

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF
GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE
HELD ON 13TH SEPTEMBER 2011, IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE,
DUNGLOE**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr. Seamus O Domhnaill
Cllr. David Alcorn
Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher
Cllr. Terence Slowey
Cllr. Padraig Doherty

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Charles Sweeney-Area Manager, Community Enterprise & Cultural Services
Paul Mc Gill- Area Manager, Housing/Corporate Services
Frank Sweeney – Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development
John Gallagher – Area Manager, Water & Environment
Brendan Mc Fadden – Area Manager, Roads & Transportation
Brendan O Donnell, NRDO Engineer
Michael Rowsome – SSO Corporate Services

GEA 145/11

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON
12TH JULY 2011**

On the proposal of Cllr. Alcorn, seconded by Cllr. Doherty, the minutes of the meeting held on the 12th July 2011 were agreed.

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GEA 146/11 PLANNING REFUSALS

Members noted the report circulated with the Agenda and presented by the Planning Manager, detailing refusals during the period from 29.6.2011 and 2.9.2011.

GEA 147/11 PLANNING STATISTICS

The Committee noted the report circulated previously and presented by the Planning Manager in relation to planning statistics for the period ended 31st of July 2011. The Planning Manager informed the Committee that he anticipated a slight increase in Planning Applications during 2011.

GEA 148/11 ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS

The Planning Manager informed the Committee that notwithstanding the large volume of enforcement issues, that many cases are in abeyance and the Council are actively addressing outstanding enforcement files.

GEA 149/11 SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS

The Committee commended the attendance of the Planning Manager at a public meeting convened in Gaoth Dobhair to discuss issues surrounding proposed designations in accordance with Article 4 of Directive 2009/147/EC known as “the Birds Directive”.

GEA 150/11 COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Planning Manager responded to queries from the Committee regarding the review of the County Development Plan.

GEA 151/11

DEPUTATION FROM GLEN ROAD ACTION GROUP

The Chairperson, Cllr. O Domhnaill welcomed Eugene Greene, Shay Mc Bride, Eugene O'Donnell, Declan McGinley and Dan Rodgers from the Glen Road Action Group to the meeting.

The Deputation requested;

- (a) A commitment from the Committee in relation to support of the project over 3 years at a cost of €320,000,
- (b) Gritting route to include the Glen Road,
- (c) Inclusion of necessary drainage works on the Glen Road Project,
- (d) That initial allocation be expended on one stretch of roadway.

The Deputation were advised that the Committee have prioritised the Glen Road for funding on the Glenties Electoral Area 2012 priority list.

The Committee informed the Deputation (1) of their commitment to the project and that they have prioritised the Glen Road with an allocation of €96,600 for funding on the Glenties Electoral Area 2012 priority lists, (2) to overlay the entire route inclusive of preliminary and drainage works will cost in the region of €320,000 and that completion of the project will be dependent upon the availability of funding, (3) that it will be prudent to wait until the conclusion of the Winter prior to determining the stretch of roadway on which the project will commence, (4) the Council have increased storage capacity for salt supplies and (5) the Glen Road is not on the current Gritting Programme and a commitment cannot be given in relation to inclusion of this route on the programme until discussions are concluded at Council level.

The Cathaoirleach on behalf of the Members thanked the Deputation for their attendance following which they left the meeting.

WATER, ENVIRONMENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

GEA 152/11 MAJOR CAPITAL PROGRAMME

152.1 GWEEDORE SEWERAGE SCHEME

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Water Services Manager outlining that a review of the technical aspects of the proposed Phase 1 of the Scheme has taken place. Members were informed that a formal submission of this review including the budget required will be submitted for approval in 2011 and that a Part 8 Planning will also be published in 2011.

152.2 DUNGLOE AND GLENTIES SEWERAGE SCHEMES

Members welcomed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Water Services Manager, stating that Contract documents for the Network Contract are currently being finalised.

In response to queries from Cllr. Gallagher and Cllr. Slowey the Water Services Manager advised the Committee that financial support for projects are determined, prior to authorisation of approval to go to tender. Cllr. Gallagher requested information in relation to tests on pollution in Dungloe Bay.

152.3 FALCARRAGH SEWERAGE SCHEME

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Water Services Manager in relation to the current status of the Falcarragh Sewerage Scheme.

152.4 GORTAHORK WATER SUPPLY

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Water Services Manager detailing the status of this project.

152.5 ARDSBEG WATER TREATMENT PLANT, GORTAHORK UPGRADE

The Committee welcomed the report circulated previously and presented by the Water Services Manager detailing progress with the Part 8 planning process with a final date for submissions of the 23rd of September 2011.

GEA 153/11

WATER CONSERVATION STAGE 3 WORKS

Members welcomed the progress reports circulated with the agenda and presented by the Water Services Manager in relation to the status of works at Calhame, Meenaleck and the Magheraroarty Pipe replacement scheme.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the Council to address the issue of minimal water pressure and the placement of a water line above the ground at Drimnaraw, Creeslough. Cllr. Ó Domhnaill also informed the Water Services Manager of the requirement for stainless steel saddles on Inishboffin. The Water Services Manager advised the Committee that work is expected to commence on the Caravan Road, Dungloe pipe replacement works during the next month.

GEA 154/11

TORY ISLAND WATER SUPPLY

Cllr. Doherty commended Water Services for their employment of locals on works carried out on Tory. Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the Council to expedite a permanent solution to the provision of an adequate water supply on Tory.

GEA 155/11

GROUP WATER SCHEMES

The Committee noted the reports circulated with the agenda and presented by the Water Services Manager in relation to the status of Schemes under construction and private source group water schemes. The Water Services Manager undertook to liaise with Cllr. Gallagher in relation to lack of a water supply in Lettercaugh.

GEA 156/11

BURTONPORT PUBLIC TOILETS

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Water Service Manager. Cllr. Alcorn requested the Council to expedite the Part 8 planning process.

GEA 157/11

DUNGLOE PUBLIC TOILETS

Members discussed the report previously circulated. In response to a query from Cllr. Gallagher, the Water Service Manager undertook to revert to the Committee at the next meeting in relation to expressions of interest received to date.

GEA 158/11

BUNBEG PIER – PUBLIC TOILETS

Cllr. Doherty requested the Council to expedite the provision of toilet facilities on Bunbeg pier.

Cllr. Alcorn commended the Environment Service for their co-operation with local communities involved in clean up campaigns. In response to a query from Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, in relation to the deployment of CCTV surveillance equipment, the Environment Manager advised Members that CCTV and associated signage has reduced illegal dumping activity.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested dedicated CCTV cameras for bottle banks surveillance.

HOUSING AND BUILDING

GEA 160/11 HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Members discussed the progress report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager in relation to the status of the Housing Capital Programme as at the 1st of September 2011

160.1 LETTERMACAWARD

The Housing Manager informed the Committee that letting of the 13 units In-house scheme has been completed.

160.2 DUNGLOE

The Housing Manager informed Members that construction of the 28 unit Turnkey scheme is 60% complete.

160.3 HOUSING NEED

In response to a query from Cllr. Doherty, the Housing Manager clarified that there is a housing need of 499 units in the Electoral Area and that single applicants consist of 40% of the number on the list.

160.4 SPECIFIC INSTANCE COTTAGES

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager detailing the status of the S.I. Programme as at the 1st of September 2011.

Members expressed regret at the decline of the S.I. Programme and requested Housing Construction to clarify the status of the S.I. Programme.

160.5 LONG TERM LEASING SCHEME

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill expressed concern that the Long Term Leasing Scheme does not offer value for money to the Council, and requested the Council to initiate a House Purchase Scheme to take advantage of the decline in property prices.

GEA 161/11 SOCIAL HOUSING PROGRAMME

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager in relation to the status of the Social Housing Programme as at the 1st of September 2011.

On the proposal of Cllr. Alcorn, seconded by Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, the Committee recommended that the Council reduce the age limits applicable to the Older Persons Grant Scheme.

GEA 162/11

CASUAL VACANCIES

Members discussed the report on casual vacancies as at the 1st of September 2011, circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager.

In response to a query from Cllr. Ó Domhnaill regarding the large number of houses on the vacancy list, the Housing Manager informed the Committee of work in progress to reduce the number of vacancies in the electoral area.

GEA 163/11

DRAFT COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2012-2018

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Alcorn, the Committee recommended the deletion of the following statement in the Draft County Development Plan:

“The Council’s social housing programme will focus mainly on housing supply through the Social Housing Leasing Initiative and Rental Accommodation Scheme”.

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

GEA 164/11 EU – Co Financed (Specific Improvement) 2012 Application

On the proposal of Cllr. Alcorn, seconded by Cllr. Doherty, the Committee agreed the project priorities as listed hereunder previously discussed at the Workshop held on 25th August 2011.

1. R259	Crolly – Carrickfinn Improvements	€250,000
2. L26931	Mullantiboyle Bridge	€350,000
3. R257	Ardnagappery-Cotteen	€100,000

Cllr. Slowey commended the Roads Manager for his attendance at a meeting with the local group in relation to Mullantiboyle Bridge.

Cllr. Gallagher requested the Roads Service to liaise with the OPW to ascertain if funding will be available for Bridge repair works.

GEA 165/11 ROADS PROGRAMME

The Committee welcomed the up to date progress report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Roads Manager, detailing the status of all projects on the Roadworks Programme.

Cllr. Alcorn commended the Roads Services on the success of the programme.

GEA 166/11 N56 DUNGLOE TO GLENTIES (KILRANE)

The Committee discussed the project report circulated at the meeting and presented by Brendan O'Donnell, NRDO Engineer. Members were informed that

- i. The Design Report, Environmental Impact Statement and Compulsory Purchase Orders are being prepared.
- ii. An Bórd Pleánla were invited on the 16th of May to issue a direction to prepare an EIS, and this direction remains outstanding.

GEA 167/11 ROAD MAINTEANCE

Members highlighted road maintenance issues throughout the Electoral Area for the attention of the Roads Manager.

GEA 168/11 PUBLIC LIGHTING

Cllr. Gallagher expressed dissatisfaction at the lack of communication from the council in relation to her allocation of €6500 for Public Lighting in Annagry and requested an update on the status of this scheme.

GEA 169/11

SPEED LIMITS

Cllr. O Domhnaill and Cllr. Gallagher requested a review of speed limits as a matter of urgency.

COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES
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GEA 170/11**DEVELOPMENT FUND INITIATIVE 2011**

On the proposal of Cllr. Doherty seconded by Cllr. O Domhnaill the Committee agreed;

- i. Distribution of €22,000 in respect of Development Fund Initiative 2011 as follows;

Improvement works at St. Marys Close	€ 8,000
CLG Ghaoth Dobhair	€10,000
Burtonport Walking Route	<u>€ 4,000</u>
	€22,000

- ii. Distribution of €20,000 in respect of Community Innovation Fund as follows;

Comharchumann Ghaoth Dobhair	€15,000
Cosan Glas	<u>€ 5,000</u>
	€20,000

Members also noted the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Community & Enterprise Manager, detailing the provision of Tourism Development Funding of €7,000 and Strategic Transport Funding of €50,000.

GEA 171/11**SOCIAL INCLUSION**

The Committee noted the report circulated with the Agenda and the brochure circulated at the meeting, both of which were presented by the Community & Enterprise Manager who informed members that the Annual Social Inclusion Week will take place from the 19th to the 24th of September 2011, incorporating a vast number of events and activities.

Cllr. Slowe welcomed the Rural Men's Health Event and expressed his support for promotion of this event.

Cllr. Gallagher welcomed the seminar report, circulated at the meeting titled "Making the Future Happen", which was the key note event of the 2010 Social Inclusion Week, to address the unemployment challenge in Donegal.

GEA 172/11**WOMEN INTO PUBLIC LIFE**

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the Agenda and presented by the Community & Enterprise Manager.

Cllr. Gallagher commended the project and welcomed Council adoption of a motion to gender-proof the County Development Plan.

GEA 173/11

SLIABH LIAG

The Committee welcomed the report circulated previously and presented by the Community & Enterprise Manager, highlighting the launch of the Sliabh Liag Strategic Development Plan, which has received support under Failte Ireland's Tourism Capital Infrastructure Programme.

Members requested the Council to promote a similar flagship project incorporating Dunlewey, Posioned Glen, Errigal and Glenveagh to attract and increase tourist numbers to the North West of the County.

GEA 174/11

LEABHARLANN PHOBAIL GAOTH DOBHAIR

Members noted the report circulated with the Agenda and presented by the Community & Enterprise Manager in relation to the planned opening of the new Library in October.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING