

**MINUTES OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING
HELD IN DUNGLOE PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE ON
13TH MAY 2025**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr. Michael McClafferty (Cathaoirleach)
Cllr. Anthony Molloy
Cllr. John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh
Cllr. Micheál Cholm Mac Giolla Easbuig
Cllr. Denis McGee
Cllr. Brian Carr

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Michael McGarvey - Director of Water & Environment Service
Michael Rowsome - A/Area Manager, Corporate & Housing
Brendan McFadden - SEE/Area Manager, Roads & Transportation
Jim Boner - SEE, Housing Capital
John McCarron, SEE, Water & Environment
Lorna Ramsey - Executive Planner
Anne Marie McCole - S.O. Community Development
Mary Boyle - A/SSO, Housing & Corporate
Clíona Ní Ghallachóir - Aistriúcháin Comhuaineach

GMD 21/25

Confirmation of Minutes of Glenties Municipal District Meeting

On the proposal of Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig, seconded by Cllr. Ó Fearraigh, the Minutes of the Municipal District Meetings held on the 25th March 2025 and the 8th April 2025 were confirmed. Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig

requested further consideration of the following matters raised previously.

- The Irish language version of the names of all towns, townlands and placenames etc., be used in all correspondence and communications within the Glenties Municipal District, and by every Member of Staff, Section and Service.
- The re-naming of Dungloe Public Service Centre
- The delay being experienced by Home Help applicants
- The necessity for a fulltime Tenant Liaison Officer
- 2030 target for fluency in Irish language for Dungloe PSC
- Invitation to be extended to the Palestinian Ambassador to a stand-alone Reception in Dungloe PSC

GMD 22/25

Comhar na nOileán

In response to concerns expressed by Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig regarding Membership of the above board, the Director clarified that the election of a Donegal County Council Member to the board of Comhar na nOileán was held at the Council AGM on the 21st of June 2024 and that Cllr. Molloy was selected to the position following a show of hands. (Minute 203/24).

GMD 23/25

PLANNING SERVICES

The Committee noted the Reports circulated with the Agenda in relation to the following activities:

- Development Application statistics
- Enforcement
- Schedule of Planning Clinics
- Regeneration and Development
- Capital Projects Delivery Unit

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig highlighted the necessity for the Council to adhere to Irish language conditions as set out in the County Development Plan and requested Planning Service to specify the manner in which they will enforce the condition in respect of same.

Cllr. McGee submitted that on-site meetings would be more beneficial to Planning applicants and also expressed surprise at the number of outstanding enforcement applications.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh referred to the recent fire in the Derrybeg Church and recommended that the Planning Service liaise with all parties involved in the restoration works.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh requested an update on the status of the Creeslough Community Regeneration Project.

The Committee reiterated the ongoing submissions in respect of the necessity to resolve planning restrictions on the N56. Cllr. Mc Clafferty recommended that the Council liaise with TD's in the County to expedite progress in respect of N56 related planning issues.

In response to a query from Cllr. McClafferty, the Area Planner advised that further information would have been requested in respect of the applications categorised as 'deferred' in the Planning Report.

GMD 24/25

HOUSING SERVICES

The Committee discussed the Housing Reports circulated with the Agenda and presented by the Senior Executive Engineer and the A/Area Manager in relation to the following activities:

- Loinnir An Locha, An Clochán Liath - 43 units
- An Craoslach - 3 units
- Na Gleannta - 3 units
- Doire Beaga - 3 units
- Anagaire - 7 units completed and let

- Gaoth Dobhair - 29 units - ongoing Turnkey development

The Members were updated in relation to Council offers to acquire lands for Social Housing in Baile an Finne, An Fál Carrach and Gaoth Dobhair.

Cllr. McGee expressed disappointment at (1) the lack of transparency in relation to the reasons pertaining to the recent stoppage of construction works in Gaoth Dobhair and (2) ongoing delays in relation to social housing developments in Fál Carrach.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig highlighted the absence of any social housing developments on the Islands and referred to the necessity for a resolution of water supply and treatment capacity to enable progression.

Cllr. Molloy requested the Council to expedite delivery of a social housing scheme in Ardara and the Senior Executive Engineer informed the Committee of ongoing surveys, appraisal reports and design works in this regard.

Cllr. McClafferty requested the Council to communicate with Uisce Eireann to ascertain treatment capacity in the Municipal District.

Cllr. Carr requested the attendance of the Social Housing Remediation Team at the next Municipal District meeting to (1) update Members on the status of their programme and (2) confirm if cores were taken from properties in Glenties (The Rock, Clós Naomh Chonaill, Church Road) and the status of any results in relation to the presence of defective concrete block material.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh recommended that the Council progress the delivery of a Group Home/Independent Living Accommodation in Gaoth Dobhair and Falcarragh

Cllr. McClafferty referred to anecdotal evidence locally that repossessions are beginning to increase and requested the Council to liaise with financial institutions in this regard.

The Senior Executive Engineer and A/Area Manager responded to Members queries regarding:

- Group Homes
- Housing Need on Islands
- S.I. and One-off Rural Housing
- Circular 11/2025 - Second Hand Social Housing Acquisitions Programme
- Voluntary Housing vacancies

Section 183

On the proposal of Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig, seconded by Cllr. Ó Fearraigh, the Committee agreed to transfer lands located on folio DL20712F, Plan Number 520, at Carrickmacafferty Lower, Derrybeg, Co. Donegal to Edward McAteer (516393) and noted that the former S183 proposal will be brought to the Planning Council for decision.

GMD 25/25

ENVIRONMENT

The Committee noted the reports circulated with the Agenda and presented by the Environment Engineer.

The Environment Engineer responded to Member's queries in respect of matters raised by Councillors as follows:

- Reassignment of water services staff
- Maintenance costs - Public Toilets
- Status of Boardwalks Programme
- Rollout of Changing Places model

- Extension of opening hours at recycling centres and provision of additional recycling facilities with the Municipal District
- The status of Magheroarty Masterplan
- Dog fouling and lack of enforcement particularly on cycleways and necessity to employ additional Wardens
- Bye-laws to control Campervan Parking
- Signage in relation to dropped off rubbish at beaches
- Provision of public toilet facility at beaches.

GMD 26/25

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Members noted the Reports circulated with the Agenda and agreed to submit any queries to the Administrative Officer.

26.1

Deputation: Meitheal Plean Comhtháite Gaoth Dobhair

The Committee welcomed the following representatives to the Meeting:

- Caitríona Nic Gairbhigh
- Máire Uí Chomhaill
- Máirín Uí Fhearraigh
- An tAthair Brian Ó Fearraigh

Members were updated in relation to public consultation involved in the development of an Integrated Plan for Gaoth Dobhair funded by Údaras na Gaeltachta. The core concepts of the plan involve recommendations to provide sustainable employment, language preservation and enhancement, tourism promotion, social enterprise and educational development.

The Director informed the Committee that he will be meeting representatives along with the Director of Planning/Community Development this week and acknowledged

the Deputation's request for a Council representative to attend.

The Committee commended the representatives for their efforts to enhance their local community and assured them of their continued support.

26.2

Deputation: Portnablagh Fishermen

The Committee welcomed the Harbour Master, Noel McGettigan, Ivan Mc Elhinney and Andy Parry to the meeting and they highlighted difficulties that they are experiencing in respect of underpinning the pier, breakwater and slipway access. They also requested further communication with the Marine Service and to be involved in any decision-making pertaining to the pier.

The Harbour Master undertook to liaise with the fishermen following the meeting.

26.3

Deputation: Irish Guide Dogs

The Committee welcomed Liam O' Leary, Laura Bateman and Ciara Boyle accompanied by a Guide Dog.

A presentation was made to:

- (1) raise awareness regarding accessibility challenges faced by visually impaired people in Dungloe.
- (2) recommendations for safe crossings and pavement design improvements.
- (3) promote collaboration among the Council and all Stakeholders.

ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

Members welcomed the Reports circulated with the Agenda in relation to the following projects:

- status of Roadworks Programme 2025
- update on the N56 Dunfanaghy/Portnablagh Active Travel Scheme
- update on the Letterkenny/Burtonport Greenway
- update on the Currynanerriagh Bridge Project
- summary of the Glenties Municipal District Bridge Strengthening Programme 2025

N56 - Letterilly to Kilraine

The Roads Manager informed the Committee that the Dungloe/Glenties Cycleway Upgrade is substantially complete and that locks are to be installed on access controls this month.

Members welcomed the installation on the cycleway route of 15 no. QR Lost Stories Signs with links to Youtube videos of local historical stories.

Marine Services

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig requested the attendance of Human Resources and Marine Senior Staff to discuss the lack of staffing resources in the Marine Section.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING