

MINUTES OF MEETING OF ISLANDS COMMITTEE

HELD ON FEBRUARY 12TH, 2019 IN THE DUNGLOE P.S.C

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

Séamus Mac Ruairí
Mairín Uí Fhearraigh
Eamonn S. Mac Aoidh
Roseleen McShane
John O'Brien
William Boyle
Eamonn Bonner
Diarmuid Ó Mórdha - An Roinn

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Michael McGarvey - Director of Water & Environment Service
Cathal Mac Suibhne - Marine Engineer
David Friel - Coastal Officer
John Hegarty-Executive Engineer, Roads Service
Killian Smith - Planner
Eamonn Brown-Area Manager, Housing & Corporate
Michael Rowsome-S.S.O, Corporate & Motor Tax
Charles Sweeney - Administrative Officer, Community Development

APOLOGIES: Dermot Brady - Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officer
Noirín Uí Mhaoldomhnaigh
Máire Uí Dhochartaigh
Michéal Mac Giolla Easbuig - Údarás na Gaeltachta

IC 01/19 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 9TH OCTOBER 2018

On the proposal of Cllr. Slowey, seconded by William Boyle, the minutes of the meeting held on the 9th October 2018 were confirmed.

IC 02/19 MARINE SERVICE

2.1 Magheroarty Pier

John O'Brien & Cllr. Ó Domhnaill outlined their concerns regarding the following issues at the pier:

- Dredging and the necessity to dredge from the pier head
- Inadequate berthage
- Damage to boats
- Requirement for additional power points
- Necessity for involvement of all stakeholders in relation to proposals for pier development.

The Marine Engineer (i) acknowledged the concerns of the Committee and assured Members that public consultation will be arranged for all pier users in the local community, (ii) undertook to provide power points where necessary and (iii) informed Members of environmental difficulties and tidal restrictions in relation to dredging works. John O'Brien recommended that the Council utilise experience gained by engineers involved in works carried out to accommodate the Ballycastle to Rathlin Ferry Service.

2.2 Harbour Dues

In response to concerns expressed by William Boyle and Eamonn Mac Aoidh regarding the imposition of harbour dues on small boat owners, the Marine Engineer clarified the schedule of charges applicable to boat owners travelling between the mainland and their native offshore Islands.

2.3 Curransport Pier

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig requested a report on the status of Curransport Pier.

2.4 Small Ferry Service

John O'Brien and Máirín Uí Fhearraigh requested the provision of a small ferry service to all smaller Islands during the period from Easter to September to boost Island tourism.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill and Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig requested the Council to cost the provision of a pilot scheme and to seek funding from An Roinn in this regard. Máirín Uí Fhearraigh advised that 3 boats will be necessary to cover all Islands.

2.5 Arranmore Burtonport Development

Cllr. Gallagher requested the Islands Committee to lobby all TD's and the Minister in Donegal to prioritise the development of Arranmore and Burtonport for Rural Regeneration and Development funding.

2.6 Gola Pier

Eamonn Mac Aoidh requested the Marine Service to repair the light on the pier and to address safety concerns at the pier to avoid damage to boats.

IC 03/19 WATER & ENVIRONMENT SERVICE

3.1 Gola Island Water Pipe

Eamonn Mac Aoidh commended the works carried out to repair damage to the water pipe. The Director of the Environment Service informed the Committee of the potential for enforcement action to deter damage to the water pipe.

3.2 Marine Litter

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Coastal Officer who informed Members that the Council is promoting 'clean coasts' and 'think before you flush' initiatives in 2019 to address marine litter pollution around the coastline.

3.3 Public Conveniences

Members discussed the report circulated previously regarding the status of Public Conveniences on Inishboffin, Arranmore and Gola. In response to a query from John O'Brien regarding Inishboffin proposals, the Coastal Officer informed Members of his optimism in relation to future funding of this project.

In reply to Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig, the Coastal Officer informed the Committee that the Council are trying to fund the provision of disabled access to the Arranmore Public Convenience under the 'Flag' programme.

Máirín Uí Fhearraigh requested the Council to provide a minimum of 2 portaloos on Gola in the absence of a permanent public convenience.

3.4 Coastal Erosion

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig highlighted the necessity for coastal protection measures to preserve the schoolhouse on Inishboffin.

3.5 Water Conservation

Cllr. Slowey requested the Environment Service to liaise with schools to carry out an audit of water usage.

IC 04/19 ROADS SERVICE

4.1 Takeover of Island Roads

In response to a recommendation from Seamus Mac Ruairí that the Council takeover the Doctor's Road on Arranmore, the Roads Engineer informed Members that the road has been assessed and does not satisfy the necessary criteria to be taken over.

4.2 Local Improvement Schemes

The Roads Engineer advised the Committee that all applications for funding under this scheme are considered and assessed in accordance with criteria specified by the Department of Rural and Community Development, and that applications from Islands are treated in a similar fashion to mainland submissions.

4.3 Roads Report

The Committee welcomed the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Roads Engineer. Members commended the completion of works on Island Roy and Arranmore. The Roads Engineer stated that the Contractor has a number of snags to complete on Tory.

4.4 Priority List of Island Roads 2019

The Committee discussed the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Roads Engineer regarding the estimated costings of prioritised Island Roads.

In response to a query from Máirín Uí Fhearraigh regarding the prioritisation and allocation of An Roinn funding, Diarmuid Ó Mórdha informed Members that prioritisation is decided by the Islands Committee in conjunction with the Roads Service, and that funding is dependent on budgets available to An Roinn.

On the proposal of Máirín Uí Fhearraigh, seconded by Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, the Committee recommended that roads on the smaller Islands of Gola, Owey, Inishfree, Rutland, Inishboffin and Inishkeeragh be prioritised in 2019 for funding.

In respect of Non-County roads on Arranmore, Seamus Mac Ruairí and Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig requested a higher prioritisation in respect of the RTE Mast Road and Mary Early's Road respectively.

After a lengthy discussion in relation to prioritisation of Island roads (i) Cllr. Gallagher recommended submission of a 3 year programme to facilitate funding of all Island roads, (ii) the Roads Engineer undertook to visit and prioritise all roads for consideration at the next Islands meeting.

IC 05/19 **GAELTACHT TOURISM OFFICER**

Cllr. Gallagher requested the attendance of the Gaeltacht Tourism Officer at future Islands meetings.

IC 06/19 **PLANNING**

In response to a query from Máirín Uí Fhearraigh regarding the status of enforcement cases on Gola Island, the Planner informed the Committee that the Council cannot comment due to the ongoing legal process. Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the Planner to liaise with the Planning Director and Senior Planner regarding his representations at a recent meeting, requesting the Council to lobby the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to enact legislation to facilitate retention applications on Islands.

Cllr. Gallagher expressed her opinion that the Government are imposing national legislation in excess of EU legislative requirements.

IC 07/19 **COISTE NA n-OILEÁIN**

Cllr. Gallagher requested the Council to constitute the Islands Committee at the Council AGM to avoid lengthy delays to the scheduling of future Committee meetings.

IC 08/19 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Seamus Mac Ruairí expressed a vote of sympathy to:

- the McGill Family on the death of Rose McGill
- Rosaleen McShane on the death of her sister
- The Tory Island Community on the death of Patsy Dan Rodgers.

Seamus Mac Ruairí also commended Danny Boyle for his long service delivering mail to Arranmore.

IC 09/19 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Members noted that the next meeting will be held on the 9th of April.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.