

**MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL, HELD IN
THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD ON 25th MAY, 2020**

C/48/20 **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cllrs N Crossan (Cathaoirleach), P Canning, D Coyle, A Doherty, R Donaghey, M. T. Gallagher, M Harley, N Kennedy, P McGowan, G McMonagle, M Naughton.

C/49/20 **OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE**

Seamus Neely, Chief Executive, Joe Peoples, Director of Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services / Meetings Administrator, Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer, Corporate.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed members to the meeting and thanked the Chief Executive and the Meetings Administrator for facilitating the meeting.

C/50/20 **FILMING IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER**

In accordance with Standing Order No 28 it was unanimously agreed to suspend Standing Order No 62 to allow the media film in the Council Chamber.

C/51/20 **MOTION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS – SERVICES PROVIDED BY
PIETA HOUSE IN DONEGAL**

A request signed by Cllrs N Crossan, P Canning, D Coyle, A Doherty, R Donaghey, M. T. Gallagher, M Harley, N Kennedy, P McGowan, G McMonagle, and M Naughton to have the following motion discussed as urgent business in accordance with Standing Order No 27 was submitted to the Meetings Administrator:-

“We the members of Donegal County Council propose that this Council write to the Minister for Health, Simon Harris T.D, and the Chief Executive Officer of the Health Service Executive, Mr Paul Reid and Ms Elaine Austin, Chief Executive Officer, Pieta House.”

It was unanimously agreed to consider same prior to the close of business.

C/52/20 **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DONEGAL
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 27TH JANUARY, 2020**

On the proposal of Cllr A Doherty, seconded by Cllr Gallagher the minutes of the Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 27th May, 2020 were adopted.

Cllr A Doherty noted that a number of motions requiring a response from the incoming Government had been agreed at the January Council Meeting. He asked that an update be provided on the status of same.

C/53/20 **DISPOSAL OF LANDS AT THE ENTRANCE TO BARNES COURT, BALLYBOFEY, CO DONEGAL.**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Gowan, seconded by Cllr Harley, it was resolved to dispose of lands at the entrance to Barnes Court , Ballybofey, Co Donegal to Michael Cannon.

C/54/20 **TO APPROVE THE CARRYING OUT OF WORKS WITH REGARD TO THE REPLACEMENT OF COLLON BRIDGE , GLEBE, CARNDONAGH IN THE INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr A Doherty, seconded by Cllr R Donaghey the carrying out of works with regard to the replacement of Collon Bridge in the townland of Glebe, Carndonagh in the Inishowen Municipal District under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended) was approved.

C/55/20 **TO APPROVE THE CARRYING OUT OF WORKS WITH REGARD TO THE REPLACEMENT OF ARDGLASS BRIDGE, ARDGLASS & DRUM PORTSALON IN THE LETTERKENNY-MILFORD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Naughton the carrying out of works with regard to the replacement of Ardglass Bridge in the townlands of Ardglass and Drum, Portsalon in the Letterkenny/ Milford Municipal District under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended) was approved.

C/56/20 **TO APPROVE THE CARRYING OUT OF WORKS WITH REGARD TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN URBAN ADVENTURES SPORTS PROJECT WITHIN THE BERNARD MC GLINCHEY TOWN PARK IN THE LETTERKENNY-MILFORD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Monagle, seconded by Cllr Coyle the carrying out of works with regard to the development of an Urban Adventures Sports Project within the Bernard Mc Glinchey Town Park in the Letterkenny/ Milford Municipal District under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended) was approved.

C/57/20 **TO APPROVE THE CARRYING OUT OF WORKS WITH REGARD TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PLAYGROUND AND PUBLIC REALM WORKS ADJACENT TO THE PUBLIC CAR-PARK OFF THE L-2285-1 IN THE TOWNLAND OF ROSSNOWLAGH LOWER IN THE DONEGAL MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr Kennedy, seconded by Cllr Naughton the carrying out of works with regard to the development of a playground and public realm works adjacent to the Public Car-Park off the L-2285-1 in the townland of Rosstown Lower in the Donegal Municipal District under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended) was approved.

C/58/20 **TO APPROVE THE DEVELOPMENT OF OFFICE ACCOMMODATION, MEETING ROOM, PUBLIC FACILITIES, FERRY OFFICES, WAITING AREA AND TOURIST DESK FACILITY AND A SEPARATE ENTERPRISE BUILDING AT BURTONPORT HARBOUR IN THE GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Naughton the carrying out of works with regard to the development of office accommodation, meeting room, public facilities, ferry offices, waiting room, a tourist desk facility and a separate enterprise building containing 4 no mixed use enterprise units at Burtonport Harbour, Burtonport in the Glenties Municipal District under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended) was approved.

C/59/20 **TO APPROVE THE CARRYING OUT OF WORKS WITH REGARD TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF 24 NO RESIDENTIAL UNITS, NEW ACCESS ROAD AND ASSOCIATED SITE DEVELOPMENT WORKS AT RAILWAY PARK, DRUMROOSKE MIDDLE IN THE DONEGAL MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr Kennedy, seconded by Cllr Naughton the carrying out of works with regard to the construction of 24 no residential units, new access road and associated site development works at Railway Park, Drumrooske Middle in the Donegal Municipal District under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended) was approved.

C/60/20 **TO APPROVE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSED 2020 NON-NATIONAL ROADS BRIDGE STRENGTHENING PROGRAMME**
Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr Canning, seconded by Cllr Mc Gowan, members resolved to approve the implementation of the 2020 Non-National Roads Bridge Strengthening Programme.

C/61/20 **TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL UNDER SECTION 85 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED) IN RESPECT OF THE PUBLIC LIGHTING ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECT**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr Canning, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was resolved to enter into an agreement with Mayo County Council under Section 85 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) in respect of the Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project; whereby Mayo County Council will be enabled to undertake appropriate works in Donegal.

C/62/20 **TO ADOPT THE REPORT FROM THE ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE ON ROADS SPECIFIC GRANT APPLICATIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr A Doherty, seconded by Cllr Naughton it was resolved to adopt the report from the Roads & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee on Roads Specific Grant applications to the Department of Transportation.

C/63/20 **TO FIX DATE FOR THE 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

Mr Joe Peoples, Meetings Administrator said that in light of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and the need to comply with public health guidelines a larger venue was needed to accommodate a meeting of all 37 members of Council and relevant Council staff. He recommended that the forthcoming Annual General Meeting and the July Plenary Meeting be held in the Aura Leisure Centre in Letterkenny.

On the proposal of Cllr Canning, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was resolved to hold the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 17th June, 2020 at 3pm in the Aura Leisure Centre and to hold the July meeting of Council at the same venue.

Cllr Mc Monagle expressed concern that there had been no facility to submit motions and questions for the May meeting and queried whether it

was possible to accommodate same on the day of the Annual General Meeting. A number of Councils, he noted, had continued to meet and were conducting business as normal. Many issues, he said, had arisen over the past few months and members needed to have a forum to facilitate discussion on a range of issues. Donegal County Council, he noted, had sufficient accommodation to enable meetings proceed in as normal a fashion as possible.

The Cathaoirleach said he could appreciate where Cllr Mc Monagle was coming from but that the CPG had agreed in light of Covid restrictions and social distancing obligations to deal with statutory business only at the May meeting.

Mr Joe Peoples, Meetings Administrator alluded also to the fact that the CPG had agreed at their last meeting that the May Council Meeting would deal specifically with statutory business. There was, he noted, a significant wish to move to normal business as soon as possible. Standing Orders, he added, had prevented the meeting today from being held in the usual way. He said that going forward it was planned to have briefings at Municipal District level and that motions and questions could be submitted in the normal manner for the July Council meeting. It was noted that there were significant public health considerations and that members concerns would be taken on board in order for the meeting to safely proceed.

Cllr Canning said that with smaller numbers it was easier to accommodate Municipal District meetings. Whist agreeing with Cllr Mc Monagle that a return to normality was needed; he said that caution was needed at plenary level.

C/64/20 **NOMINATION OF SEAMUS BONNER, COMHAIR NA nOILEAIN TO
FILL THE VACANCY ON THE DONEGAL LOCAL COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Mc Monagle it was resolved in accordance with Part 6 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 and Section 128C(3)(b) of the Local Governemnt Act 2014 that Mr Seamus Bonner, Comhair na nOileain fill the vacancy on the Donegal Local Community Development Committee arising from the resignation of Mr Jerry Early.

C/65/20 **MOTION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS – SERVICES PROVIDED BY
PIETA HOUSE IN DONEGAL**

A request signed by Cllrs N Crossan, P Canning, D Coyle, A Doherty, R Donaghey, M. T. Gallagher, M Harley, N Kennedy, P McGowan, G McMonagle, and M Naughton to have the following motion discussed as urgent business in accordance with Standing Order No 27 was submitted to the Meetings Administrator:-

Cllr Mc Gowan proposed on behalf of Cllr Brogan, seconded by Cllr Mc Monagle to adopt the following motion:-

“We the members of Donegal County Council propose that this Council write to the Minister for Health, Simon Harris T.D, and the Chief Executive Officer of the Health Service Executive, Mr Paul Reid and Ms Elaine Austin, Chief Executive Officer, Pieta House.”

Cllr Mc Gowan said that if planned cutbacks went ahead services would not be provided this side of the Dublin /Galway line after June 2020. This, he contended, was unacceptable given that considerable time and effort that had gone into developing the Pieta House model. He asked for clarification in relation to the ongoing plans for Pieta House in the North West given that the Health Service Executive had committed to providing of €114,000 per month until year end.

The motion was unanimously agreed and adopted.

This concluded the business of the meeting.