

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF
GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE**

HELD ON 22ND OF MARCH 2007, IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE, DUNGLOE

Members Present: Cllr David Alcorn
Cllr Enda Bonner
Cllr Terence Slowey
Cllr Pádraig Doherty
Cllr Pearse Doherty
Cllr Brian Ó Domhnaill

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Virginia McLoone - Area Manager, Corporate Services
Paul McGill – Area Manager, Housing & Building
Charles Sweeney – Administrative Officer, Community Enterprise & Cultural Services
John Gallagher – Area Manager, Water & Environment
Frank Sweeney – Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development
Brendan Mc Fadden – Area Manager, Roads & Transportation
Vincent Lynn - Senior Engineer, Roads & Transportation
Liam Kelly - Director of Housing / Assistant County Manager
Michael Rowsome – SSO, Corporate Services
Martin Flanagan – Technician, Roads & Transportation
Glenda Hegarty – C.O, Roads & Transportation
Niall McCafferty - Technician, Roads & Transportation
Paddy Hannigan – Youth Council Co-ordinator

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Rachel Ní Fhearraigh – Youth Councillor
Mary O'Donnell – Youth Councillor

GEA 41/07

VOTE OF SYMPATHY

The Committee passed a vote of sympathy in respect of John McGowan, brother of Cllr. Patrick McGowan and also in respect of all the victims of road tragedies in Donegal over the St. Patrick's Bank Holiday weekend.

GEA 42/07

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 23RD JANUARY 2007

On the proposal of Cllr. Pádraig Doherty, seconded by Cllr. Brian O Domhnaill, the minutes of meeting of the 23rd January 2007 were agreed.

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

GEA 43/07 PRIVATE ESTATES TAKEOVER

Mr. Vincent Lynn, Senior Roads Engineer circulated a report on the Takeover of Housing Estates to the Committee, which included the following details:

- Up to date position in relation to the Pre-96 Estates.
- A copy of the Private Housing Estate Document.
- A copy of the Adopted Policy Document on Private Housing Estate Takeover and the 'Certified' Minute of the County Council Meeting of the 26th September 2005.
- Report on number of application forms circulated and returned.
- Basic information on Mechanical and Electrical Plant

The Senior Roads Engineer informed Members of work undertaken by his team and responded to queries from the Committee.

GEA 44/07 DRAFT 2007 SURFACE DRESSING PROGRAMME

On the proposal of Cllr. Pádraig Doherty, seconded by Cllr. Brian O Domhnaill, the Committee agreed the draft 2007 Surface Dressing Programme circulated with the agenda.

GEA 45/07 WORKSHOP – DISTRIBUTION OF MAINTENANCE MONIES

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the scheduling of this workshop and the Committee recommended that the Area Roads Manager liaise with Senior Roads Management to agree to convene the meeting on the morning of the 2nd April 2007.

GEA 46/07 ESB – PUBLIC LIGHTING PROGRAMME

The Roads Manager explained the background to the absence of Paul Doherty of the ESB from the meeting.

The Committee unanimously expressed their anger at the failure of the ESB to provide an adequate service to the Council and also at their lack of respect for the Elected Representatives in the County.

Members recommended that the Council (i) re-negotiate their contract with the ESB and (ii) consider an alternative arrangement for the execution of the public lighting programme.

GEA 47/07 ROAD MAINTENANCE

The Committee highlighted the following issues for the attention of the Roads Service:

- Drainage requirements in the Meenaniller and Strand Road areas of Gweedore.
- Inadequate road signage at Bunbeg Crossroads Junction.
- Road Safety concerns to be addressed at Kilraine Junction and road to Comprehensive School in Glenties.
- Implementation of agreed protocols for carrying out road repairs adjacent to wake houses.
- Pothole repairs to be expedited.
- Footpath repairs at Stranacorkcra and Knockastoller.
- Erection of road signage.
- Street cleaning in Dunfanaghy.
- Provision of refuse bins in Falcarragh.
- Oil spillages.
- Road safety concerns arising from presence of deer on roads.
- Leffin Road, Glen Road and Pole Road junction roadwork requirements.

GEA 48/07 ARDARA – PROPOSED WALKWAY

Cllr. Slowey informed the Committee that a proposed walkway in Ardara has not been developed due to the condition of the bridge adjacent to Nancy's Bar, and he requested a report on this issue for the next meeting. The Roads Manager undertook to liaise with the Road Design Office regarding this issue.

GEA 49/07 COISTE FORBARTHA COIS CLAIDI

Cllr. Pádraig Doherty requested the Roads Service to contact and liaise with the above Committee as a matter of courtesy following on from their presentation to the Committee during January 2006.

GEA 50/07 MEMBERS REPRESENTATIONS

Cllr. Alcorn and Cllr. Bonner expressed annoyance that Roads Engineers are not replying to Member's representations within a reasonable time frame and requested the Roads Manager to relay their concerns to relevant personnel.

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
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GEA 51/07 NEW PLANNING REGULATIONS AND COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICY INTERPRETATION

The Planning Manager updated Members on meetings held with agents to address:

- (i) New Planning Regulations.
- (ii) County Development Plan policy interpretation.
- (iii) Enforcement issues.

The Committee were also informed of additional arrangements for Agents/Architects to contact planners on the phone on Monday mornings commencing on April 16th

GEA 52/07 DATE FOR WORKSHOP WITH CPU

The Committee agreed to hold this workshop on the 23rd of April 2007 at 10am in Lifford.

GEA 53/07 PLANNING STATISTICS

Members noted the report circulated with the Agenda regarding planning statistics.

GEA 54/07 CONSIDERATION OF RECENT REFUSALS

The Committee noted the report previously circulated regarding the above matter.

GEA 55/07 CASUAL TRADING AREA – DUNGLOE

The Planning Manager informed the Committee that this issue has been listed for the District Court during April and Members requested that they be kept advised of developments in relation to this issue.

HOUSING AND BUILDING

GEA 56/07 PROGRESS REPORT – HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the Agenda and the Housing Manager and Director responded to Members queries regarding housing proposals in the Glenties Electoral area. The Director advised Members that the Council are investigating alternative Housing solutions to cope with the large number of single applicants on the Housing list.

GEA 57/07 PROGRESS REPORT – SOCIAL HOUSING

Members noted the progress report on Social Housing at the 9th March 2007, circulated with the Agenda.

GEA 58/07 SI PROGRAMME

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the Agenda and the Director of Housing responded to Member's queries in respect of individual SI houses.

GEA 59/07 REMEDIAL WORKS PROGRAMME

The Housing Manager updated the Committee in relation to the status of the submission made to the Department for funding. Members were invited to submit details of any SI or Scheme Houses that require improvements.

GEA 60/07 ARD CROINE

Cllr. Alcorn requested a report from the Housing Service regarding the commencement date for works at this location.

COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES
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GEA 61/07 GLENTIES YOUTH COUNCIL

The Youth Council Co-ordinator introduced two recently elected Youth Councillors, Mary O'Donnell and Rachel Ní Fhearraigh to the Committee.

The Youth Councillors presented a report to the Committee outlining their work plans for 2007.

Members congratulated the Youth Councillors on their election and expressed their desire to assist with the promotion of the Youth Agenda.

GEA 62/07 NOMINATION FOR PUBLIC ART SELECTION PANEL

On the proposal of Cllr. Pádraig Doherty, seconded by Cllr. O Domhnaill, the Committee nominated Cllr. Bonner to represent the Glenties Electoral Area Committee on the Public Art Selection Panel.

GEA 63/07 PLACENAMES COMMITTEE

On the proposal of Cllr. Alcorn, seconded by Cllr. Pádraig Doherty, the Committee nominated Cllr. Brian O Domhnaill to represent the Glenties Electoral Area Committee on the Placenames Committee.

GEA 64/07 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the Agenda and the Administrative Officer responded to Members queries regarding the Playground Development Programme. The Committee were informed that a provisional date of 20th April 2007 has been agreed with Forbairt na Rosann for the opening of the playground in Dungloe.

On the proposal of Cllr. Alcorn, seconded by Cllr. O Domhnaill, the Committee recommended that Cllr. Bonner perform the official opening and the Administrative Officer undertook to liase with Forbairt na Rosann in this regard.

GEA 65/07 INTER ORGANISATIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Members noted the report previously circulated regarding proposed developments at both the Gweedore Business Park and Doe Castle.

GEA 66/07 COUNTY STRATEGY / COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE AND CULTURAL PROJECTS

The Committee noted the report circulated with the Agenda.

GEA 67/07 CULTURAL SERVICES

The Committee noted the report circulated with the Agenda.

GEA 68/07 DONEGAL COUNTY CHILDCARE COMMITTEE

Members noted the report previously circulated.

CORPORATE SERVICES

GEA 69/07 DEPUTATIONS

On the proposal of Cllr. Pearse Doherty, seconded by Cllr. Alcorn, the Committee agreed to receive deputations from the Rannafast, Coshclady and Crollly Development Associations for a period not exceeding fifteen minutes and to also receive a deputation from the Fintown Development Committee for a period not exceeding thirty minutes, prior to the next area meeting.

The Committee also requested the Corporate Manager to revisit the protocols for meetings with community groups, to address the issue of groups wishing to meet Members regularly.

GEA 70/07 AISTEOIRI GHAOTH DOBHAIR

Members requested the Corporate Manager to contact Tomás Mac Giolla Bhríde to arrange a civic reception on the day of the next area meeting.

GEA 71/07 FIRE STATION – OFFICIAL OPENINGS

The Committee requested the Corporate Manager to contact Minister Gallagher to ascertain if he will be available to attend the official opening of Dungloe Fire Station by Cllr Enda Bonner, Mayor of Donegal on the 2nd April 2007 and on the 13th April 2007 to open the Glenties Fire Station.

GEA 72/07 MEDIA

Cllr. Pearse Doherty requested the Corporate Section to issue Area and Islands Agendae to the Donegal Post newspaper.

GEA 73/07 MAJOR CAPITAL SCHEMES PROGRAMME

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda detailing the status of the Major Capital Schemes Programme.

Cllr. Bonner requested further information in respect of the Dungloe and Glenties Sewerage Schemes prior to meeting the Minister for the Environment.

Cllr. Bonner and Cllr. Alcorn expressed disappointment at the report on the Burtonport Sewerage Scheme.

Cllr. Pearse Doherty criticised the Department's insistence on grouping Schemes.

The Water Services Manager undertook to relay Members concerns to the Sanitary Capital Section.

GEA 74/07 SMALL CAPITAL SCHEMES PROGRAMME

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda.

In response to a query from Cllr Pearse Doherty regarding the Rosses Regional Network, the Water Services Manager informed the Committee that the Council are awaiting funding from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to commence the pipe replacement phase.

GEA 75/07 GROUP WATER SCHEMES – PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee discussed the progress reports on both Group Water Schemes and Group Water Schemes under construction circulated with the Agenda and the Water Services Manager responded to Members queries.

GEA 76/07 ENVIRONMENT

The Committee commended the Water & Environment Manager for the report on the Environment circulated with the Agenda.

The Manager also updated the Committee in relation to the status of the Arranmore Refuse Service and also difficulties arising from illegal dumping at Corveen.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.