

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

HELD ON 22nd MARCH 2011, IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE, DUNGLOE

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

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Pádraig Doherty

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Paul Mc Gill- Area Manager, Housing/Corporate Services
Frank Sweeney – Area Manager, Planning & Economic
Development
Charles Sweeney-Area Manager, Community Enterprise &
Cultural Services
Eunan O'Donnell-Executive Engineer, Roads &
Transportation
Eoin Kerrane – Water Services Engineer
John McElwaine, Sanitary Capital Engineer
Michael Rowsome – SSO Corporate Services

APOLOGIES John Gallagher- Area Water & Environment Manager
Brendan Mc Fadden-Area Roads Manager

**GEA 44/11 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON
17TH JANUARY 2011**

On the proposal of Cllr. Slowey, seconded by Cllr. Gallagher, the minutes of the meeting held on the 17th January 2011 were agreed.

**GEA 45/11 REQUEST FOR DEPUTATION – COMHLACHT
TRAENACH NA GAELTACHTA LÁIR**

The Committee discussed the submission circulated at the meeting. On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Slowey, the Committee agreed to receive a deputation from Comhlacht Traenach na Gaeltachta Lár at the next area meeting to be held on the 17th May 2011.

WATER & ENVIRONMENT

GEA 46/11

GWEEDORE SEWERAGE SCHEME

John Mc Elwaine, Sanitary Capital Engineer made a presentation to the Committee outlining the following aspects of the scheme:

- Background information
- Chronology of reports
- Description of the Proposed Scheme
- Údaras na Gaeltachta – Waste Water Treatment Works – location change
- Proposed Collection Network System
- Planning required
- Costing
- Programme of Works

Members welcomed the presentation and queried the ability of the Council to provide co-financing. Cllr. Gallagher stressed the importance of liaison between the Roads and Water Services to maximise value for money efficiencies and to avoid repeat reinstatement of roadways. Cllr. Ó Domhnaill recommended that the Council engage in regular public consultation and that Minister Mc Ginley be kept updated in respect of developments.

GEA 47/11

DUNGLOE & GLENTIES SEWERAGE SCHEME

Members discussed the report circulated with the agenda advising that Contract documents for the Network Contract are currently being finalised. Cllr. Gallagher requested the Council to clarify definitively the commencement date for this project.

GEA 48/11

FALCARRAGH SEWERAGE SCHEME

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda advising that a Part 8 will come before the Council later this year for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

GEA 49/11

GORTAHORK WATER SUPPLY

Members noted the report circulated previously in relation to the status of the Gortahork Water Supply Scheme.

GEA 50/11

MAGHERAROARTY PIPE REPLACEMENT

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill highlighted the necessity to expedite pipe replacement in Magheraroarty to avoid a repetition of the 2010 scenario in relation to the frequency of pipe bursts in the area. Cllr. Gallagher requested the implementation of a plan of action to minimise disruption to water consumers during the execution of necessary works. John Mc Elwaine informed the Committee that works are scheduled to commence in May with a 4 month contract duration.

GEA 51/11**ILLEGAL DUMPING**

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the use of covert surveillance equipment on a trial basis in Inishowen, with a view to countywide operation.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill expressed frustration at the time taken to deal effectively with this issue and requested the use of CCTV for a trial period at the Bottle Banks in Falcarragh.

Cllr. Gallagher highlighted the presence of asbestos in 3 locations in close proximity to water supply and requested the Council to prioritise this matter in the interest of public safety.

Cllr. Slowey stressed the importance of prioritising enforcement to tackle illegal dumping.

Cllr. Alcorn requested a report on (a) the number of fines issued in 2010, (b) revenue collected and (c) number of outstanding unpaid fines.

GEA 52/11**PUBLIC TOILETS IN DUNGLOE**

Members discussed the report circulated with the Agenda and John McElwaine advised the Committee that suitable proposals are awaited from Brannigan Architects.

GEA 53/11**PUBLIC TOILETS IN BURTONPORT**

The Committee noted the report circulated previously in relation to the status of this project.

GEA 54/11**WAITING ROOM IN BURTONPORT**

Members welcomed the provision of a waiting room in the existing ice plant building.

GEA 55/11**GROUP WATER SCHEMES**

Members noted the status report in respect of private source group water schemes and schemes under construction in the electoral area.

GEA 56/11**CROLLY FILTERHOUSE**

Cllr. Alcorn requested that a visit to the Crollly filterhouse be arranged for the morning of the next area meeting.

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
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GEA 57/11

PLANNING STATISTICS

Members noted the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Planning Manager in relation to the period from 1.1.2011 to 28.2.2011.

GEA 58/11

PLANNING REFUSALS

The Committee noted the report circulated previously in relation to recent planning refusals.

GEA 59/11

ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS

The Committee discussed the report in relation to planning enforcement as at the 28.2.2011 and presented by the Planning Manager.

The Planning Manager updated the Committee in relation to complaints received concerning works at the Bridge Bar, Main Street, Dungloe. Members were advised that unauthorised works ceased and the current ongoing repair works to the existing building are categorised as exempt development.

GEA 60/11

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Cllr. Gallagher requested the Planning Service to concentrate additional resources and to increase emphasis on the economic development aspect of the Planning Service.

The Planning Manager advised Members that pre-planning meetings had an economic development role and were important for their employment creation potential.

ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

GEA 61/11 SURFACE DRESSING / RESTORATION PROGRAMME 2011

The Committee discussed and unanimously agreed the Surface Dressing/Restoration Programme 2011 circulated at the meeting and presented by Eunan O'Donnell, Executive Engineer.

Cllr. Gallagher highlighted roadworks required on the Glen Road from Loughanure to Annagry and the Whitecross Road from Annagry to Ranafast. Cllr. Slowey requested the provision of monies from Community Assisted funding to carry out necessary works at the road of the Grotto, Ardconnell, Ardara. The Roads Engineer advised that the Glen Road has been scheduled on next year's programme.

Members unanimously commended the Roads Service (Indoor & Outdoor) for the finalisation of the Roadworks Programme on foot of the Workshop on 3rd March and the incorporation of issues raised by Councillors.

GEA 62/11 MAINTENANCE ALLOCATIONS 2011

The Committee unanimously agreed the 2011 Maintenance Allocation circulated at the meeting and presented by Eunan O'Donnell, Executive Engineer.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the Council to source additional funding for Arranmore and Tory Islands.

GEA 63/11 DRAINAGE ISSUES

Members discussed the reports circulated at the meeting and presented by the Roads Engineer. In response to a query from Cllr. Slowey, the Roads Engineer undertook to liaise with the landowner in respect of drainage difficulties at Brogans Brae.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the Council to address drainage issues at John Owenie's house outside Falcarragh.

GEA 64/11 PUBLIC LIGHTING

In response to queries from the Committee in relation to monies allocated for public lighting in Annagry, the Roads Engineer undertook to liaise with Airtricity in this regard.

GEA 65/11 CHAPEL ROAD, DUNGLOE

In response to a query from Cllr. Gallagher regarding the surfacing of the Chapel Road, the Roads Engineer undertook to discuss a price with the contractor and to ascertain what monies are available from the Community Assisted Programme.

GEA 66/11

POTHOLE REPAIRS

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the Council to initiate a pilot project on a national secondary route, to saw out and replace roadway sections where pothole repairs are necessary. Cllr. Ó Domhnaill informed Members that he expected the Council to achieve value for money efficiencies in the long term notwithstanding the increased initial costs.

GEA 67/11

NATIONAL SECONDARY ROADWAYS

In response to a query from Cllr. Alcorn regarding the N56 from Kilraine to Dungloe, the Roads Engineer undertook to liaise with the NRDO office.

GEA 68/11

ROAD SAFETY PROGRAMME

Cllr. Gallagher requested the Council to progress a Road Safety Programme.

COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES

GEA 69/11

DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

(i) Strategic Development Fund (€150,000 Countywide)

The Committee discussed the report circulated at the meeting and agreed to submit Donegal Airport for approval for funding from this source.

(ii) Development Fund Initiative (€88,000 – Electoral Area)

Members discussed the report circulated at the meeting and on the proposal of Cllr. Slowey, seconded by Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, agreed the distribution of funding as outlined hereunder.

Group	Project	Amount €
Coiste Amharclann Ghaoth Dobhair	Improvement works at Amharclann Ghaoth Dobhair	€20,000
Mary from Dungloe Committee	Assist with the costs of holding the Mary from Dungloe Festival 2011	€10,000
Guth Gafa Film Festival Committee	Assist with the costs of holding the Guth Gafa Film Festival 2011	€6,000
McGill Summer School	Assist with the costs of holding the McGill Summer School 2011	€5,000
Burtonport Community Development Group	Development of walking route	€10,000
Cresslough Community Development Group	Village Renewal	€8,000
Cumann Traenach na Gaeltachta Láir	Improvement works at Train project, Fintown	€5,000
Glenties Dyslexia Group	Assist with provision of learning services of group	€2,000
Junior Achievement	Assist with provision of junior learning programme	€2,000

The Members agreed to commit €20,000 to Donegal Airport for the continuation of the Capital Improvements Programme if sufficient funding was not available from the Strategic Fund.

Cllr. Gallagher requested the council to enforce criteria for drawdown of funding from the Development Fund Initiative.

(iii) Community Innovation Fund (€20,000 – Electoral Area)

On the proposal of Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, seconded by Cllr. Slowey, Members agreed to allocate €20,000 to Grúpa Óige Ghaoth Dobhair for Capital Improvement Works at Sean Teach Phobail, Na Doirí Beaga to cater for the Gweedore Youth project.

(iv) Tourism Development Fund

On the proposal of Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, seconded by Cllr. Slowey the Committee agreed the distribution of funding as outlined hereunder;.

Group	Project	Amount €
Donegal County Council / Tourism Ireland	Donegal Live Event 2011	€3,000
Guth Gafa	Marketing / Branding Campaign	€2,000
Coiste Forbatha Ailt a Chorainn	Feile 2011	€2,000
TOTAL		€7,000

GEA 70/11

DUNGLOE MINI PITCH

Members welcomed progress on the mini pitch and Cllr. Gallagher requested the Council to address lighting of the facility prior to completion of the project.

GEA 71/11

SLIABH LIAG

The Committee welcomed the commencement of the Sliabh Liag Strategic Development Plan, which aims to capitalise on the 100,000 plus tourists visiting Ireland's highest sea cliffs annually through the implementation of a sustainable visitor management strategy.

Cllr. Slowey commended the launch of the plan, which he anticipates will act as a magnet for attracting tourists into Donegal.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the Council to liaise with all tourism-funding bodies to promote the unique cultural heritage of Donegal's offshore islands.

GEA 72/11

SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill congratulated the Community & Enterprise Unit on their promotion of events in libraries during the period 4th to 17th March.

GEA 73/11

LEABHARLANN PHOBAIL GAOTH DOBHAIR

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and welcomed completion of construction of the new library in Aislann Gaoth Dobhair in Derrybeg. The Community & Enterprise Manager advised Members that it is anticipated that the new library will open in Summer 2011 on complete of interior design of the building.

GEA 74/11

ARRANMORE WALKWAY

Cllr. Alcorn requested the Council to carry out repairs on the Arranmore Walking route at Cloughcor.

HOUSING & BUILDING

GEA 75/11

HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Committee discussed the progress report circulated previously and presented by the Housing Manager detailing the status of Housing Schemes at Lettermacaward (In house) and Dungloe (Turnkey) as at the 10th of March 2011.

Cllr. Alcorn requested the Council to install additional lighting at the entrance to the Lettermacaward scheme and to upgrade the Chapel Car Park, opposite the scheme.

GEA 76/11

SPECIFIC INSTANCE COTTAGES

Members discussed the progress report circulated with the agenda outlining the status of 4 no. schemes as at the 10th March 2011.

Cllr. Alcorn highlighted the importance and social value of SI Housing in rural areas.

GEA 77/11

LOANS AND GRANTS

The Committee noted the reports circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager detailing the status of loan and grant applications as at the 10th March 2011.

GEA 78/11

DOOCHARY SCHEME

Cllr. Gallagher requested the Council to liaise with relevant agencies in relation to the provision of public lighting of Doochary Housing Scheme.

GEA 79/11

TENANT PURCHASE SCHEME 2011

In response to a query from Cllr. Alcorn, the Housing Manager informed the Committee that the 2011 Scheme is a fixed term scheme which will be in place only during 2011 and applies to tenants with more than 10 years tenancy. The maximum discount on market price will be 45% at a rate of 3% per year of tenancy up to 15 years maximum. The Housing Manager undertook to issue Members with a summary of the New Tenant Purchase Scheme.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.