

**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL  
IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, ROSCOMMON  
ON Monday, 27th November, 2017 AT 2.15 pm.**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Orla Leyden, Cathaoirleach **PRESIDED**

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

**OFFICIALS:** Eugene Cummins, Chief Executive  
Derek Caldbeck, A/Director of Services  
Majella Hunt, Director of Services  
Cait Kenny, Assistant Staff Officer  
Patricia Bohan, Meetings Administrator

**Apologies:**

**159.17 ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

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

It was **AGREED** to adopt the minutes of the Plenary Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2017

**160.17 MATTERS ARISING**

Cllr. Callaghan acknowledged tributes paid by Members at the last meeting in respect of the passing of his late brother Gerry Callaghan. He said their kind thoughts and tributes meant so much to the family. He also acknowledged the Chief Executive and staff of Roscommon County Council for their presence and condolences. Finally he thanked the Communities of Strokestown and Tulsk for their community spirit at this sad time.

**161.17 MANAGEMENT REPORT**

Members noted the Management Report for October 2017.

**162.17 DISPOSAL OF LAND - ENTERPRISE**

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

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:** 0.4963 at Elphin townland, Elphin, Co Roscommon.

**The persons from whom the land was acquired:** Irish Land Commission

**The person to whom the land is to be disposed:** Roschem Products Ltd., Windmill Road, Elphin, Co. Roscommon  
**Consideration:** €30,000 plus VAT

### **163.17 DISPOSAL OF DERELICT RURAL HOUSES - HOUSING**

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

It was **AGREED** that the Council consent to the disposal of Derelict Rural House 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 Derelict Rural House which the County Council proposes to dispose of:-

**The land:** Circa 0.035 Ha in the Townland of Carrowbaun, in the Barony of Castlereagh  
**The persons from whom the land was acquired:** Western Health Board, Merlin Park, Galway  
**The person to whom the land is to be disposed:** Thomas & William Kelly, Kingsland, Boyle  
**Consideration:** €5,500

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

It was **AGREED** that the Council consent to the disposal of Derelict Rural House 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 Derelict Rural House which the County Council proposes to dispose of:-

**The land:** 0.20 Ha in the Townland of Carrowgarve, in the Barony of Fenchpark, Castlerea  
**The persons from whom the land was acquired:** Joseph Ward, Carrowgarve, Tibohine, Castlerea, Co. Roscommon  
**The person to whom the land is to be disposed:** Linda Joyce, Willsbrook, Castlerea, Co. Roscommon  
**Consideration:** €17,550

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

It was **AGREED** that the Council consent to the disposal of Derelict Rural House 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 Derelict Rural House which the County Council proposes to dispose of:-

**The land:** 0.5770 Ha in the Townland of Corskeagh and Barony of Frenchpark  
**The persons from whom the land was acquired:** Doris Greenwood, Corskeagh, Frenchpark  
**The person to whom the land is to be disposed:** Thomas & William Kelly, Kingsland, Boyle  
**Consideration:** €38,000

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

It was **AGREED** that the Council consent to the disposal of Derelict Rural House 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 Derelict Rural House which the County Council proposes to dispose of:-

**The land:** 0.15 Ha in the Townland of Grangebeg in the Barony of Boyle

**The persons from whom the land was acquired:** John & Kate Conneely (nee Hawkings)

**The person to whom the land is to be disposed:** Michael Cunningham & Helena Casey, 5 Phoenix House, Boyle.

**Consideration:** €22,500

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Cummins

**SECONDED** by Councillor Byrne

It was **AGREED** that the Council consent to the disposal of Derelict Rural House 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 Derelict Rural House which the County Council proposes to dispose of:-

**The land:** 0.28 Ha in the Townland of Gubbarudda in the Barony of Boyle

**The persons from whom the land was acquired:** Owen Duignan, Gubbarudda, Arigna

**The person to whom the land is to be disposed:** Thomas & William Kelly

**Consideration:** €16,500

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor

**SECONDED** by Councillor Dineen

It was **AGREED** that the Council consent to the disposal of Derelict Rural House 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 Derelict Rural House which the County Council proposes to dispose of:-

**The land:** 0.43 Ha in the Townland of Kilmurray in the Barony of Castlereagh, Castleplunkett

**The persons from whom the land was acquired:** Donal O'Rourke V.S., Castlereagh

**The person to whom the land is to be disposed:** John & Annette Donlon, Keelogue, Creggs

**Consideration:** €20,600

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Dineen

**SECONDED** by Councillor Connolly

It was **AGREED** that the Council consent to the disposal of Derelict Rural House 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 Derelict Rural House which the County Council proposes to dispose of:-

**The land:** 0.13 Ha in the Townland of Lisagallon in the barony of Athlone North, Cloverhill

**The persons from whom the land was acquired:** Brian & Eileen Kelly, Lisagallon, Cloverhill

**The person to whom the land is to be disposed:** Thomas & William Kelly, Kingsland, Boyle

**Consideration:** €22,000

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Fitzmaurice

**SECONDED** by Councillor Creaton

It was **AGREED** that the Council consent to the disposal of Derelict Rural House 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 Derelict Rural House which the County Council proposes to dispose of:-

**The land:** Circa 0.22 Ha in the Townland of Longford upper in the Barony of Castlereagh

**The persons from whom the land was acquired:** Ingrid Chadwick, Longford Upper, Castlereagh

**The person to whom the land is to be disposed:** Desmond & Christina Egan, Longford Upper, Castlereagh

**Consideration:** €36,500

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Cummins

**SECONDED** by Councillor Byrne

It was **AGREED** that the Council consent to the disposal of Derelict Rural House 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 Derelict Rural House which the County Council proposes to dispose of:-

**The land:** 0.42 Ha in the Townland of Srabra in the Barony of Boyle

**The persons from whom the land was acquired:** Charles McDermott, Srabra, Arigna

**The person to whom the land is to be disposed:** P McManus Construction Building Contractors, Carrack Na Brack, Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim

**Consideration:** €21,000

#### **164.17 DECLARATION OF PUBLIC ROAD**

Approval was sought from Members to have the road at the following location declared to be a public road in accordance with Section 11 (2) (b) of the Roads Act 1993 and Roads Regulations 1994, Part 2.

- Road located at Carrowmore, Hillstreet, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Roscommon

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Byrne

**SECONDED** by Councillor Callaghan

It was **AGREED** that road located at Carrowmore, Hillstreet, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Roscommon be declared a public road.

#### **165.17 PRESENTATION ON ROSCOMMON MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES REPORT**

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Leyden welcomed Mr. Tony Canavan, Chief Operations Officer, HSE West to the meeting to inform the members regarding the recently published 'Roscommon Mental Health Services Report'. Mr. Canavan stated that he was pleased to attend the meeting and outlined his area of responsibility which included all health services in the Roscommon, Mayo Galway Area, including mental health services, outside the four main hospitals. He said that he would outline the steps taken to compile the report, give an update on the recommendations in the report and address questions and comments from the members.

- Work on the report commenced in August 2015, completed in July 2017 and published in September
- The review team consisted of three members, all outside HSE and this jurisdiction
- The review is very extensive, interviewed almost sixty staff, visited a number of sites, reviewed outpatient records etc. and invited public submissions from service users.
- There are twenty-seven recommendations made in the report covering a wide range of issues
- The report identified gaps in the services, the need for mentoring of senior staff, the restructuring of relationships amongst staff, the development of a media strategy, performance management for all staff. The focus is on primarily on nursing grades and the gaps identified include the

development of a strategic plan, engagement with staff and clinical and professional supervision and training re the importance of complaints processes, and a review of day care services

- The report does not make for good reading
- There have been three further meetings since the publication in September
- An Action Plan, based on the recommendations in the report will be completed by the year end. Since the review commenced some recommendations have been acted on to some extent
- The report is an opportunity to draw a line in the sand and move forward to progress the mental health services.

The Cathaoirleach then outlined extracts from the minutes of the Public Meeting held in Roscommon Town last week that was chaired by Dr. Madeline O'Dalaigh:

- Need to restore confidence in the Mental Health Sector
- Concern that three senior staff are still on the implementation team – imperative that people believe in change management
- Who made the decision to return the €17.6m that was budgeted for Mental Health services in the county and did those who did benefit from this in some way either by promotion of bonuses? This money should be returned with interest.
- There was a call for an independent review at the meeting
- When with the Implementation team be up and running?

The members then spoke and raised a number of questions:

- Disturbing to hear that staff are afraid to speak out.
- What number of anonymous complaints have been received and are being investigated?
- Has anyone been held accountable for what is in the report?
- Concern that some senior managers did not engage in the process.
- No mention of the patient in the report.
- A fuller investigation is needed and how will this be done.
- Concern that there is currently no action plan in place and what will be in the action plan for Roscommon?
- Are managers/staff being bullied in Roscommon – what is going on? There appears to be staff issues and real hostility – can this be addressed and relationships rebuilt so everyone can work together.
- Important that this briefing took place today at the invitation of the three members of the HSE forum to put all other council members in the picture.
- Previously there was a cut from €30 pw to €20 pw for the service users weekly allowance.
- If the Budget is set for the year, how can money not be spent and it must have an impact on staff i.e. are there adequate staff, are the privacy needs of the patients being looked after?
- When will the €17.6m be returned to the service?
- Why the need for a media strategy – if the service is working it is necessary?
- What stage is the team building at?
- Problems with the Mental Health Services for years – time now for immediate action
- When the Council's three HSE forum reps ask questions, they often do not receive answers – can there be a commitment to get a system that replies are properly given out?
- All of the staff working in Mental Health services are aware that the service is being run down and everyone is astonished that money was returned.
- Most service users are vulnerable and unable to talk for themselves.
- Reservations that staff who may not have cooperated with the review being on the implementation team.

- Do you accept the report and its findings, how are staff to be protected? Have there been any protected disclosures and were staff rewarded for sending back money
- St Patricks Mental Health Services in Castlerea.
- HSE should be concerned about the mental health of their own staff.
- Accommodation in Cloonbrackna and Galway Road in Roscommon Town – are the users being consulted?
- Update on S.O.P. to agree circulation of governance meetings to all relevant staff in the organisation
- How is the Action Plan progressing?
- These services have complex problems and at present it's hard to recommend mental health service to any vulnerable person in Roscommon
- There has to be representatives of front line staff and patient's representatives on the Implementation Group
- There is a need for an update in six months time to the members again on progress
- What is the plan for the Rosalee Unit and Teach de hÍde and Regari College in Roscommon?

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Leyden

**SECONDED** by Cllr. Byrne

It was **AGREED** that there should be a full independent investigation on how the mental health services were run down and why, there is full accountability for the return of the €17.6m and a time frame for the Action Plan

Mr. Canavan replied to the issues raised as follows:

- With regard to the issue of finance and the figure of €17.6m that was returned during the period 2012-2013 and 2014 it is important to note that the review team stated that the money, had it not been returned, would have been used to move the mental health services further along the road for 'Vision for Change'. As the budget was managed as one for Galway and Roscommon the €17.6m refers to both counties and the majority of the money would have been in respect of County Galway. There have been additional resources put into Roscommon from 2015 to 2017. All mental health services in the three counties need further investment.
- The report in its entirety has been accepted by the HSE.
- The review was carried out because of the care provided to individual patients, and so the report is grounded in patient care.
- There has been progress in relation to involving service users as they are now represented on the implementation team.
- The Implementation group was set up at the end of August and consist of senior management chaired by Mr. Canavan. No staff were initially included but will be including frontline staff following the next meeting. There will be independent oversight of the workings of the group and agreement of the Action Plan.
- There will be accountability for senior management.
- The HSE (Mr. Canavan) met with Oireachtas members and will meet again in the New Year
- Staff will be consulted regarding the plan. Rebuilding human relationships is complex
- There is need to look at the realignment of the services as they currently exist and this will include the input of all staff. Increasing services is not just about money and money can be spent better.
- There is currently no plan, but it is being developed with staff and users and there has been considerable progress and is expected to be ready by early 2018
- Progress on other aspects include:

- Establishment of a forum for engagement of unions of all the services in the three counties with their first meeting this week.
- A provider has been engaged who will work with individual teams – team building
- Providing structures and policies
- All senior managers to be available on the ground in their different areas of responsibility

Further questions/concerns/issues were raised by the members:

- Grave concern that, at this moment in time, there is no plan for Roscommon Mental Health Services
- There needs to be one to one contact between staff and patients – not emails
- How many members of staff, if any made protected disclosures?
- What are the number of anonymous complaints?
- Is there a person approved to look after day-care centres in the West?
- What training has been undertaken by senior staff? Have the senior staff have the right qualifications? Did the Director of Mental Health Services meet with the staff since the report issued?
- The minutes of HSE governance meetings should be circulated
- Acknowledge the good services that are in the county should the public require them.
- Can Mr. Canavan return in June 2018 to give the members a progress report?
- Will the €10 p.w. cut from the service users be restored – this cut did not take place in Galway or Mayo.
- What is the timescale for the implementation of the twenty-seven recommendations?
- Has the breakdown of the €17.6m been analysed?

Mr. Canavan replied as follows:

- Working relationships are the most difficult challenge and least certain of success
- A reply to the issue of the €10 cut for service users will be given at the HSE forum meeting and it will be reviewed in New Year
- No information on protected disclosures as they are made to a specific nominated person only – robust legislative requirements in place to protect the person making disclosure.
- Not aware of how many anonymous complaints are being dealt with but only receive a small number compared to those that are signed and they are dealt with.
- No one currently assigned to oversee Provision of Day Care services but this will continue to be worked on with the members and reviewed as it is also a political issue. There are better models of day care delivery that can be realigned in Roscommon
- HSE previously starved of budget for training but the resources will be found to undertake training in Roscommon as it is an immediate issue.
- SOP for Minutes – there is a clear procedure as to who is at meetings, their purpose etc. There should be a clear process about how decisions are communicated throughout the organisation to staff who should be kept informed.
- A lot of good practice taking place that should be encouraged and highlighted, and if not it will fall away.
- Request to return to plenary meeting will be given positive consideration although there is no direct line of governance to Roscommon Co Co, the place for discussion of issues is at the Regional Health Forum. However the issue being discussed today warrants attendance of Mr. Canavan and he has no objection to returning in six months time.

- About half of the 27 recommendations are started and difficult to say when they will be completed but some will take more than a year at least. There a 'A Vision for mange' which is the National Strategy but no specific plan for Roscommon – there needs to be a more specific detailed plan for the area that has shorter timeframes for actions within the overall strategy.

The Cathaoirleach asked Mr. Canavan to forward breakdown regarding the €17.6m that was previously discussed and the detail of the extra expenditure from 2015 to 2017 to the Meetings Administrator and he agreed to do so.

She welcomed his commitment to return to a meeting mid 2018 but sought further clarification on who returned the money. Mr. Canavan stated that there was no analysis on the breakdown of the money but it would have been 75% Galway and 25% Roscommon. He did not think that it would have been a decision made by any one person and no bonus or promotion resulted from this action.

After some discussion it was agreed that Mr. Canavan be invited to attend a Meeting in June next year for an update on progress and in the meantime any issues should be communicated to the three members of the Regional Health forum

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Leyden

**SECONDED** by Cllr. Fitzmaurice

It was **AGREED** that Members of the HSE forum give feedback to members at least every second month between now and June.

The Chief Executive thanked Mr. Canavan to attending and for the honest views and facts presented to the members and emphasised the importance of everyone involved in the report and is liking forward to receiving updates.

Cllr. Ward reminded members that any questions they wish to be addresses at the HSE forum should be sent to him or his two colleagues on the committee.

#### **166.17 ADOPTION OF ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER**

Derek Caldbeck, A/Head of Finance informed the members that following the adoption of the Local Government Charter in 2014 as part of the new Local Government Act, a new item at Section 10 is to be included relating to Protected Disclosures Policy and Procedures. The Audit Committee now has an approved protocol which provides for the referral of a disclosure to the Designated Officer to receive disclosures within the Council.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Cummins

**SECONDED** by Councillor Kilduff

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Roscommon County Council Audit Committee Charter.

#### **167.17 APPROVAL OF MAKING OF LOAN PURSUANT TO SECTION 6 OF HOUSING (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1992**

Derek Caldbeck A/Head of Finance sought the approval of the members to make a loan in pursuant of Section 6 of the Housing (Miscellaneous and Provisions) Act 1992 available to:

- Roscara Housing Association for the purchase of one dwelling for Social Housing accommodation for disabled persons for €270,300.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Naughten

**SECONDED** by Councillor Keogh

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council approves the raising of a loan of €270,300 for the



purchase of one dwelling house at 1 Millbrook, Bealnamullia, Athlone for the purpose of providing three units of Social Housing Accommodation for Disabled Persons.

#### **168.17 SECTION 85 AGREEMENT - HOUSING**

Derek Caldbeck A/Head of Finance sought approval from the Members to appoint Cork County Council to carry out the functions on behalf of Local Authorities in respect of PPP Social Housing (Bundle 2) i.e. 53 No. Houses at The Walk, Roscommon town.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Creaton

**SECONDED** by Councillor Dineen

It is hereby **RESOLVED** under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended to enter into Agreements with the Agreement with Clare County Council, Galway County Council, Kildare County Council, Cork County Council and Waterford City & County Council whereby Cork County Council will carry out all of the functions of these local authorities in respect of the Social Housing PPP (Bundle2) Programme with the following exceptions:

- the nomination of tenants to be housed in the social housing development in the relevant local authority's functional area
- The calculation of the tenants' differential rent,
- The role of landlord under the tenancy agreements and
- Obtaining the necessary planning approvals and undertaking the public consultation procedures in respect of the development as required under the Planning and Development Acts and Regulations'

#### **169.17 CORRESPONDENCE**

- Letter from Sligo County Council regarding extra funding for Alzheimers Society.
- Letter of acknowledgement from Sliabh Bawn Power in relation to logging of timber.
- Letter from Minister John Paul Phelan, Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in relation to Athlone Boundary Report.
- Letter of acknowledgement from Mr Jim Daly TD, Minister for Mental Health and Older People regarding resolution on Home Care Packages.
- Letter of acknowledgement from Mr Jim Daly TD, Minister for Mental Health and Older People regarding resolution on Home Care Hours.
- Letter from Tony Canavan, HSE regarding Home Care Hours and Home Care Packages.
- Letter from Mr. Tony O'Brien, Director General of Health Service regarding the resolution from member in relation to waiting list for home help hours.
- Letter of acknowledgement from Mr. Denis Naughten, Minister for Communications, Climate Action & Environment regarding a number of resolutions from Members.
- Letter from Tipperary County Council regarding resolution to reintroduce the Urban Road Minor Improvement Grant.
- Letter from Wexford County Council regarding resolution on rural post offices.
- Letter from Mr. Charles Flanagan TD, Minister for Justice and Equality regarding the selection process for recruitment and graduation to An Garda Síochána.
- Letter of Acknowledgement from Policing Authority.

- Letter from Mr. Tony Canavan regarding Mental Health Services in Co. Roscommon.
- Letter from Monaghan County Council regarding resolution on SIPTU Big Star/Early Years Campaign.
- Letter from Ballina Municipal district regarding resolution on the spread of ragwort.
- Letter from HSE regarding Resolution passed in relation to Home Help Services.

#### **170.17 NOTICE OF MOTION**

##### **19.17. Water Charges**

###### **Notice of Motion from Councillor Ward - 19/17**

I am calling on the Government and the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Mr. Eoghan Murphy TD, and Irish Water to exempt all water charges to Sporting and Community Amenities, and to all places of Worship in the Country.

###### **REPLY:**

This requires a resolution of the Council.

The members spoke in favour of the motion and felt it was timely and would be beneficial in particular to voluntary groups.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Ward

**SECONDED** by Councillor Keogh

It was **AGREED** to write to Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Mr. Eoghan Murphy TD, and Irish Water to exempt all water charges to Sporting and Community amenities, and to all places of Worship in the Country.

#### **171.17 COUNCILLORS CONFERENCES - PAYMENT/ATTENDANCE**

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Kilduff

**SECONDED** by Councillor Murphy

It was **AGREED** to adopt the list of payments for attendance at conferences and training as circulated to the members.

#### **172.17 VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS AND SYMPATHY**

Votes of Congratulations were extended to:

- Ballyleague / Lanesboro Group who were awarded a Special Merit Award at the Bank of Ireland Enterprise Town Awards.

#### **173.17 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

##### **National Roads 2018 Current Expenditure Allocations**

Cllr Kilduff referred to letter circulated from TII in relation to cuts in the National Road Ordinary Maintenance Allocations, which he described as unacceptable. He noted that a reduction of up to 30% in our budget is worrying and queried how we are going to finance this. All members expressed their dissatisfaction with the proposed reduction and queried what impact the decrease of 17% minimum would

have on the 2018 Budget, passed by Resolution earlier this month and asked for Head of Finance to clarify the situation.

Derek Caldbeck clarified that when we passed our budget it was based on last year's road allocations. He said we do not have sight of money available to us in 2018 when budgets are being prepared. All details will be available in March when members are deciding on the Roads Programme and expenditure will have to be adjusted taking account of what funds will be available.

The C.E. noted that the reduction relates to the Ordinary Maintenance element only and advised Members that the budget takes account of unknown elements and is hopeful that we get more funding in other allocations from TII. We won't know final figures until after Christmas. This is the nature of how we get our funding, it is worrying and advised that he has drafted a letter to Department and a strong letter from Members may help to influence this as well.

The Members made the following comments:

- Concern of how we can finance this reduction
- These cuts are on top of ten years of austerity cuts.
- Did TII not request a three year plan and is that plan not submitted?
- People are tax compliant and we are leaving them without a road network.
- How did our Oireachtas members in the county allow this to happen?
- This is worrying given the state of some roads in the County.
- What amount of money does a 17% reduction equate to?
- Include this item on the agenda for meeting with TII on 19<sup>th</sup> December?
- Include this allocation as an agenda item at the December Plenary Meeting?
- What is the Geo App?
- What is the update with IPB funding that was to be spent on roads?
- Can this item be included on the Agenda for December meeting to clarify figures?

The Chief Executive responded as follows:

- The GEO App allows for surveys to be carried out by Technical Staff on various aspects of the national road network whereby we can seek additional funding for localised improvement works to pavements or other infrastructural deficits.
- Our funding from TII is made up of several income streams such as winter maintenance, route lighting, etc. and it is important to emphasise that it is not 30% across all income streams. An analysis of the figures will be made and circulated to Members.
- In relation to IPB monies, this has not as yet been forthcoming as there is an issue with the Department of Expenditure and Public Reform on how that money can be spent. Progress is being made but not finalised as yet.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Kilduff

**SECONDED** by Councillor Byrne

It was **AGREED** to write a letter to Minister for Transport stating that the members of Roscommon County reject the letter of Allocation of Roads Funding received from TII and seeking a new allocation.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Naughten

**SECONDED** by Councillor Fallon

It was **AGREED** to write a letter to all Ministers stating that the cut in Roads Allocations for 2018 is

unacceptable as the roads are in a poor state and Minister of Transport must be unaware of the cuts by the TII.

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

It was **AGREED** to write a letter to Minister Naughten, Senator Hopkins and Senator Feighan requesting they ensure that the 2018 Allocation level of Roads funding for Roscommon County Council is maintained from 2017.

#### **Re-Opening of Leisure Centre in Abbeyfield Hotel EROC**

The Chief Executive circulated a letter he received from Dept. of Justice and Equality informing him that the Abbeyfield Leisure Centre is due to re-open on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2017. This is a joint initiative between the Office for the Promotion of Migrant Integration and the owners of the EROC (Next Week & Co Ltd.), both of whom are providing funding to the project. It will be run by local gym owner George Fitzgerald. The CE wished them all the best of luck with this new facility.

Members welcomed the re-opening of the Leisure Centre facility and the Cathaoirleach acknowledged the work of SICAP programme in County Roscommon.

#### **Minimum Wage and Pobal**

Cllr. Byrne outlined to the meeting that the Minister for Social Protection announced a 50c increase in the minimum wage. From 1<sup>st</sup> January. However Pobal will not fund this increase in the minimum wage to the employees working with Community groups, who will themselves have to fund it. These community groups are not-for-profit, social enterprises or community businesses that deliver services and create employment for people from disadvantaged groups and cannot afford this sudden and unexpected financial burden and the consequences of this increased burden will be felt by the most vulnerable in our society.

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

It was **AGREED** to write a letter to Minister for Social Protection informing them that the wage increase announced them must be allocated to Pobal for distribution to all community groups to pay employees. A copy of this resolution to be circulated to all Local Authorities.

#### **Fr. Pdraig Devine**

Cllr. Callaghan said he was approached by number of people to invite Fr. Pdraig Devine, founder and international chair of the Shalom Centre for conflict resolution and reconciliation in East Africa to a meeting of Roscommon County Council to outline his experiences and the work he is doing. He is a native of Frenchpark and recognised around the world.

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

It was **AGREED** to write a letter to Fr. Pdraig Devine inviting him to a meeting of Roscommon County Council to outline his experiences and the work he is doing.

Cllr. Connaughton informed the meeting that Roscommon Solstice Choir and St. Brigids Community Choir are holding a fundraiser in the Sacred Heart Church on next Sunday. All proceeds will go to Fr. Pdraig Devine's Shalom Centre.

**Alzheimer Society of Ireland**

Cllr. Kilduff referred correspondence received from Sligo County Council in relation to extra funding for the Alzheimer Society of Ireland and would like to support this resolution.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Kilduff

**SECONDED** by Councillor Byrne

It was **AGREED** to write to the Minister for Health, Simon Harris, T.D. seeking extra funding for the Alzheimer Society of Ireland in future health budgets.

***NEXT MEETING***

**The next meeting will be on Monday, 18th December, 2017.**

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The foregoing Minutes are

Confirmed and Signed:

*Petrizis Bohan*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Meetings Administrator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cathaoirleach

\_\_\_\_\_  
Countersigned