

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE COURTHOUSE, ROSCOMMON, ON MONDAY THE 23rd NOVEMBER, 2015 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, Head of Finance & Planning
Ms. Majella Hunt, Director of Services
Mr. John O'Rourke, A/ Director of Services
Mr. Pat Murtagh, A/Director of Services
Ms. Fíona ní Chuinn, Meetings Administrator

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Paddy Kilduff welcomed the members to the meeting on this historic day for Roscommon County Council. It marks the last Plenary Council meeting to be held in the Council Chamber in the Courthouse, where meetings have been held for the last 115 years. It also marks the first plenary meeting for our new Chief Executive, Mr. Eugene Cummins since taking up his appointment and the members look forward to working with him over the next number of years.

Cathaoirleach stated that today marked the handover of the new Civic Headquarters to Roscommon County Council. He also welcomed the Transition Year students from the CBS Roscommon to the meeting.

95.15. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Murphy

SECONDED by Councillor Cummins

It was **AGREED** to adopt the minutes of the monthly plenary meeting held on 28.9.2015

96.15. BRIEF STATEMENT BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE, MR. EUGENE CUMMINS

The members welcomed Mr. Eugene Cummins to the meeting and to County Roscommon and highlighted the following:

- Appreciate the gesture of meeting with members individually and giving his contact number to the members
- Aware of the contribution he made in Co. Monaghan
- Community orientated
- Look forward to working together
- Challenging times ahead
- Good to see he is engaged in economic development and community focused
- Acknowledge the professional staff in Roscommon County Council
- Important to get people working on Co. Roscommon through job creation and to promote the county more
- Hopes Mr. Cummins will do his best to keep Roscommon as a county intact

Mr. Eugene Cummins, Chief Executive thanked the members for their kind words. He welcomed the members of the press and the students from the CBS to the meeting.

He confirmed that he will use his experience to the best of his ability for the benefit of the county. He stated that economic and community development is the primary role and function of the local authority. He continued that there will be major restructuring of the organisation. He aims to set the scene and focus on priorities in the coming weeks.

Mr. Cummins suggested to the members that there should be a plenary meeting held every month from the start of next year. Municipal District meetings should also take place on a monthly basis and take on a more expanded and meaningful role. No two meetings should be held on the same day.

Mr. Cummins stated that our new Civic Headquarters will provide a platform for staff to deliver services using modern methods, which will result in more effective and timely response times.

The recently announced Action Plan for Jobs should create a platform to deal with job creation, population growth.

He stated that the proposed amalgamation issue of Monksland and the boundary review will determine the future for County Roscommon. He aims to be part of every community as much as possible.

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

- **September & October 2015**

Members noted the Monthly Management Report for the months of September & October, 2015.

98.15. RATIFICATION OF COUNCILLOR JOHN CUMMINS TO THE BOARD OF ÚDARÁS NA hOLLSCOILE

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Leyden

SECONDED by Councillor Ward

It was **AGREED** to the ratification of Councillor John Cummins to the Board of Údarás na hOllscoile.

99.15. RATES INCENTIVE SCHEME

Councillor Tony Ward, Chair of the SPC for Economic Development and Enterprise Support outlined the key elements of the Draft Rates Incentive Scheme as presented to the members, including two specific incentives as follows:

1. An incentive for the occupation of vacant commercial premises for a 5 year period
2. An early payment incentive for the SME Sector

The members raised the following issues:

- Compliment the work of the SPC members and staff of Roscommon County Council
- Huge incentive for businesses to come to Roscommon Town
- Good to see existing businesses will benefit
- Roscommon County Council making progress for businesses in commercial sectors
- Great incentive to increase the uptake of vacant premises in town centres
- Rates bill is a huge problem for start up businesses
- Welcome brave move by Roscommon County Council
- Call on the Government to make similar schemes accessible for start up business
- Great incentive and pro-active way to show the Roscommon is open for business
- Is there any provision for existing business?
- When will revaluation of properties take place?
- What impact will revaluations have on the Council?

- Compliment the work of the Head of Finance and Roscommon County Council in providing assistance to rate payers
- Would like to include existing businesses in town centre such as Ballaghaderreen that are struggling
- Good to see Roscommon County Council taking their economic role seriously
- Huge challenge to attract businesses to set up in Roscommon
- Collection of rates is the only mechanism to provide services to people in Co. Roscommon
- Going forward something greater needs to happen from Local Government
- Great to see a unanimous agreement on a policy brought forward

Mr. Martin Lydon, Head of Finance & Planning responded to the issues raised as follows:

- There will be an annual review of the scheme
- Existing businesses will not be included – there are payment plans in place to assist them
- Through the revaluation process – some rate payers may receive a reduction while others will receive an increase
- To apply the rates incentive scheme to specific towns such as Ballaghaderreen is not feasible
- There are a number of problems in towns throughout the county – this will be addressed through working with Town Teams
- Revaluation Presentation will take place in early 2016

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Ward

SECONDED by Councillor Connolly

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Rates Incentive Scheme as presented.

100.15. COUNTY ROSCOMMON AGE FRIENDLY STRATEGY

Councillor Tony Ward, Chair of the SPC for Economic Development and Enterprise Support outlined the key elements of the County Roscommon Age Friendly Strategy 2015 – 2019 as follows:

1. Housing and Outdoor Spaces
2. Transportation
3. Healthy Ageing, Recreation & Social Care
4. Respect and Social Inclusion
5. Safety and Security
6. Information and Communication

The members raised the following issues:

- Roscommon has an ageing population with over 10,000 people over 65 years of age
- Double the amount of people over 65 than under 5
- Issue has been given a lot of thought by Roscommon County Council
- Many positive schemes available to the elderly, e.g. Map Alerter, Warmer Homes Scheme, Library Services, local media
- Consider inviting a representative from Foróige to join the steering group
- Important to welcome age-friendly facilities
- Very positive document
- Important to provide small, local services such as the rural transport scheme to elderly people
- The strategy may help to amalgamate all group working with elderly
- Fear for older people with increase in crime and anti-social behaviour
- Interesting document for discussion at JPC meeting

- Over 65's should be encouraged to set-up businesses
- People should be facilitated to stay in their own homes for as long as they can
- Important to recognise the contribution of older people to communities
- Transition from work to retirement can be a challenging time for people
- Ensure older people are viewed with having an important contribution to make to society
- Lack of Garda presence in communities
- Issue of health facilities is an important issue for elderly people
- Isolation of elderly people is a huge issue with the cut in the telephone allowance
- Query the timeframe for actions
- Lack of carers in the community putting extra pressures on nursing homes
- Cutting bus routes has left people isolated
- Disappointment that there has been no announcement re: funding for upgrade of Sacred Heart Hospital

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

- Timelines not yet defined for review of strategy
- Possible to incorporate business award into the strategy
- JPC public meeting to be held on 2nd December in the Abbey Hotel

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Leyden

SECONDED by Councillor Keogh

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council should initiate an age-friendly business award.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Connaughton

SECONDED by Councillor Shanagher

It was **AGREED** to write to the Minister requesting him to reinstate the telephone allowance

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Murphy

SECONDED by Councillor Doherty

It was **AGREED** to invite a Foróige representative to join the steering group.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Murphy

SECONDED by Councillor Doherty

It was **AGREED** that where there are 2 pensions in a household and the death occurs of one pensioner, that the bills are re-evaluated to take account of only one pension in the household now.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Ward

SECONDED by Councillor Keogh

It was **AGREED** to adopt the County Roscommon Age Friendly Strategy as presented

101.15. PRESENTATION FROM MS. NOELEEN RUDDEN, SERVICES MANAGER AND MS. DEIRDRE KELLY, ASSISTANT SERVICES MANAGER, WESTERN ALZHEIMERS ROSCOMMON

Ms. Noeleen Rudden, Services Manager and Ms. Deirdre Kelly, Assistant Services Manager of Western Alzheimers Roscommon presented to the meeting the following:

- The services provided by Western Alzheimers Roscommon
- Support provided to over 70 families in Co. Roscommon
- Statistics on dementia - 1.4% of people suffering from alzheimers in Ireland live in Co. Roscommon
- Fundraising events – Cathaoirleach Paddy Kilduff has organised a fundraising event on 27th May 2016 in aid of Western Alzheimers Roscommon

The members raised the following issues:

- Compliment the work of the services provided to families throughout Co. Roscommon
- Alarming to see Roscommon has the highest number of people suffering from the condition – what are the contributing factors to this?
- What can be done to help secure more funding for the service?
- Dementia is a major problem for society
- Would appreciate if the video clip could be made available to share through social media
- Compliment the Cathaoirleach on organising the fundraising event next May
- Severe lack of funding for services in Co. Roscommon considering over 50% of referrals comes from the HSE
- Need to ensure proper funding is in place for the future of the services

Ms. Noeleen Rudden responded to the issues raised as follows:

- Roscommon has an ageing population with support of a wide family network
- Funding is always welcome
- A voluntary committee had raised funds to build a specialist alzheimers unit in Tulsk but this is now not feasible as the proposed project will not meet with HIQA standards.
- There are other projects currently being worked on at present to expand services

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Leyden

SECONDED by Councillor Byrne

It was **AGREED** to call on Minister for Health to channel funding through the HSE to Western Alzheimers to support services in Roscommon.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Byrne

SECONDED by Councillor Leyden

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council write to the Minister to seek funding for provision of a specialised alzheimers unit in Co. Roscommon.

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Mulligan

SECONDED by Councillor Keogh

That Roscommon County Council calls on the Minister for Health to engage with Roscommon County council and the Alzheimers Association in order to establish an Alzheimers Patient Support Unit in Tulsk, Co. Roscommon as Roscommon has the highest rate of Alzheimers in the country.

102.15. EXTENSION OF STANDING ORDERS:

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Cummins

SECONDED by Councillor Ward

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

103.15. DUBLIN TO GALWAY GREENWAY

Cathaoirleach Paddy Kilduff informed the meeting of the plans for the Dublin to Galway Greenway Project and of the Minister's decision to pause the project from Roscommon – Galway to allow time to reflect on the issues raised locally about the project. He confirmed that strong opposition has been voiced in the Galway area to the development of the Greenway which is in striking contrast with County Roscommon where there is much greater acceptance among landowners.

The members raised the following issues:

- A lot of work had been done by Roscommon County Council on creating a route that suited landowners along the route.

- Very positive tourism project
- A lot of goodwill among farmers in Co. Roscommon
- There would be a huge diversity of scenery added to the project if Co. Roscommon was included
- Compliment the work and commitment of Roscommon County Council given to the project
- Project should be rerouted to include the heritage sites of Clonmacnoise, etc.
- A united approach is required to address the issue to seek funding to continue the greenway project
- Disappointed a solution has not been found

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

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council call on the minister to review his decision to pause development of the Greenway between Athlone and Ballinasloe given the high acceptance rate reported in County Roscommon.

104.15. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from Department of Environment, Community & Local Government re: Local Property Tax funding
2. Letter from Micheál Martin, TD re; Sacred Heart Hospital, Roscommon
3. Letter from Department of Health re: Sacred Heart Hospital, Roscommon
4. Email from Sligo County Council re: Irish League of Credit unions lending for social housing
5. Email from South Dublin County Council re: release of Ibrahim Halawa
6. Email from Clare County Council re: release of Ibrahim Halawa
7. Email from Cork City Council re: downgrading of history as a mandatory subject for Junior Cert.
8. Letter from Donegal County Council re: bus pass to all cancer and other patients travelling to Galway or Dublin
9. Letter from Leitrim County Council re: inclusion of epilepsy as a condition for entitlement to a Free Travel Pass
10. Letter from Leitrim County Council re: request for amendment to the inheritance tax relating to the transfer of land
11. Letter from Clare County Council re: increase the slaughter period from 30 to 36 months

105.15. QUESTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER NO. 135.

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

106.15. NOTICES OF MOTION

23.15 ROAD SIGNAGE

Notice of Motion from Councillor Naughten – 23/15

“That Roscommon County Council ensure directional signage, yield, and stop signs on the approach junctions particularly on local roads are brought up to the required standard throughout County Roscommon.”

The Meetings Administrator read the following reply:-

Roscommon County Council provides regulatory road signage in accordance with the Traffic Signs manual which is the required and only standard in this regard. The Traffic Signs Manual mandates the use of a STOP sign at all road junctions with the National Roads network. For practical reasons, the Traffic Signs Manual does not mandate the use of STOP and Yield signs at other junctions. Notwithstanding the above, STOP and Yield signs are generally provided on the regional and local roads network where it is considered practical to do so.

Councillor Naughten said he was surprised at the lack of provision for signage in the mandate. He stressed that Roscommon County Council should undertake to carry out a review of signage in the county from a safety point of view.

The members raised the following issues:

- Need for signs where bends have been removed on roads
- Request for the inclusion of signage for cul-de-sac roads in the proposal
- Need for ongoing assessment of dangerous bends
- Should be signs at all junctions
- Request for inclusion of road markings in the proposal

24.15. UNFINISHED HOUSING ESTATES

Notice of Motion from Councillor Hopkins – 24/15

“That Roscommon County Council call on the Government to continue to assist with unfinished housing estates in order to progress site resolution plans.”

The Meetings Administrator read the following reply:-

This requires a resolution of the County Council.

Councillor Hopkins stated that many families are living in unfinished housing estates throughout the county with 53 developments identified in a recent survey. She complimented the work of the officials in the Planning department in working with developers to have estates taken in charge but bond money is not always enough to fix the problem.

Councillor Hopkins requested that an update on unfinished housing estates or any submissions made be given at the next plenary meeting.

The members raised the following issues:

- Commend the work of the staff in Roscommon County Council
- Call on the minister to allocate additional funding to address the issue
- More needs to be done

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Keogh

SECONDED by Councillor Doherty

It was **AGREED** to write to the Minister to review S.180 of the Planning and Development Act where 50% of property owners request Roscommon County Council to take in charge their housing estate within 7 years of completion.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Hopkins

SECONDED by Councillor Murphy

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council call on the Government to continue to assist with unfinished housing estates in order to progress site resolution plans.

25.15. HOT DESKS

Notice of Motion from Councillor Leyden – 25/15

“That Roscommon County Council provide new hot desks spaces in Roscommon Town and in towns throughout the county to address the immediate needs of many small businesses that are struggling with poor internet connections and would also benefit from a supportive enterprise environment while also attracting new start ups to set up in County Roscommon and thus generate increased economic activity.”

The Meetings Administrator read the following reply:-

Roscommon County Council supports the provision of hot-desking facilities in collaboration with Westbic on the Racecourse Road, Roscommon. The Council is actively looking at options to provide further hot-desking, incubation and enterprise development facilities in Roscommon Town. The Council is also open to working in a

collaborative manner towards provision of these types of facilities in other areas of the county, where sufficient demand is identified. This is one of the aims identified in the county's Enterprise & Innovation Strategy.

Councillor Orla Leyden welcomed the development and commended Roscommon County Council on their proactive approach to encouraging start-ups and attracting businesses back to Co. Roscommon as many businesses are frustrated by the lack of broadband and online access in the county.

The members raised the following issues:

- Lack of broadband infrastructure
- Over 25,000 houses in Co. Roscommon without broadband
- Potential through LEADER to provide hot-desking facilities in local community centres through Enterprise Development Fund
- Positive development for the county
- Serve to enhance services in Roscommon Town
- Lack of funding from Government is disappointing
- Presentation on broadband is due in January

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

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council will extend an invitation to Christina Blewitt, Regional Business Development Officer, IDA to make presentation to the members.

26.15. RURAL GARDA STATIONS

Notice of Motion from Councillor Ward – 26/15

“That Roscommon County Council call on the Minister for Justice, Ms. Frances Fitzgerald TD, and the Government to reopen the rural Garda Stations in the country due to the increase in crime in rural areas.”

The Meetings Administrator read the following reply:-

This requires a resolution of the County Council.

Councillor Ward stated that 139 Garda stations have been closed in rural Ireland leaving no security measures in place for people. He requested that his motion be circulated to other local authorities.

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

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council call on the Minister for Justice, Ms. Frances Fitzgerald TD, and the Government to reopen the rural Garda Stations in the country due to the increase in crime in rural areas.

27.15. RIVER SUCK DRAINAGE

Notice of Motion from Councillor Connaughton – 27/15

“That Roscommon County Council seeks funding for the complete drainage of the River Suck from Lake O’Flynn to Shannonbridge to prevent flooding of land and buildings in the future.”

The Meetings Administrator read the following reply:-

The initiation of the programme of works proposed in this case would require significant capital investment from Central Government and the notice of motion will require a resolution of the elected members. Roscommon County Council carries out some minor drainage works to designated sections of the River Suck and its tributaries annually within the limited resources available following consultation with

landowners and engineering staff from Galway County Council. However, the funding available to the Council would be totally inadequate to initiate a programme of works as proposed.

Councillor Connaughton stated that the flooding of farm lands is a huge concern for farmers countywide and the problems will escalate if works are not done.

The members raised the following issues:

- Vast areas of land flooded are a huge loss to farmers
- Many studies carried out but no action
- Remedial works needs to be carried out as an entire project
- Cleaning of River Suck needs to be addressed and funding got for basic works

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Connaughton

SECONDED by Councillor Connolly

It was **AGREED** to write to the Minister and OPW to seek funding for drainage works along the River Suck.

28.15. CREDIT UNIONS

Notice of Motion from Councillor Cummins – 28/15

“That Roscommon County Council calls on the Minister for Finance not to sign into law the remaining sections of the Credit Union and Co-operation with the Overseas Regulation Act 2012 until the concerns of the Credit Union sector have been considered and satisfactorily addressed as the proposal place the Credit Union sector at a serious disadvantage vis-a-vis the commercial sector.”

The Meetings Administrator read the following reply:-

This requires a resolution of the County Council.

Councillor Cummins stated that the credit unions are the small person’s bank and would be placed at a great disadvantage should the proposals be put in place. He said that the credit unions are willing to support the SME’s and social housing projects.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Cummins

SECONDED by Councillor Byrne

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council calls on the Minister for Finance not to sign into law the remaining sections of the Credit Union and Co-operation with the Overseas Regulation Act 2012 until the concerns of the Credit Union sector have been considered and satisfactorily addressed as the proposal place the Credit Union sector at a serious disadvantage vis-a-vis the commercial sector.

107.15. COUNCILLORS CONFERENCES

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Murphy

SECONDED by Councillor Keogh

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

Cllr. J. Keogh

Govt. Re-think? On Districts Municipal/Borough/Metropolitan, Whites Hotel, Wexford.

Planning & Development (No.2) Bill 2014, Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.

Building & Control (Amendment) Regulation, Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.

Cllr. R. Doherty	<p>LAMA Autumn Training Seminar, The Lobbying Act, (Implications for Councillors), Hotel Kilkenny, College Road, Kilkenny.</p> <p>AILG Autumn Seminar, Inchydoney, Clonakilty, Co. Cork.</p> <p>Planning Seminar, "The Housing Debate: What Role for Local Government in Rebuilding our Communities?" Maynooth University Campus, Co. Kildare.</p> <p>Govt. Re-think? On Districts Municipal/Borough/Metropolitan ,Whites Hotel, Wexford.</p> <p>The Councillor's Development Plan, "A Reserved Function?", White's Hotel, Wexford.</p> <p>AILG Training (Module 4), Local Authority Finance & Housing, Hudson Bay, Athlone.</p> <p>The Cumann Merriman Summer School 2015, Glór Centre, Ennis Co. Clare.</p> <p>AILG (Module 6) Septic Tanks, Ground Water and Water Pollution, Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe.</p>
Cllr. P. Fitzmaurice	<p>Govt. Re-think? On Districts Municipal/Borough/Metropolitan ,Whites Hotel, Wexford.</p> <p>Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015, The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork.</p>
Cllr. M. Creaton	<p>LAMA Autumn Training Seminar, The Lobbying Act, (Implications for Councillors), Hotel Kilkenny, College Road, Kilkenny.</p>
Cllr. J. Cummins	<p>AILG Autumn Seminar, Inchydoney, Clonakilty, Co. Cork.</p> <p>Building & Control (Amendment) Regulation, Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.</p> <p>AILG Training (Module 5) Roads, Transportation and Safety, Landmark Hotel, Carrick on Shannon.</p> <p>LAMA Autumn Training Seminar, The Lobbying Act, (Implications for Councillors), Hotel Kilkenny, College Road, Kilkenny.</p> <p>AILG (Module 6) Septic Tanks, Ground Water and Water Pollution, Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe</p>
Cllr. O. Leyden	<p>AILG (Module 6) Septic Tanks, Ground Water and Water Pollution, Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe</p> <p>Building & Control (Amendment) Regulation, Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.</p> <p>AILG Training (Module 5) Roads, Transportation and Safety, Landmark Hotel, Carrick on Shannon.</p> <p>LAMA Autumn Training Seminar, The Lobbying Act, (Implications for Councillors), Hotel Kilkenny, College Road, Kilkenny.</p>
Cllr. N. Dineen	<p>Building & Control (Amendment) Regulation, Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.</p> <p>AILG Autumn Seminar, Inchydoney, Clonakilty, Co. Cork.</p> <p>LAMA Autumn Training Seminar, The Lobbying Act, (Implications for Councillors), Hotel Kilkenny, College Road, Kilkenny.</p>
Cllr. P. Kilduff	<p>AILG (Module 6) Septic Tanks, Ground Water and Water Pollution, Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe.</p>

	<p>LAMA Autumn Training Seminar, The Lobbying Act, (Implications for Councillors), Hotel Kilkenny, College Road, Kilkenny.</p> <p>Building & Control (Amendment) Regulation, Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.</p> <p>AILG Autumn Seminar, Inchydoney, Clonakilty, Co. Cork.</p>
Cllr. T. Ward	<p>The Councillor's Development Plan, "A Reserved Function?", White's Hotel, Wexford.</p> <p>LAMA Autumn Training Seminar, The Lobbying Act, (Implications for Councillors), Hotel Kilkenny, College Road, Kilkenny.</p> <p>AILG Training (Module 4), Local Authority Finance & Housing, Hudson Bay, Athlone.</p> <p>Building & Control (Amendment) Regulation, Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.</p> <p>Govt. Re-think? On Districts Municipal/Borough/Metropolitan ,Whites Hotel, Wexford.</p> <p>Planning and Building Regulations, The Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway</p> <p>AILG Autumn Seminar, Inchydoney, Clonakilty, Co. Cork.</p> <p>Planning & Development (No.2) Bill 2014, Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal</p>
Cllr. V. Byrne	<p>AILG Training (Module 4), Local Authority Finance & Housing, Hudson Bay, Athlone.</p> <p>The Councillor's Development Plan, "A Reserved Function?", White's Hotel, Wexford.</p> <p>Govt. Re-think? On Districts Municipal/Borough/Metropolitan ,Whites Hotel, Wexford.</p> <p>AILG Autumn Seminar, Inchydoney, Clonakilty, Co. Cork.</p> <p>LAMA Autumn Training Seminar, The Lobbying Act, (Implications for Councillors), Hotel Kilkenny, College Road, Kilkenny.</p> <p>Building & Control (Amendment) Regulation, Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.</p> <p>Refresh Your Life Seminar, Ashling Hotel, Dublin</p>
Cllr. M. Creaton	<p>AILG (Module 6) Septic Tanks, Ground Water and Water Pollution, Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe.</p> <p>Building & Control (Amendment) Regulation, Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.</p>
Cllr. J. Naughten	<p>LAMA Autumn Training Seminar, The Lobbying Act, (Implications for Councillors), Hotel Kilkenny, College Road, Kilkenny.</p> <p>AILG Autumn Seminar, Inchydoney, Clonakilty, Co. Cork.</p> <p>Building & Control (Amendment) Regulation, Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.</p> <p>AILG Training (Module 5) Roads, Transportation and Safety, Landmark Hotel, Carrick on Shannon.</p> <p>AILG Training (Module 3) Local Community Development LCDC functions, Structures and Supports, Portlaoise.</p>

108.15. VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS were extended to:

Shane Lawless on coming second in World Kickboxing Championships

Roscommon Lions Club and Kiltievan award winners in Pride of Place competition 2015

109.15. VOTES OF SYMPATHY were extended to:

The Dervin family on the death of Brian Dervin
The Ward family on the death of Bríd Ward
The Haughey family, Athleague on the death of Noel Haughey
The Dunning family on the death of Maureen Dunning
The Mulry family of the death of John Mulry
The Walsh family on the death of Paddy Joe Walsh
The Keenehan family of the death of Xavier Keenehan
The Towey family, Strokestown on the death of Teresa Towey
The Lyons family, Scramogue of the death of John Joe Lyons

110.15. AOB

EPA Review & Research on Fracking

Councillor Doherty stated that the EPA has commissioned a study to compare studies on the impacts of fracking in Counties Leitrim, Roscommon and Cavan but there has been no satisfactory response from the EPA on the matter and no statistics have been released.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Doherty

SECONDED by Councillor Leyden

It was **AGREED** to write to the Minister for Energy to request confirmation on the matter of research study and reiterate the position of Roscommon County Council on the matter.

Remembering Past Members

Councillor Leyden requested that as this was the final plenary council meeting to be held in the Council Chamber in the Courthouse that maybe the occasion should be marked by a prayer to remember the people that have passed through the Chamber over the past 116 years.

Minutes of SPC and CPG

Councillor Connaughton requested if the minutes from SPC and CPG meetings could be made available to all members.

Boundary Committee Meeting

Fiona ní Chuinn, Meetings Administrator confirmed a meeting will take place on Friday, 11th December in the Athlone Springs Hotel, Athlone to discuss the boundary review. All members are invited to attend.

LGMA Questionnaire

Fiona ní Chuinn requested members to complete and return LGMA questionnaires.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The foregoing Minutes are
Confirmed and Signed:

Meetings Administrator

Cathaoirleach

Countersigned

QUESTIONS – NOVEMBER, 2015

Question 1 – Councillor Naughten:

Can Roscommon County Council outline how much is outstanding in development charges over 12 months and what portion of these charges it expects to recover?

The Meetings Administrator read the following reply:-

The level of Development Levy debtors outstanding as at 31st December 2014 was €11,890,138, with a bad debt provision of €11,569,159.

As Members are aware the raising of debt is “triggered” by the Commencement Notice. Work may never start, but the debt is shown as due, hence the high bad debt provision.

Work has commenced within the Planning Section to remove overlapping development levies and debts where no development commenced.

€1.4m was collected during 2014 and it is expected the figure for 2015 will be in the region of €1m.