

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, ROSCOMMON ON MONDAY THE 27th JUNE, 2016 AT 2.15 P.M.

PRESENT Councillor Tony Ward, Cathaoirleach **PRESIDED**

MEMBERS: Cllr V. Byrne, Cllr I. Connaughton, Cllr M. Creaton, Cllr D. Connolly, Cllr N. Dineen, Cllr R. Doherty, Cllr L. Fallon, Cllr P. Fitzmaurice, Cllr J. Cummins, Cllr J. Keogh, Cllr O. Leyden, Cllr J. Murphy, Cllr J. Naughten, Cllr K. Shanagher, Cllr P. Kilduff, Cllr M. Mulligan, Cllr. L. Callaghan.

OFFICIALS: Mr. Eugene Cummins, Chief Executive
Mr. Martin Lydon, A/Director of Services
Ms. Majella Hunt, Director of Services
Mr. Derek Caldbeck, A/Head of Finance
Ms. Patricia Bohan, Meetings Administrator

The new Cathaoirleach Tony Ward welcomed everyone to the meeting.

72.16. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The meetings administrator referred to item No. 64.16 and confirmed the seconder of the first proposal was Cllr. Fitzmaurice and the seconder of the second proposal was Cllr. Naughten.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Fallon

SECONDED by Councillor Creaton

It was **AGREED** to adopt the minutes of the monthly plenary meeting held on 23.05.2016

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

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

74.16. RURAL WATER MULTI ANNUAL PROGRAMME 2016-2018

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Fallon

SECONDED by Councillor Keogh

It was **AGREED** to accept the rural Water Multi annual Programme 2016 – 2018 as previous circulated.

75.16. RATIFICATION OF SECTORAL NOMINATION FOR STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Fitzmaurice

SECONDED by Councillor Connolly

It was **AGREED** that Gail Murray, Roscommon Leader Partnership (Social Inclusion) be elected to the Housing & Corporate SPC.

76.16 FILLING OF VACANCY ON THE FOLLOW COMMITTEES FOLLOWING ELECTION OF SENATOR MAURA HOPKINS:

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Creaton

SECONDED by Councillor Naughten

It was **AGREED** to approve the appointment of Councillor Liam Callaghan to the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) – voting delegate and permanent delegate to the Standing Policy Council.

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

It was **AGREED** to approve the appointment of Councillor Liam Callaghan to the Rural Water Committee.

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

It was **AGREED** to approve the appointment of Councillor Liam Callaghan to the Joint Policing Committee.

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

It was **AGREED** to approve the appointment of Councillor Liam Callaghan to the Western Inter Rail Committee.

77.16. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Email from Ballina Municipal District re: resolution adopted on powers for municipal districts
2. Letter of Acknowledgement from John Meehan, HSE re: External Review of Roscommon Mental Health Services
3. Letter of Acknowledgement from Dept of Environment, Community and Local Government re: Tenant Purchase Scheme.
4. Letter of Acknowledgement from Department of Health re: National Children's Hospital
5. Letter of Acknowledgement from Anne O'Connor HSE re: External Review of Roscommon Mental Health Services
6. Letter from Waterford City & County Council re: Exclusion of Part V dwellings on Tenant Purchase scheme
7. Letter from Department of Health re: National Children's Hospital
8. Letter from HSE: resolution on external review report of mental health services in Co Roscommon

78.16. NOTICES OF MOTION

03.16 Notice of Motion from Councillor Ward – 03/16

"I am calling on the Government and the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, not to annex any part of South Roscommon into the control of Westmeath County Council, under the boundary review which is taking place at present".

The Meetings Administrator read the following reply:-

This Notice of Motion requires a Resolution of the Council.

- Cathaoirleach Tony Ward thanked fellow Councillors, Chief Executive and staff for help and support to date on Boundary Review. He thanked the people of Roscommon for the 28,000 submissions.
- No clarity until the report was completed and the issue was permanently dealt with.
- Recent reports in relation to the proposed relocation of the Primary Care Centre in Monksland to Co. Westmeath
- Westmeath continue to have an interest in Monksland given recent submissions made to Local Area Plan for Monksland.

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

It was **AGREED** to write to Minister Simon Coveney requesting the boundary review be permanently dealt with.

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

It was **AGREED** to write a letter to HSE West and Mr. Simon Harris, Minister for Health requesting that the Primary Care Centre remain in Monksland and that Roscommon County Council will not allow it to be moved out of South Roscommon.

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

It was **AGREED** that the Athlone Local Electoral Area should have its name changed to the South Roscommon Local Electoral Area to avoid confusion with the Athlone Local Electoral Area in County Westmeath.

09.16 Notice of Motion from Councillor Naughten – 09/16

"That Roscommon County Council ensures adequate funding is provided to carry out verge trimming particularly at junctions throughout County Roscommon".

The Meetings Administrator read the following reply:-

Roscommon County Council are currently spending approximately €15,000 per week on verge trimming. Given the road maintenance requirements for the remainder of the year on pothole repair, winter gritting, etc , this is considered a prudent level of expenditure. It is intended to concentrate on junctions on National and Regional Roads for the next month.

The members raised the following issues:

- This is the single biggest issue that public have reported to members
- €780,000 is a huge amount money being spent annually - Are we spending €15k per week or is this just for summer months?
- A lot of growth at moment and junctions are very dangerous
- Overgrowth on roadsides dangerous for cyclists
- Possibility of getting an extra cutter out would be helpful

Chief Executive Eugene Cummins informed members that verge trimming is not permitted during summer months only at junctions with sight issues and only to give sight distance.

79.16. COUNCILLORS CONFERENCES PAYMENT

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

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

80.16. VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS/SYMPATHY

A VOTE OF SYMPATHY was extended to:

The Harte family, Elphin on the death of Eithna Harte

The Brennan Family, Kiltewan on the death of John Brennan

A VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS was extended to:

The Irish Soccer Team and all the supporters who travelled to France

81.16. APPROVAL OF CIVIC RECEPTION RECIPIENTS

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

It was **AGREED** that the teachers and pupils of Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál Ros Comáin who were crowned All Ireland Champions by winning Féile Drámaíochta with their musical production Rí na Leon are honoured at the forthcoming Civic Reception of Roscommon County Council.

82.16. A.O.B.

ÁRAS AN CHONTAE OFFICIAL OPEN DAY

Councillor Shanagher thanked all staff of Roscommon County Council for organising the hugely successful open day in conjunction with the official opening on 17th June.

ROSCOMMON TIDY TOWNS

Councillor Shanagher informed members that Roscommon were unsuccessful at the recent “Ireland’s Best Kept Towns” Ceremony in Belfast but thanked the staff for all assistance given to Roscommon Tidy Towns Committee during the year but noted that they lost points on grass cutting.

SHANNON BLUEWAY

Councillor Naughten had previously requested a presentation from Waterways Ireland. Martin Lydon, Director of Services will speak to the Upper Shannon Erne Future Economy Co-Ordinator, Sheena O’Dowd and the Cathaoirleach to organise a presentation on the Shannon Blueway.

FLOODING AT CURRAGHROE

Cllr Connolly asked if the Council is satisfied that all planning regulations were followed by Coillte in relation to the development that’s ongoing on Sliabh Bán and queried if any study had been carried out in relation to the events of the 15th June where a number of houses were flooded in Curraghroe and surrounding areas.

Members also raised the following concerns:

- Is there a correlation between events of 15th June and the development of Sliabh Ban Windfarm?
- Did the tree clearance contribute to the flooding?
- Funding allocated to upgrading of drainage needs to be increased

Martin Lydon, Director of Services responded as follows:

On Wednesday 15th June 2016 unprecedented volumes of rainfall were experienced in the vicinity of Sliabh Bán mountain. On 22nd June a Council engineer visited Sliabh Bán and found that there was no evidence of damage or soil erosion on the site. A stream had been cleaned by Coillte and it was found that there was overgrown shrubbery on adjoining lands. Overall it is a well managed and monitored site, constructed to a good standard. Between the hours of 5pm and 8pm, 89.2mm of rain fell in the area. This is 83% of the highest recorded monthly rainfall and 50% of highest monthly rainfall in 1 hour. This is a 1 in 250 year event (Met Eireann). This is historical rainfall and could not be foreseen. It is totally unnecessary to suspend any works. I have asked Coillte for a copy of their response to events on that day. We are in regular contact with Coillte and have nothing further to add at this time.

Chief Executive, Eugene Cummins responded as follows:

I want to make it 100% clear that Roscommon County Council Planning Department has no issue with the ongoing development on Sliabh Bán. Flooding was the result of high intensity rainfall that happened in a very short time that was outside of people’s control. We will not be seeking an independent assessment of flooding to be carried out. There is no evidence that removal of trees caused flooding or added to events of that day. Expenditure on drainage in general needs to be improved, roadside drainage, land drainage etc. The diversion of funds is allowable if you want to increase expenditure on drainage. We will be seeking additional funds to deal with issues on flooding in the County e.g. Loughfunshinagh

83.16. EXTENSION OF STANDING ORDERS:

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Cummins
SECONDED by Councillor Keogh
It was **AGREED** to extend Standing Orders to the close of business.

BREXIT – Reinstate 4th Western Brigade

Cllr Connaughton is calling on the government to reinstate the 4th Western Brigade at Custume Barracks, Athlone. If border needs to be patrolled, then Athlone is geographically best positioned to do so.

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

It was **AGREED** that a letter be sent to Mr. Enda Kenny, Taoiseach and Minister of Defence requesting the reinstatement of the 4th Western Brigade at Custume Barracks, Athlone.

BROADBAND

Councillor Dineen welcomed high speed broadband to Ballintubber which will be connected on Wednesday next and anyone within a 1km radius of Ballintubber will get connected.

LIBRARY SERVICES

Councillor Kilduff is concerned that Roscommon Library will become a shared service and requested the post of County Librarian to be filled immediately.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Monday 25th July 2016.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The foregoing Minutes are
Confirmed and Signed:

Meetings Administrator

Cathaoirleach

Countersigned