

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF
GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

HELD ON 25th MARCH 2015, IN DUNGLOE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr. Enda Bonner
Cllr John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh
Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher
Cllr Seamus Ó Domhnaill
Cllr Michael Cholm Mac Giolla Easbaig

APOLOGIES Cllr. Terence Slowey

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Paul McGill - Area Manager, Housing & Corporate Services
Charles Sweeney – Area Manager, Community & Culture
Frank Sweeney- Executive Planner Enforcement South
John Hegarty – Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation
David Friel – Waste Recycling Officer, Environmental Services
Michael Rowsome – SSO Corporate Service
Cathal Sweeney – Marine Engineer

GMD 35/15 **MINUTES OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
COMMITTEE MEETING**

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Ó Fearraigh the minutes of the Glenties Municipal District Meeting held on the 10th of March 2015 were confirmed.

GMD 36/15 **REPORTS FROM WORKSHOPS**

The Committee noted the reports from Workshops held on the 12th January 2015 & 6th March 2015.

GMD 37/15 **SCHEDULE OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WORKS 2015**

The Corporate Manager informed Members that Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 inserts a new section 103A in the Local Government Act 2001 providing that a schedule of proposed works of maintenance and repair be adopted by the Municipal District Members following the adoption of the Annual Budget.

37.1

ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

In relation to the Roads Budget Distribution for 2015 Cllr Gallagher requested further clarification in respect of;

- (a) The proposed distribution of the contingency reserve in the sum of €500,000
- (b) Former Town Council Roads Distribution in the sum of €675,000 across the Donegal, Inishowen and Letterkenny Municipal Districts.
- (c) Former Town Council Street Sweeping Budgets in the sum of €365,000.

Cllr Gallagher requested more specific information in relation to the methodologies utilised to distribute funding to ensure equality of service to the communities in all Municipal Districts.

Cllr Bonner highlighted the inadequacy of street cleaning in the Glenties MD and stated that the Members Development Fund was used as a source of funding for this service in contrast to the provision of a dedicated budget in former Town Council areas.

37.2

HOUSING & BUILDING

Cllr Gallagher expressed disappointment at the estate management budget in the sum of €5,758 allocated to the Glenties MD. Cllr Gallagher commended the additional services provided to residents in former Town Council areas in terms of grass cutting, playgrounds provision and requested a similar level of service for Glenties MD tenants.

In response to queries from Members regarding the adequacy of the Housing Maintenance budget allocated for 2015 the Housing Manager acknowledged,

- (a) that monies are allocated on a per house basis equally across all areas
- (b) the decrease in the no. of casual vacancies
- (c) the high levels of the DOE funded retrofit programme participation in the Glenties MD
- (d) increased maintenance budget for 2015

37.3

WATER & ENVIRONMENT

The Waste Recycling Officer outlined the rationale for the Central Management of the Water & Environment Budget. Members were advised of the high costs associated with the retention of Blue Flag and Green Flag Beach status.

Cllr Ó Domhnaill commended the success of the Council in being awarded the highest number of Blue Flag beaches in the Country.

ADOPTION OF THE SCHEDULE OF MD WORKS 2015

A lengthy debate ensued regarding the proposed adoption of the schedule.

In response to questions from the Committee regarding the outcome of a decision to not adopt the Schedule of MD Works, the Corporate Manager advised that the Schedule of MD Works reverts to the full Council for consideration and adoption, with or without amendment prior to the deadline date of the 31st March 2015.

All Members expressed frustration with the inadequacy of Budgets to facilitate provision of an enhanced standard of service to the public in the Glenties MD in the areas of road maintenance, housing maintenance and environmental services.

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbaig was not in favour of the schedule as presented.

On the proposal of Cllr Ó Domhnaill seconded by Cllr Gallagher the Committee resolved that the Glenties Municipal District adopt for the financial year ended 31st December 2015, the schedule of Municipal District Works previously circulated as requested by Section 103A of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) and in line with the requirements of Circular LG27/2014/FIN21/2014.

The Committee requested that the specific clarifications referred to at 37 & 37.1 be communicated to Members.

ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

GMD 38/15 **SCHEDULE OF ROADWORKS 2015**

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Roads Engineer.

GMD 38.1 **RESTORATION MAINTENANCE (SURFACE DRESSING) & RESTORATION IMPORVEMENT FUNDING 2015**

Members discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Roads Engineer.

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbaig proposed rejection of the 2015 allocations on the grounds that the budgets were inadequate to address restoration demands in the Municipal District.

Notwithstanding agreement with Cllr Mac Giolla Easbaig's concerns regarding the level of budget available, the Committee highlighted the involvement of all Councillors in the formulating of the programmes within budgeting constraints.

On the proposal of Cllr Ó Domhnaill seconded by Cllr Gallagher the Committee adopted the restoration Maintenance Programme 2015 in the sum of €552,929.

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher seconded by Cllr Ó Domhnaill the Committee adopted the Restoration Improvement Programme in the sum of €1,752,578 and to top up Discretionary Maintenance with €112,000.

GMD 39/15 **INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITY LIST**

Cllr Gallagher informed the meeting of the necessity to prioritise projects in the anticipation of special funding coming on stream.

The Committee agreed the following priority list:

1. Dungloe/Glenties to Letterkenny
2. Back of Muckish Road
3. Gortahork Coast Road to Café Andies
4. Errigal Road

GMD 40/15

MULLANTYBOYLE BRIDGE

The Committee requested that all Councillors be issued with a response from the Roads Manager to a letter submitted by the Mullantyboyle Committee.

GMD 41/15

DERRYBEG CHAPEL

The Committee requested a response from the Roads Service to flooding issues recurring in the chapel car park.

GMD 42/15

MAGHERAROARTY DREDGING

The Marine Engineer updated the Committee in relation to the status of ongoing dredging works at this location and also advised that a 3 year dredging licence has been obtained from the Department of Agriculture Food & the Marine.

The Committee were informed that the Department are not currently committed to funding design of a breakwater at a cost of €80,000.

Cllr Ó Domhnaill commended works carried out by the Marine Service at Magheraroarty Pier.

GMD 43/15

REPAIR OF LIS ROADS

The Committee noted the report from Stephen Flynn, Senior Engineer, Roads & Housing Capital circulated at the meeting regarding the methodology for the of a €10,000 fund per Municipal District for repair of roads that previously received an LIS/Boithre Áise grant.

GMD 44/15 **STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT FUND**

Members were advised by the Community & Culture Manager that applications are currently being evaluated and will be discussed at the forthcoming workshop.

Cllr Ó Fearraigh requested a breakdown of monies distributed to local Committees in 2014 and also a list of Committees where applications were not approved for funding.

GMD 45/15 **DONEGAL AGE FRIENDLY COUNTY INITIATIVE**

The Committee welcomed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Community & Culture Manager regarding the forthcoming launch of the Donegal Age Friendly Strategy.

GMD 46/15 **DEVELOPMENT AT AN EARAGAIL**

The Committee noted the ongoing works in relation to the development of a detailed proposal for the sustainable development at An Earagail and also the investigation of potential funding sources

GMD 47/15 **DONEGAL YOUTH COUNCIL**

Members noted the commencement and implementation of the 2014 – 2016 Youth Council Work Programme.

GMD 48/15 **JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT**

The Committee noted the report circulated previously regarding the status of the Junior Achievement Programme.

GMD 49/15 **IPB PRIDE OF PLACE COMPETITION 2015**

The Committee welcomed the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the Pride of Place initiative.

GMD 50/15 **DONEGAL FILM OFFICE**

The Committee welcomed the update on the development of the Donegal Film office website to profile and market the County to the film and media sector, as a great film location in Ireland.

GMD 51/15

DIASPORA PROJECT

Members noted the report previously circulated.

GMD 52/15

ARTS GRANTS 2015

Members noted the availability of finance to promote Arts activities in the County.

GMD 53/15

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE & DONEGAL TOURISM

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Ó Domhnaill the Committee requested a presentation from both of the above bodies at a future Municipal District meeting.

Cllr Gallagher also requested an update on the work of the Local Community Development Committee, the Local Economic and Community Plan & plans for the delivery of the Leader RDP funding programme in the County. The Committee congratulated the Community & Culture Manager on his involvement in the successful launch of the Tourism Brochure.

GMD 54/15

BLOODY FORELAND SLI NA GAELTACHTA

Cllr Ó Fearraigh requested the Council to expedite the clean up of rocks washed onto the walkway following recent storms.

GMD 55/15 **PLANNING STATISTICS**

The Committee noted the statistics circulated with the agenda and updated statistics for the period ended 28/2/2015 which were circulated at the meeting.

GMD 56/15 **RECENT REFUSALS**

Members noted the report circulated previously outlining the reasons for refusal of application 14/51493.

GMD 57/15 **AN BORD PLEANALA APPEALS**

Members noted the report circulated at the meeting in relation to planning reference 12/50965.

GMD 58/15 **COSTAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT**

Cllr Gallagher informed the meeting of the likely restrictive impact of coastal landscape character assessments on future planning policies.

GMD 59/15 **DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME**

Cllr Ó Domhnaill expressed disappointment that

- (1) Members views recommending a DCS reduction in respect of one off rural housing were not incorporated into the review of the DCS Scheme.
- (2) Councils were treating Multinational Corporations more favourably than local indigenous residents.

GMD 60/15 **SITE MEETINGS**

Cllr Bonner requested the Planning Manager to liaise with the local planner regarding difficulties in scheduling site meetings.

GMD 61/15

DUNGLOE TREATMENT PLANT

In response to a query from Cllr Bonner, the Planning Manager informed the Committee that following an initial inspection of the site the development appears to be in accordance with the Council approved Part VIII. He further advised that the Lead Service is responsible for ensuring that the development proceeds in accordance with Part VIII documentation.

GMD 62/15

MAGHERAROARTY CAR PARK

In response to a query from Cllr Ó Fearraigh regarding the proposals for a car park development in Magheraroarty the Planning Manager undertook to revert to the Committee.

GMD 63/15 **PORT ARTHUR BEACH**

Cllr Ó Fearraigh requested the Environment Service to expedite;

- (1) The implementation of bye laws to resolve excessive camping at this location.
- (2) Placement of warning signage in proximity to the beach.

GMD 64/15 **MAGHERY BEACH**

In response to queries from the Committee, the Environmental Officer informed Members that Coleraine University are being appointed to report on damage and to consult with stakeholders with the intent of making an application for funding to the OPW. Members requested that they be kept updated regularly in relation to the status of this project and requested that the Environment Officer liaise with Michael McGarvey, Senior Engineer in this regard.

GMD 65/15 **BEACH MAINTENANCE & EROSION**

The Environmental Officer informed the Committee of necessary expenditure on clean ups, lifeguards and portaloo installation in relation to the preservation of blue flag status. Members were advised that funding can be sourced for the clean coast programme via An Taisce and the OPW for the prevention of erosion.

Cllr Gallagher highlighted the damage caused to Cloughglass car park as a consequence of a lack of maintenance. Cllr Ó Domhnaill requested the Council to source funding to prevent further erosion at Magheraroarty and Killahoey beaches.

Cllr Gallagher recommended that the Council submit an application under the Interreg Atlantic Area Programme for the protection of coastal habitats.

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbaig highlighted the presence of water on the runway at Carrickfinn airport following adverse weather conditions and requested the Council to liaise with airport authorities in this regard.

GMD 66/15 **DOOEY BEACH**

Cllr Bonner requested the Council to submit an application for Blue Flag status at Dooley and to upgrade necessary infrastructure in this regard.

HOUSING & BUILDING

GMD 67/15

SOCIAL HOUSING PROGRAMME

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager in relation to the status of the Social Housing Investment Programme as at 3rd March 2015.

The Housing Manager informed the Committee that it is anticipated that Donegal will receive an allocation of approximately 600 units under the Capital Programme 2015 – 2020 for both the Local Authority and the Approved Housing Body Sector.

Members were advised that bids have been made for DOE approval for housing starts throughout the Municipal District in areas with the greatest housing need.

Cllr Gallagher & Cllr Ó Fearraigh recommended that the Council consider purchasing empty housing units and unfinished housing estates in proximity to town centres with readily available services.

GMD 68/15

SOCIAL HOUSING LEASING INITIATIVE

In response to queries from Cllr Ó Fearraigh, the Housing Manager advised that leasing programme will continue in conjunction with the Capital Programme to deliver housing need.

GMD 69/15

CASUAL VACANCIES

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda in relation to casual vacancies as at the 2nd March 2015.

GMD 70/15

HOUSING MAINTENANCE

In response to a query from Cllr Ó Domhnaill regarding the practise of the fitting of back boilers, the Housing Manager advised that the Council have no obligation in this regard as detailed in the tenants handbook.

Cllr Ó Domhnaill requested that the Councils policy regarding back boiler installation be issued to Members.

GMD 71/15

HOUSING SCHEME TREATMENT PLANTS

Cllr Gallagher expressed annoyance that the Housing Service had incurred expenditure on housing scheme treatment plant upkeep in advance of their takeover by Irish Water and requested immediate recoupment of all costs.

GMD 72/15

QUESTIONS AT MUNICIPAL DISTRICT LEVEL

Cllr Gallagher informed the meeting of the consideration of this issue at the recent Corporate Policy Group.

GMD 73/15

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

In response to a query from Cllr Ó Fearraigh, the Housing Manager informed Members that the next meeting of the Glenties Municipal District originally scheduled for 12th May 2015 will be convened on Arranmore Island to facilitate a meeting between the Island Committee and Minister of State, Joe McHugh.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING