

MINUTES OF ROSCOMMON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COURTHOUSE, ROSCOMMON ON MONDAY THE 8TH DECEMBER, 2014. AT 11.30 A.M.

PRESENT: Councillor Pascal Fitzmaurice, Cathaoirleach **PRESIDED**

MEMBERS: M. Creaton, N. Dineen, O. Leyden, K. Shanagher,

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Councillor D. Connolly.

OFFICIALS: John O'Rourke, A/Director of Services.
Fiona ni Chuinn, Meetings Administrator.

16.14. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

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

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Minutes of the Municipal District Meeting held on 6.10.2014

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

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Minutes of the Special Municipal District Meeting held on 18.11.2014.

17.14. VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS were extended to:

The Tidy Towns groups in the area who won awards in the National Tidy Towns Competition -

- Roscommon Town on winning a Bronze medal.
- Ballintubber on being Commended.
- Ballyleague on their Endeavour Award.

18.14. A.O.B:

Municipal Districts – Update – December, 2014.

John O'Rourke circulated information updating the elected members on the new Municipal Districts and Water Districts as previously outlined to the elected members as being implemented with effect from the 9th January, 2015. He continued that as previously notified there will be an Engineering, Administrative and Clerical presence in all of the 6 existing areas. The three Municipal District Offices and the 3 Water District Offices are located as follows:-

Municipal District Offices:

- Athlone (Monksland) covering the Athlone Operational Area – Senior Executive Engineer, Diarmuid MacDonncha.
- Roscommon covering the Roscommon and Castlerea Operational Areas – Senior Executive Engineer, Michael Conlon.
- Boyle covering the Boyle, Ballaghaderreen and Strokestown Operational Areas – Senior Executive Engineer, Bernard Murray.

Water District Offices

- Roscommon covering the Athlone and Roscommon Water Areas – Senior Executive Engineer, Ivor Kilcline.
- Strokestown covering Strokestown and Castlerea Water Areas – Senior Executive Engineer, Frank Flanagan.
- Ballaghaderreen covering the Ballaghaderreen and Boyle Water Areas – Senior Executive Engineer, Michael O’Boyle.

The existing Castlerea Office will serve both the Castlerea Operational Area and the Castlerea Water Area.

General Operatives, Related Grades, Craftworkers and Water and Sewerage Caretakers have been aligned to the new Districts.

There has been no reduction in staffing levels as a result of the alignment and services to the public will be maintained.

Implementation of the new arrangements will be subject to review on an ongoing basis.

Members raised the following issues:-

- Queried if there will be a re-alignment of staff from the Ballaghaderreen Area Office to Roscommon.
- Need for Area Engineers at the Municipal Districts Meetings.
- Not possible for one Area Engineer to cover the vast area allocated to them now.
- Queried how the same level of service can be delivered with reduced staff levels.
- Have we enough staff to carry out the necessary duties that are required at present?
- Staff are anxious at being transferred to other areas.
- Will the Senior Engineer be based in Castlerea or Roscommon?
- Impossible for Councillors to meet with Engineers under the new system.
- Can there be a review carried out in a number of months to see if this is working?
- Is the Roscommon Office serving the Roscommon operational area and Roscommon Water area.
- Will staff assigned to water be able to carry out any other area duties.
- System makes no sense geographically.

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

That the Senior Engineer and Assistant Engineer in charge of water come to the April meeting to give an update to the members on how the new Municipal District areas are working.

John O'Rourke responded to the queries raised and stressed that there will be no reduction in staffing levels as a result of the realignment and services to the public will be maintained. He continued that it is intended that the Senior Executive Engineer of the Municipal District will attend all Municipal District meetings and confirmed that where problems became apparent solutions will be sought.

Irish Water

John O'Rourke, Acting Director of Services informed the members that personnel from Irish Water will be available for consultation prior to the Council Meeting on the 26th January, 2015 between 12.15 p.m and 2.15 p.m. The first 90 minutes of that time will be made available as individual slots and members will be contacted directly by Irish Water regarding booking for the consultation. The period from 1.45 p.m. to 2.15 p.m. will be set aside on a 'first come, first served basis'. Two meeting rooms have been allocated on the first floor of the Courthouse for these clinics and members should proceed to the one indicated at the time of booking.

Pedestrian Crossing:

Councillor Leyden raised the issue of the need for a footpath and pedestrian crossing at the Convent Primary School. She stated that Eugene Dwyer and Greg O'Donnell had a look to see what can be done in terms of design or redesign at this location.

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

That a detailed road design plan be drawn up for the area and funding for same to be allocated from development contributions.

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

That funding for improvement works at this location should be incorporated into the Capital Cost of the Civic Headquarters.

Open Drain at Ballyleague:

Members requested an up date on when work is likely to be carried out at this location as funding has been made available by the NRA.

Japanese Knotweed:

Councillor Fitzmaurice raised the issue of the Japanese Knotweed and the need to get the Department on board to be proactive on this issue as there is no national policy on this issue. He requested a report on the matter for the March meeting of the Council.

Miscellaneous Issues:

Members raised the following issues:-

- Signage very poor at Lisnamult (Back of the Railway Station) – no proper markings whether it is 'Yield' or 'Stop' and this needs to be addressed
- Signs on the Circular Road not working and lights hanging out of their sockets.
- Yellow markings at Super Value very faded.

- No lighting or footpaths on the Sli na Slante road and this needs to be reviewed.
- Road surface in Lanesboro Street very poor.
- Bad accident at Rathmoyle Cross recently and immediate action is required at this location.
- Flash flooding on Laragh Bridge needs to be addressed.
- Flooding of the Turlough in Castleplunkett needs to be addressed.
- Need for a Pedestrian Crossing in the vicinity of Cahill's Supervalue in Castlerea.
- Need to review the speed limit in the town of Castlerea.
- Need for a pedestrian crossing from Dunne's Stores to link up with the rest of the Town.
- Road surface in Roscommon Town very poor.
- Queried when work on the Bridge on the Ballinagard Road will be completed.

Members thanked the Council Outdoor Staff, Tidy Towns, Fas, and the Tus workers for their support throughout the year.

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Dineen

SECONDED by Councillor Fitzmaurice

That emergency signage be put in place at Rathmoyle Cross in the interest of public safety.

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Dineen

SECONDED by Councillor Fitzmaurice

That the road from Castlerea to Ballinagare be included in the Winter Gritting Programme

John O'Rourke responded to all the issues raised

- Recent information to hand suggests that the Corporate Headquarters will not generate more traffic and no funding will be available from the Civic Offices contract for a pedestrian crossing.
- Signage at Rathmoyle is subject to funding.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The foregoing Minutes are
Confirmed and Signed:

Meetings Administrator

Cathaoirleach

Countersigned