

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

HELD ON 23RD OF JANUARY 2007, IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE, DUNGLOE

Members Present: Cllr David Alcorn
Cllr Pearse Doherty
Cllr Padraig Doherty
Cllr Enda Bonner
Cllr Brian Ó Domhnaill

APOLOGY: Cllr Terence Slowey

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Paul McGill – Area Manager, Housing & Building
Charles Sweeney – Administrative Officer, Community Enterprise & Cultural Services
John Gallagher – Area Manager, Water & Environment
Frank Sweeney – Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development
Brendan Mc Fadden – Area Manager, Roads & Transportation
Berni Gallagher - SO, Corporate Services
Michael Rowsome – SSO, Corporate Services

APOLOGY: Virginia McLoone – Area Manager, Corporate Services

GEA 01/07 The Chairman, Cllr Alcorn welcomed Frank Sweeney to the meeting and congratulated him on his appointment as Area Planning Manager.

Cllr Alcorn requested an improvement in communication between the elected representatives and Council officials and asked that officials respond to all calls and submissions submitted by Members as a matter of courtesy.

Cllr Alcorn informed the Committee that the Housing Director agreed as requested, to defer his attendance until the March meeting.

GEA 02/07 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 21ST NOVEMBER 2006

On the proposal of Cllr Pádraig Doherty, seconded by Cllr Pearse Doherty, the minutes of meeting of the 21st November 2006 were agreed.

CORPORATE SERVICES

GEA 03/07 ACTIVITY REPORT

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda outlining comparative activity levels during the years 2005 and 2006.

GEA 04/07 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2007

On the proposal of Cllr Pearse Doherty seconded by Cllr Pádraig Doherty, the Committee agreed the schedule of meetings listed hereunder;

(a) Glenties Electoral Area Committee

<i>MONTH</i>	<i>DATE</i>
January	23 rd
March	22 nd
May	15 th
July	17 th
September	18 th
November	20 th

(b) Islands Committee

<i>MONTH</i>	<i>DATE</i>
March	22 nd
July	17 th (11.30am)
November	20 th

GEA 05/07 AISTEOIRÍ GHAOTH DOBHAIR

Members suggested that the May meeting commence at 10am to facilitate a Civic Reception on that day and recommended that the Corporate Manager contact Tomás Mac Giolla Bhríde in this regard.

GEA 06/07 OFFICIAL OPENINGS – GLENTIES & DUNGLOE FIRE STATIONS

The Committee requested the Corporate Manager to contact Minister Pat the Cope Gallagher to arrange a suitable date to officially open both fire stations.

GEA 07/07 STAFFING CHANGES

Cllr Pearse Doherty requested the Corporate Section to circulate Members with up to date staff contact details, whenever staffing changes occur.

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

GEA 08/07 SUMMARY OR WORKS CONDUCTED DURING 2006

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda detailing expenditure in excess of €15million on roads in the Glenties Electoral Area.

GEA 09/07 DEVELOPMENT CHARGE MONIES

On the proposal of Cllr Pearse Doherty, seconded by Cllr Pádraig Doherty, the Committee agreed to the proposal for the expenditure of €80,000 Development Charge Monies arising in 2006 as follows;

LOCATION	AMOUNT €
Crash Barrier at Marblehill Road	19,000
Creelough Village - Footpath	15,000
Bunbeg - Derrybeg - Footpath	15,000
Ardara Town - Footpath	31,000
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>80,000</u>

Cllr Pádraig Doherty recommended the establishment of a contingency fund for the Glenties electoral area to address the comparatively low levels of income generated by development contributions in the Glenties Electoral Area.

GEA 10/07 PUBLIC LIGHTING

Cllr Bonner expressed dissatisfaction that Senior Roads Management intend to meet ESB officials without the input of Elected Representatives. Members requested that a list be made available for the next area meeting detailing all lights ordered, and the Roads Manager undertook to liaise with Paul Doherty of the ESB to request his attendance at the March meeting. Cllr. Pádraig Doherty and Cllr O Domhnaill highlighted locations in Dunlewey and Falcarragh that require immediate replacement of yellow lighting.

GEA 11/07 LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

Cllr Bonner & Cllr Pádraig Doherty criticised the quality of work carried out on a number of LIS Schemes and requested the Council to implement an inspection system. Cllr Pearse Doherty requested that Members be circulated with a list of proposed scheme refusals, so that meetings can be arranged on site prior to applicants being issued with refusal notifications. Members also criticised the excessive administrative costs associated with LIS schemes.

GEA 12/07 ROAD WORKS PROGRAMME

The Committee requested the Roads Manager to circulate Members with a list of roads being considered for inclusion on the programme so that they can determine priority.

Cllr Alcorn recommended the regular scheduling of meetings between Councillors and Engineers.

GEA 13/07 GENERAL OPERATIVE INTERVIEWS

In response to queries from Cllr Bonner and Cllr Alcorn regarding general operative recruitment, the Roads manager advised the Committee that the criteria agreed with the Union in respect of employment of outdoor staff, will be circulated to Members.

GEA 14/07 ROAD MAINTENANCE

The Committee highlighted the following issues for the attention of the Roads Service;

- Gritting Programme to include the Loughanure-Annagry road
- Revision of Footpath Priority List
- Contact to be made with landowners on Meenamara Road to facilitate road widening
- Erection of signage
- Drainage requirements in the Gweedore area
- Implementation of Road Safety Projects
- Bridge Repair Survey
- Subsidence at Glassagh
- Pothole Repairs to be expedited

GEA 15/07 BIN EMPTYING – GWEEDORE

Cllr Pearse Doherty requested the Roads Service to revisit this issue from a value for money perspective and the Roads Manager undertook to replicate the previous arrangement on agreement to the distribution of maintenance monies.

GEA 16/07 EU CO FINANCE FUNDING

The Roads Manager circulated Members with a list of the 2007 Non National EU Co Financed Road Grants Allocation. The Committee expressed annoyance at the loss of funding in the sum of €400,000 for the Dore – Derrybeg, Gortahork Magheraroarty Road. Members requested the Roads Service to pursue funding for this job from alternatives sources.

Cllr O Domhnaill expressed annoyance at the lack of cross service programming within the Council leading to inefficient use of resources.

GEA 17/07 STREET CLEANING – DUNFANAGHY

Cllr Ó Domhnaill requested the Council to liase with the Tidy Towns Committee to improve street cleaning in the Dunfanaghy district.

WATER, ENVIRONMENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES
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GEA 18/07 MAJOR CAPITAL SCHEMES PROGRAMME

The Committee discussed the report circulated at the meeting. Cllr Pearse Doherty expressed disappointment that local landowners and Councillors were not contacted by the Council prior to the publication of Compulsory Acquisition of land notices in the press in relation to the Gweedore Sewerage Scheme. The Water Services Manager agreed to liaise with John McElwaine to arrange a date to meet the Chamber of Commerce and Councillors in respect of the this Scheme.

GEA 19/07 SMALL CAPITAL SCHEMES PROGRAMME

The Committee discussed the report circulated at the meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr Ó Domhnaill seconded by Cllr Pearse Doherty, the Committee agreed the following priority works for the next phase of Small Capital Scheme Funding.

1.0 Gortahork Water Treatment Works

Additional Clarification and Treatment to deal with the ongoing issue of aluminium and colour levels both of which are Category C Parameters.

2.0 Fintown Water Treatment Works

Additional Treatment and Filtration.

Cllr Pádraig Doherty requested the Council to expedite the Tory Island Scheme. In response to a query from Cllr Bonner regarding the Rutland scheme, the Water Services Manager advised the Committee that an application for funding is being processed for submission to the Department of Environment.

GEA 20/07 CIVIC AMENITY SITE IN DUNGLOE

Members discussed the report circulated at the meeting regarding the planning application by the Council to construct a Civic Amenity Site and site office at Meenmore.

Councillors Pearse Doherty and Pádraig Doherty asked the Environment Service to transfer the current recycling facilities in Dungloe to Gweedore on construction of the civic amenity site.

GEA 21/07 LITTER FINES

Cllr Pearse Doherty requested the Council to publicise the amount of fines being issued to highlight work undertaken by litter wardens to address illegal dumping in the County.

GEA 22/07 WATER CONNECTIONS – LONG LEAD POLICY

Cllr Bonner requested the Water Service to address the financial burden imposed on applicants who are directed to connect 4 inch piping to the water supply system.

GEA 23/07 MAGHERACLOGHER BEACH SIGN

Cllr Pearse Doherty reiterated previous requests for the erection of a sign as a matter of urgency at this location.

HOUSING AND BUILDING

GEA 24/07 PROGRESS REPORT – HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the Housing Capital Programme. Cllr Brian Ó Domhnaill highlighted the need for Council Housing in the Dunfanaghy and Falcarragh areas, and requested the Council to construct housing in situations where no turnkey submissions are forthcoming.

GEA 25/07 PROGRESS REPORT – SOCIAL HOUSING

Members discussed the report circulated with the agenda and the Housing Manager updated the Committee in relation to Social and Voluntary housing proposals in the electoral area.

Members raised concern in relation to the Housing Policy regarding single male applicants and also the SI reports circulated with the agenda.

The Housing Manager informed Members that the Director of Housing will attend the next area meeting.

GEA 26/07 HOUSING LOANS

In response to a query from Cllr Ó Domhnaill regarding Council Housing Loans, the Housing Manager advised that the rules and regulations are determined by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

GEA 27/07 PRIVATE ESTATES

Cllr Ó Domhnaill requested the Council to clarify if the Housing Authority has any role in ensuring that management companies perform their statutory obligations in relation to private housing estates.

COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES
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GEA 28/07 PUBLIC ART SELECTION

The Committee discussed the report circulated at the meeting and agreed to defer nomination of an elected member onto the Public Art Selection Panel until the next area meeting.

GEA 29/07 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION / LIASON

The Committee discussed the report circulated at the meeting.
Cllr Bonner expressed disappointment at the lack of recognition afforded to elected representatives at official openings of projects funded under Peace II.
Cllr Bonner also recommended that Cllr Alcorn as Chairman of the Elecoral Area Committee perform the opening of the Ballina playground, and that the Council Chairman perform the opening of the Dungloe Playground.
Cllr Bonner asked the Community & Enterprise Service to convert the old Glenties Fire Station into a library as an interim arrangement.

GEA 30/07 FUNDING UPDATE

Members noted the report circulated at the meeting listing the provision of funding to community groups in the sum of €23,902 from the Members Development Fund.

GEA 31/07 INTER ORGANISATIONAL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

Members noted the report circulated at the meeting in relation to Inter Organisational Local Development.

GEA 32/07 COUNTY STRATEGY

The Committee noted the report circulated at the meeting.

GEA 33/07 CULTURAL SERVICES

Members noted the report circulated at the meeting.

GEA 34/07 DONEGAL COUNTY CHILDCARE COMMITTEE

Members noted the reported circulated at the meeting outlining the 2007 Action Plan.

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
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GEA 35/07 STAFFING CHANGES

The Area Manager updated Members in relation to staffing changes in the Dungloe PSC.

GEA 36/07 SITE VISITS

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding Members requirements from the Planning Service as regards site visits and the Planning Manager undertook to draft a protocol for consideration by the Committee.

GEA 37/07 REFUSALS - PLANNING STATISTICS

Members discussed the report circulated with the agenda regarding planning refusals during the period from 9/11/2006 to 8/1/2007 and expressed disappointment at the above average refusal rate in the Glenties Electoral Area. .

GEA 38/07 DUNGLOE – CASUAL TRADING AREA

The Planning Manager informed the Committee that court proceedings have been adjourned until 20/2/2007.

GEA 39/07 GWEEDORE GOLF CLUB DEVELOPMENT

Cllr Pearse Doherty requested the Planning Service to proceed with the workshop that was to be held to discuss issues surrounding the proposed development of Gweedore Golf Club.

GEA 40/07 REVIEW OF COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Committee requested the Planning Service to issue Members with a copy of Policy Interpretations.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

