscommon
- Need for two ambulances in Loughglynn to deliver full service
- Less than 25% people get ambulance in time (within 19 minutes)
- Helicopter service only available in daylight hours

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Fitzmaurice

SECONDED by Councillor Leyden

It was **AGREED** to call on the new government to put a proper 24/7 ambulance service in place at Loughglynn.

64.16 A&E DEPARTMENT AT ROSCOMMON COUNTY HOSPITAL

Notice of Motion from Councillor Connaughton – 07/16

"That Roscommon County Council call on the new Government to re-open the Accident & Emergency Department at Roscommon County Hospital, which was wrongfully taken away by the last Government and a timeframe given for its re-opening 24 hours a day, 7 days a week all year round"

The Meetings Administrator read the following reply:-

This Notice of Motion requires a Resolution of the Council.

Councillor Connaughton stated that he again is highlighting the biggest issue in Roscommon which is not included in the current programme for government. A&E should be a red line issue the fight to re-open it should continue.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Connaughton

SECONDED by Councillor Fitzmaurice

It was **AGREED** to call on the new Government to re-open Accident & Emergency Department at Roscommon County Hospital.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Fallon

SECONDED by Councillor Naughten

It was **AGREED** to call on Fianna Fáil Spokesperson on Health, Mr. Billy Kelleher TD, to support the reopening of Accident & Emergency Department at Roscommon County Hospital.

65.16. COUNCILLORS CONFERENCES PAYMENT

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Fallon

SECONDED by Councillor Shanagher

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

66.16 A VOTE OF SYMPATHY was extended to:

The McDonagh family, Barna, formerly Ballinderreen, Co. Galway, on the death of Joe McDonagh, former GAA President. As chair of GRETB, Councillor Connaughton will attend funeral and send on sympathies.

67.16. APPROVAL OF CIVIC RECEPTION RECIPIENTS

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Leyden

SECONDED by Councillor Shanagher

It was **AGREED** that Convent of Mercy Secondary School chamber choir and Ms. Siofra Cox, Roscommon Women's Network and Katie Heneghan receive a civic honour at the next Civic Reception.

68.16. A.O.B.

ROSCOMMON RACECOURSE

Eugene Cummins, Chief Executive informed members that this matter was discussed at the CPG meeting and advised the members that investment in the Roscommon Racecourse would facilitate growth and economic return for the County.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Connaughton

SECONDED by Councillor Leyden

It was **AGREED** that €10,000 from our central revenue budget be invested in Roscommon Racecourse.

OFFICIAL OPENING OF ÁRAS AN CHONTAE

Councillor Shanagher proposed that invitations be sent out to PPN groups and all groups that received amenity grants.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Shanagher

SECONDED by Councillor Ward

It was **AGREED** that invitations be sent to all PPN Groups and amenity grant recipients.

COACH PARKING AT ROSCOMMON LEISURE CENTRE

Councillor Leyden highlighted the many concerns in relation to the double yellow lines outside the leisure centre which prevents coaches from parking. It is important that children are delivered safely and raised that question as to whether the field beside Teagasc could be developed for coach parking.

Eugene Cummins, Chief Executive informed members that this is a matter for Municipal District.

Councillor Leyden sought clarification that this field be made available to Municipal District for coach parking. Councillor Leyden as Chairperson of Roscommon Municipal District noted that she will be bringing this to the next Municipal District meeting.

WIND TURBINES

Councillor Ward welcomed Ted Kelly and Ger Lennon, members of Wind Turbine Action Group South Roscommon. In July 2014 they were successful in overturning An Bord Pleanála's decision to grant planning permission to Galetech Energy for the wind farms in Dysart and Taughmaconnell. The High Court had referred the case back to An Bord Pleanála and an oral hearing is planned for 9th June 2016.

Martin Lydon, Director of Services informed meeting of a complaint received by Planning Dept. He confirmed that a site inspection was carried out on 18th May and that Regulation Class 45 applied in relation to site excavation works, deeming the works carried out as exempted development.

Notice of Motion from Councillor Ward 08/16

“That Roscommon County Council calls on the Government and Minister for Communications, Climate Change and Natural Resources, Mr. Denis Naughten TD, to suspend all planning applications for wind turbines until the new legislation is approved by the members of Dail Eireann. I propose that all wind turbines be a minimum distance of at least 1.5km away from residential properties and buildings such as schools, community halls, churches, shops, etc”.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Ward

SECONDED by Councillor Connaughton

It was **AGREED** to call on Government and Minister Denis Naughten T.D, to suspend all planning applications for wind turbines and request that all wind turbines be at least 1.5km away from all buildings.

Councillor Shanagher thanked the Cathaoirleach for his hospitality.

SOCIAL CELEBRATION AND CHARITY EVENING

The Cathaoirleach informed all that a fundraising night in aid of Western Alzheimers will be held in the Abbey Hotel on 27th May and invited members to attend.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be the AGM on 27th June, followed by the June meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The foregoing Minutes are
Confirmed and Signed:

Meetings Administrator

Cathaoirleach

Countersigned