

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

HELD ON 13th NOVEMBER 2018 IN DUNGLOE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr. John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh
Cllr. Terence Slowey
Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher
Cllr. Enda Bonner
Cllr. Michéal Choilm Mac Giolla Easbuig

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Michael McGarvey, A/Director Water & Environment
Eamonn Brown - A/Area Manager, Housing &
Corporate
Brendan McFadden - S.E.E. Area Manager, Roads &
Transportation
David Friel - Coastal Officer
Alana Greene - Executive Planner
Charles Sweeney - Administrative Officer, Community
Development
Michael Rowsome, S.S.O. Motor Tax/Corporate

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Seamus Ó Domhnaill
Sinead McClafferty - Assistant Planner

GMD 88/18

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF GLENTIES MD HELD
ON 9TH OCTOBER 2018**

On the proposal of Cllr. Slowey, seconded by Cllr. Gallagher, the minutes of the Glenties Municipal District Committee held on the 9th October 2018 were confirmed.

GMD 89/18

**MINUTES OF GLENTIES MD COMMITTEE HELD
ON 25TH OCTOBER 2018**

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Slowey, the minutes of the meeting of the Glenties MD Committee held on the 25th October 2018 were confirmed.

GMD 90/18

WORKSHOP REPORTS

The Committee noted the reports from the Budget Workshop held on the 4th October 2018 and the Finance Workshop held on the 25th October 2018.

GMD 91/18

REQUEST FOR DEPUTATIONS

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Slowey, the Committee agreed to receive deputations from both:

- (i) The Gweebarra Community Group and
- (ii) The Glenties Community Development Group on January 15th 2019.

GMD 92/18

2019 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

The Committee unanimously agreed the schedule of MD meetings in respect of 2019 as follows:

- (i) January 15th
- (ii) February 12th
- (iii) March 12th
- (iv) April 9th
- (v) May 7th

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

GMD 93/18

Roadworks Programme

The Roads Manager informed Members of the status of the 2018 Roadworks Programme and outlined the work in progress on the Ranafast Community Involvement Scheme and the agreement reached with Irish Water to reinstate roads in Dungloe and Glenties.

Cllr. Gallagher commended the role of Roads staff in their efforts to secure a settlement with Irish Water. Cllr. Gallagher further requested that a definitive agreement between Senior Management in both the Council and Irish Water be finalised to prevent a repetition of the issues that disrupted residents and motorists throughout the County.

Cllr. Gallagher also commended the cooperation of the local community, landowners and Council in relation to the Ranafast works.

GMD 94/18

Transport Infrastructure Ireland

Cllr. Slowey updated the Committee on the outcome of the delegation that recently met with the TII and expressed optimism regarding the funding that will become available to transform the West Donegal road network. Cllr. Bonner requested that all Members be issued with copies of both the 2017 and 2018 presentations made at the TII meetings.

GMD 95/18

Road Takeover Policy

In response to queries from Cllr. Gallagher regarding takeover of Fairhill Road, Dungloe and to Cllr. Bonner in respect of Glen Road, Dungloe and Joe O'Donnell's

Road in Saltpans, the Roads Manager undertook to convene a workshop in this regard.

Cllr. Gallagher requested the Council to take over roads that adhere to current policy to avoid further delays.

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Slowey, the Committee agreed to schedule a Workshop on 15th January 2019 in this regard.

GMD 96/18

Bridges

Cllr. Slowey commended work on the Tullies Bridge.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh acknowledged the quality of work carried out at Meenacladdy Bridge and requested the Roads Service to source funding for works on the narrow bridge at Ardsbeg/Magheroarty.

In response to a query from Cllr. Slowey, the Roads Manager advised that the Glenties/Fintown bridge (Currien) has been submitted to Road Design for funding.

GMD 97/18

Dungloe Bay Walk

In response to a query from Cllr. Bonner regarding the necessity to use rock armour at this location, the Roads Manager undertook to meet on site to outline safety issues.

Cllr. Gallagher commended work carried out on this project and recommended that Council design and cost an extension of the bay walk to the pond so that the job is 'shovel ready' on receipt of future funding. Cllr. Ó Fearraigh seconded this proposal.

Cllr. Gallagher also recommended that an official opening be held in the New Year to acknowledge the

efforts of all stakeholders involved in the success of this project.

GMD 98/18

Road Maintenance

Cllr. Bonner requested the Council to carry out necessary repairs on the Lough Errig (Bakery) Road and also the Larnalarkin road.

The Roads Manager stated that the Bakery Road repairs have recently been carried out and that pothole repairs will be scheduled in the near future.

GMD 99/18

National Roads Office

The Committee welcomed the report from the Donegal National Roads Design Office circulated at the meeting.

Cllr. Gallagher requested that her previous recommendations in relation to the provision of an arts feature on the Leitirnacaward green area be expedited.

HOUSING & CORPORATE

GMD 100/18

Progress Reports

Members welcomed the progress reports circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager regarding the status of:

- (i) grants
- (ii) casual vacancies and
- (iii) acquisitions

as at the 2nd of November 2018.

Members commended the provision of 6 long term acquisitions in Glenties.

GMD 101/18

Section 183

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Slowey, the Committee approved the disposal of land from Donegal County Council to Packie Gallagher, Loughandubh, Kincasslagh, Letterkenny. The land is registered to Donegal County Council under folio number DL79041F.

GMD 102/18

Clós Naomh Chonail, Glenties

Cllr. Gallagher expressed appreciation to the Area Housing Management Team for facilitating a meeting with residents of this scheme on 9th November.

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Slowey, the Committee recommended a relaxation of rules outlined in the Tenants Handbook in respect of Clós Naomh Chonail residents. The Housing Manager

informed Members that the Tenant Liaison Officer will keep residents updated in relation to any developments/progress.

GMD 103/18

Housing Need Report

The Committee welcomed the Housing Need Report circulated previously and presented by the Housing Manager detailing a gross need of 218 and a net need of 94 in the Glenties Municipal District.

Cllr. Slowey recommended an increased emphasis on house building and house acquisitions to enable the Council to earn rent for reinvestment back into Housing provision and queried the effectiveness of the Housing Assistance Payment Scheme. Cllr. Slowey also queried the number of social housing refusals emanating from HAP recipients.

Cllr. Gallagher informed Members of the lack of rental accommodation available in Dungloe and recommended the immediate acquisition of sufficient good quality land banks to sustain small rural communities.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh undertook to organise a Workshop with the Housing Construction Section in early 2019 to discuss these issues and progress in relation to Turnkey tenders.

GMD 104/18

Housing SPC

Cllr. Gallagher outlined concerns regarding inactivity in the scheduling of meetings of the Housing SPC and expressed frustration that Members' issues raised locally are not being forwarded or aired in the appropriate forum. Cllr. Gallagher requested clarity regarding the status of recommendations originating from Municipal District meetings.

GMD 105/18

Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans

In response to a query from Cllr. Bonner, the Housing Manager updated the Committee regarding Council Mortgages and the application process.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

GMD 106/18

Pride of Place 2018

The Committee welcomed the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Community Development Manager regarding progress to date. Members noted details of the local celebration award ceremony on Monday, 8th October and the upcoming national award ceremony in Cork City on 17th November 2018.

GMD 107/18

One Donegal - Social Inclusion Week

Members commended the success of Social Inclusion Week during the 5th to the 13th of October.

GMD 108/18

ASCENT Project

The Committee discussed the report and visitor monitoring survey circulated at the meeting and presented by the Community Development Manager regarding the delivery of a plan for a sustainable solution to the environmental issues caused by unregulated access at Errigal. The Community Development Manager informed Members that:

- (i) design specifications are currently being prepared by a pathway designer in conjunction with the Errigal Stakeholders Group for a single line pathway from the current car park to the top of Errigal,
- (ii) plans are also being developed for habitat restoration along the areas damaged by unregulated footfall and
- (iii) visitors survey will inform the integrated management plan to be developed over the next few months.

GMD 109/18

Youth Council

The Community Development Manager informed the Committee that Youth Council elections are in progress to elect a new Youth Council.

GMD 110/18

Fintown Village Renewal

The Community Development Manager advised Members that the Council has sought and is awaiting feedback from the Department of Rural and Community Development regarding the unsuccessful application submitted in respect of Fintown village renewal.

Cllr. Bonner requested a report on this matter. Cllr. Ó Fearraigh stated the importance of having a 'shovel ready' project available in the event that a source of funding comes on stream.

GMD 111/18

Walking Routes

The Community Development Manager informed Members that (i) the recently appointed Gaeltacht Tourism Officer will be liaising with the Council's Walks and Trails Officer to develop and market walking routes throughout the County and (ii) the Walks and Trails Officer will be invited to the January Municipal District meeting. Cllr. Gallagher and Cllr. Ó Fearraigh conveyed their best wishes to the Gaeltacht Tourism Officer in her new role.

GMD 112/18

Greenways Project

Cllr. Gallagher requested the Council to respond to concerns previously raised regarding the outstanding resources agreed in the 2018 budget to advance the Burtonport-Letterkenny Greenways project. Cllr.

Slowey outlined the necessity for a commitment at Senior Management Level to expedite the greenways project.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh undertook to arrange a meeting of Glenties Municipal District Councillors with Senior Management prior to the forthcoming budget meeting to discuss outstanding concerns regarding this matter.

The Director of Water/Environment informed the Committee that Members concerns have already been communicated to the Head of Finance and also at the recent SMT meeting.

GMD 113/18

Flagship Projects

Cllr. Gallagher recommended the scheduling of a meeting to identify and advance further flagship tourism projects.

Cllr. Gallagher stated that the upgrading of the local road network would transform Crohy Head into an iconic tourism location.

GMD 114/18

Community Development Staffing

In response to a query from Cllr. Gallagher regarding the appointment of Máire Ní Fhearraigh as Gaeltacht Tourism Officer, the Community Development Manager informed Members that Sean Boyle has been transferred to the Dungloe office initially on a temporary basis until the New Year when the appointment will be on a full time basis.

GMD 115/18

WIFI Hot Spots

Cllr. Slowey informed the Committee of the availability of EU funding to local authorities for the provision of free WIFI hotspots at public spaces.

Cllr. Slowey stressed the importance of the availability of this service in iconic tourism locations, to enable tourists to promote local tourism.

The meeting adjourned to facilitate a reception and presentation to Special Olympic Athletes and the Errigal Sports and Social Club.

GMD 116/18

Deputation - Amharclann Ghaoth Dobhair

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Ó Fearraigh welcomed Pól Mac Cumhaill, Mairéad Ní Ghallchóir and Áine Ní Chuirráin to the Municipal District Meeting.

The Deputation informed Members:

- (a) The theatre has been renovated at a cost of €880,000
- (b) A sound system in excess of €300 per performance is necessary due to the lack of available funding to purchase a quality sound system
- (c) Budget in the sum of €100,000 is required in 2019
- (d) A 5 year plan forecasts an annual budget requirement of €300,000 in 2023 to provide an adequate level of cultural entertainment and in line with other similar theatres.
- (e) Vision to participate in an area of cultural excellence in cooperation with other local agencies
- (f) Theatre caters for 67 performances per year and 3 in-house productions
- (g) An amount of funding in the sum of €30,000 is sought from Donegal County Council in 2019.

The Committee unanimously welcomed and praised the quality of the presentation and undertook to make representations to Senior Management in advance of the finalisation of the 2019 budget to request an

appropriate allocation to the Amharclann similar to funding provided to other cultural centres throughout the County.

On the proposal of Cllr. Slowey, seconded by Cllr. Gallagher the Committee agreed to convene a Municipal District Meeting in the Amharclann during 2019.

PLANNING

GMD 117/18

Development Applications

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Executive Planner in relation to statistics during the period ended September 2018.

GMD 118/18

Enforcement

Members noted the report previously circulated and the re-assignment of enforcement staff to Rural Regeneration and Development Fund work.

GMD 119/18

Planning Clinics

The Committee noted the scheduling of planning clinics on the 21st of November and the 5th of December 2018.

GMD 120/18

Central Planning Unit

The Committee discussed the reports circulated with the agenda and presented by the Executive Planner regarding (i) Local Area Plans, (ii) Town and Village Renewal Programme, (iii) Hericoast Project and (iv) RRDF Funding Application for Fort Dunree.

In response to a query from Cllr. Gallagher regarding the potential legacy emanating from the Hericoast

Project, the Executive Planner advised that 'best practice' from the partner regions will be used to inform and develop a policy framework to improve the management of coastal, natural and cultural heritage.

ENVIRONMENT

GMD 121/18

Waste & Litter Management

Members welcomed the organisation of free household hazardous waste collections at each of the 6 recycling centres.

GMD 122/18

Men's Shed Showcase

The Committee commended the organisation of Donegal Men's Shed Showcase in Castlefinn to facilitate the Sheds throughout Donegal to display their work with a particular focus on re-use.

GMD 123/18

Bikes 4 Africa Campaign

The Committee congratulated the Environment Service for the success of the campaign and the collection of 66 suitable bicycles for refurbishment prior to onward transportation to schools in Africa.

GMD 124/18

Geopad, Litter and Waste Statistics

Members discussed the reports circulated with the agenda and presented by the Coastal Officer regarding the tonnages of waste collected by 3 mobile litter units and the litter fines issued during the period to 31st October 2018.

In response to a query from Cllr. Ó Fearraigh, the Coastal Officer undertook to ascertain reasons for cancellation of fines imposed on offenders outside the jurisdiction.

GMD 125/18

Coastal Protection

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Coastal Officer regarding the following coast improvement works:

- Killahoey Beach Water Supply
- Car Parking improvements at Cloughglass and Mullaghderg Beaches
- Ongoing ringbuoy assessments
- Straw Bale installation at Magheroarty to mitigate erosion.

Members also advised that the provision of a water supply to Drumnatinney is awaiting approval from Irish Water.

Cllr. Gallagher informed the Committee that the Council will have to negotiate access to the Mullaghderg disaster memorial.

The Committee praised the Council's installation of straw bales at Carrickfinn to mitigate against dune erosion and wind blow out.

Cllr. Gallagher welcomed the provision of funding by the OPW to conduct survey work to examine erosion at Gweebarra Bay, Maghery, Inishfree Bay and Magheroarty.

In response to a request to construct a sea wall to protect the old school building on Inishboffin Island, Cllr. Ó Fearraigh was advised to liaise with the Marine Engineer in this regard.

GMD 126/18

Any Other Business

Cllr. Gallagher and Cllr. Ó Fearraigh requested the inclusion of an item in relation to 'Returning Emigrants' to be placed on the next Municipal District agenda. Members were advised of the difficulties faced by former emigrants who have difficulty with the following issues on their return to Ireland:

- Car Insurance
- Driving Licences
- Taxation and Social Welfare
- Revenue
- Banks

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.