

**MINUTES OF ISLANDS COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD IN DUNGLOE PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE ON  
14TH JANUARY 2025**

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- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllr. John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh - Cathaoirleach  
Cllr. Michael McClafferty  
Cllr. Anthony Molloy  
Cllr. Micheál Cholm Mac Giolla Easbuig  
Cllr. Brian Carr  
Cllr. Denis McGee  
Marjorie Uí Chearbhall  
Mairín Uí Fhearraigh  
William Boyle  
Eddie Joe McGee  
John O'Brien  
John McCafferty  
Dinny McCullagh
- OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Michael McGarvey - Director of Water & Environment  
Michael Rowsome, A/Area Manager, Corporate & Housing  
Jamie Gallagher - Executive Engineer, Roads  
Michéal Mac Giolla Easbuig - Udarás na Gaeltachta  
Kevin McCloskey - Coastal Officer  
Eugene Allen - Asst. Engineer, Marine & Harbours  
Lorna Ramsey - Executive/Area Planner  
John McCarron - S.E.E., Water & Environment  
Anne Marie McCole - Community Dev. Staff Officer  
Mary Boyle, A/SSO, Housing & Corporate
- OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Clíona Ní Ghallachóir - Aistriúcháin Comhuaineach
- APOLOGIES:** Noirín Uí Mhaoldomhnaigh  
Laird Dinsmore

**IC 01/25**

**Minutes of Meeting**

On the proposal of Cllr. Carr and seconded by Cllr. McGee the Committee agreed the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

**IC 02/25**

**Tribute to the late Séamus Rodgers**

A minute's silence was observed by all in attendance, in memory of the late Séamus Rodgers. Councillors and the Area Management Team expressed their condolences to the family and friends of Séamus.

The Cathaoirleach referred to Séamus Rodger's instrumented involvement in the establishment of Coiste na nOileán and his unrelenting involvement in political, sporting, cultural, trade union and Irish language activities.

John McCafferty outlined Séamus Rodger's commitment to the community on Arranmore Island.

Cllr. McGiolla Easbuig also expressed sincere condolences to Kevin McCloskey, Coastal Officer and to the family and friends of our colleague Dara O'Malley-Daly who sadly passed away last September following a short illness. He was a permanent member of the Irish Coast Guard who worked as Station Officer at Malinhead Coastguard Radio and Marine Rescue. Dara was usually the first point of contact with the Malin Head Coast Guard Station, co-ordinating many a rescue and emergency operation. Dara was also involved with Donegal Water Safety Ireland/Donegal Area Committee.

**IC 03/25**

**Correspondance from the Department of Rural and Community Development**

The Cathaoirleach expressed disappointment at the absence of any representation from An Roinn.

The Meetings Administrator informed the Coiste of correspondence recently received from the Secretary General of the Department of Rural and Community Development, advising that they will not take up the invitation to attend meetings with the Coiste. He stated that An Roinn has established a Monitoring Committee in line with the Islands Policy or Living Islands and it's Action Plan 2023 - 2026 to hear the views and concerns of Island Communities.

The Committee expressed dissatisfaction with the Departmental response, and John McCafferty queried the membership of the Monitoring Committee.

On the proposal of Cllr. McGee, seconded by Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig, the Coiste requested that a meeting be scheduled with An Roinn regarding the absence of departmental representation at quarterly meetings of Coiste na nOileán.

**IC 04/25**

### **Arranmore**

John McCafferty raised the following issues pertaining to Arranmore;

- Campbell's Corner - update requested
- Hedgecutting and drainage
- Playground - speeding concerns
- Invasive species
- Eco-Toilets
- Traffic Management on pier
- Helipad maintenance & lighting - replacement of manhole cover
- Seasonal Pontoon - life-boat berth
- Rannagh Pier

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig requested the provision of a Changing Places facility on Arranmore and congratulated the owners on the new Blue Ferry vessel.

The Roads Engineer (1) requested a submission of locations of drainage issues on the island (2) undertook to conduct a traffic count in relation to speed safety issues (3) advised of landowner's responsibility under the Roads Act and advised that Road Design are formulating a land plan after completion of the preliminary design carried out at Campbell's Corner.

The Coastal Officer agreed to liaise with John McCafferty in relation to the provision of skips and public conveniences.

The Marine Engineer informed the Coiste that (1) he will liaise with Road Design regarding lining of the pier/traffic management (2) assign an electrician to service helipad lights (3) work is in progress to complete a design for Rannagh Pier in advance of tendering the project to determine costings (4) a foreshore application is required for a pontoon.

**IC 05/25**

**Tory/Magheraroarty**

Marjorie Uí Cherbhall requested the Council's assistance with the following projects.

- Extension to slipway
- Provision of a storage facility & shelter at Magheraroarty pier
- Winch at Tory pier
- Provision of railings at Port a' Dúin
- Year-round public convenience on Tory
- Update on Magheraroarty public convenience
- Magheraroarty Masterplan update
- Responsibility of the Sea Wall on Tory

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig raised an issue of flooding at the front door of one of the residents on Tory.

The Marine Engineer undertook to follow up in relation to the extension of the slipway, provision of a winch and Port a' Dúin railings.

In response to further queries from Cllr. McGee regarding shelters/storage upgrade, the Marine Engineer undertook to revert with a date for a meeting on Magheraroarty pier to determine an efficient solution.

John O'Brien emphasised the importance of fishing to coastal communities and requested a solution to difficulties that fishing boats are experiencing in their attempts to gain access to Magheraroarty pier.

The Coiste requested the Council to address their concerns in relation to completion of the Sea Wall on Tory and to liaise with the relevant statutory bodies in this regard.

The Údaras Manager and the Director responded to the Committee's concerns in relation to the status of the toilet facilities at Magheraroarty.

The Director advised that work is in progress to complete the terms of reference for procurement of an external consultant to progress the Magheraroarty Masterplan.

**IC 06/25**

#### **Inishboffin**

In response to queries from Máirín Uí Fhearraigh and John O'Brien, the Marine Engineer advised of the necessity to review proposals for the raising of the pier at low tide. John O'Brien highlighted the lack of boat shelter from Burtonport to Rathmullan at all stages of the tide.

**IC 07/25**

#### **Owey**

William Boyle requested the Council to take action in relation to the following items;

- Railings on Owey pier to be repaired
- Counters not working
- Provision of toilet facility
- Difficult road surface on island

The Road's Engineer agreed to visit Owey.

The Road's Engineer advised that the screening report was positive and that an E.I.S. is unnecessary and that he will visit the island in relation to roads issues.

Kevin McCloskey, the Coastal Officer undertook to address issues pertaining to the non-functioning counter and progress the appropriate assessment regarding the eco-Toilet.

**IC 08/25**

**Gola**

Máirín Uí Fhearraigh requested an update on the pier at Tráigh na mBláthan. Máirín also highlighted the varied ongoing leisure activities at Magheragallen Pier and requested Council assistance with parking, rubbish disposal and a swimming shelter.

Eddie Joe McGee expressed disappointment with the location of the ladder on the pier at Gola and requested the Marine Services to resolve his concerns. The Gola Rep also requested the Council to assist with the provision of a helipad, the spraying of two piers and water supply issues.

The Roads Engineer informed that Committee that he will review the 2024 unsuccessful funding applications for consideration under the 2025 Islands Programme.

The Marine Engineer advised that the Marine Service are developing a consultant's brief to carry out a design in conjunction with all stakeholders and a swim shelter can also be considered. He also undertook to de-foul the pier.

The Coastal Officer undertook to follow up in relation to the provision of Counters and advised of the continuation of the waste collection service at Magheragallen.

**IC 09/25**

**Inis Meáin**

The Marine Engineer informed the Committee that tenders are being assessed in relation to the provision of access steps.

**IC 10/25**

**Inis Oirthear**

In response to issues raised by Dinny McCullagh, Cllr. McClafferty requested the Roads and Marine Engineers to agree and arrange a visit to the Island.

**IC 11/25**

**Rutland**

Máirín Uí Fhearraigh requested an update from the Marine Service on the status of the pontoon. Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig also raised a water supply issue. The Marine Engineer advised that a consultant is being appointed to progress pontoon development.

**IC 12/25**

**Inishfree**

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig requested the Council to resolve issues relating to the pier, waiting room and road development on the island.

The Roads Engineer advised that roads on the island are classified as non-county and that a grant allocation will be required to facilitate the Council to take over the roads.

**IC 13/25**

**Road Issues - Miscellaneous**

The Roads Engineer requested submission of any island roads for consideration under the 2025 L.I.S. Scheme and responded to Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig regarding access to piers i.e. Cruit Island.

**IC 14/25**

**Ferry Service to Small Islands**

The Committee expressed disappointment that An Roinn have yet to fund a barge/ferry service to smaller islands on a quarterly basis. The Committee recommended that Colm MacDonncha, An Roinn, meet with Members regarding this matter, given the importance of promotion of permanent residency on smaller islands.

**IC 15/25**

**Offshore Island Water Infrastructure**

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig requested the attendance of Pauric Feely, Rural Water Engineer at the next Islands Meeting, to update the Committee on the status of (i) water supply on offshore islands (ii) Boil Water Notices.

**IC 16/25**

**Bunbeg Pontoon**

Cllr. McGee, William Boyle & Eddie Joe McGee highlighted the dangerous condition of the surface of the pontoon during the recent adverse weather conditions and highlighted the difficulty in accessing the Coastguard boat.

**IC 17/25**

**Croí Cónaithe Scheme**

In response to queries from John O'Brien and Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig regarding the omission of smaller islands from the above scheme, the Meetings Administrator confirmed it is a condition of the scheme that refurbished properties are occupied as the owner's main residence or made available for rent.

**IC 18/25**

**Bravery Award**

The Coastal Officer agreed to progress the nomination of the people involved in a sea rescue at Magheraroarty

**IC 19/25**

**Public Conveniences**

The Committee highlighted the necessity to roll out provision of eco-toilets to all off-shore islands. Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig expressed dissatisfaction at the absence of a maintenance scheme for same.

**IC 20/25**

**Off-shore Windfarms**

In response to a query from Máirín Uí Fhearraigh, the Area Planner advised that she is unaware of the submission of any such applications.

**IC 21/25**

**Fishing Industry**

John O'Brien highlighted the negative impact of Brexit on the sustainability of the fishing industry on island and coastal communities and requested the public representatives to liaise with their senior colleagues in this regard.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**