

**Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Stranorlar held
18th July 2018 in the Regional Training Centre, Stranorlar at 11.00 am**

Members Present	Cllr. Martin Harley, Cllr. Gerry Crawford, Cllr. Patrick McGowan, Cllr. Gary Doherty, Cllr. Frank McBrearty, Cllr Liam Doherty.
Officials Present	Joe Peoples, Olive Gillespie, Donna McGroarty, Kathleen McGowan, Simon Harron, Claire McGeever, Suzanne Tinney.

Cllr. McGowan thanked everyone for their attendance. Items from the agenda were discussed as follows:

195 Corporate Services

195.01 Votes of Sympathy

Members passed a vote of sympathy on the passing of:

- **Patrick (Paddy) Crowley**, father-in-law of Mark Sweeney, Area Manager, Roads, Donegal M.D.
- **Colm Gallagher**, former Elected Member of Donegal County Council.
- **Breda Nelis**, sister of our colleague Yvonne Nelis, Finance.
- **Christine James**, mother-in-law of Tommy Doherty, Area Housing Engineer, Stranorlar Municipal District.

195.02 Confirmation of Minutes of Municipal District of Stranorlar Meeting held 29th May 2018

The minutes were approved on the proposal of Cllr. Crawford and seconded by Cllr. Harley.

195.03 Cllr. McBrearty asked that a letter of good wishes be sent to Canon McGettigan on his recent retirement from Parish of Raphoe.

195.04 Cllr. G Doherty paid tribute to the sporting achievements of the following:

- Donegal GAA teams – Senior Mens, Senior Ladies and the Senior Hurling Teams.
- Somer Lecky, Finn Valley Athletic Club on her success at the European Championships.
- Stephen John Carlin on his success at the Karate World Championships.
- Kildrum Tigers.

195.05 Cllr. P McGowan paid tribute to Convoy Joint National School as the first school in Donegal to achieve 10 green flags.

195.06 Members requested an update on the Management of Council Business via their laptops and Joe Peoples agreed to follow up.

195.07 Joe Peoples advised that the chain of office for Stranorlar MD is currently being procured.

196 Confirmation of Date and Venue for Next Meeting and Business Prescribed by Statute

196.01 It was agreed that the next meetings of Stranorlar Municipal District would be held on **Wednesday, 19th September 2018 in the County House, Lifford** as follows:

- **Workshop** 10.00 am.
- **Meeting** 11.00 am.

197 Consideration of Reports & Recommendations from Services

197.01 Community & Enterprise

Kathleen McGowan was invited to address the meeting. The update report circulated with the agenda was taken as read. The following comments were made:

- Members requested that twinning arrangements include a region experiencing currency, border and historical issues to ensure meaningful engagement and mutual learning.
- The next meeting of the Riverine Project was confirmed for July 31st 2018. The economic appraisers for the project will also attend this meeting to liaise directly with Members.
- Members welcomed a recent announcement of funding of €156,000 for Ballybofey United under the LEADER Programme.
- The closing date for the Community Enhancement Scheme is July 30th 2018.
- Cllr. McGowan requested that Finn / Foyle meetings be held a number of times per year and that updates be brought to Stranorlar MD.

197.02 Housing & Corporate Services

Olive Gillespie was invited to address the meeting. The update report circulated with the agenda was taken as read. The following comments were made:

- Members welcomed progress on the vacancy rates in the MD over the past 18 months.
- A no. of social houses have now been offered by Choice Based Letting (CBL). Members were advised that applications from interested parties will be reviewed against CBL criteria for offering tenancies including length of time on waiting list.
- Simon Harron confirmed that a Pre-Planning Meeting with Habinteg in relation to the proposed development at Castlefin was taking place on the afternoon of July 18th 2018. Joe Peoples added that the Council continues to support and assist AHB's in their work.
- In relation to the current turnkey process, Joe Peoples updated Members on progress advising that significant interest had been received in response to this competition. The Pre-Qualification Stage has now been completed which involved Housing Capital staff meeting with each Developer over a three-day period in June 2018. The next stage will be to invite Developers to make more detailed submissions and this will enable the Council to begin negotiations with interested parties.

- It was agreed that the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) guidance document for Landlords be circulated to Members. Joe Peoples added that the Council has inspected circa. 1500 properties over the past 2 years and the Council is required to apply the national regulations in relation to inspections.
- In response to Cllr. McBrearty's query regarding properties affected by condensation, Olive Gillespie advised that as part of the EERW contract works, the Council installs fans in bathrooms, vents in walls and ventilation in the attic spaces. In certain cases, it has also been necessary to provide humidity fans. It was agreed that further information will be circulated to Members on this matter.

197.03 Planning

Simon Harron was invited to address the meeting. The update report circulated with the agenda was taken as read. The following comments were made:

- Members requested that Frank Sweeney attend the next meeting with regard the Take Over of Housing Developments and that a written report be circulated to Members in advance.
- The County Development Plan 2018-2024 became operational on June 5th 2018.
- The Seven Strategic Towns Local Area Plan will be considered at the Council Meeting on July 23rd 2018 and if adopted, will become operational 4 weeks later.
- A total of €109,000 has now been allocated to 13 conservation projects across the county.
- A discussion took place regarding unlicensed 'diffing' events which took place during the Donegal International Rally, which An Gardai are investigating. Members were invited to report specific concerns / incidents of unauthorised development directly to the Enforcement Section.
- Simon Harron advised Members that the recent decision of An Bord Pleanala to grant permission for a windfarm development at Meenbogue was adjudicated under the new County Development Plan 2018-2024 and also with regard to national guidance on windfarm development.
- Cllr. McBrearty requested that the Housing & Planning Sections give priority to the new pumping station / treatment plant being installed as part of the social housing development at St. Johnston.

197.04 Environmental Services

Suzanne Tinney was invited to address the meeting. The update report circulated with the agenda was taken as read. The following comments were made:

- Members were advised that skips are allocated for housing developments by the litter warden and not provided for individual tenants / households.
- In response to a query from Cllr. Harley, Suzanne Tinney advised that licenses are required for hard-fill storage on-site and depending on volume / scale, that licenses are issued by the Council or the EPA. Matthew Byrne is the Council's contact in relation to same.
- Members requested an update on Bring Banks at Stranorlar for the next meeting.
- Cllr. Crawford commended the work of the Tidy Towns Committees and advised that the area outside of the County House, Lifford and streets of Lifford require attention.

197.05 Roads & Transportation

Claire McGeever was invited to address the meeting. The update report circulated with the agenda was taken as read. The following comments were made:

- The Restoration Maintenance Programme for 2018 is now complete.
- A small no. of projects under the Restoration Improvements Programme for 2018 have yet to be carried out.
- Claire McGeever advised that a balance of funding of €6,500 remains for 2018 under the Community Involvement Scheme (CIS). As agreed by Members at the earlier workshop, this funding was allocated to carry out works at the Curragh Housing Estate, Killygordon.
- Members were advised of further potential LIS funding.
- Members commended the ongoing works on the 3.5km Pavement Strengthening Scheme from Blackburn Bridge to Ballybofey. The expected completion date is late Quarter 4 2018.
- 3 safety schemes – N15 Corcam Bends, N14 Tullrap & N15 McGroary's - are all at design stage and Members will be kept updated on progress. Members requested that staff from the DNRO attend the next meeting in relation to ongoing and proposed roads schemes on the national primary routes including the Tullyrap Safety Improvement Scheme.
- On the proposal of Cllr. Crawford, seconded by Cllr. McGowan, Members recommended the installation of live cameras to keep the public updated on the traffic situation in Ballybofey & Stranorlar with regard the ongoing road works.
- In relation to the meeting request with Minister Ross with regard priority projects for Stranorlar Municipal District, Cllr. McGowan proposed that all Members request the support and influence of Donegal Oireachtas Members in ensuring that this meeting takes place.
- Members were advised that a budget of €116,000 had been allocated to surface repair adjacent the traffic calming islands on the N15 at Castlefin (Ballybofey side).

198 Motions

198.01 The following Motion was submitted by Cllr. Gerry Crawford:

Motion: That we discuss the position in relation to the new and old treatment Plant in Cois Abhainn, St. Johnston.

Reply: As part of the proposed new development at Cois Abhainn, St. Johnston, Housing Stranorlar MD has requested that a new Pumping Station be constructed in the Cois Abhainn Housing Scheme, to cater for both the existing Phase 1 & new Phase 2 properties in this Scheme. It has been agreed with the Housing Construction Division that it will be a condition of the Contract that this new Pumping Station and Pumping Main will be constructed prior to the construction of the Phase 2 properties and the new System will then be fully commissioned and connected to the public main. The existing single phase pumps will then be decommissioned.

The Motion was seconded by Cllr. G Doherty.

199 Members Written Questions

199.01 The following Question was submitted by Cllr. Gerry Crawford:

Question: What is the reason for the delay in overlay of the Murlog Ballindrait Rd.

Reply: Tenders for CH 87 - Ballindrait were returned on 20th March and the contract was awarded on the first week of April to Patrick Keenan.

On the 11th June the Contractor withdrew from this and other tenders quoting "Regrettably, due to some unforeseen workload demands and other resource and scheduling issues we are unable to complete any of the works listed on the attached document". The tender was immediately offered to Whitemountain Quarries Ltd. who have accepted it verbally. The Council is awaiting their developed Traffic Management Plan and Developed Health and Safety Plans along with their programme of work. They have advised that they expect to carry out this contract in August.

199.02 The following Question was submitted by Cllr. Gerry Crawford:

Question: Has there been a response to the Council invitation to developers for the provision of turnkey family homes in Lifford and other areas of this MD?

Reply: The Council is currently progressing the following using the turnkey acquisition model:

- a) The turnkey acquisition at Mullindrait, Stranorlar is progressing on-site and is made up of 21 units (18 x 3 bed units and 3 x 4 bed units). The Council is monitoring the construction works and liaises with the Contractor on an on-going basis. The development is due for completion in August 2018, followed by the snagging process. It is planned to commence the allocation of these properties in early quarter 4 2018.
- b) Donegal County Council initiated a new public procurement process in early 2018 seeking to acquire social housing through turnkey acquisition developments. A total of 17 towns across the county were included in this process, as outlined in the attached advert. Proposals were submitted for Lifford, Ballybofey / Stranorlar & Convoy

Proposals were sought from Developers in a position to deliver (i) completed units, (ii) units under construction and (iii) units to be constructed on suitable sites, within a reasonable timescale. The extended closing date for receipt of Pre-Qualification Questionnaire's (PQQ) was 11th April 2018.

The Pre Qualification submissions have been assessed. Tenderers who are successful in the Pre-Qualification Process progress to the Dialogue Stage. Preliminary Dialogue meetings have taken place with each tenderer and their design team in June 2018.

The Dialogue Stage enables the Council to negotiate with tenderers on issues such as specific need, design, specification, delivery programme and price.

The Meeting was advised a fun colour run would take place on Sunday, 21st July 2018 in aid of local charitable organisations.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Cathaoirleach
Municipal District of Stranorlar

As agreed at the Stranorlar MD Meeting held 1st October 2018.