

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
COMMITTEE**

**HELD ON 14TH NOVEMBER 2017 IN DUNGLOE PUBLIC SERVICE
CENTRE**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cllr. Michéal Cholm Mac Giolla Easbuig
Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher
Cllr. John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh
Cllr. Seamus Ó Domhnaill
Cllr. Enda Bonner
Cllr. Terence Slowey

OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Michael McGarvey, A/Director Water & Environment
Eamonn Brown - A/Area Manager, Housing & Corporate Services
Brendan McFadden - S.E.E. Area Manager, Roads & Transportation
Frances Horkan, Assistant Planner
David Friel, Coastal Officer
Charles Sweeney - Area Manager, Community Culture & Enterprise
Mairead Cranley, S.O. Community & Enterprise
Anne Marie McCole - S.O. Housing & Corporate Services
Joy Harron- C.O. Tourism Office
Paul McGill, Area Manager, Corporate Services

GMD343/17 **MINUTES OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
MEETING HELD ON 10th OCTOBER 2017**

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Bonner, the minutes of the Glenties Municipal District Meeting held on 10th October 2017 were agreed.

GMD344/17 **MINUTES OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
STATUTORY BUDGET MEETING HELD ON 25th
OCTOBER 2017**

On the proposal of Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, seconded by Cllr. Gallagher, the minutes of the Glenties Municipal District Statutory Budget Meeting held on 25th October 2017 were agreed.

GMD345/17 **REPORT FROM WORKSHOP HELD ON 6TH
OCTOBER 2017**

The Committee noted the report from the workshop held on 6th October 2017 in relation to the 2018 Budget.

COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES

GMD346/17 **YOUTH COUNCIL PRESENTATION**

Mr. C Sweeney introduced Donegal Youth Councillors Roisin Costello (Pobal Scoil na Rosann) and Shauna Doherty (Pobal Scoil Gaoth Dobhair) accompanied by the co-ordinator Carlyn McGuire and support worker Namik Kemal Cleikadam. It was noted that there are 5 Youth Councillors in Glenties Municipal District.

The Youth Councillors explained that they are now into the final year of their term and the 32 representatives throughout the County are implementing the following projects:

- Sport recognition for girls
- Sexual Health and Education
- Facilities for young people
- Body Image

Each of the members thanked both Youth Councillors for their excellent presentation and use of the Irish Language. They commended their achievements to date. Members explained that the mandate of the Youth Council is taken very seriously and that the work being carried out is very important.

Mr. Mc Garvey acknowledged their excellent presentation and for tackling many important issues. The Committee wished both representatives well in their good work for the future.

GMD347/17

ONE DONEGAL SOCIAL INCLUSION WEEK

Mr. C. Sweeney reported that One Donegal Social Inclusion Week 2017 took place from 6th October to 14th October and that it had been a excellent success. The Committee noted that the annual programme of events aims to highlight the very positive work being done not only by Donegal County Council but also by the other statutory and community organisations operating in Donegal to raise awareness of social inclusion related issues in the county.

GMD348/17

IPB. PRIDE OF PLACE

The Committee was informed that the Pride of Place local celebration award ceremony took place on 13th October in Letterkenny. Mr. Sweeney stated that 3 groups from the Glenties Municipal District are going forward to the National Competition.

GMD349/17

COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE ACTIVITY

The Committee noted the reports previously circulated in relation to:

- Rural Development Programme/LEADER
- Donegal Gathering
- Tourism Sectoral Forum
- ASCENT Project

GMD350/17

TOURISM OFFICER

Cllr. Gallagher highlighted that there is a need for a Tourism Officer in the Glenties Municipal District to promote/develop the District and focus on the Gaeltacht. On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Ó Fearraigh it was agreed to write to Udarás na Gaeltachta to put a resource in place for a Tourism Officer.

GMD351/17

FUNDING FROM FÁILTE IRELAND

Cllr. Gallagher referred to funding being made available by Fáilte Ireland to the Council. She added that applications are currently being prepared by Community Groups in this regard. It was agreed that Ms. Harron would follow up with Fáilte Ireland and revert to the Committee.

GMD352/17

DONEGAL WALKS AND TRAILS

The Committee noted the Activity/Project Update in relation to Donegal Walks & Trails. Cllr. Gallagher referred to the proposed Greenway - Letterkenny to Burtonport. She stated that priority should be given to the first phase of the Letterkenny to Burtonport route. She stressed that the resources need to be put in place to ensure that this is as good an application as the Department is receiving.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill welcomes the Greenway Project. He referred to the Creeslough to Burtonport Railway Line and it was noted that resurfacing works were required.

Cllr. Slowey stressed that the Greenway Project is very important project from Burtonport to Creeslough and that it is important to get the preparatory work done for this project.

GMD353/17

CRYING BRIDGE AT MUCKISH

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested funding for the repair of the stone at the Crying Bridge at Muckish as he stated that the poem on the stone is illegible.

GMD354/17

TOURISM SECTOR FORUM

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill advised that the Glenties Municipal District has the longest part of the Wild Atlantic Way possibly in the Country and that there should be a representative from the Council on the Tourism Sector Forum.

GMD355/17

**VIEWING POINT AT BALLYNESS,
FALCARRAGH**

A request was made by Cllr. Ó Domhnaill to develop a viewing point at Ballyness, Falcarragh. He stressed that there are panoramic views there and that this would be a fabulous viewing point. It was agreed that contact would be made with Fáilte Ireland to establish if this could be included next year.

GMD356/17

MUCKISH - WALKWAY SIGNAGE

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh stated that the signage and information leaflets were awaited for the Muckish Walkway. He requested Mr. Sweeney to follow up on the delay on this matter.

GMD357/17

LEADER PROGRAMME

It was noted that Committees were having problems with the completion of the application forms for submission under the Leader Programme. Members generally felt that the funding for community projects could be in jeopardy if professional assistance is not available to the groups for the submission of applications. It was agreed that the Community Development Division would examine this matter further to progress this.

GMD358/17

ISLANDS- TOURISTS DESTINATIONS

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig requested the Community Development Department to establish further the promotion and development of the Donegal Islands as tourist destinations.

PLANNING

GMD359/17

PLANNING SERVICES REPORT

The Committee noted the report previously circulated in relation to the Planning Services.

GMD360/17

PLANNING DECENTRALISATION

Ms. Horkan informed the members that their request for the decentralisation of the Planning Services had been forwarded to Senior Management however to date no response had been received. On the proposal of Cllr. Ó Domhnaill seconded by Cllr. Bonner the Committee recommended that the Director of Planning attend a meeting of the Glenties Municipal District to address the matter as members generally felt that the Planning Service is not better centralised. It was noted that if a representative from Headquarters will not attend a Municipal District Meeting, then members will seek to have this item raised on the agenda for a full Council Meeting.

GMD361/17

HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS - PLANNING CONDITIONS - IRISH SPEAKERS

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh raised the issue of the irish language assessments relating to certain housing developments in the Gaeltacht and he queried the enforcement of this. Ms. Horkan referred to an EU ruling on this and she undertook to revert to the members with an update.

GMD362/17

SITE VISITS

Cllr. Bonner expressed concern regarding the difficulty he has to meet Planning Staff and raise points at the sites. Ms. Horkan explained that the planners are available 40% of their time to the public in terms of calls, meetings etc.

ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

GMD363/17

UPDATE ON ROADWORKS PROGRAMME

Mr. B Mc Fadden informed the Committee that the Roadworks Programme is complete and that the Roads Department is currently working on specific type projects which he briefly outlined. He requested the members to raise any specific queries on roads with him directly.

GMD364/17

ROAD REINSTATEMENT BY IRISH WATER

Cllr. Gallagher raised concerns regarding lack of communication and decision making on road reinstatement works by Irish Water. It was noted that there was uncertainty in terms of funding, timeframes etc. Cllr. Bonner referred to outstanding works at Quay Road Dungloe, Portnoo and also in Glenties. On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Bonner the Committee recommended that the Council contact Irish Water to arrange a workshop or attend a meeting of the Glenties Municipal District Committee to address the problem of road reinstatement works.

Mr. McFadden reported that he had been in discussion with Water Staff centrally regarding the issues raised by Members. He added that progress is being made and when the timeline is available he will update the Members.

GMD365/17

PROPOSED ROAD WORKS IN LETTERKENNY

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill referred to the four lane proposed roadworks in Letterkenny and works also proposed at Bluebanks. He acknowledged that while this does not fall under the remit of Glenties Municipal District, he expressed concern over the potential delays which he believes this will cause for people living in Glenties Municipal District travelling to Letterkenny. He requested Mr. McGarvey to revert to the Director of Roads to ensure that alternative routes are put in place prior to the commencement of all of these roadworks. Mr. Mc Garvey undertook to refer this request to the Director through the Roads MD Manager.

GMD366/17

OIL SPILLAGES ON ROADS

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh raised concern over oil spillages on Council Roads. He requested the County Council to ensure that they address this problem and that signage is erected at problem locations. It was noted that contact had also been made with An Garda Síochána in this regard. Members referred to various locations where oil spillages have been a problem. Mr. McGarvey advised that the Environment Section will input to the analysis.

GMD367/17

PART 8 - WOOD ROAD, ARDARA

Cllr. Slowey queried if there was a mechanism to commence the work on the Wood Road, Ardara which has been approved by Part 8. He requested clarification from the Roads Department if funding could be sought for this work possibly over a several year period. Mr. McFadden stated that there is a significant cost involved but that he would consult with Road Design regarding enhancement of Safety Scheme there and he would revert back to the Members with an update.

GMD368/17

HEDGE CUTTING - BALLYIRSTON TO CLOONEY

The hedge cutting works already carried out were commended by Cllr. Slowey, however he stated that there was an area between Ballyirston and Clooney which had not been completed and was a danger.

GMD369/17

ROAD WORKS ON TORY ISLAND

Mr. B Mc Fadden reported that funding was provided in July/August and that the same contractor was working on both Aranmore and Tory Islands. He added that the Roads Department are regularly consulting with Roinn na Gaeltachta in this regard.

GMD370/17

GRITTING OF THE RANAFAST ROAD

A discussion took place in relation to the gritting of the Ranafast road. On the proposal of Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, seconded by Cllr. Gallagher it was agreed that a full open county public meeting should be held in relation to the gritting programme. Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig recommended that €50,000 be sought for laybys from Lifford Central Office.

Mr. McFadden stated that he would meet the Group later this week in relation to the Ranafast road. He advised the members of the gritting work that the roads service would carry out there in the interim ie. place sand/grit heaps along the route verge. He undertook to report the points raised to the winter service staff centrally.

It was then agreed that the Roads Department would arrange a meeting between Mr. B. O'Donnell, Senior Engineer and the six members of the Glenties Municipal District in the first instance to discuss the gritting of the road in Ranafast.

GMD371/17

**REVIEW OF POLLING SCHEMES FOR COUNTY
DONEGAL**

Mr. Paul McGill, Area Manager, Corporate Services briefed the Members on the review of the polling schemes for County Donegal. He explained that a detailed examination had been carried out of the Polling Districts and the appointed polling places for each of these districts. He reported that in general a small number of amendments in each Municipal District are being proposed which generally arise from the following:

- As a consequence of the abolition of Town Councils, where practically possible townlands will no longer be 'split'.
- Where possible appointing the nearest polling place for electors.
- Changes arising as a result of amendment to the Dáil Constituency Boundaries.

He reported that following on from consultation with the Members, a Draft Polling Scheme for County Donegal will be published and copies of the Scheme will be available for inspection for a period of 5 weeks.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill queried if voting on the Islands could happen on the same day as on the mainland.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill referred to the polling booth in Glassan School and the proposal to transfer this to Creeslough. He stressed that the principal of the process is to facilitate people to carry out their democratic right. On the proposal Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, seconded by Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig it was recommended that the Glassan polling booth remain.

Mr. McGill noted the concerns raised by the members regarding the Islands and Glassan School. He stated that a draft document will be forwarded to the elected members and he will consult with them further in this regard. The Committee was informed that it was proposed to bring the draft scheme before the January meeting of the full Council for consideration.

GMD372/17

DEPUTATION FROM COISTE FORBARTHA
MHÍN NA LEICE

Members welcomed the deputation from Coiste Forbartha Mhín na Leíce, represented by Robert Shields and Marie Gallagher. Mr. Shields reported that the group have been in operation for a year, they hold weekly meetings, arrange Community Clean Ups and have registered with Tidy Towns. He outlined works to date which included hedge cutting and the planting of a Christmas Tree at the village entrance. Ms. Gallagher explained how they are fundraising eg. car boot sales, renewal of the old fair day, fundraising nights, Christmas fair etc. They outlined their visions and goals for 2018 which included:

- Lighting from the Caravan Park to the village
- Research and develop local history
- Development of the loop walk, which would assist road safety for local residents and beneficial for tourists.

Members thanked both representatives for their excellent presentation and commended them for their active community work. They hoped to be of assistance in the future. It was noted that the needs of Mhín na Leice should be included in the needs assessment being carried out by Mr. C. Sweeney, Community Development Division.

ENVIRONMENT

GMD373/17

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT NOVEMBER 2017

The Committee noted the report previously circulated in relation to the Environment Department.

GMD374/17

WILD DEER/HUNTING

Cllr. Gallagher queried the protocol for dealing with deer on the roads which can cause accidents. She also sought clarification on the protocol around hunting and what the Council's responsibility is on this, as she had raised concern over animal suffering. Mr. Friel undertook to consult with the County Vet in this regard.

GMD375/17

RECYCLING

Cllr. Gallagher expressed thanks to Ms. Éadaoin Healy for the recycling upgrades in the County. She requested her to attend a meeting of the Municipal District. She stated that an upgrade of the recycling bins is required, hoped that a budget could be obtained and a programme rolled out over a number of years. Mr. Friel undertook to arrange for Ms. Healy to attend the next Municipal District Meeting.

GMD376/17

DUNGLOE TIDY TOWNS

Cllr. Gallagher referred to the new bins supplied in the Council Chamber for recycling. She stated that there is an event in Rosses Community School this weekend and queried if the bins could be taken to the event. She added that Bryson Recycling is amenable to providing the facility and that Donegal County Council should support it.

GMD377/17

MAGHEROARTY COASTAL EROSION

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill expressed concern regarding the protection of the coastline at Magheroarty. He stated that the dune is in danger of being breached which would lead to open sea. Mr. Mc Garvey advised that funding was approved for a breakwater there. It was noted that the pier may well be a contributing factor to the erosion and that any further changes there without a breakwater would need to be considered. It was noted that the Council can carry out a study of the erosion but that the overall package will need to be examined and approved by the Office of Public Works.

Mr. D. Friel explained the elements involved and undertook to follow up on this matter in the hope that there would be some development on this before Christmas.

GMD378/17

MAGHERY COASTAL EROSION

The Committee was informed that some direct engagement with the Office of Public Works had been made and that progress is being made in relation to Maghery coastal erosion.

GMD379/17

RECYCLING OF PRINTER CARTRIDGES

Cllr. Slowey queried the position regarding the recycling of printer cartridges. Mr. Friel stated that he would contact Byrson Recycling to establish the position.

GMD380/17

WALKWAY ONTO MAGHERY BEACH

Cllr. Gallagher stated that the third walkway onto Maghery beach needs to be fixed. Mr. Friel agreed to investigate the problem.

GMD381/17

CLEANING OF RIVERS

Cllr. Gallagher requested the Council to start a programme with funding to clean the rivers. Mr. B Mc Fadden stated that the Roads Department monitor the areas of roads around bridges.

GMD382/17

COSTAL EROSION/FLOODING

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig raised concerns of problems of coastal erosion/flooding in a number of areas including Magheragallon, Cruit, Curransport (right side of pier). He stated that at times in some low lying areas the tide is coming into homes. He requested the Council to raise these issues with the Minister of State for the Office of Public Works and Flood Relief. Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig also referred to trees falling into the river in Derrybeg which would cause problems at times of flooding.

GMD383/17

PRIVATISATION OF RECYCLING

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig recommended that the Council take over recycling in Donegal instead of privatising it. However some other members generally felt that the current contract with Bryson Recycling provides a much better service than the Council would deliver. Mr. Mc Garvey stated that an assessment had been carried out on this and that the cost has been reduced by privatisation of the service. Cllr. Gallagher requested the Council to move the gates back at the recycling centres so the banks could be used all of the time. Mr. Mc Garvey agreed to follow up on this matter. Mr. Mc Garvey added that when the recycling contract is being reviewed it will be brought back to the Strategic Policy Committee.

HOUSING

GMD384/17

HOUSING REPORT

The Committee noted the reports previously circulated in relation to housing grants, casual vacancies and acquisitions.

GMD385/17

HOUSING NEEDS REPORT

Cllr. Gallagher referred to the Housing Needs Report which had been circulated to the Members. She stated that if a case is being put forward for capital schemes, then Bunbeg, Derrybeg and Gweedore need to be amalgamated. Mr. E Brown advised that these three areas are taken together.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the inclusion of Falcarragh/Gortahork as a turnkey along with Dunfanaghy. The Housing Manager stated that there was a huge need in Falcarragh and Gortahork and he would seek to have them included. He explained that the Council is at an advanced stage in terms of land purchase and it would be prudent to include a turnkey as well.

GMD386/17

SI IN MAGHERA, ARDARA

Cllr. Slowey queried the possibility of upgrading the S.I. at Maghera, Ardara but stressed that it may be difficult to let. Mr. E. Brown reported that a full assessment of this property has been carried out by the Housing Engineer. He added then when costings are available he will liaise with the Housing Assessment Officer to establish the need for the property. He undertook to revert to the Committee with an update in due course.

GMD387/17

RESPOND HOUSING ASSOCIATION /DEVELOPMENT UNITS IN DUNGLOE

Cllr. Gallagher requested an update regarding the HSE housing in Dungloe. Mr. E. Brown stated that the Council is still waiting on confirmation from HSE in this regard. It was noted that there are a number of one and two bedroom properties required in Dungloe.

GMD388/17

**SCHEDULE FOR ISLAND COMMITTEE
MEETINGS & GLENTIES MUNICIPAL
DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2018**

The Committee noted the draft schedule for Island Committee Meetings and Glenties Municipal District Committee Meetings for 2018 which had been previously circulated. It was noted that the M.D. meetings for January and September should be scheduled for the third Tuesday of the month instead of the second Tuesday. Mr. E. Brown undertook to have these dates amended. On the proposal of Cllr. Slowey, seconded by Cllr. Ó Domhnaill the Committee agreed to the schedules as circulated with the dates for the meetings of the Municipal District Committee in January and September to be amended. It was noted that there are members in the Letterkenny Municipal District who are also members of the Islands Committee and a request has been made to facilitate their attendance at the Islands Meetings. It was recommended that this matter be raised with the Corporate Policy Group as possibly different dates will need to be arranged or the attendance be made voluntary for Elected members on the Islands Committee.

GMD389/17

**CHILD PROTECTION BRIEFINGS FOR THE
ELECTED MEMBERS**

It was recommended that the Child Protection Briefings for the Elected Members take place in advance of the Municipal District Meeting in January.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

GMD390/17

EXTRADITION

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig requested Members to support a motion that political prisoner extradition across the border is not right. On the proposal of Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig, seconded by Cllr. Ó Domhnaill it was agreed that in general political prisoner extradition across the border is not right.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING