

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, ROSCOMMON ON MONDAY THE 25th JULY, 2016 AT 2.15 P.M.

PRESENT Councillor Tony Ward, 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 P. Kilduff, Cllr M. Mulligan, Cllr. L. Callaghan

OFFICIALS: Mr. Eugene Cummins, Chief Executive
Mr. Martin Lydon, A/Director of Services
Ms. Majella Hunt, Director of Services
Mr. Des O'Dwyer, A/Director of Services
Ms. Breege McNeill, A/Director of Services
Ms. Patricia Bohan, Meetings Administrator
Mr. Frank Guckian, ICT

The Cathaoirleach Tony Ward welcomed everyone to the meeting.

84.16. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Kilduff
SECONDED by Councillor Murphy
It was **AGREED** to adopt the minutes of the special plenary meeting held 27.06.2016

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Fallon
SECONDED by Councillor Shanagher
It was **AGREED** to adopt the minutes of the annual meeting held 27.06.2016

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Cummins
SECONDED by Councillor Kilduff
It was **AGREED** to adopt the minutes of the plenary meeting held 27.06.2016

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

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

86.16. DISPOSAL OF LAND:

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Ward
SECONDED by Councillor Keogh
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: 0.025 ha. including house at Newtown, Clonown, Athlone, Co. Roscommon.
The persons from whom the land was acquired: Nancy Gaffey
The person to whom the land is to be disposed: PJ Cunniffe and Elizabeth Cunniffe
Consideration: €50,000

86.16. PRESENTATION ON WEBCASTING

Frank Guckian, A/Head of IT outlined the concept of webcasting Plenary Meetings now that the technology is available in the new Council Chamber. Phase 1 of the project will involve communication with the public via webcasting and Phase 2 introduces Meetings Management System. Matthew Jellings, Senior Relationship Manager, Public-i outlined the benefits of webcasting such as openness, accountability, accessibility and transparency. Webcasting is now a useful tool to connect with younger and future electorate who only communicate and engage through the use of social media.

All Members welcomed the concept of introducing webcasting and commented as follows –

- Looking forward to its implementation in 2016/2017
- Capital and running costs
- Bringing the work of the Council to a wider population

Matthew Jellings responded to queries as follows:

- There is facility to pause or turn-off live webcasting
- Fingal, Dun Laoghaire, Dublin and Donegal local authorities use webcasting
- Initial outlay is approx €10k, with the option of an annual package or a pay as you go model.
- Over time meetings will become shorter
- Can access if the public is viewing via website hits information
- Beneficial for Local Area Plans and Budget meetings and other meetings as agreed

The CE confirmed that webcasting is the way forward, the essence of openness and transparency and will open up our business to all areas of the community. The Council can decide what meetings and events are streamed and this could include community groups. Procurement should start immediately as there is a National procurement framework already in place.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Connaughton
SECONDED by Councillor Dinneen

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council should proceed to procurement for Meetings Management System.

87.16 ADOPTION OF ANNUAL REPORT 2015

The Draft Annual Report for 2015 was presented to the members and the following points were raised -

- The reason for outstanding debt of €400k in Development Charges
- Clarification of figures in relation to 453 planning applications received, of which 275 decisions to grant and 43 decisions to refuse?
- What level of housing will be provided in the county under the new Housing Action Plan?

Martin Lydon, A/Director of Services responded as follows:

- Payment plans are structured which accounts for some of the debt, while the balance is outstanding.
- There is a timing difference where planning applications are received but a decision not reached within the time frame of the report.

The Chief Executive informed the members that a comprehensive report will be submitted to the September Plenary meeting to update members on 'Rebuilding Ireland – Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness' and its implications for Roscommon. Significant additional allocations are been made available to the Council and it also presents regeneration opportunities for the county.

Des O'Dwyer, A/Director of Services confirmed the following:

- The sum of €702,000 was allocated for refurbishment of sixty two voids. There were thirty six completed in 2015, thirty completed and twenty four on site in 2016 and three under inspection.
- The sum of €302,000 was allocated today for a further eight derelict units so the sixty two figure will increase.
- The sum of €412,000 was paid out in adaptation grants this year with a commitment of a further €500,000
- Fifty three social housing units are to be delivered at The Walk, Roscommon town through a Public-Private Partnership programme.

The following comments were raised regarding the Action Plan for Housing –

- What will Roscommon’s commitment be to the Housing Action Plan in terms of the different strategies
- The plan needs to be drilled down to county level
- How many sites are ready to build on in Roscommon if the finance becomes available?
- Need to look at forward planning in the county in respect of each town and village
- Rural development
- Need a breakdown of numbers on the Housing List and in receipt of RAS
- May need a Special Meeting to discuss housing

The C.E. noted that all the comments were valid. The Action Plan identifies €1.5bn in capital funding. It identifies all the stakeholders involved including the Local Authorities and the options available to them. This is a 5 year plan and it must be noted that Local Authorities have come from a position of not building any houses to commence building again and this will take time. There are other strategies including refurbishing voids and buying houses. Following the presentation on Housing at the Council Meeting in September, members can look at a Special Meeting to address all of these issues including what can be done to regenerate villages.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Cummins

SECONDED by Councillor Creaton

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council adopt the Annual Report 2015.

88.16. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENTERPRISE SUPPORT (INCL ROADS & CULTURE) STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE FOLLOWING RESIGNATION OF CATHAOIRLEACH TONY WARD

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Dineen

SECONDED by Councillor Leyden

It was **AGREED** that Councillor Kathleen Shanagher be elected Chairperson of Economic Development & Enterprise Support (incl roads & culture) Strategic Policy Committee.

89.16. CORRESPONDENCE

The Meeting Administrator read out a letter from Brendan McGrath, Chief Executive, Galway City Council acknowledging and thanking Roscommon County Council for the wonderful support provided for Galway’s bid in becoming European Capital of Culture in 2020. He now wishes to cement the collaboration to ensure that the regional benefit accruing from the 2020 designation will be extensive.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Keogh

SECONDED by Councillor Beirne

It was **AGREED** to send a letter of congratulations to Galway on their successful bid.

1. Letter from Dept. Environment, Community and Local Government re: Return of Vacant Social Housing Properties to Productive Use 2016 Programme.
2. Letter from Minister Simon Coveney T.D. re: New Tenant Purchase Scheme.
3. Email from Cork County Council re: resolution adopted on special needs classes for students with autism
4. Email of acknowledgement from Minister Denis Naughten T.D. re: planning applications for wind turbines.
5. Letter from South Dublin County Council re: motions agreed at July meeting.
6. Letter of acknowledgement from HSE re: 24/7 ambulance service at the Loughglynn base.
7. Letter of acknowledgement from HSE re: re-opening the A&E department at Roscommon County Hospital.
8. Letter from Donegal County Council re: resolutions adopted at the July Meeting.

90.16. QUESTIONS

Question 1 – Councillor Naughten:

That Roscommon County Council details the number houses purchased and constructed for Social housing in last three years.

The Meetings Administrator circulated the following reply:-

Year	Purchased	Constructed	Total
2013	2	0	2
2014	4	0	4
2015	1	6	7

91.16. COUNCILLORS CONFERENCES PAYMENT

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Kilduff

SECONDED by Councillor Dineen

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

92.16. VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS/SYMPATHY

A VOTE OF SYMPATHY was extended to:

The Kelly Family, Ballygar on the death of Tina and Joey Kelly

The McCormack Family, Elphin on the death of Mary McCormack

93.16. APPROVAL OF CIVIC RECEPTION RECIPIENTS

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Connolly

SECONDED by Councillor Shanagher

It was **AGREED** that the Shannon Academy of Irish Dance for outstanding achievements winning world titles recently for Kevin Glynn under 15 and Megan Healy Cribbon under 19 and also world titles for the under 19 and over 19 Ceili Foirne (choreography) competitions held recently in Castlebar Co. Mayo are honoured at the forthcoming Civic Reception of Roscommon County Council.

94.16. A.O.B.

- ***RECRUITMENT OF GENERAL OPERATIVES***

Cllr. Shanagher noted that the Council was recruiting for General Operatives and asked when these positions would be filled as there are many jobs not being carried out in the Areas. Cllr Connolly commented on the lack of grass cutting especially at crossroads in rural areas.

The Chief Executive confirmed the appointments of the new General Operatives will depend on the numbers that will apply, which are expected to be significant.

FLOODING AT CURRAGHROE & LOUGH FUNSHINAGH

Councillors outlined issues raised at the recent public meeting on flooding in Curraghroe including

- Why Officials of Roscommon Co Co did not visit the locals affected
- Has a survey been carried out post the event
- Has a report been received from Coillte and what control measures put in place for heavy rainfall
- Silt in drains needs to be addressed
- Council only allocated €4.9m of €10.1m sought for flood relief works
- Houses in areas never previously considered at risk are now deemed to be on a flood plain for insurance
- Locals feel let down by the Council

Clr Fallon and the Cathaoirleach acknowledged the work done today by the Council in relation to the flooding at Lough Funshinagh. Every effort must be made to find some solution as we approach the winter and certain flooding issues again.

Martin Lydon, A/Director of Services confirmed officials did meet the community group and did provide an update for the Curraghroe public meeting. As High Court proceedings have been issued there will be no further comment.

COUNTY LIBRARIAN

Councillor Kilduff asked when the post of County Librarian would be appointed in light of the recent decision not to amalgamate library services with adjoining counties. The Chief Executive confirmed no sanction has been received from the Department to date.

95.16. EXTENSION OF STANDING ORDERS:

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Keogh

SECONDED by Councillor Creaton

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

DOG POUND

Clr Keogh welcomed the improvements in the operation of the Dog Pound and suggested it is now the model by which Dog Pounds should operate.

PAY BY WEIGHT BIN CHARGES

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Doherty

SECONDED by Councillor Byrne

It was **AGREED** that a letter be sent to Mr. Denis Naughten TD, Minister for Communications, Energy & Natural Resources seeking clarification on why tag and bag customers of Barna Waste cannot avail of the 12 month transitional period up to 30th June 2017 for pay by weight.

ANIMAL RIGHTS

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Mulligan

SECONDED by Councillor Leyden

It was **AGREED** to call on the Government to introduce a complete ban on the use of wild animals in circuses in Ireland.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Monday 26th September 2016.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The foregoing Minutes are
Confirmed and Signed:

Meetings Administrator

Cathaoirleach

Countersigned