

Ceantar Bardasach Carraig Mhachaire Rois – Baile Na Lorgan

Comhairle Contae Mhuineachain



The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney

Monaghan County Council

Minutes of proceedings of MD monthly meeting held in the Civic Offices, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan on Monday 22nd June 2020 at 10:30am

Present : Cathaoirleach Noel Keelan

Cllrs. Aidan Campbell, Aoife McCooey, PJ O’Hanlon, Colm Carthy, Mary Kerr Conlon

In Attendance: Paul Clifford, Director of Service, Gareth McMahan, District Co-ordinator, Matthew Lambe, District Engineer, Amanda Murray, Staff Officer.

In opening the meeting, Cllr. Keelan acknowledged the trojan work of the HSE in recent times and commended all front line workers. He paid his respects to the people who had died with no funeral mass.

He offered his condolences on the death of our colleague Mr. Paul Mulligan, and also to the family of Detective Horkan. All members unanimously agreed, and it was decided to send a letter of sympathy to both families. It was further agreed to write to the Garda Stations in both Carrickmacross and Castleblayney to offer the condolences of the Council on the death of their colleague Detective Horkan.

The members requested that, when it was safe to do so, a memorial event would be held for Mr. Paul Mulligan. The members then adjourned for 5 minutes as a mark of respect.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. O’Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Carthy the minutes of the Footpaths meeting held on Monday 24th February 2020 were adopted.

On the proposal of Cllr. O’Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Campbell the minutes of the Roads meeting held on Monday 24th February 2020 were adopted.

It was agreed to hold a further roads meeting prior to the July monthly meeting. All members were encouraged to liaise with the engineers regarding roads they wished to see repaired under the road budget.

On the proposal of Cllr. McCooey and seconded by Cllr. O’Hanlon the minutes of the February monthly meeting held on Monday 24th February 2020 were adopted.

2.0 Matters Arising

Cllr. Keelan welcomed the work underway at Close Drummond housing development, however, he said that he had concerns regarding the safety on the site. It was agreed that contact would be made with the developers to highlight concerns.

Cllr. Campbell asked for an update on CCTV in Castleblayney and was advised that the process of compiling an application form which had to go to the Garda Commissioner would be complete in the coming week.

Cllr. Campbell also enquired when the Shaffrey report would be available to view. He was advised that it was still in draft form, but that that edition would be circulated to the members.

On the request of Cllr. Keelan it was agreed to write to the owners of Breffini House on Dundalk Road regarding its poor state of repair.

Cllr. Carthy stated that he had a motion on the agenda regarding the speed limit at Chapel Lane. He said that in order for this to proceed, it required the agreement of the members. On the proposal of Cllr. Carthy, seconded by Cllr. O’Hanlon, the following motions was unanimously adopted:

‘The Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District Council confirms its request to reduce the speed limit to Chapel Lane, Carrickmacross, from the current 50kmph to 30kmph and ask that this motion be circulated to the Speed Limit Review Committee for agreement; we also confirm our commitment to introduce traffic calming measures to this road as soon as possible/practicable?’

Cllr. Keelan requested that parking issues are reexamined, in particular the taxi rank at the old Supervalu. He was advised that a parking survey is currently underway and a report will be made to the members in due course.

Cllr. Keelan requested that hedge cutting be carried out asap, and was advised that priority areas should be highlighted to the technical staff.

Cllr. Campbell requested a stronger presence of Traffic Warden in Castleblayney to tackle disregard of two hour restrictions.

The members were advised that consultations had been ongoing regarding HGV restrictions. A meeting had taken place with the Chamber of Commerce, plans had been circulated to local haulers and public notices had been published. No concerns or objections had been received. It was hoped that the restrictions would be in place by late summer.

Cllr O'Hanlon requested that a letter issue to the new Government, when it is put in place, that Road Block grants which were previously allowed to Town Council's are reinstated.

On the request of Cllr. Campbell, it was agreed that the Engineer would seek a meeting with representatives from Louth Co. Council to discuss the gates on the dam at Annadrummond. Mr. Lambe said that he was currently working on figures of when flooding has occurred.

3.0 Correspondence

No correspondence

4.0 Set Date for AGM

It was unanimously agreed on the proposal of Cllr. Carthy seconded by Cllr. Campbell to hold the AGM today, Monaghan the 24th of June at 12 noon.

5.0 Consideration of Schedule of MD Works.

The schedule for MD works was presented to the members. The figures were noted and were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Keelan seconded by Cllr. McCooey.

6.0 Municipal Coordinators Report

The members complimented the work carried out at the Big Tom statue in Castleblayney.

Members also welcomed work on Mindszenty Park.

They were given an update on the introduction of an online market in Carrickmacross.

On the suggestion of Cllr. McCooey, it was agreed to look at additional signage at the Big Tom Statue.

The Co-Ordinator agreed to look at the crash barrier which had been knocked down on Oram road.

Cllr. O'Hanlon welcomed the work carried out in Castleblayney, but highlighted, what he felt was a disparity between funding for Castleblayney and Carrickmacross. He stated that while Carrickmacross paid more in rates, they received less in funding.

Cllr. Keelan welcomed works on the N2 at the Aclint Bridge.

Gareth- details of online market. Important sellers have a website fit for purpose. Grant available to help cover cost of same.880K for CMX – category 1. See sign. Additional capital funding. Both towns to highest possible degree.

7.0 Questions

Questions raised by Cllr. Colm Carthy for June 2020 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

1. What is the up-to-date situation with the flooding issues on Magheross Road/Ascaill Rois housing estate, Carrickmacross? Has the Council looked at the causes and have any solutions been found?

Response:-

This MD have engaged a Contractor to compile a Jetting and CCTV report on the culvert downstream of the Magheross Road/Ascaill Rois housing estate to ascertain the extend of blockages and possible structural problems. This works has commenced weekending the 19th of June 2020. On receipt of this report Engineering staff can provide costings and a timescale to complete same should project be viable and a budget available.

2. Can the MD Executive initiate discussions with residents of St. Macartans Villas/Terrace and Emmet Road/Street, Carrickmacross with a view to devising a parking plan for the area?

Response:-

In relation to discussions with residents of St. Macartans Villas/Terrace and Emmet Road/Street, Carrickmacross with a view to devising a parking plan for the area please liaise with the District Engineer to ascertain the works requirement involved. Following this inspection, the MD engineering Staff can provide costings and a timescale to complete same should project be viable and a budget available.

3. When is it expected that road markings will be carried out in Castleblayney again and will executive consider remarking entrance to Drumillard housing estate?

Response:-

All road markings will be replaced following the proposed resurfacing of the Main St in Castleblayney.

4. Has an application for Low Cost Safety improvements been made for the Ross road (specifically the downward slope from old Barford site to Coldstores unit) to reduce the speed of vehicles using it?

Response:-

This MD has examined this section of road pavement and placed it on a list for consideration under a Low-Cost Safety Improvement Scheme for 2020. Although this area did not receive funding for 2020 a further application will be made again for 2021.

5. When is it expected the new Fire Station in Castleblayney will be open and operational?

Response:-

Work on completing Castleblayney Fire Station has re-commenced in accordance with appropriate protocols following the closure of the site due to the Covid 19 Pandemic. Construction work is now anticipated to be completed by early July, with a hand over to the Fire Service planned for mid-July.

Questions raised by Cllr. Aoife McCooey for June 2020 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

6. Can the MD give an update on the application for further funding for the Market House in Castleblayney?

Response:

An application for funding design and development costs was made under the Rural Regeneration Fund in May of this year. There has been no announcement on this call for funding to date. An announcement is expected later in the year.

7. What is the status and next phase of the two capital projects in Castleblayney, Gate House 2 and the Enterprise Hub?

Response:-

Tenders have been received in relation to the proposed Castleblayney Enterprise Centre project funded under the Rural Regeneration & Development Fund and they are currently being assessed. Monaghan County Council has sought tenders for contractors in relation to the Gate Lodge project. The closing date for receipt of tenders is 2 July 2020. Covid 19 has contributed to delays in the tendering process.

8. Can the MD give any update and timeline on the works at Oram for the remembrance garden and new car park surface?

Response:

This MD with Monaghan County Council Horticulturist and local development committee have been in consultation regarding a design, layout, planting and use of construction materials for the remembrance garden in Oram initial designs are in progress. It is proposed that the construction of this garden will be completed by the end of Q3 2020.

Works have been completed regarding the surfacing of the Car Park.

Questions raised by Cllr. PJ O'Hanlon for June 2020 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

9. With regard to a second C-Tec building in Carrickmacross, can you advise the current status of the pending application.

Response:

Monaghan County Council will avail of every opportunity to apply for funding to develop a C-Tek II building in Carrickmacross. The Council would also consider a partnership with third parties to develop an enterprise centre or digital hub here. In May, Monaghan County Council in partnership with DkIT sought funding under the Border Stimulus Fund to develop a digital training centre in a new C-Tek II, with additional office facilities. The outcome of this application is yet to be determined.

10. In relation to the Newbaze factory in Carrickmacross, when can we expect to see this factory open and in production.

Response:-

Due to the unprecedented Covid restrictions in both Ireland and China, the process in achieving certification for finished products from the factory has been delayed. This process will recommence shortly and pending a successful outcome production is anticipated to commence in early 2021.

Questions raised by Cllr. Noel Keelan for June 2020 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

11. In relation to Inniskeen village and road safety, what is the up to date position regarding the provision of proper safe walking routes/footpath links throughout the village including from the Patrick Kavanagh Centre across the River Fane and beyond Magee's shop? Will this Council take full advantage of funding opportunities such as the Clar Programme and Town and Village Renewal Schemes to achieve this?

Response:-

The MD is procuring consultants to develop a public realm plan for Inniskeen. Part of the brief for this plan is to address accessibility issues for the village.

All funding opportunities available to the MD are availed of to finance projects throughout the district.

12. In welcoming the recent road improvements in the Inniskeen village area, will this Council install extra traffic calming measures including a speed ramp/pedestrian crossing adjacent to the soon to be re-opened Patrick Kavanagh Centre and also adjacent to St Daighs Tce. on the Carrickmacross approach road to the village as requested by local residents and community organisations?

Response:-

This MD will examine this location, carry out preliminary investigation works and prepare preliminary designs to ascertain the feasibility of installing traffic calming.

13. Given that little or no maintenance has been carried out on our local county and regional road network in recent months as a result of the Covid 19 lockdown how, many complaints are currently on record in relation to poor road repair? When is it hoped to have these complaints will be addressed? and what plans have the Council to repair and resurface some of the streets in the Carrickmacross town area including Farney St., O'Neill St., Castleblayney Road etc.?

Response:-

This MD has on file received 280 complaints in 2020 at present 83 of these complaints are outstanding. At present staff are addressing these complaints. This MD will carry out maintenance repairs on Farney St, O'Neill St and Castleblayney Rd in the coming weeks.

14. In relation to the town of Castleblayney and Carrickmacross what plans have the Council to further improve our towns in particular the provision of extra off street parking / improving backlands etc. as discussed previously will this Council examine the possibility of purchasing the lands at the rear of the Bank of Ireland in Carrickmacross which could be put to a multitude of uses?

Response:

This MD is currently progressing the appointment of consultants to deliver 2 no. Local Area Plans for the backlands of Carrickmacross, Main Street. The outcome of these plans will determine the approach to future land use and land purchase within the subject areas.

15. In relation to road safety and the safety of those pedestrians using the footpath network when will the hedge trimming programme commence in the Carrickmacross town area?

Response:-

This MD have carried out a procurement process for the Hire of Hedge Trimming Contractor and have appointed a contractor. The Wildlife Act currently restricts the cutting, burning or destruction of vegetation on uncultivated land or in hedges or ditches during the nesting and breeding season for birds and wildlife from 1 March to 31 August. At present we are in bird nesting and breeding season and each hedge will have to be examined on a case by case basis to ascertain road safety issues prior to the trimming of same. When restriction are lifted on the 31st of August a full hedgecutting Programme will commence in Carrickmacross.

Questions raised by Cllr. Aidan Campbell for June 2020 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

16. With the surface on the Main Street in Castleblayney in such poor repair when will the Main Street be resurfaced?

Response:

The Roads Programme schedule has been discussed and agreed with the Surface laying Contractor and the proposed date to commence works is the week beginning the 17th of August 2020. Please be advised these works will be completed at night.

17. With the recent works carried out on the Market House in Castleblayney and now that the building is exposed to the elements it is crucial that it cannot be left in this position. What is the update on the works on the Market House in Castleblayney?

Response:-

Works on securing the Market House structure were completed in 2019. These works included the:

- Removal of the roof and sections of unstable internal walls and floors;
- Removal of all remaining internal debris and materials and existing windows and completion of remedial stabilisation works to all window heads;
- Installation of stability bracing to the interior of the building;

- Completion of the surveying and recording of the structure.

In February 2020, Monaghan County Council submitted an application to the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund seeking €396,000 in assistance towards:

- Preliminary and detailed design for refurbishment of the Market House building, securing the integrity of the building so that it can be adapted as a multi-purpose community facility
- Preliminary and detailed design of high-quality public realm enhancement works, undergrounding of services, and associated gradient terracing, lighting, street furniture and traffic management to the historic Market Square

The outcome of this application is yet to be determined.

18. When will the resurfacing of the Keady road out of Castleblayney take place?

Response:

The Roads Programme schedule has been discussed and agreed with the Surface laying Contractor and the proposed date to commence works is the week beginning the 17th of August 2020.

19. With the tenders out for the works at Gate House number 2 at the entrance to the Hope Castle when will these tenders be in and opened and work commence?

Response:-

Monaghan County Council has sought tenders for contractors in relation to the Gate Lodge project. The closing date for receipt of tenders is 2 July 2020. Covid 19 has contributed to delays in the tendering process.

20. With the recent granting of money for Road Safety works on the Dublin road out of Castleblayney from Saint Mary's Church and out past Scoil Mhuire na Mbuachailli, Castleblayney Enterprise Centre, Castleblayney College out to Saint Marys Park GAA football grounds; when will these plans be put on view for public consultations and work commence?

Response:-

Monaghan County Council has sought tenders for contractors in relation to the Gate Lodge project. The closing date for receipt of tenders is 2 July 2020. Covid 19 has contributed to delays in the tendering process.

The tender for the design and build contract for the Enterprise Hub closed on 5th June. Tenders are currently being evaluated. Covid 19 affected the tender period and will affect the project duration.

7.0 Director of Service Orders

Orders 6/2020 and 9/2020 were duly noted.

8.0 Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

Votes of sympathy were passed with the following:

The Mulligan family on the death of their son Paul.

The Horkan family on the death of Detective Horkan.

The colleagues of Detective Horkan in the Carrickmacross and Castleblayney Garda Station.

Mr. Tommy Maguire on the death of his mother.

9.0 AOB

Cllr. Carthy

It was agreed to look at an area on the Coal Pit Road which had cones in place since flooding some time back.

It was agreed to look at the possibility of putting in place another bench or two at Lisanisk lake.

Cllr. Campbell

Was advised that grass cutting at ArdnaLorgan was the responsibility of Respond. It was agreed to write to them and request that they cut the grass.

He was advised that new cycle lanes were being considered in Castleblayney.

Cllr. McCooey

Requested that the Council look at the damaged crash barrier at Broomfield on the L4110. She was advised that the traffic lights were being refurbished and that a price was currently forthcoming.

She asked that a refurbishment of the tennis courts at rear of Hope Castle could be considered. It was noted that Dympna Condra was looking at areas around Muckno and would appreciate the input from the members.

She asked if the Monaghan Way could be extended and was advised that a detailed review from the Consultants would be back later in summer and this report would be circulated to the members.

Cllr. O'Hanlon

Compliment staff on work carried out to date on roads.

He requested that the Council look at continuing the footpath from the town to Nuremore on Dundalk Road side. It was agreed to liaise with the current owners.

He said that the current arrangement of working from home should be continued and incentivised. Any plans to continue such arrangements would require the upgrading of the current broadband.

Cllr. Keelan

Was advised that the footpath across from St. Mary's had already been repaired.

It was agreed to look at traffic calming measure for Inniskeen.

The meeting concluded at 12:00 noon.

Cathaoirleach

Date

Meeting Administrator