

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE DHUN NA nGALL

Oifig Riartóir na gCruinnithe
Aras an Chontae
LEIFEAR
18 Deireadh Fómhair 2011

Beidh Cruinniú Comhairle Chontae Dhún na nGall ar siúl Dé Luain 24 Deireadh Fómhair, 2011, ag **11.00 r.n. in Áras an Chontae, Leifear**

DO GACH BHALL DEN CHOMHAIRLE

A Chara

Iarrtar ort a bheith i láthair ag an chruinniú seo den Chomhairle. Ta Clár an chruinnithe le seo.

Beidh Clár Orduithe an Bhainisteora Contae le feiceáil ag an gcruinniú.

Mise, le meas

Liam Mac a'Bhaird
Riartóir Cruinnithe Gníomhach

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Office of Meetings
Administrator
County House
Lifford
18th October, 2011

NOTICE OF MEETING

A Meeting of Donegal County Council will be held on Monday 24th October, 2011, at **11.00 am in the County House, Lifford.**

TO EACH MEMBER OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Dear Councillor

You are summoned to attend this meeting of the Council. The Agenda is attached.

The Register of County Manager's Orders will be available for inspection at the meeting.

Yours sincerely

Liam Ward
A/Meetings Administrator

AGENDA

1. Confirmation of Minutes

- a) Confirmation of Minutes of Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 26th September, 2011.
- b) Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 26th September, 2011.
- c) Confirmation of Minutes of Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 27th September, 2011.

2. Taking of decision pursuant to Planning & Development Act, 2000 (Part XI), and Planning & Development Regulations, 2001 (Part 8).

- a) To approve carrying out of works with regard to the construction of a riverside park and footbridge over the Termon River and the streetscape improvements that are proposed in Pettigo as part of the Peace III – Pettigo Tullyhommon Termon Project.
- b) To approve carrying out of works with regard to the demolition of the existing community centre on Station Street, Pettigo and the construction of a new community centre, multi-use games area, playschool, community gardens and play area as part of the Peace III – Pettigo Tullyhommon Termon Project.
- c) To approve carrying out of works with regard to the construction of a 100m³/hour Water Treatment Plant including, Storage Tanks and associated site development works and services at Owenteskna Td., Carrick, Co. Donegal.
- d) To approve carrying out of works with regard to the N56 Ardara Environmental Improvement Scheme to accommodate pavement strengthening and improvements to existing facilities that will cater for pedestrians and road users alike along Front Street, Ardara.

3. Finance and Emergency Services

- a) To agree date of Statutory Budget Meeting.
- b) To authorise overdraft accommodation for year ending 31st December, 2012.

4. Corporate Services

Filling of Casual Vacancy in the Donegal County Joint Policing Committee.

- Election of Clr. Michael McBride as the Letterkenny Electoral Area's nominee for 2011/2012 to fill the casual vacancy on the Donegal County Joint Policing Committee occasioned by the election of the Mayor Clr. Noel McBride as an Ex-Officio Member.

5. Endorsement of Confirmed Minutes

- a) Endorsement of the Confirmed Minutes of Inishowen Electoral Area Committee Meeting held on the 14th March, 2011.
- b) Endorsement of the Confirmed Minutes of Inishowen Electoral Area Committee Meeting held on the 16th May, 2011.
- c) Endorsement of the Confirmed Minutes of Inishowen Electoral Area Committee Meeting held on the 12th July, 2011.
- d) To note confirmed minutes of meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 23rd May, 2011.
- e) To note confirmed minutes of meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 20th June, 2011.
- f) To note confirmed minutes of meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 18th July, 2011.
- g) To note confirmed minutes of meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 19th September, 2011.

6. Authorisation of representation at a Seminar, Meeting or Event

Authorisation of representation at a seminar, meeting or event under Section 142 (5) of Local Government Act, 2001, S.I. No 668 of 2006, Local Government (Expenses of Local Authority Members) Regulations 2006, S.I. No 37 of 2010, Guidelines given by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in relation to the Local Government Act, 2001 (Section 142) Regulations 2010:-

a) MEMBERS TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

- IPA Diploma in Local Government Studies accredited by The National University of Ireland.

b) CONFERENCES

- Thomas Reuters – NAMA and Ireland's austerity measures one year on to be held Saturday 22nd October, 2011 at The Westbury Hotel (Grafton Suite), Off Grafton Street, Dublin 2.

- The Institute of Professional Training, Local Governance Training Seminar, “The Role of the Councillor in Education and the Community” to be held Friday 28th and Saturday 29th October, 2011 at the City North Hotel, Gormanstown, Co. Meath.
- Roscommon County Council – Douglas Hyde Conference 2011 to be held Friday 4th November, 2011 in the BMW Regional Assembly, Ballaghaderreen, Co Roscommon.
- Elected Member’s Training Seminar, Local Government Powers to create/abolish Rights of Ways, Changes in the law in respect of Rights of Way introduced under the Land and Conveyancing Law Reform Act 2009, “Future Implications for Landowners to be held from Friday 4th to Sunday 6th November, 2011 at the Kingsvalley Hotel, Merlin Park, Dublin Road, Galway City.
- Elected Member’s Training Seminar – Local Authority’s role in preventing water pollution to be held Friday 18th to Sunday 20th November, 2011 in the Mill Park Hotel, The Mullins, Donegal Town, Co. Donegal.
- Clare County Council and Clare Tourist Council – “Tourism – The Potential for Economic Growth” to be held from Thursday 24th to Saturday 26th November, 2011 at the Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare.
- Training Seminar for Councillors- The Local Government Budget 2012 to be held from Friday 18th to Sunday 20th November, 2011 at The Carlton Millrace Hotel, Bunclody, Co. Wexford.
- The Institute of Professional Training – Local Governance Training Seminar “Local Authority Budgets 2012” to be held Friday 18th to Sunday 20th November, 2011 at the Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny.

7. Conference Reports

Clr. John Boyle –

L.A.M.A. Autumn Seminar 2011 held Friday 23rd and Saturday 24th September, 2011 in the Clonea Strand Hotel, Dungarvan.

Clr. Brendan Byrne –

C.P.M.R. Political Bureau Meeting held from Wednesday 1st to Saturday 4th June, 2011 in Angra do Heroismo Terceira Island, Terceira, Portugal.

8. Mayor's Business

9. Manager's Report

10. Deputations/Presentations

Reception of Deputation from Donegal Mountain Rescue (12.30pm).

11. Motions from Other Councils/Bodies

MONAGHAN TOWN COUNCIL

“Recognising that families in Monaghan are already struggling to make ends meet at present and further recognising that many local businesses have been devastated by the reduction of spending power of the people of the town through job losses, tax increases and austerity measures; Monaghan Town Council notes with concern the Governments proposals to introduce water charges and property taxes. That this Council recognises that such a move will inflate our local economy even further and prolong the current recession. We call on the Government to desist from introducing these additional taxes at this time.”

MONAGHAN TOWN COUNCIL

“That this Council seeks that the Government fast track the Criminal Justice Community Service Bill 2011 in order to further develop the community service provision as an alternative to offenders being a burden on the State and the taxpayer and in addition that recruitment of community service supervisors who will ensure that offenders have the opportunity to serve their full sentences in community service work quickly, appropriately and fully.”

LIMERICK COUNTY COUNCIL

“That, Limerick County Council calls on the Minister for Health to safeguard the welfare of the elderly and infirm in our society and guarantee their subsidy for nursing home care.”

SHANNON TOWN COUNCIL

“In light of the increasing mortgage payment crises, Shannon Town Council call on the Government to introduce a 24 month moratorium from the time mortgages first go into arrears before repossession proceedings can be taken.”

CLONMEL BOROUGH COUNCIL

“That Clonmel Borough Council agrees to ask the Minister and the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government to give serious consideration to keeping summer time going the entire year around rather than the present system of putting the clocks back an hour at winter time, as the reasons for doing this are no longer valid. Also if this motion is agreed, that it should be circulated to all Local Authorities.”

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL, HELD
IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD ON 24TH OCTOBER, 2011**

C/419/11 MEMBERS PRESENT

Clrs. Noel McBride, Mayor, D. Alcorn, L. Blaney, J. Boyle, C. Brogan, B. Byrne, J. Campbell, P. Canning, G. Crawford, M. Doherty, P. Doherty, R. Donaghey, M. Farren, M.T. Gallagher, M. Harley, C. Harvey, D. Larkin, F. McBrearty, M. McBride, I. McGarvey, P. McGowan, J. Murray, S. Ó Domhnaill, B. O'Neill, M. Quinn, J. Ryan, T. Slowey.

C/420/11 OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Seamus Neely, County Manager, Mr Liam Ward, Director of Housing and Corporate, A/Meetings Administrator, Mr John McLaughlin, Director of Roads and Transportation, Mr Garry Martin, Head of Finance and Director of Emergency Services, Mr Joe Peoples, A/Director of Water and Environment, Mr Michael Heaney, Director of Community, Culture and Planning, Ms Annemarie Crawford, Staff Officer, Corporate Services.

**C/421/11 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 26TH
SEPTEMBER, 2011**

On the proposal of Clr. Larkin, seconded by Clr. Alcorn, the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on 26th September, 2011 were adopted.

**C/422/11 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF
DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 26TH
SEPTEMBER, 2011**

On the proposal of Clr. Byrne, seconded by Clr. Donaghey, the Minutes of the Meeting of Donegal County Council held on 26th September, 2011 were adopted, subject to the following clarification by Clr Byrne in respect of Minute C/343/11:-

“Members had requested that an Assessment and Technical Design be progressed for Tir Chonaill Street Bridge together with the advancement of the Design Element and Part 8 process for Fintragh Bridge.”

C/423/11 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 27TH SEPTEMBER, 2011

On the proposal of Clr. Alcorn, seconded by Clr. M. Doherty, the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on 27th September, 2011 were adopted.

C/424/11 TAKING OF DECISION WITH REGARD TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A RIVERSIDE PARK AND FOOTBRIDGE OVER THE TERMON RIVER AND THE STREETScape IMPROVEMENTS THAT ARE PROPOSED IN PETTIGO AS PART OF THE PEACE III – PETTIGO TULLYHOMMON TERMON PROJECT

Members considered the report, circulated with the agenda, in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Clr. O’Neill, seconded by Clr. Byrne, the carrying out of works under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, with regard to the construction of a riverside park and footbridge over the Termon River and the streetscape improvements that are proposed in Pettigo as part of the Peace III – Pettigo Tullyhommon Termon Project was approved.

C/425/11 TAKING OF DECISION WITH REGARD TO THE DEMOLITION OF THE EXISTING COMMUNITY CENTRE ON STATION STREET, PETTIGO, AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE, MULTI-USE GAMES AREA, PLAYSCHOOL, COMMUNITY GARDENS AND PLAY AREA AS PART OF THE PEACE III – PETTIGO TULLYHOMMON TERMON PROJECT

Members considered the report, circulated with the agenda, in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Clr. O’Neill, seconded by Clr. Byrne, the carrying out of works under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, with regard to the demolition of the existing Community Centre on Station Street, Pettigo and

the construction of a new Community Centre, Multi-Use Games Area, Playschool, Community Gardens and Play Area as part of the Peace III – Pettigo Tullyhommon Termon Project was approved.

C/426/11 TAKING OF DECISION WITH REGARD TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 100M³/HOUR WATER TREATMENT PLANT INCLUDING, STORAGE TANKS AND ASSOCIATED SITE DEVELOPMENT WORKS AND SERVICES AT OWENTESKINY TD., CARRICK, CO. DONEGAL

Members considered the report, circulated with the agenda, in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Clr. Byrne, seconded by Clr. P. Doherty, the carrying out of works under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, with regard to the construction of a 100m³/hour Water Treatment Plant including, Storage Tanks and associated site development works and services at Owenteskiny Td., Carrick, Co. Donegal was approved.

C/427/11 TAKING OF DECISION WITH REGARD TO THE N56 ARDARA ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME TO ACCOMMODATE PAVEMENT STRENGTHENING AND IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING FACILITIES THAT WILL CATER FOR PEDESTRIANS AND ROAD USERS ALIKE ALONG FRONT STREET, ARDARA.

Members considered the report, circulated with the agenda, in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Clr. Slowey, seconded by Clr. Alcorn, the carrying out of works under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, with regard to the N56 Ardara Environmental Improvement Scheme to accommodate pavement strengthening and improvements to existing facilities that will cater for pedestrians and road users alike along Front Street, Ardara was approved.

C/428/11 REQUEST FOR SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Clr. Campbell alluded to Standing Order 29 asking that Standing Orders be suspended to allow for debate on the service provided by NowDoc in the County.

Mr. Liam Ward, A/Meetings Administrator advised that there was provision to consider same under “Urgent Business” as outlined in Standing Order 28. He noted that on receipt of a motion signed by not less than five members, that it would be possible to consider the item concerned under “Urgent Business” prior to the close of meeting.

Clr Campbell proposed, seconded by Clr. P. O’ Doherty, in accordance with Standing Order 29 that Standing Orders be suspended to allow Members debate the following motion ahead of the remaining business on the agenda:-

“That this Council now acknowledges the present service provided by NowDoc personnel in this County and calls on the service providers to maintain services at their current level”

Clr. Quinn advised that in accordance with Standing Order 28 it was intended to submit the following motion in the names of Clrs Gallagher, Harvey, Murray, Quinn, Farren, Mc Brearty, M. Mc Bride, Ryan, O’ Neill, M. Doherty, Harley, Mc Garvey, Ó Domhnaill, Mc Gowan, Alcorn, Byrne, and Crawford for consideration under Urgent Business:-

“That we Donegal County Council ask that HSE Management, address this Council to outline their proposals for the future of the NowDoc Service in this County, and that this Council will hold a Special Meeting on the matter.

The Mayor responding to calls for clarity, advised that he was not ruling the motion as proposed by Clr. Campbell out of order but was aiming to find a way of accommodating all parties involved.

The A/Meetings Administrator warned however, that should this become a regular feature of Council Meetings it would become increasingly difficult to run the business of the Council.

Clr. Larkin reminded Members that in order for the motion to be passed that at least two thirds of the Members present had to vote in favour.

Members after some consideration unanimously agreed to suspend Standing Orders and proceed with a discussion on the above motion.

Clr. Campbell referring to conflicting reports on the future of the NowDoc service called on the HSE to clearly outline their position, given that rumours persisted in relation to the downgrading of services in Mountcharles, Derrybeg, and Carndonagh coupled with the centralisation of the service to Letterkenny. He called on those using the service to contact their GPs outlining their opposition to the cuts. GPs he noted were split on the matter with a considerable number clearly against any reduction in the service.

Clr. Gallagher at this juncture advised that it was intended to withdraw the motion submitted under “Urgent Business” and thus called on Clr. Campbell to amend his motion as follows in order to incorporate the request that HSE officials attend a Special Meeting of Donegal County Council to discuss ongoing service issues relating to the NowDoc service:-

“That this Council now acknowledges the present service provided by NowDoc personnel in this County and calls on the service providers to maintain services at their current level, and further requests that HSE Officials attend a Special Meeting of Donegal County Council to discuss ongoing service issues”

Clr. Quinn seconded the proposal.

Members acknowledged the excellent service provided by the NowDoc service and in particular the benefits to those living in rural areas. Any reduction in service they noted would put people’s lives at risk.

Concern was expressed in relation to the possible closure of outlying centres from midnight to 8am with calls filtered through the Letterkenny Office, and only one vehicle on hand to cover the entire County.

Members noted that cuts to the service were directly related to the withdrawal of HSE Grant funding to GPs, a feature which in the past had allowed them to employ locums to cover the nightshift period.

Members called on the HSE to provide a clear account of what was happening.

Clr. O' Neill took the chair at this juncture in the absence of the Mayor who had to leave to attend a prior engagement.

Clr. Byrne said that in his opinion the NowDoc service had deteriorated over the years and that there were now inherent systematic failures. The service he advised had lost touch with the public that it had been intended to serve.

Calls were made also for Oireachtas Members in the County to meet with the Minister for Health in relation to the situation.

Clr. O' Neill concluding the debate welcomed the decision to invite HSE personnel to a meeting with the Members of Donegal County Council.

C/429/11 TO AGREE DATE OF STATUTORY BUDGET MEETING
On the proposal of Clr. Alcorn, seconded by Clr. Harley, it was resolved that the statutory Budget Meeting be convened for 10.00am on Wednesday 21st December, 2011 to consider the Draft Budget for 2012.

C/430/11 AUTHORISATION OF OVERDRAFT ACCOMMODATION FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 2012
Members considered the report circulated during the meeting
It was noted that the Bank had made, and was continuing to make, available to the Council overdraft facility (the

“Facility”) for the purposes of the working capital needs of the Council.

After due consideration, it was resolved, on the proposal of Councillor Alcorn, seconded by Councillor Mc Garvey, in accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001 and subject to the sanction of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government **THAT:**

It was in the best interests of the Council and in line with its statutory rights and obligations to avail of the Facility and provide the Guarantee up to an amount of twelve million euro (€12,000,000);

Accordingly, the Council agrees to avail of the Facility and provide the Guarantee;

Each of the persons undertaking the roles of Donegal County Manager and the Head of Finance from time to time be authorised, together and separately, to negotiate the terms of each of the facility letters put, and to be put, in place to document the Facility (each, a **“Facility Letter”** and together, the **“Facility Letters”**), together with any amendments or variations to the Guarantee or replacement Guarantee, and to sign each such Facility Letter and Guarantee by way of acceptance of the terms of such document (including, without limitation, all terms and conditions referred to in each such Facility Letter) and that each such signed Facility Letter and Guarantee shall be fully binding on, and enforceable against, the Council; and

The Council ratifies the availing of the Facility by the Council, within the limits specified, and confirms the execution of all Facility Letters together with the Guarantee.

Responding to Members queries the County Manager noted that the Council was not drawing down monies but simply putting in place an overdraft facility of €12m euro if required.

- C/431/11 FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY IN THE COUNTY DONEGAL JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE
On the proposal of Clr. Mc Brearty, seconded by Clr. Slowey, it was resolved that Clr. Michael McBride fill the casual vacancy on the County Donegal Joint Policing Committee occasioned by the election of Clr. Noel McBride as an Ex-Officio Member for 2011/2012.
- C/432/11 ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONFIRMED MINUTES OF INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14TH MARCH, 2011
On the proposal of Clr. Donaghey, seconded by Clr. Murray, it was resolved to endorse the Confirmed Minutes of Inishowen Electoral Area Committee Meeting held on the 14th March, 2011.
- C/433/11 ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONFIRMED MINUTES OF INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16TH MAY, 2011
On the proposal of Clr. Donaghey, seconded by Clr. Murray, it was resolved to endorse the Confirmed Minutes of Inishowen Electoral Area Committee Meeting held on the 16th May, 2011.
- C/434/11 ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONFIRMED MINUTES OF INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12TH JULY, 2011
On the proposal of Clr. Donaghey, seconded by Clr. Murray, it was resolved to endorse the Confirmed Minutes of Inishowen Electoral Area Committee Meeting held on the 12th July, 2011.
- C/435/11 TO NOTE THE CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY GROUP HELD ON 23RD MAY, 2011
Members noted the confirmed minutes of meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 23rd May, 2011.
- C/436/11 TO NOTE THE CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY GROUP HELD ON 20TH JUNE, 2011

Members noted the confirmed minutes of meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 20th June, 2011.

C/437/11 TO NOTE THE CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY GROUP HELD ON 18TH JULY, 2011

Members noted the confirmed minutes of meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 18th July, 2011.

C/438/11 TO NOTE THE CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY GROUP HELD ON 19TH SEPTEMBER, 2011

Members noted the confirmed minutes of meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 19th September, 2011.

C/439/11 AUTHORISATION OF REPRESENTATION AT A SEMINAR, MEETING OR EVENT

Having noted the revised arrangements under Section 142 5(d) of the Local Government Act, 2001, introduced by the Local Government (Expenses of Local Authority Members) Regulations 2006 & 2010 and directives issued by the Minister in that regard, on the proposal of Clr. Alcorn, seconded by Clr. M. McBride, it was resolved to authorise the attendance of members at the following conferences/events, subject to the normal procedures:-

1. Individual members not exceeding their annual budget for attendance at conferences.
2. Payment of expenses for attendance to be conditional on the member furnishing documentary evidence of attendance and complying with the legal requirements.
3. The submission of a Conference Report by any member attending a conference.

a) MEMBERS TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

- IPA Diploma in Local Government Studies accredited by The National University of Ireland.

b) CONFERENCES

- Thomas Reuters – NAMA and Ireland’s austerity measures one year on to be held Saturday 22nd October, 2011 at The Westbury Hotel (Grafton Suite), Off Grafton Street, Dublin 2.
- The Institute of Professional Training, Local Governance Training Seminar, “The Role of the Councillor in Education and the Community” to be held Friday 28th and Saturday 29th October, 2011 at the City North Hotel, Gormanstown, Co. Meath.
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- Elected Member’s Training Seminar, Local Government Powers to create/abolish Rights of Ways, Changes in the law in respect of Rights of Way introduced under the Land and Conveyancing Law Reform Act 2009, “Future Implications for Landowners to be held from Friday 4th to Sunday 6th November, 2011 at the Kingsvalley Hotel, Merlin Park, Dublin Road, Galway City.
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- Clare County Council and Clare Tourist Council – “Tourism – The Potential for Economic Growth” to be held from Thursday 24th to Saturday 26th November, 2011 at the Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare.
- Training Seminar for Councillors- The Local Government Budget 2012 to be held from Friday 18th to Sunday 20th November, 2011 at The Carlton Millrace Hotel, Bunclody, Co. Wexford.
- The Institute of Professional Training – Local Governance Training Seminar “Local Authority Budgets 2012” to be held Friday 18th to Sunday 20th November, 2011 at the Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny.

C/440/11 TO NOTE CONFERENCE REPORTS

On the proposal of Clr. Alcorn, seconded by Clr. Ó Domhnaill, the following Conference Reports were noted: -

Clr. John Boyle –

L.A.M.A. Autumn Seminar 2011 held Friday 23rd and Saturday 24th September, 2011 in the Clonea Strand Hotel, Dungarvan.

Clr. Brendan Byrne –

C.P.M.R. Political Bureau Meeting held from Wednesday 1st to Saturday 4th June, 2011 in Angra do Heroismo Terceira Island, Terceira, Portugal.

C/441/11

RECEPTION OF DEPUTATION FROM DONEGAL MOUNTIAN RESCUE

Members welcomed Mr. Joe Pond, Team Leader and Mr. Leo Murray, Secretary to the meeting.

Mr. Pond briefed Members in relation to the make up of the Donegal Mountain Rescue Team, noting that they had in 2010 alone dealt with 74 callouts (26 of these during the severe weather period in winter 2010)

There had he advised been a 352% increase in call out activity since 2006. It was noted that each member gave his services voluntarily thus representing a saving of €24,000 to the taxpayer in terms of service provision.

Team running costs it was noted had amounted to €42,166 in 2010 with €7,500 being provided nationally and €4,500 sourced from Donegal County Council. This it was established left a deficit of €30,166 to be raised from the general public.

The Donegal Mountain Rescue Team it was established had a particular role to play in periods of severe weather conditions for a variety of reasons namely:-

- They had specific training to survive in wilderness environments all year round.
- All had been trained to drive in adverse weather conditions.
- Members had access to fully equipped vehicles.
- Members were able to operate on foot in such conditions for hours on end.

Mr. Pond in conclusion advised that the DMRT were urgently in need of financial assistance given the unprecedented

demands on its services, and would not be able to cope financially if severe weather conditions were to occur again in 2011/2012.

Members welcomed the excellent presentation, acknowledging the invaluable voluntary service provided by DMRT members, and the calibre of the personnel involved in providing same. It was suggested that further consideration be given to funding provision in Budget 2012, with calls being made for the Community & Enterprise Section of the Council to explore all possible avenues for obtaining sustainable funding on an annual basis.

C/442/11 **MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS/BODIES**

Members noted the following motions from other councils/bodies:-

MONAGHAN TOWN COUNCIL

“Recognising that families in Monaghan are already struggling to make ends meet at present and further recognising that many local businesses have been devastated by the reduction of spending power of the people of the town through job losses, tax increases and austerity measures; Monaghan Town Council notes with concern the Governments proposals to introduce water charges and property taxes. That this Council recognises that such a move will inflate our local economy even further and prolong the current recession. We call on the Government to desist from introducing these additional taxes at this time.”

MONAGHAN TOWN COUNCIL

“That this Council seeks that the Government fast track the Criminal Justice Community Service Bill 2011 in order to further develop the community service provision as an alternative to offenders being a burden on the State and the taxpayer and in addition that recruitment of community service supervisors who will ensure that offenders have the opportunity to serve their full sentences in community service work quickly, appropriately and fully.”

LIMERICK COUNTY COUNCIL

“That, Limerick County Council calls on the Minister for Health to safeguard the welfare of the elderly and infirm in our society and guarantee their subsidy for nursing home care.”

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“In light of the increasing mortgage payment crises, Shannon Town Council call on the Government to introduce a 24 month moratorium from the time mortgages first go into arrears before repossession proceedings can be taken.”

CLONMEL BOROUGH COUNCIL

“That Clonmel Borough Council agrees to ask the Minister and the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government to give serious consideration to keeping summer time going the entire year around rather than the present system of putting the clocks back an hour at winter time, as the reasons for doing this are no longer valid. Also if this motion is agreed, that it should be circulated to all Local Authorities.”

C/443/11 **MOTION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS**

A request in the names of Clrs Mc Gowan, Ó Domhnaill, Byrne, Canning, Crawford, Larkin, Campbell, Quinn, Farren, and O’ Neill to have the following motion discussed as urgent business was placed before the Council:-

“In acknowledging the increasing difficulties being faced by many people in this County, that Donegal County Council discuss the serious reduction in services and benefits for people with disabilities, and calls on the Government to immediately address the situation in Budget 2012”.

On the proposal of Clr. Mc Gowan, seconded by Clr. Crawford, the motion was unanimously adopted.

Clr. Mc Gowan advised that he had brought forward the motion as a result of representations made to him by the Donegal Network of People with Disabilities in Ireland Ltd.

Members acknowledged that the issue required careful consideration and attention at national level. It was noted that many families throughout the County were struggling at present with those most marginalised being hardest hit.

An issue of particular concern was the issue of free travel passes and the ongoing reduction in same.

It was further resolved to circulate the motion to all other Local Authorities.

C/444/11

CONGRATULATIONS.

Congratulations was extended to Clr. Ian Mc Garvey on his appointment to the Board of Governors – Letterkenny Institute of Technology.

This concluded the business of the meeting.