

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF STRANORLAR ELECTORAL
AREA COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY
19TH APRIL 2005, IN KEE'S HOTEL, STRANORLAR**

Members Present:-

Cllr J J Reid (Chairperson)
Cllr Patrick McGowan
Cllr Alice Bonner

Officials Present:-

Gerry Gilroy, Area Manager, Corporate Services
Eileen Doherty, Staff Officer, Corporate Services
Michael Breslin, Area Manager, Water/Environment/Emergency Services
Brendan Porter, Area Engineer, Water/Environment/Emergency Services
Mary Hannigan, Area Manager, Housing
Tommy Doherty, Assistant Engineer, Housing
Denis Kelly, Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development
Conal McGettigan, Area Planner
Ciara Conlon, Assistant Planner
Peadar Thomas, Area Manager, Roads
Claire McGeever, Area Engineer, Roads
Cliodhna Campbell, Senior Executive Engineer, Road Design
Claire Mulhall, Community & Enterprise Development Officer
Barney McLaughlin, Community & Enterprise Development Officer

SEC 15/00 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

**15.1 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday
25th January 2005.**

Members noted the report from Mr Eunan Sweeney, Meetings Administrator circulated at the meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr McGowan, seconded by Cllr Bonnar the minutes of the meeting held on 25th January were agreed subject to minute reference 03.06 being struck out.

15.2 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 8th March, 2005

On the proposal of Cllr McGowan seconded by Cllr Bonnar the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8th March 2005 were agreed, subject to the following amendment,

11-05 Place Names Committee.

'Names of housing developments must be of local significance'

It was agreed that matters arising would be dealt with under each service heading.

15.3 Votes of Sympathy

The Committee wished to express their sympathy to Ms Ann McGloin, Corporate Services on the death of her uncle Mr Sean McPhilemy.

The Committee also wished to express their sympathy to Ms Bridie Faulkner, Water Services on the death of her sister.

The Committee also wished to express their sympathy to the family of the late Mrs Theresa McMenamin, Stranorlar.

SEC 16/00 COMMUNITY, CULTURE AND ENTERPRISE
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Ms Mulhall introduced Mr Barney McLaughlin who would be replacing her as CEDO in the Stranorlar/Donegal Electoral and Sectoral areas.

16.3 Playgrounds

Ms Mulhall conveyed apologies on behalf of Ms Aideen Doherty who was unable to attend the meeting to update Members on the position regarding progress on the development of playgrounds in the County.

Ms Mulhall advised Members that Ms Doherty has arranged a workshop on the afternoon of the 11th May where Members will be informed of progress.

Following a query from Mr Thomas Ms Mulhall agreed that she would request Ms Doherty to email a list of all proposed playgrounds in the Donegal and Stranorlar areas to him.

16.4 Youth Council

Ms Mulhall circulated a report at the meeting on behalf of the Youth Councillors who were unable to attend today's meeting to update Members on the various projects they are currently working on.

Ms Mulhall advised that the Youth Councillors are also involved with the Donegal Youth Audit currently being conducted in the County and due to be launched in June 2005.

Following a query from Cllr McGowan Ms Mulhall advised that the Audit was a continuation of the Finn Valley Positive for Mental Health initiated some time ago.

Cllr McGowan submitted that the Youth Councillors should have some input into the County Development Plan currently being drafted by the Council. He submitted that their views could be beneficial and not just to highlight the lack of youth facilities in the County. Ms Mulhall agreed to liaise with the Planning section in this regard.

16.5 Report on Community, Culture & Enterprise Section

Ballybofey/Stranorlar Tourism Brochure

Copies of the Tourism Brochure, which had been launched earlier in the day, were circulated.

Ms Mulhall highlighted the real partnership effort from those involved to get the brochure launched - The Chamber for putting the brochure together, Community & Enterprise Section and North West Tourism for their advice and the Task Force for funding.

Ms Mulhall advised Members that there was some funding left over and the possibility of developing a website was being explored.

RAPID

It was noted that the RAPID programme has already been closed however Ms Mulhall advised Members that a submission had been sent to Minister O'Cuiv, T.D. requesting that the programme be reopened or that a special allowance is made for this County.

A deputation from the Council is to be selected shortly to meet with the Minister.

16.6 Stranorlar Interagency Work Update

Members noted the report circulated with the agenda outlining the work of the Interagency group to date.

Ms Mulhall advised Members that Susan gibbons is now based in an office in the Library in Ballybofey and invited Members to call in at any time.

Ms Mulhall also advised Members that there was joint meeting between the Community Platform and the Interagency Group the following evening.

SEC 17/00 WATER ENVIRONMENT & EMERGENCY SERVICES

17.1 Ballybofey/Stranorlar Leisure Centre

Mr Breslin advised Members that plans were currently being prepared in the context of a shared arrangement between the Council and the Finn Valley AC and a feasibility study had also to be completed. When the plans are complete they will then have to be forwarded to the Consulting Engineers who must confirm they meet the present criteria for funding, etc.

When the layout has been approved the project can then progress to the next stage.

Cllr McGowan submitted that since the County Council and Finn Valley AC were in partnership with each other the Council should be keeping Finn

Valley AC updated on progress on a regular basis. Mr Breslin advised that the Capital Section would be contacting the Finn Valley AC.

17.2 Capital Programme

Convoy Waste Water Treatment Works

Mr Breslin advised Members that works will commence after the summer period once the Contractor has all the necessary documentation in place.

Cllr Reid expressed his concern at the time factor involved especially the delay in consultants reporting back to the Council.

Mr Breslin submitted that the scheme was now at an advanced stage and that the Council must now look forward to the commencement of construction.

Cllr McGowan referred to the fact that there have been 2 -3 fish kills in this area since Christmas. He felt that this was an absolute disgrace and it was of the utmost importance that works commenced without any further undue delay.

Killygordon Sewerage Scheme

Following a query from Members Mr Breslin advised that this scheme was being progressed in partnership with a developer in the area. The scheme was at an advanced stage of planning and the Part VIII application in planning was due for decision shortly. Mr Breslin advised that he would have the plans for the new treatment plant at the bridge available for the next meeting. These works will upgrade the existing treatment works and service the new multiple housing development in the area. Upgrading works at Dromore Bridge will be considered in the future.

Cllr Reid also submitted that the local view of the scheme was that it would be too small to serve the area when completed however Mr Breslin did stress that the imminent works were only a first phase and the scheme would be fully upgraded at a later stage under the Major Capital Schemes Programme.

Members raised a query in relation to the upgrading sewer works that were to take place at the Curragh housing estate. Ms Hannigan confirmed that €20,000 was available from the Housing Section for these works.

Mr Porter agreed to examine the possibility of pumping from this estate to the proposed upgrading works at Killygordon.

Delays in Departmental Approval

Cllr Bonnar queried if there was a problem with capital projects getting Departmental approval. She referred to the EIS for the Lough Mourne Water Supply Scheme, which had been sent to the Department for approval some months ago however no reply had yet been received. This was not the only case where significant delays had occurred. Members were of the view that this was a matter of concern for the whole County and that in the first instance a meeting should take place with the Oireachtas members from County Donegal to agree a strategy to address this.

Members considered that this should be discussed with the full Council at the next *General Purposes Committee Meeting*.

Following a short discussion, on the proposal of Cllr Bonnar seconded by Cllr McGowan it was agreed to request that this item be placed on the agenda for the next GP meeting.

17.3 Group Schemes

Stranlongford/Trentabouy - Pumps to be installed this week.

Creggan - Scheme almost complete. Mr Breslin advised that the house at the end of the line mentioned at the previous meeting was part of the finalisation of the scheme.

Cloughroe - Cllr Bonnar queried if a recent application had been received from residents in this area. Mr Breslin advised he was not aware of a recent application however he was aware of an application submitted a few years ago that did not proceed at the time. He agreed to follow up on the matter and look at the possibility of amalgamating the two proposals and report back to Members.

Gleneely - Mr Porter advised that air valves were to be installed at this location to alleviate the problem. The works are scheduled for this week.

Demense/Convoy - Cllr Bonnar queried if there were any proposals for a group water scheme in this area as she had received a query from a

member of the public proposing to build a house in the area. Mr Breslin advised he was not aware of any proposals.

Cllr Reid queried if a response had been received from the Department regarding the increase of Group Water Scheme grants. Mr Breslin advised that a submission had been forwarded to the Department however no reply had been received to date. It was agreed to place this item on the agenda for the meeting with the Dail deputies proposed earlier.

17.4 Fire Hydrants

Mr Breslin advised that there would be an interim report available for the next meeting.

17.5 Civic Amenity Centre

Mr Breslin advised the Members that the contractor was now on site.

17.6 Restoration Programme

Members noted the report circulated with the agenda outlining where funding received through the development charges for 2004 had been spent. Mr Breslin advised that he expected to receive funding in the region of €100,000 again for 2005.

17.7 Other Matter Arising

Water Supply to Premises in Ballybofey

Cllr Bonnar expressed her frustration at the lack of a water supply to a major business premises in Ballybofey. She submitted that the business in question was paying substantial water rates to the Council each year and the current situation was totally unacceptable. She requested that funding be secured to upgrade the line servicing the premises without further delay.

Upgrade of Sewer at Back Lane Ballybofey

Following a query from Cllr Bonnar regarding the upgrade of the sewer on the back lane between Jackson's Hotel and the Villa Rose Mr Breslin advised that funding was available for this project and works would commence shortly. Cllr Bonnar welcomed this news.

Water Main Diamond Castlefin

Cllr Bonnar referred to the water supply being off at this location several times recently. Mr Breslin acknowledged there were problems in this location submitting that the existing cast iron main had to be replaced.

Public Health nuisance at Ard McCool

Cllr Bonnar referred to a vacant house at Ard McCool that was infested with rats submitting that this situation was contradicting Council policy and wasn't acceptable. She also submitted that the litter warden had been called over a year ago but the situation hasn't been alleviated. Mr Breslin agreed to follow up the matter with the litter warden again.

Cllr McGowan also made reference to recent media reports of the small number of litter fines being issued by Donegal County Council.

SEC 18/00 ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

18.1 2005 Road-works Programme

On the proposal of Cllr McGowan seconded by Cllr Reid the 2005 Road works programme circulated with the agenda was agreed.

18.2 Dreenan Bridge

Members noted the report circulated at the meeting outlining the current financial position in relation to this project. Ms Campbell advised Members that additional claims had been received from the contractor and the Council was currently considering these. It was not possible to

say at this time how long it will take to come to an agreement with the contractor regarding the claims and how much of the current allocation will then be available to continue with the project this year.

When this process is complete she would then be recommending that the next step would be the purchase of the house.

Members stressed the importance of money being spent before the end of year otherwise the allocation would be lost. Ms Campbell agreed that if it was proving difficult to have the claims agreed by early autumn then a decision could be made to pass the allocation onto the Roads Section to continue with the house purchase etc. The claims would then have to be funded from the following years allocation.

18.3 Part VIII Planning on R252

Ms Campbell advised Members that no objections had been received to date to the planning process. She also had plans available for inspection at the meeting.

18.4 Twin Towns Traffic Study

Members noted the report circulated at the meeting.

Following a query from Members in relation to McClay's Corner Ms Campbell advised that she would have a full report and presentation available for the next meeting. It was agreed that the traffic study be kept on the agenda for the next meeting.

18.5 Stranorlar Car Park

Ms Campbell presented a drawing at the meeting outlining the proposal for the development of a car park in Stranorlar. The car park would be situated on Council land along the main Letterkenny road (in front of Foy's shop) and would accommodate 45/50 car parking spaces. She referred to a small piece of adjoining land, which she understood Members have already agreed to dispose of. If this area were to be included additional car parking spaces could be provided. She requested Members views on this matter.

Cllr Reid proposed that Members should reconsider disposing of this land in order to maximise the car parking spaces in the area. Cllrs McGowan and Bonnar were not in agreement submitting that this was a valuable

piece of land and Members had already agreed to dispose of it. Cllr McGowan added that if the land wasn't being disposed of then it should be handed over to a community group such as the Boxing Club as they were in dire need of a site.

Cllr Reid expressed his disappointment at the lack of support from his colleagues regarding the refurbishment of this site. He submitted that the Council should be embarrassed at the state of the existing Car Park particularly as we are coming into the Tourist season. He felt action would need to be taken without any further undue delay.

After some discussion it was agreed to include the whole area under the Part VIII planning process and this could be changed again at a later date.

Cllr Bonnar queried if funding was available to do the proposed works. Mr Thomas advised the project would be funded from the income remaining from Pay & Display in Ballybofey once commitments were met and also from the Development Contribution Scheme. To date there was very little excess from the Pay & Display and the amount of funding that would be available from Development Charges was not yet clear. Cllr Reid submitted that a request for funding from the Development charges should be made by the Roads Department as a matter of urgency.

18.6 Ballybofey/Stranorlar Bypass

Mr Thomas advised Members that it is anticipated that works will commence on this project in February 2007 and be complete in January 2009. Members welcomed this news.

18.7 Other Matters Arising

Logue's Bridge

Cllr Bonnar referred to the poor condition of this bridge.

Ms Campbell acknowledged that the bridge was in need of refurbishment however she referred to the draft priority list for bridges issued to each electoral area. This bridge is currently No 2 on the Stranorlar priority list and no funding is available at present.

Naming of Streets

Mr Thomas advised Members that he would be presenting a proposal at the next meeting to name certain streets in the town, as there was some confusion arising due to the issuing of parking fines.

Other roads issues

Members raised a number of other roads issues throughout the electoral area. Mr Thomas and Ms McGeever took note of these issues and agreed to follow up.

SEC 19/00 PLANNING

Mr Kelly introduced Mc Ciara Conlon, new Assistant Planner for the Stranorlar Electoral Area as Mr McGettigan was being assigned some work in the Donegal Electoral Area.

19.1 Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

Casual Trading

Mr Kelly advised that the appeal hearing scheduled for today had been adjourned. It is expected that the hearing will now be rescheduled for June.

McGinley's Development Convoy

Mr Kelly advised Members that a summons is now being prepared and will be served on Mr McGinley before 20th June 2005.

19.2 Recent Refusals

Members noted the report circulated with the agenda.

Cllr Bonnar referred to an application that had been refused in the Cloghan area due to the lack of a water supply. Mr McGettigan advised that this matter has now been resolved. The applicants will now be resubmitting an application that will satisfactorily address the reasons for refusal.

19.3 Planning Enforcements

Members noted the report circulated with the agenda.

19.4 Planning Statistics

Members noted the report circulated with the agenda.

SEC 20/00 HOUSING

Ms Hannigan introduced Mr Tommy Doherty, new Assistant Housing Engineer for the Stranorlar Area.

20.1 Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

Voluntary Housing Project Mullindrait Stranorlar

Ms Hannigan advised Members that this project has now gone through the planning process.

Voluntary Housing Project Convoy

The site had not yet been signed over however Ms Hannigan was confident that both parties were happy and that the transfer would be concluded shortly.

20.2 Housing Capital Programme

Members noted the report circulated with the agenda.

Ms Hannigan advised that there would be 47 turnkey units available for letting at Donegal road, Ballybofey before the end of the year. There will also be units available for letting in Castlefin.

In relation to SI houses Ms Hannigan advised that Mr E Canney had intended to attend a meeting to discuss the process with Members but unfortunately couldn't attend today. Again Ms Hannigan reiterated the fact that a review was being undertaken that would hopefully speed up this process.

20.3 Social Housing

Members noted the report circulated with the agenda.

20.4 Casual Vacancies

Members noted the report circulated with the agenda.

Ms Hannigan advised that the offer for 5 Hilltop Crescent, Stranorlar had been accepted.

The OPD house in Liscooley had also been re-offered.

20.5 Other Matters Arising

Remedial Works Regeneration Programme

Ms Hannigan referred to funding that was coming on stream under the above programme to upgrade council houses to modern day standards. Ms Hannigan advised that again the council would be targeting the older housing stock and the works would involve replacing kitchens, painting, upgrading of communal areas and paths. Members will be kept informed of progress on this matter.

Housing Assessment

Ms Hannigan referred to the recent housing assessment carried out by Donegal County Council. She had circulated a list of persons on the current waiting list who did not reply to the assessment to Members and requested that if they were aware of any reasons why these people did not respond to the assessment to advise her accordingly.

SEC 21/00 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed to hold the next meeting in the Regional Training Centre, Stranorlar on Tuesday 31st May 2005 commencing at 2pm.