

MINUTES OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

HELD ON 11th JULY 2017 ON TORY ISLAND

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr. John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh
Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher
Cllr. Enda Bonner
Cllr. Terence Slowey
Cllr. Seamus Ó Domhnaill

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Declan McKernan-Senior Engineer, Water Services
Eamonn Brown- A/Area Manager, Housing & Corporate Services
Conor McShane- Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Fire Service
Cathal Sweeney-Marine Engineer
Eunan Quinn-Senior Executive Planner, Planning Service
Brendan McFadden-S.E.E, Area Manager, Roads Service
John Hegarty-Executive Engineer, Roads Service
Rodney Irwin-N.R.D.O Engineer
Colin McNulty-Administrative Officer, Community Services
Eadaoin Healy-G.I.S Assistant, Laboratory
Máire Ní Fhearraigh-C.O, Community & Enterprise
Michael Rowsome-S.S.O, Corporate & Motor Tax

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Michéal Cholm Mac Giolla Easbuig
Charles Sweeney- Area Manager Community & Enterprise
Michael McGarvey-A/Director of Water Service

GMD 228/17

**MINUTES OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
MEETING HELD ON 13TH JUNE 2017**

On the proposal of Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, seconded by Cllr. Slowey, the minutes of the Glenties Municipal District meeting held on 13th of June 2017 were confirmed.

ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

GMD 229/17

FOLLOW UP ISSUES

The Committee welcomed the report from the Roads Manager issued to Members in advance of the meeting.

GMD 230/17

ROAD WORKS PROGRAMME 2017

Members welcomed the report circulated by the Roads Manager prior to the meeting in relation to the status of the 2017 Road Works Programme.

GMD 231/17

N56 DUNGLOE - GLENTIES

Rodney Irwin, NRDO Engineer updated Members on the status of the N56 Dungloe to Kilraine project and responded to members queries in relation to (i) ongoing snagging issues, (ii) timelines for future phases of the project, (iii) compensatory tree planting in accordance with the EIS report.

Cllr. Gallagher requested the NRDO to liaise with the Contractor to undertake repair of the cycleway and also stressed the importance of developing a long term strategy for N56 development works from Killybegs to the 'Blue Banks'.

Cllr. Gallagher also informed the NRDO engineer of problematic issues in relation to lighting from Duddy's to the Gweebarra Bridge. The NRDO engineer undertook to liaise with Cllr. Bonner regarding the layout of the Kilkenny to Letterilly phase.

GMD 232/17

MEENACUING LIGHTS

In response to a query from Cllr. Ó Fearraigh, the Roads Manager informed the Committee that an application has been made to the T.I.I. in this regard and that he will keep Members abreast of any development.

GMD 233/17

N56 PAVEMENTS

The Committee welcomed the report circulated previously and also the update from the NRDO engineer in relation to schemes at Log Cabin Creeslough, Crolly, Gortnamucklagh and Ardara West. Cllr. Ó Domhnaill commended the substantial completion of works at Dunfanaghy and Falcarragh.

GMD 234/17

TULLAGHOBEGLEY BRIDGE

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill highlighted concerns following a recent narrowing of the bridge;

- Inability of pedestrians to use pushchairs and wheelchairs at this locus.
- Coping stones overhanging carriageway.
- Footpath widened without permission of landowner.
- Presence of giant rhubarb on the footpath.

The NRDO Engineer undertook to liaise with the Bridge section of the Roads Service and to convene a site meeting at the locus to determine a solution.

GMD 235/17

BURTONPORT FORESHORE

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Bonner, the Committee agreed the proposal to make a Compulsory Purchase Order to secure registered title to the foreshore lands (as per circulated map) and to transfer same to the Boyle family.

Cllr. Gallagher recommended that the Council lease land on a short term basis to provide parking on the pier and to develop a long term solution for car parking in Burtonport.

COMMUNITY, CULTURE & ENTERPRISE

GMD 236/17 **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

The Committee noted the reports circulated with the agenda and presented by Máire Ní Fhearraigh regarding;

- Rural Development Programme/Leader
- National Bike Week 2017
- Donegal Gathering
- Marine Tourism Marketing and Development
- Ascent Project

GMD 237/17 **IPB PRIDE OF PLACE COMPETITION**

Members discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by Máire Ní Fhearraigh who informed the Committee that Aonghus Mac Grianna has been recruited as a master of ceremonies by the Council who are hosting the 2017 event on the 2nd December 2017.

GMD 238/17 **BURTONPORT - LETTERKENNY GREENWAY**

The Committee discussed the report circulated previously in relation to the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2017 and the Burtonport - Letterkenny Greenway study.

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, the Committee recommended immediate preparation of a funding application to expedite progress to date.

Cllr. Slowey outlined the necessity to develop a link from Burtonport to Dungloe and the advantages accruing from the development of a cycle route on the N56.

GMD 239/17 **TOURISM**

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill expressed disappointment at (i) the failure of Tourism Bodies and the Council to take advantage of the 'Coolest Place on the Planet' title awarded to Donegal in 2017 by National Geographic Traveller (ii) the high number of Blue Flag Beaches and the absence of any positive marketing in this regard. The Community Development Administrative Officer agreed to relay concerns expressed to the relevant officials.

HOUSING

GMD 240/17 HOUSING GRANTS

The Committee noted the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Housing Manager in relation to the status of grant schemes at the 10th of July 2017.

GMD 241/17 CASUAL VACANCIES

Members discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager in relation to the status of casual vacancies as of the 30th of June 2017. The Area Manager informed Members of an increase in the number of registered contractors to tender for maintenance works, from 7 to 15 and ongoing efforts to increase this capacity further in future months.

GMD 242/17 ACQUISITION

Members welcomed the progress report in relation to 2017 acquisitions and the creation of an additional 21 no. tenancies since the start of the year.

GMD 243/17 SECTION 183 PROPOSAL

The Committee were informed by the Area Manager that 2 SI houses have been out of use for a number of years at Maghera (Ardara) and Drimaneany (Fintown).

The Committee were further advised that (i) the Housing Engineer is assessing the cost of upgrading the SI at Maghera and (ii) that the refurbishment costs (€56,250) for the property including the provision of a potable water supply to the SI at Drimaneany is prohibitive and that there is no guarantee potable water will be found within this cost. Demand in this area is very low with prospective tenants requesting housing within the village of Fintown.

On the proposal of Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, seconded by Cllr. Slowey, the Committee agreed to disposal of the SI at Drimaneany.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill further recommended that any monies accruing from the sale of this property be ringfenced for Housing requirements within the Municipal District.

GMD 244/17

HOUSING REPAIRS

Cllr. Bonner requested an update from the Housing Service in relation to representations that he has made in respect of ongoing dampness/insulation issues at a property in the Gortahork area.

GMD 245/17

CORPORATE SERVICES

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill expressed concern at;

(i) The absence of the Cathaoirleach from the Municipal District meeting notwithstanding the additional remuneration available for the carrying out of relevant duties.

(ii) The social media update on the Council Facebook page in relation to the meeting of the Cathaoirleach with officials in the Basque country without any input or discussion with the Committee.

(iii) The presentation by the Cathaoirleach of a gift to an official in Getaria without any consultation with Members.

Cllr. Bonner informed the Committee that he will be visiting Spain in a private capacity in the coming days and queried if gifts will be available to him for distribution to Spanish officials.

The Corporate Manager advised members that the gift presented by the Cathaoirleach was obtained from the County Secretariat.

GMD 246/17

DUNGLOE PSC

Cllr. Bonner expressed disappointment that his suggestion that the Dungloe PSC be named after Major Joe Sweeney was not recorded in the Minutes of the meeting held on the 13th of June 2017.

GMD 247/17

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Cllr. Gallagher commended the improvement in P.R. in Donegal.

However Cllr. Gallagher outlined scope for additional local P.R. improvement to reduce dependence on Highland Radio, the Democrat and Radio Na Gaeltachta. Cllr. Gallagher welcomed the painting of local toilets in Dungloe by school children notwithstanding the absence of any positive publicity in this record.

GMD 248/17

ENVIRONMENT

The Committee noted the reports circulated with the agenda, in relation to environmental and coastal activity.

GMD 249/17

PLANNING

The Committee noted the reports circulated with the agenda regarding development applications, planning clinics, enforcement update and the status of taking in charge of 3 estates in the Municipal District.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING