

MINUTES OF MEETING OF ISLANDS COMMITTEE

HELD ON 13th FEBRUARY 2018 IN DUNGLOE PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cllr. Michéal Cholm Mac Giolla Easbuig
Cllr. John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh
Cllr. Enda Bonner
Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher
Diarmuid Ó Mórdha
William Boyle
Eamonn Bonner
Seán Ó Brían
Séamus Mac Ruairí
Mairín Uí Fhearraigh
Rosaleen McShane
Eamonn S Mac Aoidh

OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Michael McGarvey - Director of Water Service
Eamonn Brown-A/Area Manager, Housing & Corporate
Dermot Brady - Senior Assistant Fire Chief Officer
Charles Sweeney - Area Manager, Community
Development
Brendan McFadden-S.E.E, Area Manager, Roads
Service
John Hegarty-Executive Engineer, Roads Service
Fiona Kelly - A/Administrative Officer, Environment
Michael Rowsome-S.S.O, Corporate & Motor Tax

APOLOGIES:

Cllr. Terence Slowey
Cllr. Seamus Ó Domhnaill
Cllr. Ian McGarvey
Cathal Mac Suibhne - Marine Engineer
Máire Uí Dhochartaigh
Noirín Uí Mhaoldomhnaigh
David Friel
Marjorie Uí Chearbhaill

IC 01/18 **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 10TH OCTOBER 2017**

On the proposal of Seamus Rodgers, seconded by William Boyle, the minutes of meeting held on 10th October 2017 were confirmed subject to the following amendments:

1.1 **County Roads on Arranmore**

IC34.10 "On the proposal of Noirín Uí Mhaoldomhnaigh, seconded by Cllr. Bonner, the Committee requested the inclusion of the following roads on the Island priority list in relation to Arranmore - (County Roads)

- (i) Road from children's playground to property of Madge Boyle at Bun an Fhid.
- (ii) Road from Chris Gaughan's to property of Mary Early at Cloch Corr.
- (iii) Road from Cross Roads at Illion, property of Tessie Ward to property of Frances Early, Upper Illion and (link roads).
- (iv) Road which links road to Stacamór Pier and road to Pollawaddy.
- (v) Road which links Upper Ballintra/Ballard Road to Upper Illion Road.

1.2 **Magheroarty Pier**

IC 33.5 "The committee was informed that there is a requirement for signage at Magheroarty Pier to address the issue of blocking the pier during ferry operations. The Committee was informed that vehicles loading catch very occasionally block the pier and restrict access to the ferry. Mr. C. Mac Suibhne agreed to investigate this matter."

1.3 **Island Committee Meeting**

IC 37.17 "Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig stated that there is an Island Committee meeting every year on an Island and he sought clarification on which Island the next Committee meeting would be held on. It was suggested that it may be held on Gola Island in 2018."

2.1 **Public Conveniences**

The Committee discussed the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Environment Administrative Officer.

Members were advised of the status of public convenience proposals on the following Islands:

- (i) Inishbofin Island - Site Inspections are scheduled for the 15th and 16th February.
- (ii) Gola Island - Site Inspections are also scheduled for the 15th and 16th February.
- (iii) Owey Island - Options are being considered for a public convenience.

In response to a query from Cllr. Ó Fearraigh, the Environment Administrative Officer undertook to revert to the Committee with timelines for completion of projects. Mairín Uí Fhearraigh requested the progression of projects prior to the onset of the Tourist season and outlined the necessity for provision of portaloos, as an interim solution in the event of any delays.

2.2 **Tory Island Recycling Centre**

The Environment Administrative Officer updated Members on the status of this facility and the necessity to address outstanding issues prior to submission of the planning application.

2.3 **Gola Water Pipe**

In response to concerns expressed by the Committee regarding the dangers posed to navigation due to the surfacing of the water line, the A/Director of the Water Service informed Members that this issue will be prioritised on improvement of weather conditions. Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig asked the Council to liaise with Islanders in this regard.

IC 03/18 MARINE SERVICE

3.1 Marine Engineer

The Committee expressed disappointment at the absence of a representative from the Marine Service at the meeting and requested (i) the attendance of the Engineer at all future Island meetings (ii) the issue of a report to the Committee regarding all matters raised at today's meeting and (iii) a comprehensive report to issue outlining all work carried out over the last year.

3.2 Pier Lights

The representatives from Gola and Owey expressed frustration at the ongoing failure to repair lights on both piers.

3.3 Cranes

Mairín Uí Fhearraigh requested the Council to implement a system that will assign responsibility for the operation of the crane to designated personnel on Gola, to ensure health and safety standards are adhered to, and that there is no misuse of the facility.

Eamonn Mac Aoidh requested the installation of a cover to prevent damage to electrics.

The Committee requested an update on proposals for the installation of cranes on Inishboffin and at Magheroarty.

3.4 Gola Pier

Eamonn Mac Aoidh requested a response to continued requests for the provision of ladders and a slipway on Gola.

3.5 Inishboffin Pier / Magheroarty

John O'Brien requested the Marine Service to liaise with him regarding (1) the relocation of pier ladders, (2) to provide an update on proposed development at Magheroarty Pier as there has been an absence of consultation with local fishermen, (3) safety railings at Inishboffin pier and (4) dredging requirements at wall of grotto on Inishboffin.

3.6 Boats at Leabgarrow

Seamus Mac Ruairí reiterated continual requests for the Council to remove abandoned boats decaying on piers on Arranmore to prevent any health and safety incidents.

IC 04/18 CORPORATE SERVICES

John O'Brien expressed disappointment that notwithstanding his absence from meetings for a number of years that the same issues were being highlighted constantly and that the Council were achieving minimal progress in their advancement of Island projects.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig outlined positive road developments on Islands and requested each Council Service to report on Island works progressed over the last number of years.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh asked for a report detailing the reasons for non-advancement of Island projects.

In response to a request from Cllr. Gallagher, the A/Director of Service undertook to compile a report detailing Island works by Service carried out over the last number of years and also highlighted planning, financial and weather constraints in relation to the carrying out of Island works.

IC 05/18 ROADS SERVICE

5.1 Drainage of East Town

The Roads Engineer informed the Committee that he visited the Island with the Roads Service Supervisor and more pipes are required to deal with excess water at East Town.

5.2 Ballard Bridge

The Roads Engineer advised Members that a full design has been completed and that the project is subject to Part 8 planning permission at a cost of €40,000.

5.3 Lighthouse Roads

The Roads Engineer informed the Committee that contact has been made with the Commissioner of Irish Lights and that an unsuccessful LIS application has been submitted in respect of Lighthouse Roads on Tory and Arranmore.

5.4 Aphort/Illion Road

The Roads Engineer acknowledged the necessity to carry out safety works on receipt of adequate funding.

5.5 Owey Island

In response to comments from William Boyle regarding necessary road patching and drainage works, the Roads Engineer committed to carrying out works prior to the nesting season and stated that a budget is still available for Owey Island road works.

5.6 Proposed 2018 Island Road Priorities

The Committee discussed the priority list of 2018 Island roads, circulated and presented by the Roads Engineer. Mairín Uí Fhearraigh requested the inclusion of Island Roy on the list and also informed Members that no monies have been forthcoming from An Roinn nor the Council for small Island roads.

Eamonn Bonner circulated photographs of the poor condition of the graveyard road on Arranmore and welcomed prioritisation of this road on the non County Road list.

Eamonn Bonner also requested the inclusion of Rosie Boyle's road at Fallagowan on the list.

Members agreed to defer prioritisation of the listed projects until all representatives are in attendance.

5.7 Road Maintenance Programme

Cllr. Bonner informed Members of the difficulties encountered by Glenties MD Members at Plenary Council in the establishment of an Islands road budget funded by the Council rather than the current MD funding arrangement.

The Committee all agreed the necessity to maintain roads to preserve the investment in Island Roads.

The Roads Engineer advised Members that the current maintenance budget is in the sum of €10000 annually.

Seamus Mac Ruairí requested the Council to liaise with Minister Ring regarding the ringfencing of monies for Island Roads.

5.8 Takeover of Island Roads

In response to a request from Seamus Mac Ruairí for the takeover of the Doctors Road on Arranmore, the Roads Manager informed the Committee that this road does not meet the new criteria adopted by the Council in 2015.

IC 06/18 FIRE SERVICE

6.1 Island Community Fire Safety Programme

The Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officer updated the Committee in relation to the following recent initiatives:

- Fire Safety packs delivered to Island Roy, Owey, Gola, Insihboffin, Rutland and Inishcaorach.
- Fire Safety Packs to be delivered to Arranmore on 15th February.
- Invited suggestions for dates for fire extinguisher training on Arranmore and Tory Islands and also 1 day training on the mainland in a suitable building/yard.

The Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officer also requested (1) the Inish Sionnaigh representative to contact Brian Greene in the Dungloe Fire Station to obtain a Fire Service pack (2) the Tory rep to submit list of names of residents to facilitate delivery of equipment.

The Committee commended the Fire Service for ongoing co-operation and interaction with Island communities.

6.2 Capital Investment

The Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officer informed Members that (1) a new fire engine costs in the sum of €400k and that this level of funding is sanctioned only once in a 5 year period and (2) fire prevention is the key to fire safety issues on Islands.

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Ó Fearraigh the Committee recommended that a letter issue to the Dept. of Environment (Fire Fighters Association report to be attached) outlining unique circumstances of offshore Islands and the necessity to take the safety of Islanders into consideration in the drafting of any national guidelines or policies.

IC 07/18 Any Other Business

7.1 Burtonport Foreshore CPO

Cllr. Gallagher requested the Council to expedite the development of a car park in Burtonport as discussed during discussions to proceed with compulsory purchase order.

7.2 Tory Island Ferry Service

The Committee commended the Tory Islanders for their campaign to secure a new ferry to service the community on Tory.

7.3 Rathlin Island

Seamus Mac Ruairí highlighted the importance of co-operation between all Islands and the necessity to increase links with other Island groups. Mairín Uí Fhearraigh informed the Committee that she raised this issue at a meeting of Comhdháil Óileáin na hÉireann and was advised that representatives from Rathlin are entitled to attend their meetings.

7.4 Island Fisheries Bill

John O'Brien expressed gratitude to Pearse Doherty TD for his proposal of the Island Fisheries (Heritage licence) Bill and welcomed support from other political groupings, but expressed disappointment at the lack of support from the government party.

On the proposal of Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig, seconded by Cllr. Ó Fearraigh, the Committee requested that correspondence issue to Minister McHugh and the Marine Minister requesting favourable consideration of any proposals to support Island fishermen.

7.5 Island Hopping Ferry Service

Mairín Uí Fhearraigh requested An Roinn and Udáras to tender the provision of a small Islands ferry service during the summer months.

7.6 Date of Next Meeting

The Committee agreed that the next meeting will be held on the 10th April 2018 on Gola Island.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.