

Ceantar Bardasach Carraig Mhachaire Rois – Baile Na Lorgan

Comhairle Contae Mhuineachain



The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney

Monaghan County Council

Minutes of proceedings of December monthly meeting held in the Civic Offices, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan on Monday 17th December 2018 at 4.00 p.m.

Present : Cathaoirleach Colm Carthy.

Cllrs. Jackie Crowe, Noel Keelan, Aidan Campbell, PJ O’Hanlon, Pdraig McNally.

In Attendance: Gareth McMahon, Co-ordinator, John Fox, Assistant Engineer, Amanda Murray, Staff Officer.

Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. O’Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Keelan the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 26th of November 2018 were adopted.

1. Matters Arising

Cllr. O’Hanlon:

- Requested an update on the plans for Stedfast Junction.
- Response – plan will be rolled out over two phases. It is at present undergoing a Road Safety Audit. It is proposed that the first phase will commence in the first quarter of 2019.
- Regarding road safety measures on the Ardee Road, the Co-Ordinator advised that the Council were currently investigating the provision of a table-top ramp at this location. He stated that any decision to move forward with this plan would require funding. Cllr. Carthy stated that any traffic calming measures at this location should be looked at in conjunction with traffic calming at Ross Road.
- It was noted by the members that any new traffic design must be agreed by the Road Section, Monaghan Co. Council.
- It was agreed to discuss any further traffic calming measures at a scheduled Roads Area Meeting in January.

- Regarding weight restrictions on vehicles using Main Street, Carrickmacross, the Co-Ordinator stated that there was a number of concerns to be addressed to introduce such measures such as permits and policing. It would also require the introduction of new bye-laws. It was agreed that the matter would appear on the agenda for the January monthly meeting. Cllr. McNally stated that a register should be compiled of all the HGV operators in the town, and a letter should issue requesting that they use the bye-pass rather than pass through Main Street, and this suggestion was welcomed by all. It was further agreed that the Co-Ordinator would liaise with An Garda Síochána to ascertain their views on the matter.

Cllr. Keelan:

- Enquired if Minister Humphreys had indicated when she would meet the members to discuss the shortfall in funding for roads. He was advised that no response had been received from the Minister's office.

Cllr. Campbell:

- Stated that there was a number of roads around the District which were unsafe due to excessive dips. Mr. Fox stated that he would discuss these areas with Cllr. Campbell with a view to concentrating on the worst cases as funding for these works was limited.

Cllr. Carthy:

- Concerns about the lack of EV parking in the two towns. The Co-Ordinator stated that there was a number of schemes coming on board in the near future and Monaghan Co. Council were compiling applications for funding for various projects around the County. Cllr. McNally stated that signage needed to be put in place to discourage vehicles from parking in the VE bays for longer than necessary. He said that any further plans would need to be rolled out in conjunction with filling stations and the larger supermarkets.

2. Correspondence

Letter from the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection – Christmas Bonus for social welfare recipients.

The contents of this letter were noted.

Letter from An Post – request for new post box at Donaghmoyne

Cllr Keelan requested that a follow up letter issue requesting a new post box in Donaghmoyne.

Cllr. McNally requested that a letter also issue regarding the provision of a second post box at Supervalu Shopping Centre.

Information from Irish Tourism Industry Awards 2019 – tickets for event on 1st February, 2019.

It was agreed that one ticket would be purchased and the members would decide later who would attend to represent the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD.

3. Consideration of Co-ordinators monthly report

Mr. Gareth McMahon went through the contents of the report.

Cllr. McNally:

- Welcomed the news regarding the Kavanagh Centre but questioned if all members of the committee were on board with the changes. Mr. McMahon stated that initially there had been some concerns by the committees involved, these had since been addressed.
- He welcomed the news that funding was being sought for new changing room facilities at the ACES running track on the Convent Lands and the news that lines of communication had been opened between the Carrick ACES and Carrick Rovers groups. However, he stated that the changing rooms would have to be made available to any other organisation now or in the future who were operating from this location.
- He requested that scaled back costings be carried out on works to alleviate flooding at Drumganny Road.

Cllr. Crowe:

- While happy to see the new ghost island at Kinnegan junction, he requested that the Council look at the possibility of providing an additional public light at this location as it was extremely dark. The Co-Ordinator stated that, while he would broach the Roads Section regarding the matter, it was unlikely to be successful as there was no provision for providing public lighting at rural locations along the N2.

Cllr. Keelan:

- Requested a copy of the plans for the second phase of works at the Market House, Carrickmacross. He was anxious to see what provisions were in place for public toilet facilities. It was discussed at length and formally decided to contact the Chamber of Commerce to investigate the possibility of entering into an agreement with some of the business owners where they would provide the public with access to their toilet facilities for a nominal payment from the Council – thus alleviating the need for public toilets in the Market House.

Cllr. O'Hanlon:

- Stated that there was still a shortfall in the amount of funding being provided for public roads. He stated that should the Minister fail to increase allocation in 2019, a delegation of all six members should travel to Dublin to meet Minister Ross to discuss the matter further.

Cllr. Carthy:

- Commended press coverage on the re-opening of the Lace Gallery in the Market House, and the new craft shop. He stated that more signage was required on the outside of the building and in the general vicinity.
- It was noted that a letter from the residents of Drummond-Heights should be submitted in order for the Council to investigate taking in charge.

4. Acknowledgement of Tidy Town's Achievement – set date for event

While agreeing with the principal behind formally acknowledging the work carried out by the Tidy Town's Committees in the District – Cllr. O'Hanlon emphasised the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD had a very workable, friendly relationship with the Committees, and stated that they were greatly respected, appreciated and facilitated.

It was agreed to hold a reception for the three committees in the District following the February monthly meeting which would be rescheduled for 4:00p.m. with the reception scheduled for 6:30 p.m.

5. Questions

Questions raised by Cllr. Colm Carthy for December 2018 meeting of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

- 1. When is it expected that work will commence on the removal of trees in Drummond Etra (house numbers 1-10) and their replacement fence?**

Response:

The Council has liaised with the residents of house nos. 1-10 and they have not indicated definitively that they wish to have these trees removed. As the majority of these houses are privately owned, the Council is not in a position to replace fencing, however we will trim the trees along the road edge in Q1 2019.

- 2. When is it expected to have further road markings done in Carrickmacross and will the next phase include the remaining 'Keep Clear' areas of Farney Street, and the one on Bridge Street?**

Response:

The allocation for "signs, lines and footpaths" has been exhausted in 2018, however these works will be considered in 2019.

- 3. Does this Municipal District intend to provide Christmas Lighting to O'Neill Street and Farney Street, Carrickmacross, prior to Christmas 2019?**

Response:

The Council provides an allocation towards Christmas lights annually and any increase in allocation will be considered in the context of budget 2019.

4. In previous responses to MD questions I had received commitments to adding a dog-foul bin along the Ross Road (across from Kerry Foods) – can the executive confirm when it is envisaged this bin will be installed?

Response:

A dog fouling bin was put in place at this location on the 4/12/2018.

5. When is it expected that further railing will be added to the foot of the Horse Hill (St. Macartans Villas, Emmet Street etc), Carrickmacross, as previously committed by the executive?

Response:

It is proposed to have this in place in early 2019 following consultation with the residents.

Questions raised by Cllr. Noel Keelan for December 2018 meeting of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

6. Has there been any further progress in relation to the provision of a CCTV camera system for Carrickmacross town and its environs given the agreement of all the main stakeholders including this local authority, Garda Síochána etc., & also given that up to four million euro is available for the provision of community CCTV schemes across the state?

Response:

The provision of CCTV camera systems has been suspended across Monaghan County Council until the full ramifications of the Data Protection Regulations are assessed and a policy put in place.

7. What is the up to-date position in relation to the provision of traffic calming measures on the Donaghmoyne Road (R179) including the provision of a pedestrian crossing at the Donaghmoyne Road/Lisanisk junction given the speed and indeed the heavy volume of traffic using this regional route?

Response:

An application has been made for funding for a new pedestrian crossing on the R179 to the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport under the Low Cost Safety Improvement Scheme in October, 2018 and we are awaiting a decision on same.

8. Given the ongoing problem of illegal dumping across the county including the approach road to Donaghmoyne Village adjacent to the magnificent Mannan Castle golf facility, will this Council examine the possibility of putting in place some fencing at this location and also will this Council, in conjunction with the Environment Section, continue to use CCTV at this location?

Response:

The Council has no proposals to provide fencing at this location, however this question will be forwarded to the Environment Section for their comments.

9. What is the up to-date position in relation to the provision of much needed proper walking routes/footpaths throughout Inniskeen village?

Response:

Inniskeen Village is included in the communities which will be contacted regarding Community Plans. It is intended to offer the community the opportunity to avail of the Council's assistance to prepare a plan, but it is ultimately up to the community if they wish to take it up. It is also up to the community to identify what they set as a priority within any plan which emerges from the consultation process.

10. When is it hoped to complete the footpath link at the top of Lisanisk hill?

Response:

These works are included on the programme of works and should be completed shortly.

6. Notice of Motions

Motion by Cllrs. Colm Carthy, Noel Keelan & Jackie Crowe for December 2018 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblaney Municipal District Council:

'The Municipal District of Carrickmacross-Castleblaney calls on the executive to initiate the process of introducing a bye-law preventing camping at Lisanisk Lake, Carrickmacross. We note the high volume of people fishing in the area but request that no camping takes place overnight.'

Some members expressed their hesitation; that the fishermen in the area may feel ostracised by the inception of this bye-law. It was agreed that care should be taken in the wording of the bye-law. The motion was unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Carthy seconded by Cllr. Keelan.

7. Directors Orders

There were no Directors Orders at the December monthly meeting.

8. Vote of Sympathy

Vote of sympathy was passed to:

Mrs. Mary Kelly on the death of her son Francis.

Conor Hoey on the death of his mother Angela.

Vote of congratulations was passed to:

Ms. Amanda Murray on attaining her BA Degree in Public Management.

9. AOB

Cllr. Campbell:

- Welcomed the Draft Community Plan for Oram and encouraged people to participate in the monkey survey.
- Welcomed the funding for the new Peace Campus.

Cllr. McNally:

- Requested the owner of the trees at Castle Street should be contacted and requested to trim them back.
- Contact Louth Co. Council and request a meeting to discuss the surface of the road at Killanny Bridge with a view to a joint solution.

Cllr. Keelan:

- Requested that the Council revisit the issue of the public lighting at Main Street, Carrickmacross and it was agreed to put on the agenda for the March monthly meeting.

Cllr. Carthy:

- Requested a letter issue to Gyproc enquiring when the investigation would be completed. The Co-Ordinator advised the meeting that the Wardell Armstrong report was imminent and members would receive the link to the Department website to view same when it went public. Cllr. McNally said that residents in the area were unhappy at the lack of communication from the company and the Co-Ordinator stated that he would highlight their concerns at the next meeting with Gyproc delegation.

Meeting concluded at 7:00 pm.

Cathaoirleach

Meeting Administrator

Dated: 28th January, 2019