

**MINUTES OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING
HELD IN DUNGLOE PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE ON
25th MARCH 2025**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr. John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh (Cathaoirleach)
Cllr. Michael McClafferty
Cllr. Anthony Molloy
Cllr. Micheál Choilm 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
Deirdre Harte - Project Officer Eco Development
Anne Marie McCole - S.O. Community Development
Mary Boyle - A/SSO, Housing & Corporate
Clíona Ní Ghallachóir - Aistriúcháin Comhuaineach

GMD 11/25

Message of Condolence

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr, John Shéamais Ó Fearraigh opened the meeting by conveying his sympathies, and that of all present, to leas-chathaoirleach, Cllr. Michael McClafferty on the recent death of his mother.

Cllr. Micheál Cholm Mac Giolla Easbuig proposed a minute's silence in respect of Cllr. McClafferty's mother, as well as for the two young men from the Cloughaneely Parish who tragically lost their lives in a recent road traffic accident in Baltoney, Gortahork on the 28th February last.

A Minute's silence was observed.

GMD 12/25

Confirmation of Minutes of Glenties Municipal District Meeting

On the proposal of Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig, seconded by Cllr. Molloy, the Minutes of the Municipal District Meeting held on the 14th January 2025, were confirmed.

GMD 13/25

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFORMATION SYSTEMS & EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Project Officer advised the meeting that Local Enterprise week was launched with all events having taken place between Monday the 3rd to Friday the 7th March with the highlight this year being "Made in Donegal Business Summit and Showcase".

The Project Officer also mentioned the huge success of the Holiday World Show held in the RDS at the end of January. She requested that a Tourism Workshop be arranged in conjunction with the next Glenties Municipal District Meeting. The Project Officer advised the meeting that the Festival & Events Grant Scheme, was now closed, with Donegal having been awarded €49,750 under the Fáilte Ireland Regional Festival Funding Scheme.

She also advised that the 2025 application scheme for the Minor Tourism Related Works Grant Scheme is in the process of moving online with the aim of having the application process open very soon. The Tourism Officer also listed in her report, circulated to the Members, the various other project activity ongoing within her section;

- TBEX
- GAA Congress
- Caravan and Camping
- Age Friendly/Disability Strategy/Caravan & Camping Committees
- Walking Trails Promotion
- Golf Cluster
- Donegal Golf Brochure
- Best of the Northwest Golf Collaboration
- Tourism Seminar 2025
- Go Visit Donegal Website
- Trade Newsletter
- Night-Time Economy (NTE) Buncrana
- TOURBO
- Sustainable Arctic & Peripheral Biking Tourism Project (SUB)
- EDIN

Cllr. Carr thanked the Project Officer for her contribution to the meeting and requested attendance of an official at a future meeting to explain all the various opportunities/projects to the Members. Cllr. McGee also expressed concern at the recent communication circulated in relation to the Letterkenny Fire Service.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig submitted that he would like to hold a meeting regarding the Arranmore Fire Service. He also stressed the importance of the co-operative being present at such a meeting and that the Islands deserve an equal service to the mainland.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig highlighted the negative impact of tourism on the Islands.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh expressed disappointment at the €49,000 allocation for festivals and events.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh also recommended an upgrade to fire service infrastructure on the islands. He also questioned the number of staff in our Fire Service and stressed the importance of always having a full team ready for all emergencies.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig proposed that a Blue Light service be provided on all our offshore islands, seconded by Cllr. McClafferty.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig again raised the matter of lack of continuity from this section, with various personnel representing them at meetings which makes it difficult for the Members to get answers to their questions. Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig requested that Director of Service for Economic Development, Information Systems and Emergency Services be invited to the next meeting.

GMD 14/25

PLANNING

The Area Planner took her Report as read.

14.1 N.56

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig highlighted the huge difficulty the current policy pertaining to planning along the N56 is having on local people wanting to build on their own lands. He acknowledged it is a national policy but strongly recommended that measures be taken to change same.

Cllr. McGee agreed that the issue with planning along the N56 is having a huge impact on indigenous families and that there are too many restrictions in place, making it almost impossible for local/indigenous people to obtain planning permission,

which is a factor in some young families emigrating from the Gaeltacht areas, in particular.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh advised the meeting that the ongoing issue needs to be discussed at length with our TD's, in order to make the desired changes to current policies.

Cllr. McGee concurred with Cllr. Ó Fearraigh on this matter and proposed that the Members should arrange to meet with our local TD's as soon as possible.

Cllr. McGee further advised that the low cost of submitting a planning objection is negatively impacting on the ability of locals to obtain planning.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig questioned the Area Planner regarding submitted planning permissions involving the N56, and if they can be decided on, at the moment. The Area Planner clarified that the Planning Service are still waiting for the Minister to finalise relevant policy.

14.2 Glenties Regeneration

Cllr. Carr commended the recent Glenties Town Regeneration meeting, and the positive enthusiasm displayed for a better vision for the town.

GMD 15/25

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

15.1 Confirmation of Minutes of DFI Workshop

On the proposal of Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig, seconded by Cllr. Carr, the Committee considered the applications received for the 2025 Glenties MD DFI and allocated funding in the sum of €150,000 as set out in the table below:

| Applicant/Group | Amount |
|--|---------------|
| Fintown Harps AFC | € 2,500 |
| SULT Féile Cuideachta faoi Theorainn Ráthaíochta | € 5,000 |
| Ards Mens Shed, Creeslough | € 2,500 |

| | |
|--|----------|
| Awake Tourism | € 2,500 |
| Ballymore National School | € 2,500 |
| Bothan na bhFear, Cloughaneely Men's shed | € 2,500 |
| Buíon Ceoil Sinsear Chloich Cheann Fhaola | € 14,500 |
| C.L.G. Naomh Muire | € 2,500 |
| Ceol Na gCruach | € 2,500 |
| CLG Ard an Rátha - Minor Board | € 2,500 |
| CLG Naomh Micheál (North West Coastal Challenge Committee) | € 2,500 |
| Coiste Forbartha Chnoc Fola | € 2,500 |
| Coiste Forbartha Inis Bó Finne | € 2,500 |
| Comharchumann Forbartha Ghaoth Dobhair | € 5,000 |
| Comharchumann Oileán Árainn Mhór Teo | € 2,500 |
| Crannaghbois National School | € 10,000 |
| Creelough Community First responders | € 2,500 |
| Cumann na gCurach, Gaoth Dobhair | € 2,500 |
| Donegal Famine Heritage Centre CLG "The Workhouse" | € 2,500 |
| Downstrands Family Resource Centre | € 2,500 |
| Dunfanaghy FC Ltd | € 2,500 |
| Errigal Equestrian | € 2,500 |
| Glenties Community Action Group | € 7,000 |
| Lettermacaward Development CLG | € 3,000 |
| Loughros Point Rowing Club | € 5,000 |
| Naomh Conaill GAA Club | € 2,500 |
| Narin Portnoo Rosbeg Community Co-Operative Soc Ltd. | € 2,500 |
| Scioból an Phobail | € 15,000 |
| | |
| Scoil Bhríde | € 8,000 |
| Scoil Fhionáin An Fál Carrach | € 2,500 |
| Scoil Mhuire | € 2,500 |

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|--|------------------|
| Scoil Mhuire, An Craosloch | € 2,500 |
| Solas Na Nollag Baile Na Finne | € 2,500 |
| St. Columba's Community Dev Group (CLG) Burtonport | € 2,500 |
| The Creeslough View | € 2,500 |
| The Mary From Dungloe International Arts Festival | € 5,000 |
| Togra Fionta & Cultúr Uladh | € 7,500 |
| Total Allocated | € 150,000 |

15.2 Stock Car Track

In the wake of the serious road traffic accident in Baltoney, Gortahork, in which two young males lost their lives last month, Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig recommended that steps be taken to contact the owner of the stock car track at Corveen, Derrybeg in an effort to provide a safer environment for young drivers.

Cllr. McGee added that Councillors, should support young drivers and facilitate necessary engagement with all relevant stakeholders.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh concurred with the necessity for adequate facilities and referred to problems from an insurance perspective that impeded previous efforts in this regard.

15.3 Community Development Projects

Cllr. Carr requested an update on (i) The status of the Millside walk in Fintown (ORIS); (ii) Removal of the Litter Bin from the Clós Naomh Chonail Playground.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh requested an update on the status of Errigal Mountain Improvements.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig requested assistance from the Council in relation to insurance requirements in respect of a modern

electric wheelchair/mountain trike. Cllr. McClafferty supported the proposal.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig requested an update on the status of Poll an tSnámh in Ranafast.

Cllr. Molloy requested an update of the walkway from the old Leconnell National School back into Meetashask.

Cllr. McGee requested clarity regarding maintenance of Railway Walks.

GMD 16/25

ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

16.1 N.56 Update

The Roads Manager discussed the Report circulated with the agenda and provided Members with an Update on the Letterilly to Kilraine Project.

16.2 Roadworks Programme

The Roads Manager acknowledged the assistance of Members with their contributions to agreements of the Restoration Improvement, Restoration Maintenance and Drainage Programmes. Members were advised that further workshops will be scheduled, with Members to agree further programmes on announcement of relevant allocations.

16.3 Coiste Forbartha Mullagh Dubh

The Roads Manager informed Members of recent communication with this group following their deputation to the January Municipal District meeting and outlined the costs for provision of a footpath within the speed limits.

16.4 Members Miscellaneous Issues

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig expressed disappointment at the lack of funding available for footpath programmes, bridge

programmes and marine projects, adequate staffing and island development.

Cllr. Carr raised road safety issues (1) in proximity to Meenagowan National School (2) Glenties Chapel.

Cllr. Carr also recommended that representatives of the visually impaired make a presentation at a future meeting of the Glenties Municipal District.

Cllr. Molloy requested the Road Service to carry out the necessary works to repair the road surface at the top of Glengesh.

Cllr. McClafferty requested the Road Service to resolve problems arising from overgrown hedges at Rocktown, Falcarragh.

Cllr. McGee highlighted difficulties encountered by bus operators due to the narrow bridges in the Gortahork area. Cllr. McGee also recommended the restoration of the Bothar Aise Scheme as a replacement for the ineffective LIS Programme.

The Roads Manager responded to Member's queries regarding;

- significant funding required for the Footpath Programme
- hedgecutting policy
- submission of substantial application to An Roinn for the Islands Road Programme
- Bridge Programme
- Active Travel Scheme - Bunbeg Footbridge

16.5 Marine Service/Island Programme

In response to concerns expressed by Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig regarding the recent submission of an application for funding to An Roinn, both the Director and Corporate Manager informed the Committee that the Council have submitted projects for consideration in the sum of €1.2m

The Committee were also advised that the Marine Service have also submitted a separate application to An Roinn to consider the provision of funding to enable the employment of a dedicated Engineer for a 5 year period to progress major infrastructural projects on Aranmore, Magheraroarty, Burtonport, Tory, Gola, Inishboffin and Rutland.

GMD 17/25

ENVIRONMENT

The Committee welcomed the Report circulated with the agenda in relation to;

- Public Service Announcements - Air Quality
- National Agricultural Inspection Plan
- Septic Tank Grant Scheme

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig requested an update regarding the status of the Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme and the necessity to complete the sea wall on Tory Island.

Cllr. Carr and Cllr. McClafferty highlighted the necessity for the employment of additional Dog Wardens in conjunction with enhanced enforcement activity to address dog fouling concerns.

Cllr. McClafferty expressed concern at the lack of resources dedicated to the National Inspection Plan on septic tanks.

Cllr. McGee raised concerns regarding the prevalence of vermin in the Magheraroarty area and requested the completion of the sea wall on Tory Island.

GMD 18/25

HOUSING/CORPORATE SERVICES

18.1 Social Housing Developments

The Senior Engineer discussed the Report circulated with the Agenda in relation to;

- Chapel Road., Dungloe - 43 units
- Ard Scoil Mhuire site in Gweedore - 29 units
- Annagry - 7 units - Conveyance stage
- Design/Tender stage - Creeslough/Glenties Fire Station/Derrybeg
- House Acquisitions - Kincasslagh & Dungloe

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh expressed frustration of the recent closure of the construction site in Gweedore and the Housing Engineer advised that engagement is ongoing with the Housing Service.

Cllr. Carr and Cllr. McGee both highlighted financial difficulties encountered by tenants residing in social housing effected by defected concrete block related issues and requested that consideration be given to these tenants in the context of the ongoing rent review.

The Housing Manager undertook to issue members with a copy of the 2025 Differential Rent Scheme.

18.3 Housing Reports

Members noted the Report circulated with the agenda in relation to grants, casual vacancies, need, offers, loans & tenant purchase.

18.4 Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme

The Committee were informed by the Housing Manager that an announcement regarding permitted allocations in respect of the Glenties Municipal District remains outstanding and that the Housing Director is engaging with the Department in this regard.

18.5 Respond AHB

In response to queries to queries from Cllr. McGee & Cllr. McClafferty, the Housing Manager advised that;

- 1) The AHB are in the process of carrying out further testing at Fairhill Lodge, Dungloe to enable the Council to approve payments for ongoing works.
- 2) The developers have submitted a new planning application in relation to the proposed development of social housing and group home in Falcarragh.

18.6 S.I. Housing

Cllr. McGee recommended that the Council facilitate this method of social housing delivery, and the Housing Manager outlined current housing policy.

18.7 Homelessness

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig requested that an invitation issue to the Homeless Prevention Officer to a future Municipal District meeting.

18.8 Corporate Issues

Cllr. McClafferty requested that Uisce Éireann facilitate a meeting with Members.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig raised the following matters;

- The renaming 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

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING