

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF  
GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 16<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2010, IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE,  
DUNGLOE**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher  
Cllr David Alcorn  
Cllr Pádraig Doherty  
Cllr Séamus Ó Domhnaill  
Cllr Terence Slowey

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Paul Mc Gill- Area Manager, Housing/Corporate Services  
John Gallagher –Area Manager Water & Environment, S.E.E  
Brendan Mc Fadden –Area Manager, Roads & Transportation,  
S.E.E  
Frank Sweeney –Area Manager, Planning & Economic  
Development  
Charles Sweeney-Area Manager, Community & Enterprise  
Michael Rowsome – Senior Staff Officer, Corporate Services

**APOLOGIES:** Gerard Skehan – Traditional Buildings Officer

**GEA 50/10**

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD  
ON 19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2010**

On the proposal of Cllr. David Alcorn, seconded by Cllr. Pádraig Doherty, the minutes of meeting of the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2010 were agreed.

## **HOUSING AND BUILDING**

**GEA 51/10**

### **HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

The Committee discussed the Housing Capital Programme as at the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2010 circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager.

The Committee welcomed progress on the development of 23 housing units in Meenanillar and the Housing Manager informed Members that the Council anticipate letting of the scheme by June 2010.

Members expressed ongoing frustration and disappointment at the lack of progress in relation to completion of the Lettermacaward scheme.

The Committee requested the Council to issue a Press Release detailing the status of the scheme, and the reasons for ongoing delays, to allay public concern.

The Housing Manager undertook to relay Members concerns to the Housing Construction Service and also advised the Committee that the Council are engaged in discussions with the Contractor and Consultant in relation to the necessary remedial works required to complete the Scheme.

Cllr. Alcorn expressed disappointment at the failure of the Construction Unit to liaise with Members in relation to the status of the Lettermacaward Scheme.

**GEA 52/10**

### **SPECIFIC INSTANCE COTTAGES**

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager. Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the Council to liaise with the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government to request a relaxation of the stringent criteria imposed on Housing Loan applicants, particularly for applicants not in full time employment.

**GEA 53/10**

### **SOCIAL HOUSING**

Members considered the report circulated previously in relation to the status of loans, shared ownership schemes and housing grants as at the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2010.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested that the level of grant applicable to structural repairs in the sum of €3000, and repairs/replacement of windows and doors in the sum of €1200 be revised upwards, and that his concerns in this regard be communicated to Senior Housing Management, for discussion at the Housing S.P.C.

**GEA 54/10**

**RENTAL ACCOMMODATION SCHEME**

In response to a query from Cllr. Slowey regarding the status of the Rental Accommodation Scheme, the Housing Manager advised that proposals are being progressed throughout the electoral area and that Housing Construction will consider any further submissions to address Housing Need.

**GEA 55/10**

**CASUAL VACANCIES**

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager in relation to casual vacancies as at the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2010.

**GEA 56/10**

**BALLINA HOUSING ESTATE – FALCARRAGH**

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the Housing Service to prepare a costing of works required to repair the road surface in the estate in conjunction with the provision of ramps and warning signage.

## **ROADS & TRANSPORTATION**

**GEA 57/10**

### **ROADS PROGRAMME 2010**

The Roads Manager presented and circulated the Committee with a report detailing the 2010 Roadworks Programme as follows:

- Maintenance funding €1,096,400
- Draft Surface Dressing Programme €823,900
- Draft Improvement Works Programme €2,178,920
- EU Co-financed 2010 – Castledoherty Bridge €75,000  
Millwheel-Ballybofey €340,000
- LIS 2010 €202418.80

The Committee unanimously agreed the Programme and commended the efforts of the Roads Service in the preparation of the 2010 Roadworks Programme.

Members also expressed gratitude to Roadworkers for their exhaustive efforts during the adverse weather conditions.

In response to Members requests regarding the necessity to prioritise the Airport Road for funding, given its strategic importance, the Roads Manager stated that this project has a no. 1 priority status on the EU funding list.

The Roads Manager, in response to a query from Cllr. Gallagher advised Members that the Council has sought EU funding for the Dungloe/Doochary and Dungloe/Maghery routes.

The Roads Manager also undertook to liaise with NRDO personnel regarding issues in relation to road safety at Derrybeg Hall, Dore School and speed limit issues in Meenacuing.

**GEA 58/10**

### **TELECOMMUNICATION WORKS**

Cllr. Slowey stressed the importance of monitoring the roads network during works associated with the installation of the 110kv line from Binbane to Gweedore. Cllr. Gallagher requested the Council to pursue contractors for compensation in relation to damages associated with the installation of the mast at Dirlaught and Cllr. Doherty requested that Members be kept abreast of any developments in this regard.

**GEA 59/10**

### **MAINTENANCE ISSUES**

In response to a query from Cllr. Slowey, the Roads Manager advised the Committee that the Council are attempting to achieve a resolution to the roadway deterioration from Mc Glinchey's Shop to Clós Naomh Conaill. Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the Roads Manager to liaise with the Roads Director to prepare a policy outlining protocols for salting and sand provision during inclement weather conditions.

## **CORPORATE SERVICES**

**GEA 60/10**

### **DEPUTATION – COISTE MHIONTHOGRAÍ LOCH AN IÚIR**

The Committee welcomed Eugene Greene and Eugene Mc Cafferty from Coiste Mhionthograí Loch an Iúir to the meeting.

The Deputation highlighted the following issues;

- Road Sweeping requirements during May and July.
- Road Markings.
- Litter Control during the Summer.
- Replacement of fencing on Crollly Road.
- Replacement of damaged signage on Crollly and Dungloe Roads.
- Completion of footpath on Mín na Mara Road.
- Grant assistance requirements for minor environmental and roadworks.
- Playground development.

The Committee commended the work of the Coiste for their voluntary contribution and dedication to the improvement of their village. The Deputation were informed that the Committee had agreed to make an allocation from the Members development fund to aid efforts of the Coiste.

Members thanked the Deputation for their presentation, after which they withdrew from the meeting.

## **PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **GEA 61/10 PLANNING STATISTICS**

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Planning Manager.

### **GEA 62/10 PLANNING REFUSALS**

Members noted the report circulated previously and presented by the Planning Manager.

### **GEA 63/10 ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS**

Members welcomed the report on Planning Enforcement as at the 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2010, and the Planning Manager detailed progress to date.

### **GEA 64/10 ARD NA gCEAPAIRÍ AREA PLAN**

The Planning Manager updated the Committee in relation to the status of the Ard na gCeapairí Area Plan and informed Members that Eunan Quinn from the Central Planning Unit will meet stakeholders following discussion with Udarás na Gaeltachta.

Cllr. Doherty informed the meeting that he anticipates the Plan becoming a catalyst for Tourism Development in the North West and hope that substantial investment will accrue from the Plan.

### **GEA 65/10 PLANNING GUIDELINES ON NATIONAL SECONDARY ROADS / N56**

The Planning Manager updated Members in relation to finalisation of a review of the guidelines in relation to planning policy and national roads by the Department of Transport, Department of Environment and NRA.

### **GEA 66/10 STAFFING OF PLANNING OFFICE**

Cllr. Gallagher requested the Council to assign an additional planner to the Dungloe office to assist the remaining executive planner.

The Committee commended the work of Ciaran Moy and Shane Donaghy during their employment in the Dungloe Planning Office.

# **WATER, ENVIORNMENT & EMERGENCY SERVICES**

## **GEA 67/10 WATER SERVICES INVESTMENT PROGRAMME**

The Committee considered the report circulated previously and presented by the Water Services Manager.

The Committee were advised that the Department of the Environment are currently reviewing the "Assessment of Needs" for water and sewerage services in County Donegal and that the finalisation of this assessment will form a key input to the development of 2010-2012 Water Service Investment Programme. The Water Services Manager informed Members that on announcement of the Programme, a workshop would be convened.

## **GEA 68/10 MAJOR CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Water Services Manager.

Members expressed frustration at the lack of progression in relation to advancement of the major schemes, and also at the anticipated local contribution.

Cllr. Gallagher requested the Water Services Division to liaise with the Minister of the Environment regarding the Council's inability to finance the local contribution.

## **GEA 69/10 SMALL CAPITAL SCHEMES PROGRAMME**

The Committee discussed the report on the Small Capital Schemes Programme circulated with the agenda and presented by the Water Services Manager. The Water Services Manager updated the Committee in relation to funding sourced for the provision of a 3km water main to the water treatment plant in Rosbeg.

Cllr. Doherty requested the Council to initiate plans to increase the capacity of the Rosses Regional Water Supply Scheme.

## **GEA 70/10 GROUP WATER SCHEMES**

Members considered the reports circulated with the agenda and presented by the Water Services Manager, in relation to:

- (i) Group Water Schemes under construction
- (ii) Private Source Group Water Scheme and
- (iii) Tory Island Private Group Water Scheme

Cllr. Doherty welcomed progress on the Tory Island Scheme. Cllr. Alcorn requested completion of GWS section to Tully Bridge.

**GEA 71/10 DUNGLOE CIVIC AMENITY SITE**

The Water and Environment Manager informed the Committee that the Council has organised a “Go Green for free” day providing free recycling on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> March to encourage householders to visit the site and to reward regular users of the facility. Cllr. Slowey commended the employees of the Council who are operating this facility.

**GEA 72/10 ILLEGAL DUMPING**

Cllr. Gallagher requested the Council to source funding to remove illegally dumped asbestos. In reply to a query from Cllr. Ó Domhnaill regarding the increasing prevalence of dumped litter, the Water and Environment Manager informed the Committee that the Council are utilising CCTV to counteract the litter problem.

**GEA 73/10 ICE PLANT – BURTONPORT**

In response to a request from Cllr. Alcorn to upgrade the Ice Plant to cater for passengers utilising the Ferry Services to Arranmore, the Water Services Manager advised that the Chief Marine Technician is progressing the matter.

**GEA 74/10 KILCLOONEY SWIMMING POOL**

Cllr. Alcorn requested a report on the status of the proposal to provide a swimming pool in Kilclooney.

**GEA 75/10 DISABLED TOILETS – NARIN**

Cllr. Slowey commended the Water Services Manager for work undertaken to provide disabled toilets at Narin.

## **COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES**

### **GEA 76/10 REPORT FROM WORKSHOP – 19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2010**

On the proposal of Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, seconded by Cllr. Alcorn, the report from the Workshop held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of January 2010 was agreed.

### **GEA 77/10 MEMBERS DEVELOPMENT FUND**

Members noted the Application form and Guidelines circulated at the meeting.

### **GEA 78/10 PRIDE OF PLACE**

The Committee welcomed the report circulated at the meeting detailing the status of the All Island Pride of Place Competition hosted by Co-operation Ireland under its Local Authority Programme.

### **GEA 79/10 PLANNING FOR INCLUSION – A STATISTICAL AND MAPPING TOOLKIT**

Members welcomed the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Community & Enterprise Manager.

### **GEA 80/10 SCHEME OF ARTS GRANTS 2010**

The Committee considered the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Community & Enterprise Manager. Cllr. Alcorn and Cllr. Doherty requested the Council to expedite the establishment of the Cultural Committee.

### **GEA 81/10 WOMEN INTO PUBLIC LIFE PROJECT**

The Committee noted the report circulated at the meeting.

### **GEA 82/10 RESEARCH & POLICY REPORT**

The Committee noted the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Community and Enterprise Manager.

### **GEA 83/10 DONEGAL COMMUNITY BULLETIN**

The Committee noted the report circulated at the meeting.

**GEA 84/10 REPORT ON COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Community & Enterprise Manager. The Community & Enterprise Manager informed Members that preparatory work is ongoing with Forbairt na Rosann in relation to installation of a mini pitch in Dungloe.

Members were invited to submit any ideas in relation to proposals to link The Smoke Alarm Scheme and the Keeping Warm Initiative.

**GEA 85/10 CULTURAL SERVICES**

The Committee considered the reports circulated with the agenda.

Cllr. Doherty welcomed discussions between the Council and DOEHLG regarding exceptional funding for the Aislann Project arising from destruction of the old library.

**GEA 86/10 KINCASSLAGH CURRACH CLUB**

Cllr. Gallagher requested the Councils Marine and Community & Enterprise Services to assist the Kincasslagh Currach Club in their preparation for hosting of All Ireland Competitions.

Cllr. Alcorn and Cllr Ó Domhnaill also requested that the Council assist with the funding of the event.

**THIS COMPLETED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.**