# MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COURTHOUSE, ROSCOMMON, ON MONDAY THE 22<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2014 AT 2.15 P.M.

PRESENT Co	ouncillor John	Cummins,	Cathaoirleach	PRESIDED
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**MEMBERS:** V. Byrne I. Connaughton M. Creaton

N. Dineen
M. Hopkins
M. Hopkins
M. Mulligan
M. Shanagher

T. Ward.

**OFFICIALS:** Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive.

Majella Hunt, Director of Services.

Martin Lydon, Head of Finance & Planning Eugene Dwyer, A/Director of Services John O'Rourke, A/ Director of Services. Fiona ní Chuinn, Meetings Administrator.

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Councillor Connolly

At the outset of the meeting the Cathaoirleach John Cummins extended a vote of sympathy to the family of the late Albert Reynolds who was the first County Roscommon Taoiseach. He extended deepest sympathy to Albert Reynolds's wife Kathleen and family.

Members paid tribute to the late Albert Reynolds who described him as -

- A man who never lost touch with his roots in the county.
- "Very effective" in the short time he served as Taoiseach and left a lasting legacy given his contribution to the peace process.
- "A practical man" who solved many a problem as a 'one page man'.
- A man of huge ability who achieved a huge amount in a short period of time.
- He made an impression on the county and the West when it came to job creation.

Councillor Eugene Murphy suggested that the Council should recognise Albert Reynolds's contribution to Irish society by establishing a scholarship possibly a peace scholarship in his name. He requested that the Corporate Policy Group would consider such an idea.

Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive, on his own behalf and on behalf of the executive extended deepest sympathy to the Reynolds family on their recent sad bereavement.

A minute silence was observed at the Meeting with a silent prayer for the repose of his soul.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

#### 120.14. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

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

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 28.7.2014.

#### 121.14. DISPOSAL OF LAND:

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

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:** 0.4374 ha at Buckhill, Fairymount, Co. Roscommon.

The persons from whom the land was acquired: Michael A. & Grace Finn. The person to whom the land is to be disposed: Roger & Maria Smyth.

**Consideration:** €61,000.

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

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Murphy **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: 0.1947 ha. at Moher, Lanesboro, Co. Roscommon.

The persons from whom the land was acquired: Margaret Elliot. The person to whom the land is to be disposed: David Donoghue

**Consideration:** €27,000.

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

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

- July, 2014.
- August, 2014.

Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive, informed the members that subject to Section 51, subsections (3) and (4) of the Local Government Reform Act, 2014, the Chief Executive shall prepare a report to be known as the Management Report in relation to the performance of his or her executive functions during the preceding calendar month. The monthly Management Reports are intended to assist the elected members in discharging their governance responsibilities and to oversee the executive in the delivery of the policies that the elected members have decided upon.

Members noted the Management Report of Roscommon County Council in accordance with Section 51 of the Local Government Reform act, 2014 for the period July and August, 2014.

## 123.14. LOCAL PROPERTY TAX LOCAL ADJUSTMENT FACTOR 2015 REPORT:

Martin Lydon, Head of Finance & Planning informed the members that under Section 20 of the Finance (Local Property) Act, 2012 as amended by Section 5 of the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act, 2013 a local authority may, as a reserved function, resolve to vary the basic rate of the Local Property Tax (LPT) within its functional area by a maximum of plus or minus 15%.

Members in making their decision to either vary or maintain the current level of LPT must take account of the following factors:-

- An estimation of income Roscommon County Council will receive and the expenditure it will incur for the financial year 2015.
- The financial position of Roscommon County Council.
- The financial effect of the varied rate (if any)
- Feedback from consultation.

Martin Lydon, Head of Finance & Planning informed the members that as indicated earlier in his report Roscommon County Council was a net beneficiary of €5.833m from the Equalisation Fund and did not receive additional funds as a result of the introduction of LPT.

The Local Government Fund has reduced from a high of €23.3m in 2008 to €9.1m in 2014 and 2015, a reduction of 61%. Services as a result have contracted severely, with the danger of further diminution leading to services not being delivered to required standards.

Despite the on-going pressures on budgets, the County Council understands it has an important role to play in a sustainable economic recovery. This can be achieved by keeping charges to a minimum and the continued prudent management of the County Councils finances.

I am therefore recommending no variation to the Local Property Tax adjustment factor.

Members raised the following issues:-

- People were led to believe that if they paid the property tax they would receive enhanced services.
- Need for a clear public commitment to maintenance of verges.
- Need for two machines in each Municipal District to cut the verges.
- Desire of the Fianna Fail grouping to cut the LPT by 15% but we have to have funds to provide essential services.
- Roscommon County Council should seek a commitment from Government that if LPT is reduced that the Equalisation Fund will be increased accordingly.

- Need for Roscommon County Council to launch a vigorous campaign to collect outstanding rates and rents.
- The Executive need to inform members on how they intend to prioritise funding to deal with the major issue of the verge trimming.

Tommy Ryan informed the members that the issue of the LPT is one part of the whole Budget process and the discretional component will be discussed further on the 6<sup>th</sup> October at the Municipal Districts meetings. He highlighted to the members that the executive are working closely with the Corporate Policy Group on the Budget, however, there is no significant increase in funding. Members can prioritise where funding is spent and make recommendations on hedge cutting/verge trimming but must remain cognisant that there will be no funds for other works.

Martin Lydon responded to the queries raised and confirmed that Roscommon County Council is vigorous in collecting rates and our figures take account of the level of empty properties around the county. Our rent collection level is 91%, however, as a social Landlord the Council has to take account of people's personal circumstances when dealing with arrears situations.

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Keogh **SECONDED** by Councillor Fitzmaurice

That the meeting be adjourned to allow each group an opportunity to discuss the issue.

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Mulligan **SECONDED** by Councillor Byrne

That Roscommon County Council reduce the Local Property Tax by 15% for 2015.

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Ward **SECONDED** by Councillor Doherty

That Roscommon County Council maintain the current level of Local Property Tax but ring fence funding for hedge cutting and pothole maintenance.

Martin Lydon advised the members that reducing the property tax by 15% would result in a budget shortfall of  $\[ \in \]$ 640,000 next year and would see funding for other essential services such as housing grants etc being impacted upon with a dilution of services. Roscommon County Council will take in  $\[ \in \]$ 4.1m in property tax in 2014/2015 but will also receive a topup of  $\[ \in \]$ 5.8m under the equalisation fund to make up a shortfall in the funding stream which the Government will allocate from a central fund. Martin Lydon impressed on the members that the Department of Environment had made it very clear that no further funding would be available if the Council reduced the property tax and Roscommon County Council would be left with a funding shortfall.

The Cathaoirleach asked members to adjourn the meeting and after the tea break he requested members to be a position to make a decision on the matter.

Following the recess the Cathaoirleach informed the members that following discussion with the executive it has been agreed that the Roads Department will review their spending to the year end and place a priority on verge trimming. There will also be included in the

2015 Budget an additional allocation of €75,000 between the three Municipal Districts to be spent on verge trimming of local roads.

He then requested members to put their proposals to the floor.

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Mulligan **SECONDED** by Councillor Byrne

That Roscommon County Council reduce the Local Property Tax by 15% for 2015.

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Ward **SECONDED** by Councillor Doherty

That Roscommon County Council maintain the current rate of Local Property Tax for 2015.

The Meetings Administrator was requested to call a vote on Councillor Mulligan and Councillor Ward's proposals which resulted as follows –

#### **VOTING FOR COUNCILLOR MULLIGAN'S PROPOSAL:-**

Councillors Byrne & Mulligan (2)

#### **VOTING FOR COUNCILLOR WARD'S PROPOSAL:-**

Councillors Connaughton, Creaton, Cummins, Dineen, Doherty, Fallon, Fitzmaurice, Hopkins, Keogh, Kilduff, Leyden, Murphy, Naughten, Shanagher & Ward (15).

The Meetings Administrator declared Councillor Ward's Motion to be carried.

#### ABSENT WHEN THE VOTE WAS CALLED:

Councillor Connolly (1)

#### 124.14. MEMBERS TRAINING PLAN - 2014 - 2019:

John O'Rourke informed the meeting that the Training Plan as circulated was now before the members for adoption. The Training Plan had been compiled in accordance with Circular letters received following the local elections and the major change was in relation to the funding for Conferences which has now been reduced to €350 for 2014 and €700 for every year thereafter. The figure was based on the headcount of Councillors, however, Councillors may be in a position to spend up to €1,000 but the maximum limit of €12,600 will remain. The training budget will be assessed differently. The Training Plan highlights how members may apply for conferences and training and he specifically drew the members attention to Appendix 2 of the document which relates to members having to apply to attend conferences and training prior to the conference date.

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

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Members Training Plan – 2014 – 2019 as circulated.

#### 125.14. ADOPTION OF STRATEGIC POLICY SCHEME – 2014 – 2019:

John O'Rourke, Acting Director of Services, informed the meeting that following the adoption of the Draft Strategic Policy Scheme that same was advertised in the local newspapers, Roscommon County Council website and circulated to each contact person of the four National Pillars inviting submissions. One submission was received from Michael Ewing containing nine salient points and the Schedule circulated to the members sets out details of the submission and the Council's response to same. He confirmed that the submission was essentially supportive of the SPC Scheme. Points 1,3,& 4 require no amendment to the Scheme. Points 2,5 and 6 may require minor amendment to the Scheme should the members so wish. Points 7,8,& 9 require comment only. Based on the above he recommended that the Draft Strategic Policy Scheme 2014 – 2019 be adopted following agreement on the points raised in the submission.

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

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Strategic Policy Scheme 2014 – 2019 as circulated.

#### 126.14. ADOPTION OF PLENARY STANDING ORDERS:

John O'Rourke, Acting Director of Services informed the members that draft Standing Orders were circulated to them on the 17<sup>th</sup> July and members were requested to forward any comments/recommendations to the Meetings Administrator before Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> August for consideration by the Standing Orders Committee.

No submissions were received in relation to the Draft Plenary Standing Orders as circulated on the 17<sup>th</sup> July.

The Standing Orders Committee convened again on the 15<sup>th</sup> August and one further amendment was agreed in relation to shared motions as follows:-

"Where a Motion is submitted by two members on the same topic that it would be dealt with as a shared Motion."

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

It was **AGREED** that the Plenary Standing Orders be reviewed in January or February of 2015.

Councillor Keogh queried if it was possible to hold Meetings in the evenings.

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that they had been given an opportunity to make submissions to the SPC and none were received. He requested members to forward any further submissions to the Meetings Administrator where they can be considered at the review in early 2015.

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

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Plenary Standing Orders as circulated.

## 127.14. APPROVAL OF NOMINATION TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC):

Pat Murtagh, Acting Director of Services referred the members to previous correspondence issued in February 2014 and July 2014 in relation to LCDC that set out the background, functions of and local government representation on the LCDC. He also referred to discussion of and agreement with the proposed membership of the committee at the Council Meeting of the 28<sup>th</sup> July 2014. Members agreed at the meeting of the 28<sup>th</sup> July 2014 to increase membership of the LCDC committee to 17 members. At that time it was reported that nominations were awaited for three positions on the committee, one of which was for the Agriculture and Farming Sector

The Agriculture and Farming Sector has now nominated Donal Greene, Dromalga, Oldtown, Athlone, Co Roscommon to fill its position on the LCDC. I therefore recommend the ratification of the membership of Donal Greene of the LCDC as the representative of the Agriculture and Farming Sector on the committee.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Ward
SECONDED by Councillor Connaughton
It was **AGREED** to ratify the membership of Donal Greene, Dromalga, Oldtown,
Athlone, Co. Roscommon to the LCDC as the representative of the Agriculture and
Farming Sector on the committee.

#### **128.14. FIXING OF DATE FOR THE BUDGET MEETING:**

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Murphy **SECONDED** by Councillor Creaton It was **AGREED** that the date for the Budget Meeting would be set as the 19th November, 2014.

#### 129.14. REVISION OF MEETING DATES:

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Ward **SECONDED** by Councillor Doherty It was **AGREED** to adopt the list of dates as circulated.

Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive, confirmed that the list will be kept under review.

#### 130.14. CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1. Letter dated 5.8.2014 from Donegal County Council seeking support for a Motion re expression of solidarity with the besieged Palestinian people and condemns the current atrocities in Gaza.
- 2. Letter dated 12.8.2014 from South Dublin County Council seeking support for a Motion re basic and civil human rights.
- 3. Letter dated 19.8.2014 from Kerry County Council seeking support for a Motion re Planning Ref 13/493.
- 4. Letter dated 19.8.2014 from Kerry County Council seeking support for a Motion re the Housing Miscellaneous Provisions Bill 2014.
- 5. Letter dated 19.8.2014 from Kerry County Council seeking support for a Motion re the bringing to an end of all political parties holding Church gate collections.

#### 131.14. NOTICES OF MOTION

## 7.14. CIVIC AMENITY SITES IN CO. ROSCOMMON – OPENING HOURS: Notice of Motion from Councillors Leyden & Shanagher – 7/14.

"That Roscommon County Council's Civic (Recycling) Amenity Centres remain open on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from the 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2014 as before in the public interest and in the interest of the environment and also that Roscommon County Council considers diversification in order to ensure the viability of Civic Amenity Centres"

The Meetings Administrator read the following reply:-

The decision to close the four Civic Amenity Centres for 3 days (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) comes from an ongoing review of all activities at the sites. The decision is based on decreasing number of customers using the facilities in favour of kerbside collection. Lower footfall at the sites means that staff can be used more effectively within the organization and this new arrangement will see the Staff becoming available for other duties within the Municipal area. The new proposal will be monitored and reviewed where necessary.

In relation to diversification at the sites, this is also being considered as part of the ongoing review and during a recent tender procedure, quotations were gathered for other waste streams such as garden waste and bulky municipal waste. It is considered however that the cost of providing these additional services to the public shall have to be carried by the end user and therefore a robust system of charging shall have to be implemented at all the sites before these could proceed. The staff of the environment department are currently reviewing the charging and collection of charges at the sites with a view to modernizing and extending the charges to cater for additional waste streams.

Councillor Leyden expressed her dissatisfaction with the response and stated that as this was a policy decision it should be brought before a meeting of the Environment SPC. She continued that there was no consultation with the elected members or the public on this matter.

## It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Leyden **SECONDED** by Councillor Shanagher

That this matter be referred back to the Environment SPC and that the revised opening hours at the recycling centres would not go ahead until first discussed with the Environment SPC.

Members raised the following issues:-

- If people do not use the site they will lose the facility.
- Staff are willing to work with new initiatives so why are the services being cut.
- Queried the amount of money generated through recycling and Blue Bags.
- Can the Centres be open every day for shorter hours?
- Members should have been consulted on the change in work practices.
- Need to encourage composting.
- What has happened in the case of diversification?
- Do the members have the power to instruct the executive to re-open the Civic Amenity sites?
- Worried that a reduction in services will lead to an increase in illegal dumping.

Majella Hunt informed the members that the decision to close the recycling facilities for three days per week was not taken lightly and was based on the falling number of customers availing of the recycling facilities and it was a question of viability and efficiency. In some cases the footfall at the Centres was as low as two to three people per hour and to keep the facilities open six days per week would not serve the public in an effective manner. She confirmed that sites will remain open on the busiest days and it would not be labour effective to continue to open for half days. She informed the members that Roscommon County Council had tendered for waste collection including grass and other materials but this was cost prohibitive at this time.

Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive responded that the reduction in opening hours was not a policy matter but rather an operational one. He continued that the reduction in hours would not reduce the recycling capacity of the sites but would mean that Area Engineers had more staff at their disposal as a result of the decision. The changes relate to 10 staff working three days per week in the Civic Amenity sites and the other three days being redeployed across services in the county where there is a shortage of staff. He continued that people are now utilising kerb side collections which has reduced the numbers attending at the Civic Amenity sites. He informed the members that the Waste Policy is being reviewed and will be coming before the SPC for their views. He continued that its adoption is an executive decision and will deal with much broader issues than opening hours at Civic Amenity sites.

Majella Hunt, Director of Services informed the members that the changes would not bring savings but would see €123,000 in staffing costs being redeployed across other services. The new operational hours could be reviewed in three months

#### On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Ward

**SECONDED** by Councillor Shanagher

It was **AGREED** as a compromise to this matter that the reduction in opening hours would proceed as planned but that a full review of the recycling facilities would take place after three months and a report would be provided to the members.

#### 8.14. RESTAURANTS ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND:

#### Notice of Motion from Councillor Byrne – 8/14.

"That Roscommon County Council support the call from the Restaurants Association of Ireland and request the Minister for Finance to keep VAT at 9% into 2015 and beyond for the food, tourism and hospitality sector that has helped create one in four jobs in the country".

The Meetings Administrator read the following reply:-

This Notice of Motion requires a Resolution of the Council.

Members stated that this is a Government initiative and jobs have increased by 31,000 with this V.A.T. rate

#### On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Byrne

**SECONDED** by Councillor Murphy

It was **AGREED** "That Roscommon County Council support the call from the Restaurants Association of Ireland and request the Minister for Finance to keep VAT at 9% into 2015 and beyond for the food, tourism and hospitality sector that has helped create one in four jobs in the country".

Requested that this Notice of Motion be circulated to all local authorities.

#### 9.14. CUSTUME BARRACKS, ATHLONE:

#### Notice of Motion from Councillor Ward - 9/14.

"I am calling on the Government, the Taoiseach Mr. Enda Kenny and the Minister for Defence Mr. Simon Coveney, T.D., to reinstate the 4<sup>th</sup> Western Brigade to Custume Barracks, Athlone Many of the serving members of the 4<sup>th</sup> Western Brigade reside within the three municipal districts of County Roscommon."

The Meetings Administrator read the following reply:-

This Notice of Motion requires a Resolution of the Council.

Councillor Ward addressed the members and stated that the 2012 Government decision to disband the 4<sup>th</sup> Western Brigade and downgrade Custume Barracks was a disaster for the Defence Forces and did not make economic or social sense. The decision along with the reduction in the strength of the Defence Forces resulted in the loss of 607 fulltime appointments in Custume Barracks. He continued that the Athlone based 4<sup>th</sup> Western Brigade had military responsibility for 10 counties form Offaly to Donegal and it did not make sense that the force was now being overseen from Rathmines in Dublin. He added it is not just a South Roscommon issue as there were 226 serving Defence Forces personnel living in the constituency of Roscommon/South Leitrim. Custume Barracks accounted for some €43m. of the Defence Forces budget in 2011 and was a key driver in the local economy. The

decision to abolish the Western Brigade, if not reversed, will continue to negatively impact on the economy in the region including Roscommon.

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

It was **AGREED** "that Roscommon County Council call on the Government, the Taoiseach Mr. Enda Kenny and the Minister for Defence Mr. Simon Coveney, T.D., to reinstate the 4<sup>th</sup> Western Brigade to Custume Barracks, Athlone. Many of the serving members of the 4<sup>th</sup> Western Brigade reside within the three municipal districts of County Roscommon"

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Connaughton

**SECONDED** by Councillor Keogh

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council request Minister Coveney and the Taoiseach to consider the introduction of a medical test to allow army personnel to continue service beyond 21 years.

#### **132.14. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS:**

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

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

#### **133.14.** COUNCILLORS CONFERENCES:

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Murphy

**SECONDED** by Councillor Kilduff

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

Cllr. P. Kilduff AILG Training, Douglas Hyde Centre Coference, Ballaghaderreen

Cllr. O.Leyden

Cllr. J. Naughten

Cllr. K. Shanagher AILG Training, Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo

Cllr. P. Kilduff

Cllr. P.Kilduff AILG Training Nuremore Hotel, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan.

Cllr. J. Keogh

#### **134.14.** ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

#### Clonown - Athlone Road:

Councillor Naughton addressed the meeting and highlighted the dangerous condition of the Clonown to Athlone road in South Roscommon which he described as a traffic hazard that needs to be urgently addressed. He continued that the situation has been ongoing for a long period of time and he has received a significant number of representations from residents in the area regarding the safety of having the road reduced to a single lane. The situation gets worse during the winter months in particular when the area is subject to

flooding. Councillor Naughton requested that the Council examine the possibility of addressing this situation in the interest of safety.

Pat Murtagh, Acting Director of Services responded that he would have the matter investigated and would revert back to Councillor Naughton in the next couple of days.

#### Irish Water – Lights:

Councillor Murphy referred to a situation where wires had allegedly been severed by employees of Irish Water when fitting water metres and as a result four lights in Rooskey were knocked out on the 6<sup>th</sup> June last. Despite numerous calls to Irish Water the matter is not yet resolved and Irish Water are stating that Roscommon County Council will have to pay for reinstating the lights.

Members raised the following issues:-

- Need for an Irish Water representative to come to a Council Meeting.
- There is no clarity on the exemptions/charges.
- Need for regular updates from Irish Water on the regional schemes.
- Irish Water do not reply to e-mails.
- Single issue on the door step for by election canvassers is 'water'.
- Need for clarification from CER on charges.
- The water situation in Ballaghaderreen needs to be addressed

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Connaughton **SECONDED** by Councillor Byrne

That people on a 'Boil Water' Notice should get a four year exemption from water charges.

#### County Childcare Committee:

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Hopkins

SECONDED by Councillor Naughten

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council issue a letter to Minister Kelly requesting that all Child Care services be exempt from rates.

#### Dog Shelter at Rockfield:

Members requested an update on the recent incident at Roscommon Dog Shelter.

John O'Rourke, Acting Director of Services informed the members that on the 4<sup>th</sup> August, there were 10 dogs in the Pound. Nine of the ten were removed by Gardai to Cloverhill Veterinary Surgery and one dog was deemed by the Gardai and others present to be too aggressive to be removed. The dogs were mildly dehydrated and none required therapeutic fluids (i.e. to be put on a drip) or any other veterinary intervention and no dogs were in a collapsed or distressed state. There is no truth in claims that the dogs were tied up or that one had a wire around its neck. All dogs have now been re-homed.

The ISPCA have carried out their own investigation into the incident and the Garda Siochana have confirmed that no prosecution is pending regarding this incident.

The current Service Level Agreement between Roscommon County Council and the ISPCA expires at the end of December, 2014 and Roscommon County Council will then be reviewing the situation for the Control of Dog services in the county.

#### Count Centre for the By-Election:

Councillor Creaton requested that consideration be given to holding the count for the By-Election at the Hub in Castlerea or in a Hotel.

Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive, responded that the query will be referred to the County Registrar.

#### This concluded the business of the meeting.

The foregoing Minutes are	
Confirmed and Signed:	
Commined and Signed.	
Meetings Administrator	
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	Mayor
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Countersigned	