

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF**  
**GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE**  
**HELD ON 17<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2011, IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE,**  
**DUNGLOE**

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

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Paul Mc Gill- Area Manager, Housing/Corporate Services  
Brendan Mc Fadden–Area Manager,Roads & Transportation,  
S.E.E  
Charles Sweeney-Area Manager, Community Enterprise &  
Cultural Services  
Vincent Lynn – Senior Roads Engineer  
John McIlwaine- Sanitary Capital Engineer  
Brendan O Donnell – NRDO Engineer  
Eoin Kerrane – Water Services Engineer  
Martin O Donnell – Sanitary Capital Engineer  
Sinead McClafferty – Assistant Planner  
Michael Rowsome – SSO Corporate Services

**Others in Attendance** Mr E. McBride, Gweedore Chamber of Commerce  
Ms Barrett, Donegal Airport  
Ms McFadden, Teach Jack  
Mr Roarty, Roarty’s Garage  
Mr Sweeney, Bia Ghaoth Dobhair

**APOLOGIES:** John Gallagher - Area Manager Water & Environment  
SEE  
Frank Sweeney – Area Manager Planning & Economic  
Development

**GEA 01/11**

**VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

Members proposed a vote of sympathy to (i) John Gallagher and his wife Grainne on the tragic death of Grainne's aunt Nellie Rodgers of Kerrytown. (ii) The Harte & McAreavey families on the tragic death of Michaela Harte. A minute's silence was observed by all in attendance at the meeting in memory of the deceased.

**GEA 02/11**

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON  
16<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2010**

On the proposal of Cllr Doherty seconded by Cllr Slowey, the minutes of the meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2010 were agreed.

## **PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**GEA 03/11**

### **PLANNING STATISTICS**

The Assistant Planner, Sinead McClafferty presented a report circulated with the agenda detailing applications received, granted, refused, deferred and invalid applications in respect of the Glenties electoral area and countywide. Cllr Doherty and Cllr Alcorn requested the statistics in relation to multiple applications awaiting commencement that were granted in 2009 and 2010.

**GEA 04/11**

### **PLANNING REFUSALS**

Members noted the report on planning refusals during the period from 06/11/10 to 10/01/11 circulated previously.

**GEA 05/11**

### **ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS**

The Assistant Planner presented a report circulated with the agenda detailing enforcement statistics. Cllr O Domhnaill requested that the planning service become proactive in tackling unfinished estates in the County and also to ensure that the conditions of all permissions are strictly enforced.

Cllr O Domhnaill & Cllr Slowey requested increased co-operation between the Roads and Planning Services to ensure that adequate bond levies are determined prior to the commencement of major infrastructural projects.

**GEA 06/11**

### **RE-ORGANISATION OF PLANNING SERVICE**

Members requested that they be kept abreast of any organisational developments proposed for the Planning Service.

**GEA 07/11**

**FAI MINIPITCH**

The Community & Enterprise Manger informed the Committee that the Donegal FAI Mini Pitch is nearing completion and undertook to arrange a visit of the Committee to this facility. The C & E Manager also advised members of the ongoing activities promoted by Trevor Scanlon, the Football in the Community Development Officer.

**GEA 08/11**

**SAIL WEST PROJECT**

The Community & Enterprise Manger updated Members on the status of this scheme and informed the Committee that the Councils project staff are liaising with engineers to recommend the best engineering options in the appointment of consultants for the approved Bunagee Harbour scheme.

Cllr Doherty recommended that the Council should pursue the development of a necklace of marinas around the coast (similar to proposals for Scotland and Northern Ireland) and to utilise maritime assets in the County.

**GEA 09/11**

**WOMEN INTO PUBLIC LIFE PROJECT**

Members welcomed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Community, Enterprise & Cultural Manager in relation to this project, established to address the continuing under representation of women in Public Life. Cllr Gallagher informed the Committee of forthcoming activities in this regard scheduled for the Council chamber in Lifford.

**GEA 10/11**

**PLAYGROUND PROGRAMME**

In response to a query from Cllr O Domhnaill regarding the status of projects prioritised for Loughanure & Glenties, the C & E Manager advised that both projects have been submitted for funding to MFG and DLDC respectively.

**GEA 11/11**

**WALKING DEVELOPEMNT ROUTES**

The C & E Manger undertook to liaise with Walking Development Groups in the Burtonport and Gweedore Areas.

**GEA 12/11**

**FUND MANAGEMENT**

The Community, Enterprise & Cultural Manager updated the Committee in relation to the status of the Development Fund Initiative, Tourism Development, Transport Fund and Members Development Fund. Members were also updated on the status of Peace 111 funding and public procurement programmes.

**GEA 13/11**

**FERRY SIGNAGE**

In response to a query from Cllr Doherty the C & E Manager agreed to improve signage in respect of the Tory Island Ferry Service.

**GEA 14/11**

**ARCHIVE SERVICE**

Cllr Slowey commended the work of the Archives Service and welcomed the provision of bilingual school study packs.

**GEA 15/11**

**DONEGAL OFFSHORE ISLANDS AUDIO VISUAL ARCHIVE**

The Community, Enterprise & Cultural Manager updated the Committee in relation to the collection of an archive of television, film, radio, and Community recordings. It is proposed that the collection will be digitised and made available for viewing at information points on the Islands.

**GEA 16/11**

**BURTONPORT MARINA**

Cllr Alcorn expressed frustration at the delay experienced in granting a foreshore license, and the inability to obtain any details for the reasons for delay from the State Solicitors office.

## ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

### **GEA 17/11 FOLLOW UPS – 16<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2010 MEETING**

On the proposal of Cllr Doherty seconded by Cllr Gallagher the Committee agreed the follow ups in respect of minutes of the roads agenda of the November 2010 meeting.

### **GEA 18/11 MULLANTYBOYLE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT**

The Committee discussed the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Roads Manager. An application for funding in the sum of €100,000 has been made and on receipt of approval the Roads Service intend to commence works in early summer which is the most appropriate time to undertake works for ecological construction, and health and safety reasons.

### **GEA 19/11 RECENT SEVERE WEATHER**

Members discussed the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Roads Manager detailing Winter Maintenance operations during the recent period of adverse weather conditions. Gratitude was expressed to FAS groups, individuals, and Army personnel for their assistance with gritting operations. Members noted the report outlining sections of roadway that had experienced deterioration, and additional routes were notified to the Roads Manager for inclusion on the repairs programme. Cllr Doherty criticised the Councils decision not to salt the Back of Errigal Road and highlighted the negative impact on business in the Gweedore Area and particularly the Gweedore Industrial Estate.

Cllr O Domhnaill requested the Council Officials to respect decisions of the Members in relation to gritting routes previously agreed, and requested the Council to liaise with outside experts in Winter Maintenance. Cllr O Domhnaill also requested the Council to divert springs to minimise danger for road users, and also queried the quality of materials utilised in pothole repairs. Members unanimously criticised the NRA for their inability to provide salt supplies to the Council. Cllr Alcorn requested the Council to increase salt storage capacity in the County. The Committee unanimously commended the efforts of the Council road workers and requested that a letter issue in this regard.

**GEA 20/11**

**SPEED LIMITS**

In response to a query from Cllr Gallagher, the Roads Manger undertook to follow up with Road Design in relation to proposals for Carnmore Road & Meenacuing. Cllr Doherty also requested a review of the decision not to increase the speed limit on the back of Errigal road.

**GEA 21/11**

**PUBLIC LIGHTING**

Members requested the Council to expedite the provision of public lighting at Knockastoller and Annagry.

**GEA 22/11**

**N56 DUNGLOE-KILRAINE**

The Committee discussed the report circulated at the meeting and presented by Brendan O Donnell NRDO Engineer in relation to the pilot project for the new type 3 Single Carriageway road improvements to lightly trafficked routes through environmentally sensitive areas.

Members were informed that the initial environmental assessment of the preliminary alignment design, the geotechnical assessment and the structures assessment have been completed. The NRDO Engineer advised that the preliminary Ground investigations Contractor has been instructed to remobilise to carry out further testing and that talks are on going with the National Parks and Wildlife Services in relation to environmental issues.

**GEA 23/11**

**N56 PAVEMENT OVERLAY UPDATE –**

The Committee were informed that the NRDO would arrange a meeting with Members in relation to relevant grants.

**GEA 24/11**

**GWEEDORE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Eamon McBride led a delegation from the Gweedore Chamber of Commerce to voice their concern at the inadequacy of plans to maintain roads into the Gweedore Area during the recent inclement weather conditions. The delegation outlined the negative impact of restricted access to the Gweedore Area as follows.

- Airport Emergency Plan was compromised
- Manufacturing Companies were unable to deliver their goods to destination markets.
- Necessity to ration fuel.
- Unacceptable travel time to hospital for emergency situations.
- Business levels reduced considerably.

The delegation requested the Council to initiate a contingency plan to avoid a repetition of the outlined scenario in the future. Brendan McFadden, Area Roads Manager outlined work undertaken by Roads during the relevant period. Vincent Lynn Senior Roads Engineer with responsibility for Winter Maintenance outlined the background to decisions taken and assured the delegation that sufficient salt supplies are in storage to cope with future emergencies. At this stage the delegation left the meeting.

**GEA 25/11**

**ISLANDS MAINTENANCE**

In response to queries from Cllr Alcorn regarding the submission from the Islands Co-ops to carry out maintenance on Tory and Arranmore, the Roads Manager advised that this matter will be discussed at a forthcoming roads workshop.

## **WATER & ENVIRONMENT**

### **GEA 26/11 MAJOR CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the Agenda and presented by Eoin Kerrane, Executive Engineer.

Members were advised that the Project Consultants would be available to update the Committee at the next area meeting.

Cllr Gallagher expressed frustration at ongoing delays and minimal progress with regard to the Dungloe and Glenties Sewerage Schemes. Cllr Gallagher also queried the capacity of the Council to provide the necessary co-funding of the works.

### **GEA 27/11 FALCARRAGH SEWERAGE SCHEME**

Martin O'Donnell Sanitary Capital Engineer made a presentation to the Committee outlining the following aspects of the Falcarragh Sewage Scheme.

- Location of proposed wastewater treatment works.
- Site layout and outfall location.
- Description of proposed wastewater treatment works.
- Availability of plans and particulars of proposed development during the public consultation period from 13/01/11 to 11/3/11.

Cllr O'Domhnaill requested Sanitary Capital Engineering Staff to arrange and attend a public consultation meeting in Falcarragh to deal with any local issues that require resolution.

### **GEA 28/11 GROUP WATER SCHEMES**

Members welcomed the status reports on Schemes under construction and private source group water schemes, circulated previously.

### **GEA 29/11 SMALL SCALE REMEDIAL WORKS**

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the Agenda in relation to receipt of funding for works at Glenties/Ardara & Gortahork/Falcarragh. Cllr. Slowey commended the staff for their efforts to secure remedial works funding, and requested the Council to ringfence any funding received from provision of water for the upgrading of water infrastructure.

Members requested the commencement of the Magheraroarty pipe replacement works as a matter of urgency to avoid any disruption to the Irish College summer school term for students, their families & Mna na Ti. Cllr O'Domhnaill requested closer co-operation between the roads and water services in relation to the scheduling of works.

#### **GEA 30/11 CROLLY FILTER HOUSE**

In response to queries from Cllr Alcorn and Cllr Doherty, the Water Services Engineering staff undertook to arrange a visit of members to Crollly Filter House.

#### **GEA 31/11 EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Cllr Gallagher paid tribute to Emergency Services Personnel for their rescue efforts at a house fire in Kerrytown and offered her condolences to the family of the deceased.

#### **GEA 32/11 SEVERE WEATHER UDATE**

The Committee noted the reports circulated with the Agenda and commended the efforts and the increased workload of all water services personnel during recent severe weather conditions. The Executive Engineer agreed to liase with the owner of Teach Jack in Gweedore in response to water quality issues highlighted during the presentation by the Gweedore Chamber of Commerce.

#### **GEA 33/11 ILLEGAL DUMPING**

Cllr O Domhnaill requested an update on the provision of CCTV cameras to counteract illegal dumping activity.

#### **GEA 34/11 BALLYNESS – DRUMNATINNEY BEACH**

Cllr O Domhnaill asked the Environment Services to provide additional warning signage at both entrances to request beach users to control dogs in the interests of public safety.

#### **GEA 35/11 BURTONPORT PIER**

Cllr Alcorn welcomed work carried out in relation to the provision of a waiting room on Burtonport Pier. Cllr Alcorn also requested a status report on the public toilet proposals for the same location.

#### **GEA 36/11 OUT OF HOURS EMERGENCY CALL CENTRE**

Members criticised the Emergency Call Centre facility operated during the Christmas/New Year holiday period and requested the Council to explore alternative options.

#### **GEA 37/11 DISPOSAL OF LAND**

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Doherty the Committee unanimously agreed to dispose of land (by rectification of registered title) at the Bridge Inn, Main Street, Dungloe. Members were advised that this matter would be placed on the agenda at a full Council Meeting.

#### **GEA 38/11 PUBLIC TOILETS - DUNGLOE**

Cllr Gallagher requested the Water & Environment Service to investigate proposals for an alternative to the current public toilet facility in Dungloe.

## **HOUSING AND BUILDING**

### **GEA 39/11 HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME.**

The Committee discussed the reports circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager detailing the status of the following schemes.

- Loughanure – Complete and Let -12 units
- Lettermacaward – 99% Complete -13 units
- Dungloe – Site works in progress- 28 units

Cllr Alcorn requested the Council to increase public lighting at the Lettermacaward scheme, and to upgrade the church car park damaged by site traffic.

### **GEA 40/11 SI HOUSING**

Members discussed the report circulated with the agenda and Cllr Gallagher requested the Council to liaise with developers in relation to problems arising with specific SI Houses.

### **GEA 41/11 SOCIAL HOUSING PROGRAMME**

The Committee noted the reports circulated with the agenda in relation to the status of the Social Housing Programme as at the 10<sup>th</sup> of January 2011.

### **GEA 42/11 CASUAL VACANCIES**

The Committee welcomed the report circulated previously in relation to casual vacancies as at the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2011. The Housing Manager also advised Members that 4 No housing units at Main Street Gortahork are available for letting in accordance with the Rental Accomodation Scheme and an additional 10 units of housing in Dunfanaghy will also be available under this scheme on sealing of the lease. Cllr O Domhnaill requested the Council to appoint an inspector to carry out spot checks on Council property to ensure that housing does not fall into a state of disrepair and to ensure value for money.

## **CORPORATE SERVICES**

**GEA 43/11**

The Committee unanimously agreed the schedule of meetings listed hereunder;

### **Glenties Electoral Area**

|                  |                        |
|------------------|------------------------|
| <b>March</b>     | <b>22<sup>nd</sup></b> |
| <b>May</b>       | <b>17<sup>th</sup></b> |
| <b>July</b>      | <b>12<sup>th</sup></b> |
| <b>September</b> | <b>13<sup>th</sup></b> |
| <b>November</b>  | <b>15<sup>th</sup></b> |

### **Islands Committee**

|                 |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| <b>March</b>    | <b>22<sup>nd</sup></b> |
| <b>July</b>     | <b>12<sup>th</sup></b> |
| <b>November</b> | <b>15<sup>th</sup></b> |

**This concluded the business of the meeting.**