

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COURTHOUSE, ROSCOMMON, ON MONDAY THE 26th JANUARY, 2015 AT 2.15 P.M.

PRESENT Councillor John Cummins, Cathaoirleach **PRESIDED**

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

OFFICIALS: Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive.
Majella Hunt, Director of Services.
Martin Lydon, Head of Finance & Planning
John O'Rourke, A/ Director of Services.
Pat Murtagh, A/Director of Services.
Fiona ní Chuinn, Meetings Administrator.

At the outset of the meeting the Cathaoirleach John Cummins extended a vote of sympathy to the family of the late Eithne Quinn who served as a County Councillor between 1985 and 1999 and also became the first woman to become Mayor of the county in 1994.

Members paid tribute to the late Eithne Quinn and described her as –

- A leader and an outstanding Politician.
- Feisty, firm and fair in her political dealings and a key driver in the Hospital Action Committee.
- A great activist who had done her very best to retain local hospital services.
- A household name because of her association with Roscommon County Hospital and the local Credit Union.
- Proud of her county and its heritage and the Irish Language.
- An inspiration to all independent politician's who served with her.
- A devoted mother, grandmother and great friend

Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive on his own behalf and on behalf of the executive and staff of Roscommon County Council extended deepest sympathies to the Quinn family, especially Fiona and Una, who are members of staff of Roscommon County Council, on their recent sad bereavement.

Fiona on her own behalf and on behalf of the Quinn family thanked the executive and members for their kind words and stated how proud her mother had been to serve the people as a Councillor. There was a minutes silence observed at the Meeting for a silent prayer for the repose of her soul and the meeting adjourned for ten minutes as a mark of respect to the late Ethne Quinn.

Are Dhéis Dé go raibh a h-anam.

01.15. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

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

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Minutes of the Budget Meeting held on 19.11.2014.

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

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 24.11.2014.

02.15. DISPOSAL OF LAND:

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Fitzmaurice
SECONDED by Councillor Connolly

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: 0.105 ha at Ballinagare, Castlerea, Co. Roscommon.

The persons from whom the land was acquired: Joan Devine (as trustee for Raymond Devine, Peter Kelly, William Kelly and Thomas Kelly).

The person to whom the land is to be disposed: Noel Gibbons, Ballinagare, Castlerea .

Consideration: €5,100.00

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

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

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: 0.160 ha at Clooninisclin, Ballinlough, Co. Roscommon.

The persons from whom the land was acquired: Elizabeth Quinn.

The person to whom the land is to be disposed: Pat Murphy.

Consideration: €1,560.00

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

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

- **November, 2014.**
- **December, 2014.**

Members noted the Monthly Management Reports for the months of November and December, 2014.

04.15. RATIFICATION OF SECTORAL NOMINATIONS FOR STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES:

John O'Rourke, A/Director of Services referred the members to the list of sectoral nominations for the Strategic Policy Committees, as set out below, which must be ratified by the members. He confirmed that two additional nominations will be ratified at the March Meeting of the Council:-

Economic Development & Enterprise Support (including Roads & Culture) SPC	
Councillors	Sectoral Nominations
Tony Ward (Chair)	Brendan Allen <i>Business / Commercial</i>
Valerie Byrne	Castlemine Farm, Fourmile House, Co Roscommon
Michael Creaton	
Laurence Fallon	Rebecca Dobson <i>Environmental/Conservation</i>
Maura Hopkins	<i>An Taisce Northwest, Knockmeane, Knockcroghery,</i>
John Keogh	Co. Roscommon.
Paddy Kilduff	
Orla Leyden	Jimmy Murray <i>Agriculture/Farming</i>
Kathleen Shanagher	Ganaveens, Rahara, Co Roscommon
	Breege Callaghan <i>Community/Voluntary</i>
	<i>Castlerea Community Arts Group, Carrowgarve,</i>
	<i>Castlerea, Co Roscommon.</i>
	Mark McGovern <i>Development/Construction</i>
	McGovern Plant Hire Ltd., Maple Drive, Boyle, Co. Roscommon

Housing & Corporate SPC	
Councillors	Sectoral Nominations
John Keogh (Chair)	Sandra Flanagan <i>Trade Union</i>
Ivan Connaughton	Irish Congress of Trade Unions, 32 Parnell St, Dublin 1
Domnick Connolly	Kieran Compton <i>Development/Construction</i>
John Cummins	Pat Compton & Sons Ltd, Newtown, Strokestown, Co Roscommon
Nigel Dineen	Vincent Moran <i>Community/Voluntary</i>
Rachel Doherty	Elphin Tidy Towns, Frenchpark, Co. Roscommon
Maura Hopkins	Una Daly <i>Social Inclusion</i>
Eugene Murphy	Co. Roscommon Traveller Health Programme, Unit 12, Tower B, Roscommon West Business Park, Circular Rd, Roscommon.
Tony Ward	TBC <i>Social Inclusion</i>

Planning SPC	
<p>Councillors</p> <p>Paschal Fitzmaurice (Chair)</p> <p>Valerie Byrne</p> <p>Ivan Connaughton</p> <p>John Cummins</p> <p>Nigel Dineen</p> <p>Rachel Doherty</p> <p>Paddy Kilduff</p> <p>Michael Mulligan</p> <p>John Naughten</p>	<p>Sectoral Nominations</p> <p>Albert Looby, <i>Business / Commercial</i></p> <p><i>AOL Design Ltd. Consulting Engineers</i></p> <p>Tom Connolly <i>Development/Construction</i></p> <p>T. Connolly & Sons Ltd., Athlone Road, Roscommon</p> <p>Eilish Feeley <i>Environmental/Conservation</i></p> <p>Mote Park Conservation Group, Mote Park, Roscommon</p> <p>Tommy Cooney <i>Agriculture/Farming</i></p> <p>Cartron, Ballintubber, Co Roscommon</p> <p><i>TBC Community/Voluntary</i></p>

Environmental & Emergency Services SPC	
<p>Councillors</p> <p>Laurence Fallon (Chair)</p> <p>Michael Creaton</p> <p>Domnick Connolly</p> <p>Paschal Fitzmaurice</p> <p>Orla Leyden</p> <p>Michael Mulligan</p> <p>Eugene Murphy</p> <p>John Naughten</p> <p>Kathleen Shanagher</p>	<p>Sectoral Nominations</p> <p>Louis Martin <i>Agriculture/Farming</i></p> <p>Moyvannion, Kiltoom, Co Roscommon</p> <p>Teresa Keegan <i>Environmental/Conservation</i></p> <p>Croghan Organic Excel Ltd., 22 Acres Hill, Ballinameen, Co. Roscommon.</p> <p>Anthony McCormack, <i>Trade Union</i></p> <p>Irish Congress of Trade Unions, 32 Parnell St, Dublin 1</p> <p>Eoin Browne <i>Business / Commercial</i></p> <p>Capital Water Systems Ltd, Antogher Road, Roscommon</p> <p>Ger Donoghue <i>Community/Voluntary</i></p> <p>Kilglass Gaels, Ruane, Kilglass, Co. Roscommon</p>

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

It was **AGREED** to adopt the List of Sectoral Nominations for the Strategic Policy Committee as circulated to the members.

05.15. ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN – 2015 – 2019:

Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive, informed the members that the Corporate Plan 2015 – 2019 has been prepared so that Roscommon County Council can take advantage of the opportunities presented by the Local Government Reform Programme. The Plan has been developed to position the Council at the heart of public services in the county by leading and driving joined up service delivery. It has been prepared against a background of a changing and challenging environment for Local Government and aims to support political and executive leadership at all levels to realise the vision of an attractive, prosperous, vibrant and inclusive county.

The Plan has been prepared through an extensive consultation process with staff, elected members, LCDC and PPN. There has been significant engagement with staff at all levels and the views of staff have been taken into account in the preparation of the Plan. The vision is simple and inclusive with two high level objectives i.e. leading economic development and improving quality of life and well being. The Plan also focuses on the organisational issues that need to be dealt with to ensure that Roscommon County Council can achieve the objectives set out so as to build a modern and innovative Council through continuous improvement. Monitoring on progress towards achieving the aims of the Plan will be done through the monthly and quarterly reports as well as the Service Indicators.

Members raised the following issues:-

- Important that the objectives of the Corporate Plan are implemented.
- Need to review the Plan in 12 months.
- Need to address the lack of funding for rural counties.
- Morale in the public sector at an all time low.
- Implementation of the Plan will compromise service delivery

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Kilduff

SECONDED by Councillor Leyden

That the Corporate Plan 2015 – 2019 have a reference to wellness in the work place.

John O'Rourke, A/Director of Services, informed the members that discussion on the draft document has been well ventilated and if adopted will be sent to the National Oversight and Audit Commission and the Department. He confirmed that 4 submissions were received on the Draft Plan following public consultation. He referred members to page 32 of the Draft Plan which outlines policies of wellness at work.

Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive, responded that every member of staff had an input into the Corporate Plan and I attended every meeting that took place with every group at every level of staff including indoor and outdoor staff. The challenge now is to implement the Plan to deliver a better Roscommon.

Members raised the following issues with regard to the Municipal Districts:-

- Staff concerns needs to be addressed.
- Clarity needed on staff situation with Irish Water under the Service Level Agreement.
- Staff shortages will leave it impossible to get all the work done around the county.
- Staff morale is at all time low at present.
- Executive left with very difficult decisions as a result of the Local Government Reform Act.
- If an Area Engineer retires will they be replaced?

- No proper liaising with staff to reach a compromise to divert threatened strike action.
- Not informed at the December Municipal District Meeting that there was unrest in the Area Offices?
- Queried when staff are transferred to Irish Water who is going to do their work.
- Boyle Municipal District has the largest road network and it is not possible for one person to take care of all of this – some form of compromise is required.
- Service delivery is being compromised.
- Where is the replacement for the Patching Unit in South Roscommon.
- Discussion on the proposed strike action should have been the first item on the Council Agenda.
- What future have the staff after the 12-year Service Level Agreement expires?
- No sense confining staff to one particular area.
- Concern raised on pension issues.
- Lack of respect shown to staff members on this issue

Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive responded to all the queries raised and informed the members that following the intervention of the Labour Relations Commission, Roscommon County Council, SIPTU and SIPTU/LAPO have accepted the proposal put forward by the Commission to resolve the dispute relating to implementation of the new Municipal District Structures. The proposal includes the establishment of a Change Management Team comprising of Management and Union representatives to oversee the implementation of the new structures from early February, 2015.

The Council would like to acknowledge the assistance of SIPTU and SIPTU/LAPO for their efforts made to resolve the dispute.

He confirmed that there will be no staff reduction under the new structures and staff who will be working in the Water Department are still employees of Roscommon County Council.

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

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Draft Corporate Plan 2014 – 2019 as circulated.

06.15. AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER:

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

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Local Government Audit Committee Charter as circulated.

07.15. 2015 NATIONAL ROAD GRANT ALLOCATIONS:

Pat Murtagh informed the members that Roscommon County Council had received notification of the 2015 National Road Grant allocations of €8,849,352 for National Primary and National Secondary Improvement Schemes and Maintenance Allocations.

Members noted the 2015 National Road Grant Allocations and raised the following issues:-

- When is it expected that work will commence on the N60 at Oran.
- Funding inadequate for the N60.
- Queried if there was figures for the traffic count on the N61 from Knockcroghery to Athlone.
- Right-hand turning lane required at Carrowmurragh.

- Traffic calming measures required at Kiltoom.
- Culverts need to be widened on the motorway.
- Dangerous bend at Ballymurray.
- Pedestrian crossing in Knockcroghery village.
- Gritting should be done outside Schools
- Roads around Roscommon town need to be resurfaced.
- Requested that Area Meetings be held to allow Councillors to have an input before the list of roads for inclusion in the Roads Programme is finalised.
- Welcomed the sum of €500,000 for Ballaghaderreen, however, not enough for slip roads.
- Need to include the old N5 in the Winter Gritting Programme

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Connaughton

SECONDED by Councillor Leyden

That Roscommon County Council have Scrine Hill and the road from the Golf Links to Hannons Hotel included in the Winter Gritting Programme.

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Connolly

SECONDED by Councillor Leyden

That Roscommon County Council have the road from the Community College in Roscommon to the Railway Bridge included in the Winter Gritting Programme.

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Fitzmaurice

SECONDED by Councillor Doherty

That Roscommon County Council consider providing Salt Boxes to Communities for gritting outside schools and dangerous hills.

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Byrne

SECONDED by Councillor Cummins

That Roscommon County Council write to the NRA for funding to upgrade the road North of Tulsk as same is sinking again.

Pat Murtagh, Acting Director of Services, responded to all the queries raised. He stated that the Winter Service Programme was operating at full capacity and was very stretched but that he would liaise with the area office to consider the requests of Councillors. He stated that consideration will also be given to the provision of Salt Boxes at certain locations to facilitate communities to grit areas around school etc. The traffic count is ongoing on the N61.

08.15. RATIFICATION OF MEMBERSHIP OF LCDC:

Pat Murtagh, Acting Director of Services circulated to the members a list of nominees to the Local Community Development Committee as follows:-

ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL			
MEMBERS OF ROSCOMMON LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE January 2015			
Pillar:	Agency / Nominating Body:	Number of Nominees:	Name of Nominee:
Statutory Interests 8			
Local Government	Roscommon County Council Members	3	Cllr Orla Leyden Cllr Laurence Fallon Cllr Eugene Murphy
Local Authority Officials	Roscommon County Council Executive	2	Mr Tommy Ryan CE Ms. Louise Ward, Head of LEO
State Agency	Galway & Roscommon Education & Training Board	1	Mr David Leahy, CEO
State Agency	Department of Social Protection	1	Mr Des Henry, Principal Officer
State Agency	Teagasc	1	Michael Clogher
Non Statutory Interests 9			
Local & Community Development	Roscommon Leader Partnership Company	1	Ms Martina Earley, CEO
Social Inclusion	C&V Forum	1	Ms. Nora Fahy
	PPN	1	Mr. Michael Frain
Community & Voluntary	Roscommon Community Forum	1	Mr. Maurice Gannon
	Roscommon Community Forum	1	Mr. Mike Carty
Environmental Pillar	Environmental Pillar	1	Mr. Alan Moran
Social, Economic & Community Interests	Farming & Agriculture	1	Mr. Donal Green
Social, Economic & Community Interests	Business Representative	1	Mr Benny O'Connell
	Trade Union Rep	1	Mr. John Tansey
Total Number of Members:		17	

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

It was **AGREED** to ratify the membership of the Local Community Development Committee as outlined above

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

It was **AGREED** that the following statement be sent to the Department:-

"The current Leader organisation in County Roscommon is impeded in its function to support the local community with financial assistance for Community and voluntary groups, small enterprises, the unemployed and the farming community. It is the view of the elected members of Roscommon County Council that bureaucracy, red tape, duplication and excessive levels of administration are the offending impediments. The elected members of Roscommon County Council wish to see more of the States limited resources delivered to eligible recipients and far less of the States resources wasted on nonsensical bureaucracy. The application process for funding should be simplified with clear and concise guidelines. The criteria for eligibility should be definitive and unambiguous. Applicants should be able to determine right from the start of the process if they or their proposals are suitable and meet the necessary criteria. The process should be user friendly with prompt decisions because the intended beneficiaries, SME's, Community Groups, the unemployed and the Farming community simply do not have the time for waffle and administration in duplicate and triplicate".

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

That a briefing document be made available at the next Council Meeting outlining what will be the responsibility of the Leader Board.

Members raised the following issues:-

- The new Local Development Programme needs to be simplified.
- Role of the LCDC is confusing.
- Concern raised regarding the powers of the Board.
- Legally LCDC will be the legal body who can make an application to Europe for funding.
- Amalgamation of R.I.D.C. to the LCDC is giving a lot of responsibility to a small group of people.

Pat Murtagh and Tommy Ryan responded to the queries raised and confirmed the following –

- Clarification document will come before the members when the programme is finalised .
- Roscommon County Council will be the Local Action Group (L.A.G.)
- Roscommon County Council and LDC will be aligned together.
- RIDC made a Company decision that it wants to be a strategic partner.
- L.E.C.P. will come before the Council for adoption.

09.15. UPDATE ON CIVIC AMENITY SITES:

Majella Hunt, Director of Services outlined the findings of a review of the opening hours of the Civic Amenity sites in Boyle, Ballaghaderreen, Castlerea and Roscommon which all had their opening hours reduced to a three day week in September, 2014. The visitor numbers to the recycling facilities had fallen by around 9,000 per annum since 2011 and the findings of the three month review did not justify extending the opening hours. Visitor numbers in the last quarter fell by 187 which represented four less visitors per site per week as a result of the reduced

opening hours. The fall off was not significant and did not warrant a reinstatement of the opening hours to a six day week

In addition, the decrease in annual expenditure on the 4 sites was €117,851 with further reductions anticipated in 2015. This will benefit the council in other areas of expenditure such as the cost of cleanup projects of illegal dumping and the enforcement of household waste bye laws.

She referred to the new Connacht-Ulster Draft Regional Waste Management Plan 2015 – 2021 and the proposed Household Waste Regulations which have provision for waste accountability. New regulations due to be introduced this year will require householders to prove through a new registration process how they dispose of waste. We are entering a period of uncertainty in relation to Waste Management and it is imperative that our sites are run efficiently and effectively.

She concluded that the need for a new Civic Amenity centre to serve the people of South Roscommon should be referred to the Strategic Policy Committee for further discussion

Members raised the following issues:-

- Illegal dumping around the county is a disgrace.
- Illegal dumping at Recycling facilities continues to be an issue and cameras should be installed .
- Queried how the 187 people who did not avail of the Civic Amenity facilities dispose of their rubbish.
- Household rubbish is being dumped in public bins around Roscommon town and recycling Banks.
- Householders should be required to show proof of how they dispose of their waste.
- Significant dumping recently at Edmondstown

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

That the closure of Civic Amenity sites in Boyle, Ballaghaderreen, Castlerea and Roscommon for half the week is not acceptable.

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

That Roscommon County Council provide a Civic Amenity centre in South Roscommon to serve the large population base in Monksland and the surrounding hinterland.

Majella Hunt, Director of Services responded to all the queries raised and confirmed that cameras were installed at Civic Amenity centres around the county and that the Council rigorously pursue illegal dumpers through the Courts. She continued that she did not believe that many of the ‘civic minded’ people who use the recycling facilities had been lost through the reduced opening hours. Illegal dumping was a problem because of those who were not ‘civic minded’ and who refused to pay to dispose of their waste. The reduced opening hours offered a much more efficient way to provide a service and the new opening hours were neither unusual nor unique to County Roscommon.

10.15. STUDY OF OUTDOOR RECREATION IN THE WEST – BORDER, MIDLAND & WESTERN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY 2014:

Pat Murtagh outlined briefly the content of the study which covers the context of the study, vision, aims and objectives for the three counties of Galway, Mayo & Roscommon, outlines a number of case studies, sets out the key findings of the study and recommends a set of actions to be undertaken. He stated that it is intended to set up a working group to consider the actions set out that will report to the Economic & Enterprise Development SPC.

Members noted the document and raised the following issues:-

- There is no place in town to park a bicycle.
- New Civic Offices should have Cycle park.
- Opportunity to develop natural play areas.

11.15. COMMEMORATION 2016 - NOMINATIONS TO STEERING COMMITTEE:

Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive, informed the members of the national initiative to commemorate 100 years since the 1916 Rising. He continued that the programme is based around three key principles of Remember, Reflect and Imagine with a number of supporting objectives within those themes. Remembering and respecting the past, reflecting on where we have come from and reimagining the notion of the republic as articulated in the proclamation. Each County has the potential to tell its own story within this programme and can accommodate its own unique programme subjects for consideration. He outlined the need to set up a Committee comprising of one member from each Municipal District and the Cathaoirleach as an ex-officio member. The initiative may form part of a longer commemoration strategy.

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

It was **AGREED** that Councillor Pascal Fitzmaurice be nominated to the Steering Committee for Commemoration 2016.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Mulligan
SECONDED by Councillor Cummins

It was **AGREED** that Councillor Valerie Byrne be nominated to the Steering Committee for Commemoration 2016.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Shanagher
SECONDED by Councillor Dineen

It was **AGREED** that Councillor Laurence Fallon be nominated to the Steering Committee for Commemoration 2016.

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

It was **AGREED** that the Cathaoirleach of the day is an ex-officio member of the Steering Committee for Commemoration 2016.

12.15. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS:

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

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

13.15. LIBRARY SERVICES IN COUNTY ROSCOMMON:

The Cathaoirleach addressed the meeting and informed the members that he had given a commitment to have this item on the Agenda for discussion . He referred in particular to a circular letter issued in May, 2014 referring to management and implementation of our Library services and the strategy contained therein to broaden the role of the Library service which suggested that Library services should include a 100,000 population. He continued that discussions are ongoing at national level with regard to amalgamation of Library services. He confirmed that he had met with the Chief Executive on the matter and two other local authority officials who had confirmed that they want to keep the service at local level and that the document relates in particular to Library headquarters and not Library branches.

Members raised the following issues:-

- Should not underestimate the importance of the Library service.
- Need to carefully think out the merger.
- Libraries in the rural areas are more important than in cities.
- Should not accept this proposal.
- Roscommon has one of the finest Library services in the country.
- We are losing our say in the running of our own county as it looks like Sligo may be the lead.
- Totally opposed to the amalgamation.
- Members should have been informed of this development from management and not from IMPACT.
- A Library should remain as a single entity.
- Geography of rural Ireland has to be considered in such a re amalgamation.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Byrne

SECONDED by Councillor Fitzmaurice

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council issue a letter to the Department stating that the members are not happy with the proposed amalgamation of Library services.

Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive, confirmed that there will be a meeting in Dublin with regard to this issue this week and that there are talks that a new management structure will be in place, however, we will have to see how this develops at national level.

14.15. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Letter dated 3.12.2014 from the Department of Defence re the issue of Post 1994 Contract Soldiers.
2. Letter dated 3.12.2014 from Donegal County Council seeking support for a Motion re a direction to Council Management not to comply with a demand from Irish Water re personal information of Council Tenants.
3. Letter dated 3.12.2014 from the Department of Defence re question of the reinstatement of the 4th Western Brigade.
4. Letter dated 15.12.2014 from the BMW re the preparation of the Northern & Western Regional Planning Guidelines.
5. Letter dated 5.1.2015 from Carlow County Council seeking support for a Motion re legislation in order to regulate shops that give Cash for Gold.
6. Letter dated 5.1.2015 from South Dublin County Council seeking support for a Motion re the provision of a specific exemption to Ireland from domestic water charges.

15.15. NOTICE OF MOTION

13.15. HEDGE CUTTING SEASON:

Notice of Motion from Councillor Naughten – 13/15.

“That Roscommon County Council support a proposal made by IFA and the FCI to extend the current hedge cutting season to the 17th March and allow it to recommence on 15th August, as part of the current review of section 40 of the Wildlife Act.

The Meetings Administrator read the following reply:-

This Notice of Motion requires a Resolution of the Council.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Naughten

SECONDED by Councillor Creaton

It was **AGREED** “That Roscommon County Council support a proposal made by IFA and the FCI to extend the current hedge cutting season to the 17th March and allow it to recommence on 15th August, as part of the current review of section 40 of the Wildlife Act.

16.15. COUNCILLORS CONFERENCES:

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Creaton

SECONDED by Councillor Kilduff

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

17.15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Water in County Roscommon.

Councillor Mulligan referred to a recent article by Maresa Fagan about the quality of the water that is coming through our taps and particularly in his own area of Ballaghaderreen. He was not aware that cryptosporidium tests were inconclusive and that there was lead in the water and requested an update.

Members raised the following issues:-

- What sanctions do we have with Glan Agua Ltd with regard to the major water burst in Roscommon over the week-end.
- Who will compensate the business that had to shut down?
- Why did the alarm not go off when the UV failed?
- Need confirmation that this will not happen again.

Majella Hunt responded to the query raised by Councillor Mulligan and stated that she cannot answer it directly but will revert to him on the matter. She confirmed that Irish Water Consultants are looking at Ballaghaderreen and the Scheme. She referred in particular to EU legislation which changed last year and that the parameters on reportable issues have now changed. She continued that in relation to the water shortage on the Ballinagard Road, Glan Agua Ltd were first notified of the water shortage from the Gallowstown Reservoir at 07:15 on Sunday the 25th of January. The Glan Agua Caretaker attended the site immediately and it was discovered that a UV alarm fault (both UV's) had caused the plant to shut down. The Glan Agua Ltd. operational staff had not received any “fault text messages” from the Ballinagard WTP.

It was subsequently discovered that the modem for sending the fault messages was not operating and this was replaced by Glan Agua Ltd. on the 25th of January at 19:00.

As the alarm text message facility notifies the operational staff of any WTP faults including low reservoir level none of the critical alarms were sent as a result of the defective modem.

As of this morning the 26th of January the reservoir level was at 1.5 metres at 07:15.

Report on the Commission of Economic Development on Rural Ireland:

Councillor Creaton referred to the above report and the proposed zonings within the area. He referred in particular to Knock airport which is at the centre of the surrounding towns. He continued that if successful that this plan would compliment the Town Revitalisation Fund .

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

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council would support the six-town development initiative around the periphery of Ireland west International Airport which is currently being proposed by Lake and Legends Tourism Co-operative with the support of the Western Development Commission The council noted that two of the six towns Ballaghaderreen and Castlerea are part of this proposal.

It was agreed that the resolution would be sent to the Secretary of Lake and Legends Tourism Co-operative and the W.D.C.

Irish Water:

Councillor Keogh raised the issue of Irish Water not responding to queries for nine weeks. He referred in particular to a section of the road which is compromised with works carried out by Irish Water and queried who is responsible for the resurfacing of such roads and the cost involved.

Councillor Keogh to revert to Majella Hunt with the location of the particular road.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The foregoing Minutes are
Confirmed and Signed:

Meetings Administrator

Mayor

Countersigned