

MINUTES OF MEETING OF

GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

HELD ON 13th OCTOBER 2015 IN DUNGLOE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr. Enda Bonner
Cllr. Terence Slowey
Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher
Cllr Seamus Ó Domhnaill
Cllr. Mícheál Cholm Mac Giolla Easbuig

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Michael McGarvey – A/Director Water & Environment
Paul McGill - Area Manager, Housing & Corporate Services
Brendan McFadden – S.E.E Area Manager, Roads & Transportation
Charles Sweeney – Area Manager, Community Development and Enterprise
Frank Sweeney – Executive Planner, Enforcement
David Friel – Waste Recycling Officer Environment
Michael Rowsome – SSO Corporate Services

APOLOGIES Cllr John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh

GMD 182/15

MINUTES OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Slowey the minutes of the Glenties Municipal District Meeting held on the 8th September 2015 were agreed.

GMD 183/15

REPORTS FROM WORKSHOP

The Committee noted the reports from the workshop held on the 8/9/15 in relation to the Standing Orders regarding both meetings of the Municipal District and the Full Council.

GMD 184/15

WORKFORCE PLANNING VACANCIES

Members congratulated both Michael McGarvey on his recent promotion and Paul McGill on his reassignment to Corporate Services in the County House, Lifford.

ENVIRONMENT

GMD 185/15

WASTE & LITTER

Members welcomed the report circulated with the Agenda and presented by the Waste Recycling Officer in relation to enforcement action initiated by the Council to tackle illegal dumping and littering.

GMD 186/15

BACKYARD BURNING AND BONFIRES

The Committee welcomed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Waste Recycling Officer in relation to Council activity to prevent the opportunistic burning of household waste, furniture and tyres particularly over the Halloween period.

GMD 187/15

HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

The Committee noted the report circulated previously regarding the dates for the free household hazardous waste collections in Dungloe, Carndonagh, Letterkenny, Milford and Stranorlar.

GMD 188/15

TIDY TOWNS

Members congratulated (i) Letterkenny on their historic Tidy Towns success, (ii) Glenties on their achievement of a gold medal and (iii) Loughanure on their improved scoring in this year's competition. Cllr Bonner commended all volunteers involved in the Tidy Towns initiative and recommended that the Council establish a separate environmental budget to provide additional road sweeping services throughout the Municipal District.

GMD 189/15

BRING BANK SITES

Cllr Slowey requested the Council to monitor the bring bank sites at Glenties GAA grounds, and Cllr MacGiolla Easbaig highlighted issues at the Annagry location. The Waste Recycling Officer informed the Committee of an ongoing review of management of all sites in the County.

Cllr MacGiolla Easbaig recommended that the Council facilitate disposal of paper and plastic as opposed to reliance on private operators. The A/Director of Service advised Members that National Policy guidelines preclude Council involvement in paper and plastic recycling.

GMD 190/15

DRUMNATINNEY BEACH

Cllr Ó Domhnaill requested the Council to review the costing for provision of a water connection at this location and highlighted the commitment and enthusiasm of community and voluntary involvement to promote this beach as a centre of water sport activity.

GMD 191/15

COASTAL EROSION

Members highlighted the dramatic effects on beaches in Dunfanaghy, Magheraroarty, Drumnatinney, Maghery, and Carrickfin as a consequence of coastal erosion.

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher seconded by Cllr Slowey the Committee recommended the initiation of a survey into the extent of coastal erosion issues throughout the county and the cost of implementing coastal protection solutions. Cllr O Domhnaill recommended the involvement of National Parks and Wildlife Services, Department of Environment and the public in the formation of coastal protection preventative measures.

HOUSING AND CORPORATE SERVICES

GMD 192/15

SOCIAL HOUSING PROGRAMME

The Committee noted the report circulated with the Agenda and presented by the Housing Manager regarding the status of Housing grants as at the 5th of October 2015.

Cllr. Gallagher requested the removal of statistics in relation to Loans & Shared Ownership schemes from the Housing report due to the absence of any approvals in recent years.

The Housing Manager updated Members in relation to;

- (i) Preparation of an application for funding to upgrade 4 derelict SI's at Carrickatlieve, Drimaneany, Keadue and Meencorwick.
- (ii) Retrofit Programme
- (iii) Status of tendering process in respect of 8 Housing units in Ardara.
- (iv) Authorisation to purchase 3 housing units in Municipal District.
- (v) Status of proposal in relation to 7 Housing units in Chapel Road, Dunfanaghy.

Cllr Slowey welcomed the upgrading of SI houses and requested provision of further SI Housing to address rural housing deficiencies.

GMD 193/15

CASUAL VACANCIES

Members discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager regarding the status of casual vacancies as at the 5th October 2015. Cllr Ó Domhnaill requested a report on the outcome of an audit into the delays encountered in the re-letting of No. 7 Carrowcannon, Falcarragh.

GMD 194/15

TENANT LIASON OFFICER

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Slowey the Committee recommended the commencement of a pilot project on a Council scheme within the Municipal District to enhance and promote interaction between tenants and the Housing Service to mutually benefit both parties.

GMD 195/15

LAND BANKS

Cllr Ó Domhnaill requested a report from the Housing Service in relation to progress on the acquisition of land banks in areas with the greatest housing need. Cllr Slowey welcomed the acquisition of the land banks in Ardara. On the proposal of Cllr Ó Domhnaill seconded by Cllr Gallagher the Committee requested the local housing service to actively engage with owners willing to dispose of their land, in anticipation of Departmental funding coming on stream at a later stage.

GMD 196/15

HOUSING MAINTENANCE

Members highlighted the necessity to;

- (1) Install ramps and impose speeding restrictions in problematic schemes
- (2) Repair solar panels in Radharc an Iuir
- (3) Upgrade heating systems in Council Housing
- (4) Facilitate vehicular access to old persons dwelling at Ard Chronne, Dungloe
- (5) Painting requirements at Meenaniller and Annagry schemes.

Cllr Slowey requested an audit of all traveller accommodation centres to ensure that the Council are in compliance with all health and safety conditions. In response to a query from Cllr Mac Giolla Easbaig regarding subsidence concerns at Clos Naomh Conaill, the Housing Manger advised that a comprehensive report arising from a camera survey is awaited to ascertain the extent of any problems that are discovered.

GMD 197/15

TENANT PURCHASE SCHEME

In response to a query from Cllr Bonner, the Housing Manager advised that a new policy is awaited from the Department of Environment.

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
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GMD 198/15

REQUEST FOR WORKSHOPS

The Committee agreed to convene a workshop at 2pm on the 10th November 2015 in relation to;

- (a) Tier 2 Towns – Local Area Plan
- (b) Casual Trading

Cllr Gallagher expressed disagreement at both the lack of progress and lack of consultation in relation to the Tier 2 Town Plans.

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Ó Domhnaill the Committee requested the Planning Service to schedule a public consultation event in the Dungloe Public Services Centre regarding the Dungloe Tier 2 Town local area plan.

GMD 199/15

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Planning Manager listing 229 No. applications as having been received during the period from 1st January 2015 to 30th September 2015.

GMD 200/15

APPEALS AND REFUSALS

Members discussed the reports circulated with the agenda and presented by the Planning Manager. The Committee expressed alarm at the planning refusal reasons by An Bord Pleanála in relation to application 14/51428 and the possibility of a precedent being set for future rural development applications.

GMD 201/15

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

In response to a query from Cllr Slowey regarding enforcement action in relation to conditions imposed by both An Bord Pleanála and the Planning Authority, the Planning Manager advised that 10% of Architects certificates of compliance are verified. Cllr Slowey expressed alarm at the self-regulatory aspect of the planning system and requested that adherence to planning conditions be identified as an issue for follow up at Planning SPC level.

GMD 202/15

SITE MEETINGS

Cllr Bonner requested the Planning Service, as a matter of urgency, to address continuing issues in relation to Members inability to arrange site meetings with Municipal District Planners.

COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE

GMD 203/15

DONEGAL COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC PLAN

Members welcomed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the C & E Manager regarding work in progress on the Community and Economic Plan. Cllr Gallagher commended the role of the C & E Manager in relation to this project.

GMD 204/15

DEVELOPMENT OF AN EARAGAIL

The Committee noted the report circulated previously regarding examination of potential sources of funding for the necessary next phase of the project consisting of detailed environmental studies and pathway design.

GMD 205/15

IPB PRIDE OF PLACE COMPETITION 2015

The Committee welcomed the nomination of Coiste Pobail Ghort a' Choirce and The Workhouse Dunfanaghy for National Pride of Place Awards on 14th November 2015.

GMD 206/15

DONEGAL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK

The Committee discussed the report circulated previously and the Community and Enterprise Manager responded to Members queries regarding the secretariat and the workings of the Public Participation Network.

GMD 207/15

SHOREFRONT DUNGLOE

Cllr Gallagher informed Members of hard landscaping to be carried out during the development of sewerage infrastructure, and the value for money opportunities that this project presents for an expeditious submission of planning for the shorefront development in Dungloe.

GMD 208/15

DONEGAL YOUTH COUNCIL

Cllr Slowey commended the wide range of events and projects promoted and launched by the Youth Council. Cllr Gallagher welcomed the involvement of the Youth Council in exploring the manner in which young people can participate in the 2016 celebrations.

GMD 209/15

DONEGAL TOURISM

The Community & Enterprise manager undertook to arrange a presentation by this Body at the next Municipal District meeting.

GMD 210/15

DUNGLOE BRIDGE END

Cllr Bonner informed the meeting of the opportunities for development of amenity and leisure facilities presented by the sale of the Bridge End House and associated land.

GMD 211/15

TOWN AND VILLAGE ENHANCEMENTS

In response to a query from Cllr Bonner regarding footpath development in Dungloe, the Community & Enterprise Manager advised the Committee that there may be future opportunities for Town and Village enhancements under the new Leader Programme.

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

GMD 212/15

ROADWORKS PROGRAMME

The Roads Manager updated the Committee in relation to the status of the remaining restoration projects at Dollar Row, Falcarragh and 3 No. low cost safety schemes at Derrybeg, Dunlewey, and Meenacuing.

The Roads Manager also informed Members of road schemes due to commence prior to the year end and updated the Committee in relation to ongoing works in Dungloe, Glenties and Dunfanaghy.

Cllr Gallagher commended the level of public consultation and assistance provided by the local Engineer John Hegarty during works on the Quay Road, Dungloe. Members were informed that a workshop will be scheduled in November to discuss and agree proposals for the 2016 Roadwork's Programme.

GMD 213/15

MULANTYBOYLE BRIDGE

The Committee welcomed the presentation from the Roads Manger regarding the preliminary works that are in progress.

GMD 214/15

ARDS SEA DEFENCE PROJECT

The Roads Manager advised the Committee that additional monies have been received from OPW and that works are due to commence in late October.

GMD 215/15

N56 SCHEME

The Roads Manager updated Members in relation to;

- (i) Current progress regarding the ongoing major roadworks scheme from Boyoughter to Kilkenny and
- (ii) Land acquisition and design work in relation to remaining sections of the scheme.

Cllr Gallagher recommended that the Contractor be advised of public lighting deficiencies in proximity to Leitir Chapel.

GMD 216/15

ROAD MAINTENANCE ISSUES

The Committee highlighted the following matters for the attention of the Roads Service;

- Loughfad alternative route
- Footpath repairs at Front Street Ardara & Carnmore Road, Dungloe
- Necessity for a barrier near carpark at Errigal
- Necessity for Irish Water to carry out supervised repairs at Pole Road and Mill Road Dungloe and Church Street Glenties
- Pedestrian crossing in Glenties and initiation of a further traffic count
- Dangerous Bends at Pete Greenes, Gweedore Road, Dungloe.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING