

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
COMMITTEE**

HELD ON 13th FEBRUARY 2018 IN DUNGLOE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cllr. Michéal Cholm Mac Giolla Easbuig
Cllr. John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh
Cllr. Seamus Ó Domhnaill
Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher
Cllr. Enda Bonner
Cllr. Terence Slowey

APOLOGY:

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Michael McGarvey, A/Director Water & Environment
Eamonn Brown - A/Area Manager, Housing & Corporate
Services
Brendan McFadden - S.E.E. Area Manager, Roads &
Transportation
Garrett Doherty, SEE, NRDO
Charles Sweeney - Area Manager, Community
Development
Frances Horkan - Assistant Planner
Fiona Kelly - A/Administrative Officer, Environment
Michael Rowsome, S.S.O. Motor Tax/Corporate

APOLOGY:

David Friel - Coastal Officer

GMD 09/2018

ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Ó Fearraigh, it was resolved to adjourn the meeting for a short period.

GMD 10/2018

VOTE OF SYMPATHY

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, the Committee proposed a vote of sympathy to the family of Gráinne Mhic Géidigh. A minutes silence was observed by all in attendance at the meeting.

GMD 11/2018

**MINUTES OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
MEETING HELD ON 16TH JANUARY 2018**

On the proposal of Cllr. Bonner, seconded by Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, the minutes of the Glenties Municipal District Committee meeting held on the 16th January 2018 were confirmed.

GMD 12/2018

**REPORT FROM WORKSHOP HELD ON 16TH
JANUARY 2018**

The report from the Community Development Workshop held on the 16th of January 2018 was noted by the Committee.

GMD 13/2018

HOUSING AND CORPORATE

13.1

Grants

The Committee discussed the progress reports circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager regarding the status of the following grants as at the 5th of February 2018.

- Housing Aid for Older People
- Housing Adaptation
- Mobility Aids

Cllr. Gallagher recommended;

- Availability of Mobility Aids grants to Council tenants
- Relaxation of the eligibility criteria for Housing grants to facilitate applicants based on need.

The Housing Manager informed the Committee of work in progress on this matter at SPC level and anticipated that there will eventually be more discretion locally.

13.2

Casual Vacancies

The Committee welcomed the progress report on casual vacancies as at the 5th of February 2018, circulated previously and presented by the Housing Manager.

Members were advised that vacancies are being 'turned around' within a quicker time frame.

In response to a query from Cllr. Ó Fearraigh, the Housing Manager advised Members that the vacancy at 18 Ard Cois Locha has been offered and refused.

13.3

Acquisitions

Members noted the progress report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager regarding the status of 8 no. acquisitions as at the 5th February 2018 and the status of a further 6 no. acquisitions that are going through the legal process.

The Housing Manager informed the Committee that he has had discussions with the Divisional Manager regarding additional acquisitions, and that the Housing Assessment Officer will liaise with the Housing Engineer in relation to design and suitability for families with special requirements.

13.4

S.I's

The Housing Manager informed Members that 6 no. valid SI applications have been submitted.

- Initial Site Investigations completed on 4 applications.
- It is anticipated that 4 SI's will progress in the current year depending on Housing Construction resources.

On the proposal of Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, seconded by Cllr. Gallagher, the Committee recommended the disposal of the SI at Maghera, with the proceeds of sale to be ringfenced for construction projects in the Glenties MD.

13.5

Housing Construction Workshop

The Housing Manager informed Members that relevant officials will facilitate a workshop in the coming weeks.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested that the workshop be convened at the earliest possible opportunity. He also stated that the primary function of the Housing Authority is to build houses and that the Council is exacerbating housing issues by virtue of buying rather than constructing social housing. He also expressed disappointment at delays in the Part 8 processing in respect of proposed developments in Falcarragh and Dunfanaghy.

13.6

Turnkey Scheme

The Housing Manager advised the Committee that the final tender advertisement is due for publication.

13.7

Tenant Purchase Scheme

In response to Cllr. Gallagher regarding the tenant purchase scheme, the Housing Manager advised Members that:

- 24 no. valid applications were received in 2017 and 1 valid application in 2018.
- 8 offers have been made in respect of valid application
- 12 applications are ready to be offered.
- 5 applications are at 'assessment' stage
- The low level of applications is related to the stringent qualifying criteria.

13.8

Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan

The Housing Manager undertook to issue guidelines and relevant information to Members.

13.9

CAS Project - Dungloe

In response to a query from Cllr. Gallagher, the Housing Manager informed the Committee that Rhattigan Architects are dealing with a further

information planning request regarding (1) storm drain and (2) disabled parking.

13.10

Approved Housing Bodies

Cllr. Gallagher commended the Housing Manager for ongoing collaboration with Clúid and Respond in Dungloe, with the possibility of providing an additional 20 housing units.

13.11

Housing Maintenance and Retrofitting

In response to queries from the Committee the Housing Manager advised the Committee that;

- (1) Replacement boiler and ranges are purchased on a one off basis from local suppliers.
- (2) Retrofit programme has been completed and proposals have been submitted to the Department for a Phase 2 window and door replacement programme.
- (3) The Housing Engineer will be requested to make a presentation to Members at the upcoming housing workshop regarding the proposed retrofitting scheme.
- (4) Car parking deficiencies at St. Peter's Terrace, Dungloe and Ballina, Falcarragh will be referred to the Housing Engineer.
- (5) Red Algae decolouration issue has been referred to the Housing Engineer for commencement of a programme to address problems throughout the MD.
- (6) A third of the Housing Maintenance budget will be allocated to a planned programme of painting and gutter cleaning.

13.12

Treatment Plants

Cllr. Gallagher requested clarity on the status of connections of Housing estates to Irish Water treatment plants in Ardara, Dungloe and Glenties.

13.13

Dungloe Public Service Centre

In response to a proposal from Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig to name the PSC after Eithne Coyle and Peadar O'Donnell, Cllr. Gallagher suggested that public consultation is necessary to progress this issue.

13.14

Task Force

Cllr. Gallagher requested the Council to communicate with the Minister for Rural & Community Development in relation to the establishment of a focused task force to tackle poverty and deprivation in West Donegal.

13.15

Reception

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig proposed that a civic reception be held for Niall McCafferty and the proposal was seconded by Cllr. Gallagher. Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig undertook to revert with a date for the event.

GMD 14/2018

ROADS

14.1

National Roads Office

Garrett Doherty, SEE, NRDO made a presentation and circulated a report to the Committee regarding:

- (1) National Road Pavement Asset Repair and Renewal (PARR)

The Committee were advised that the following 3 schemes are at Tender/Contract Appointment Stage,

- (i) N56 Crollly
- (ii) N56 Gortnamucklagh (Glenties)
- (iii) N56 Creeslough (Log Cabin)

Members welcomed the proposed site investigation and preliminary design of the following schemes with a view to developing pavement strengthening for delivery during 2018:

- (i) N56 Ardara (West & Town)
- (ii) N56 Dungloe (South)
- (iii) N56 Dungloe (North)
- (iv) N56 Keeldrum to Fanaboy
- (v) N56 Creeslough
- (vi) N56 Stragar

(2) National Roads Bridge Rehabilitation Programme

The Committee were updated by the SEE, NRDO in relation to imminent works at the following locations:

- Glenties Bridge
- Mullinieran Bridge
- Corcreggan Retaining Wall (Dunfanaghy)

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig and Cllr. Gallagher requested the NRDO to liaise with local Committees in Crolly and Dungloe respectively prior to commencement of proposed works. Cllr. Gallagher also requested the development of the green area opposite Leitir Chapel as previously discussed.

(3) Major and Minor Road Projects

The NRDO Senior Executive Engineer updated Members on the following projects as detailed in the report circulated at the meeting.

- N56 Boyoughter to Kikenny
- N56 Kilkenny to Letterilly
- N56 Letterilly to Kilraine
- N56 Dungloe to Cloghbolie

14.2

ROAD MAINTENANCE

The Committee highlighted drainage, surfacing failure, speed limits, potholes, footpaths, footbridges, mini roundabout design, bridges, Irish language signage, cycle lanes, public lighting and traffic restriction

concerns throughout the MD for the consideration and attention of the NRDO and Roads Service.

14.3

Ranafast Road Widening

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, the Committee recommended that the Road Service submit an application for funding to An Roinn.

14.4

Roads Workshop

The Committee unanimously agreed to schedule a workshop on the 12th March 2018 at 10 a.m. in the Dungleoe PSC to discuss the 2018 Roadworks Programme.

14.5

Burtonport Harbour

Cllr. Gallagher requested the Roads Service to liaise with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to fund a plan for the development of the Harbour & to augment private sector investment at the Harbour.

IC15/18

ENVIRONMENT

15.1

Stop Food Waste

Members noted the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Environment Administrative Officer regarding the Councils support for the national 'Stop Food Waste' campaign.

15.2

New Tyre Regulations 2017

The Committee welcomed the report regarding the public information campaign to highlight New Tyre Regulations, to prevent illegal dumping, and to ensure that all tyres are managed at the end of their life in an environmentally sound manner.

15.3

Anti Dumping Initiative 2018

Members noted the report previously circulated from the Assistant Waste Regulation Officer regarding the availability of funding for site clean ups under the Anti-Dumping Initiative 2018.

15.4

Recycling Centres

Members welcomed the reports regarding (1) the purchase of new directional signs to increase awareness of recycling sites, and also to ensure compliance with the Irish Language Act and (2) the carrying out of a risk assessment at a proposed Bring Bank site in Brinaleck.

Cllr. Gallagher requested;

- Provision of glass and tin recycling facilities outside the Recycling Centres to encourage increased use by the public and
- Emptying of bring bank facilities in Burtonport on a regular basis.

15.5

Public Conveniences

The Committee welcomed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Environment Administrative Officer regarding the status of proposals for the provision of public conveniences on Inishboffin, Gola and Owey Islands.

Cllr. Gallagher requested the Council to expedite provision of toilet facilities in Dungloe prior to the onset of the Tourist season.

15.6

Coastal Erosion

The Director of the Environment Service updated Members on the status of applications for emergency works at Maghery and Magheroarty.

15.7

Irish Water

The Director of Environment undertook to liaise with Irish Water, to schedule a meeting with the MD Committee regarding the status of capital schemes. Cllr. Gallagher informed Members of a Dungloe Tidy Towns initiative to reduce plastic waste, whereby water taps would be available in Dungloe to facilitate the refilling of water bottles, and requested the co-operation of Irish Water in this regard.

PLANNING

16.1

Development Applications

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the 2017 annual statistics presented by the Assistant Planner.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill expressed disappointment at the refusal of planning permissions along the N56 and recommended (1) a Planning policy distinction between national primary and national secondary routes, (2) less stringent criteria in situations where there are existing exits onto the national route.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh concurred with the above sentiments and requested the Council to treat planning applicants along the N56 favourably.

16.2

Enforcement

The Assistant Planner updated Members on the ongoing work of the Enforcement Team and the current status of cases on hand.

16.3

Planning Clinics

Members noted that the next Planning clinics will be held on the 28th February, 28th March and 18th April 2018.

16.4

Central Planning Unit

The Committee noted the timelines in relation to the ongoing county development plan review.

16.5

Strategic Local Area Plans

The Committee unanimously agreed to the scheduling of a workshop on Wednesday, 7th March 2018 in the Dungloe PSC to discuss the Chief Executive's Report in relation to submissions following publication of the Draft Plan.

16.6 **Conservation Grant Schemes**
Members welcomed the provision of funding in the sum of €100,000 from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in relation to (1) Built Heritage at Risk, (2) Structures at Risk.

16.7 **Hericoast Project**
The Committee welcomed the positive feedback received in respect of the recently launched WebApp "Coastal Experience in Donegal" and also the hosting of a Hericoast Workshop from the 24th - 26th April 2018 to be attended by 35 European delegates.

IC 17/18 **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

17.1 **Age friendly**
The Committee noted the report from Mairead Cranley, Staff Officer regarding (1) the availability of funding in the sum of €10,000 to carry out an intergenerational project under the Healthy Ireland Initiative Fund (2) the age friendly business training initiative in Dungloe.

17.2 **Youth Council**
Members noted the report on Youth Council activities circulated with the agenda.

17.3 **Rural Development Programme/Leader**
Members noted the status of the Leader Programme and the approval of 64 projects in Donegal.

17.4 **Pride of Place**
The Committee welcomed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Community Development Manager in relation to the pride of place community competition and noted that the closing date for applications is 9th March 2018.

17.5

2018 Regional Festivals and Participation Events

The Committee discussed the funding programme in the sum of €49750 aimed at 2018 festivals and participative events, with a closing date of the 2nd March 2018.

Cllr. Gallagher criticised the absence of communication with Members in relation to this fund.

17.6

Marine Tourism

The Community Development Manager circulated the Committee with a report regarding a Marine Tourism Conference to be held in the Shandon Hotel, Marble Hill on the 8th March 2018.

17.7

Workshops

The Community Development Manager advised Members that Barney McLaughlin will attend and facilitate a Workshop commencing at 10 a.m. on the 6th of March and that DFI will also be discussed at this meeting.

Cllr. Gallagher requested the Council to support events to be held to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of 'Leo's' in Crolly.

IC 18/18

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

18.1

Glenties Tidy Town Committee

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, the Committee agreed to receive a deputation from the Glenties Tidy Town Committee at the next MD meeting.

18.2

Community Hospitals

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Ó Fearraigh the Committee asked the Council to liaise with HSE Management to request a meeting to be kept abreast of capital developments in the Glenties MD.

18.3

Aire de Service

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig requested the Council to address sewage problems at the facility in Magheraroarty.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE
MEETING.**