

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

**HELD ON 12<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2019 IN DUNGLOE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllr. John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh  
Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher  
Cllr. Terence Slowey  
Cllr. Enda Bonner

**APOLOGIES** : Cllr. Seamus Ó Domhnaill  
Cllr. Michéal Choilm Mac Giolla Easbuig

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Michael McGarvey, A/Director Water & Environment  
Brendan McFadden - S.E.E. Area Manager, Roads &  
Transportation  
Eamonn Brown - Area Manager, Housing & Corporate  
Mary McBride - Executive Planner  
Brian McBrearty - Waste Enforcement Officer  
Charles Sweeney - Administrator Officer, Community  
Development  
Michael Rowsome, S.S.O. Motor Tax/Corporate

**GMD 32/19**

**MINUTES OF GLENTIES MD MEETING HELD ON  
12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2019**

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Bonner, the minutes of the meeting of the Glenties Municipal District Committee held on the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2019 were confirmed.

**GMD 33/19**

**MD Meeting - Protocols**

The Committee expressed the following concerns regarding the functioning of the Municipal District Committee:-

- Cllr. Gallagher expressed concern at the absence of minutes of the Glenties Municipal District on the agenda of the Plenary Council for adoption and the consequent lack of awareness of Municipal District issues at Senior Management level.
- Cllr. Gallagher expressed frustration at the apparent lack of any action, subsequent to the recent Housing Capital Special meeting.
- Cllr. Bonner queried the delays in addressing Coastal Protection issues.
- Cllr. Gallagher stated that the absence of Service Managers for the duration of monthly meetings demonstrated a lack of courtesy to both elected public representatives and delegations from community groups.
- Cllr. Bonner outlined his dissatisfaction at the lack of continuity in terms of representation of the Planning Service at monthly meetings.
- Cllr. Slowey proposed that meetings be adjourned until all services are adequately represented at Municipal District meetings.
- Cllr. Gallagher requested clarification regarding the relevance of policy decisions made at Municipal District level.

The Corporate Manager informed the Committee that it is the responsibility of each Area Service Manager to follow up on any issues raised at Municipal District Level pertaining to their service. The Director of Service undertook to issue a response to the Committee regarding their concerns.

**GMD 34/19**

### **Schedule of Municipal District Works 2019**

Members considered the following documentation circulated with the agenda and presented by the Director of Service:

- (i) Report from A/Head of Finance.
- (ii) Extract from Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).

- (iii) Local Government Policy Circular LG27/2014 and Fin 21/2014 issued by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government.
- (iv) Extract from Part 12, Chapter 1 of the Local Government Act 2001 (financial procedures).
- (v) Appendix 1 - Housing Maintenance & Housing Estate Management 2019.
- (vi) Appendix 2 - Environmental Services 2019.
- (vii) Roads - Budget Distribution 2019.
- (viii) Development Fund Allocations 2019.

The Director of Service advised the Committee:

- (i) That the preparation and adoption of the SMDW is mandatory and requires consideration by the Municipal District and adoption by resolution, with or without amendment, by the Members of each Municipal District.
- (ii) The deadline date of the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 is being applied for the adoption of this resolution in respect of 2019.
- (iii) Should the schedule not be adopted by the Members, the SMDW reverts to the full Council for the elected Members' consideration and adoption with or without amendment but in line with Subsection 4 of Section 103A.

The Committee expressed their ongoing concerns at the SMDW process since inception of the concept during the financial year 2015. Members highlighted their lack of input into service programmes other than the Roadworks programme.

The Director of Service undertook to add the SMDW process to the CPG Agenda and to schedule a workshop to update Members on Environment and Housing Work programmes.

The Committee did not propose adoption of the SMDW 2019.

**GMD 35/19**

**Section 183 - Herrons Field, Ardara**

On the proposal of Cllr. Slowey, seconded by Cllr. Gallagher, the Committee approved the proposal to lease for 36 years and 8 months, a further 0.037 hectares of land to Ardara Community Childcare Company Limited for the purpose of an extension to their existing playground subject to an annual rent of €100.

**GMD 36/19**

**ENVIRONMENT**

**36.1**

**Big Donegal Clean Up '19**

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Waste Enforcement Officer in relation to the commencement of the 2019 Big Donegal Clean Up. Members were advised that application forms for clean up equipment are available at Council offices.

**36.2**

**Waste/Recycling Talks**

The Committee welcomed the report from the Waste Awareness Officer regarding the delivery of educational talks on waste and recycling issues to local community groups and organisations.

**36.3**

**Community Group Grants**

Members welcomed the streamlining of the application process for the provision of environmental grants to community groups and tidy town organisations. Cllr. Gallagher informed the Committee that the majority of Tidy Town Groups expenditure is incurred during April to June and recommended allocation of grants as early as possible.

36.4

#### **Coastal Management**

In response to queries from Cllr. Ó Fearraigh and Cllr. Bonner regarding the status of coastal protection measures, the Director informed the Committee that he had recently met the OPW and that he will undertake to provide a report at the next meeting.

36.5

#### **Beaches**

In response to a query from Cllr. Gallagher regarding her previous request that Daragh McDonough give a presentation to the Municipal District in relation to the beach mapping project, the Director agreed to arrange for the scheduling of this presentation at the next meeting.

Cllr. Bonner recommended that the Council apply for Blue Flag status for additional beaches in the County and outlined his disappointment at the omission of Donegal beaches from the 'Tripadvisor Top 10' beaches in Ireland.

36.6

#### **Public Toilets - Dungloe**

Cllr. Gallagher requested a definitive response from the Council regarding the commencement of works and the opening of a public convenience in Dungloe, in light of the continually changing timelines that she has received in relation to this project. Cllr. Gallagher further requested that the Council carry out minor environmental improvement works of a small strip of land adjacent to the public convenience.

The Director informed the Committee that a contractor has been appointed with an anticipated completion date of Easter 2019.

37.1

Development Applications

The Committee discussed the reports circulated with the agenda and presented by the Planner in relation to development applications for the month ended January 2019.

The Planner responded to concerns from Cllr. Ó Fearraigh regarding a refusal of permission to a local indigenous member of the local community and outlined the implications of site specific issues on any Planning decision.

Cllr. Gallagher commented on the increasing workload arising from the increase in submitted applications and queried if the Planning Service have any indicators that will determine consideration of Planning Service decentralisation.

37.2

Enforcement

The Committee noted the report and update from the Planner regarding the status of enforcement cases on record in the Glenties Municipal District. The Committee were also advised in a report from Carol Margey, S.E.P (responding to Cllr. Ó Fearraigh's query regarding the high number of outstanding cases) that;

- staffing resource issues previously hindered the capacity of the Council to maintain a planning enforcement team and
- new cases are being addressed in the timeframes set out by legislation

37.3

Planning clinics

Members welcomed the scheduling of clinics on the 13<sup>th</sup> March, 27<sup>th</sup> March and 10<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

#### 37.4

#### Central Planning Unit

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Executive Planner regarding the status of the Central Planning Unit work programme. Members were informed that the Central Planning Unit and Regenerative & Development Programme and Delivery Team will be closely aligned with a clear focus on the regeneration and growth agenda.

Cllr. Gallagher highlighted the necessity for the regeneration of Burtonport and Arranmore and requested the Council, An Roinn, BIM and Údarás to reconvene their discussions to advance development of this area. Cllr. Gallagher requested that the Council appoint an official to expedite advancement of a 'shovel ready' project in Burtonport and the Executive Planner agreed to revert to the Senior Executive Planner in this regard.

#### 37.5

#### Hericoast Project

Members discussed the report circulated previously and presented by the Executive Planner.

Cllr. Gallagher informed the Committee of the many memorials to people lost at sea throughout the County and requested that the loss of life be acknowledged in a respectful way if permissible and within the terms of the project. Cllr. Bonner acknowledged the potential benefit of the Hericoast project to the County and requested a greater focus on the West of the County.

37.6

### Dungloe Local Area Plan

Cllr. Bonner requested that Paul Christie revert to the Committee regarding flooding concerns in relation to land proposed for social housing development at Main Street, Dungloe. Cllr. Gallagher requested an update on the masterplan proposed for Dungloe.

37.7

### County Development Plan

Cllr. Gallagher welcomed the recent interaction of the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine with the Council in relation to Aquaculture Licensing and commended the inclusion of a policy within the County Development Plan regarding a managed approach to Aquaculture Licensing.

GMD 38/19

## HOUSING & CORPORATE

38.1

### Housing Grants

The Committee discussed the reports circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager regarding the status of the following grants at the 5<sup>th</sup> of March 2019:

- (i) Housing Aid for Older People
- (ii) Housing Adaptation
- (iii) Mobility Aids

In response to a query from Cllr. Ó Fearraigh regarding Council Housing Grants, the Area Manager confirmed that adequate funding is available for allocation of grants and that he anticipates the progression of 2019 applications before the next meeting.



## 38.2

### Casual Vacancies

The Members welcomed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager regarding the status of 14 no. casual vacancies as at the 5<sup>th</sup> of March 2019. Members were advised that (i) tenders have been received in respect of 11 no. vacancies, (ii) works required at 2 properties and (iii) there has been an offer made and refusal received in respect of 1 no. property.

## 38.3

### Acquisitions

The Committee noted the status of 3 no. acquisitions as at the 5<sup>th</sup> of March 2019 in respect of properties in Falcarragh, Derrybeg and Dunfanaghy.

## 38.4

### Housing Report

The Committee welcomed the Housing report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Housing Manager in relation to:

- (i) Total stock in Municipal District
- (ii) Need in Municipal District by location
- (iii) Need by Approved Bedrooms
- (iv) Approved Housing Bodies

The Housing Manager informed Members that:

- Negotiations in relation to turnkey developments are ongoing.
- Housing Engineer is pursuing land valuations in Dungloe and Falcarragh to assist in the purchase of sites in both locations.
- Letter of Comfort awaited from the HSE regarding redesign of the Clúid units in Cois Locha, Dungloe.

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Ó Fearraigh the Committee recommended that the Council correspond with Minister Harris /Minister Mc Grath to expedite the re-purposing of existing AHB units to current standards in Dungloe.

Cllr. Gallagher commended the updated Housing report and stressed the necessity for the Council to pursue and deliver a house building programme in smaller rural villages to preserve the Irish language, culture and rural schools.

**GMD 39/19**

### **COIS CLADAIGH DEPUTATION**

Cathaoirleach Ó Fearraigh welcomed Vincent Cagney, Seamus Corbett and Joe Diver representing the Coiste Forbartha to the meeting.

The Deputation highlighted road safety, street lighting, hedgecutting, speed limit and school safety concerns in the Coshclady area and requested the assistance of the Council to address their concerns.

The Committee informed the Deputation of the:

- (i) Necessity for the group to submit their concerns in relation to speed limits during the course of an upcoming review.
- (ii) Importance of prioritising a road restoration scheme for the area.
- (iii) Necessity of applying for a village renewal scheme.
- (iv) Requirement for a road safety audit in the locality to be undertaken by the Road Safety Engineer.

**40.1**

**Workshop**

The Committee noted the report from the Workshop held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February 2019 regarding the Fintown Railway and the ASCENT Projects.

Members also agreed to schedule a DFI workshop on the 9<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at 12.30 p.m., prior to commencement of the Municipal District meeting.

**40.2**

**Dungloe Bay Walk Design**

Cllr. Gallagher requested an update on development proposals for the Dungloe Shorefront to the Pond on the Quay Road.

**40.3**

**Community Development Report**

Members welcomed the reports circulated at the meeting and presented by the Community Development Manager in relation to:

- (i) Scéim Scoilreachtáí
- (ii) Club Leabhar
- (iii) Seachtain na Gaeilge
- (iv) Older Persons Council
- (v) Pride of Place
- (vi) Town & Village Renewal
- (vii) LEADER/Rural Development Programme

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh commended the variety of events promoted by the Council during Seachtain na Gaeilge.

**40.4**

**Playgrounds**

The Committee welcomed the report circulated at the meeting in relation to the playground maintenance programme for 2018/2019, with a deadline date of June 2019 for completion of scheduled works.

Cllr. Gallagher requested the Council to initiate a playground development programme (i) to assist community groups with their applications for LEADER funding and (ii) lease playgrounds from community groups to enable the Council to maintain and insure facilities.

40.5

### **Economic Development**

Cllr. Gallagher requested the attendance of an official from the Economic Development Service at future Municipal District meetings.

GMD 41/19

## **ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION**

41.1

### **Schedule of Roadworks**

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Bonner, the Committee adopted the following programmes circulated with the Agenda:

- Surface Dressing Programme
- Restoration Improvement Programme
- Revised Footpath and Public Lighting Programme.

41.2

### **Community Groups**

Cllr. Gallagher commended the interaction of the Area Roads Manager and staff with community groups throughout the Municipal District.

41.3

### **Workshop**

The Committee agreed to convene a Workshop on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April at 4 p.m. on conclusion of the Municipal District meeting to discuss LIS, drainage programme and division of maintenance monies.

#### 41.4

#### Maintenance

Members highlighted the following issues throughout the Municipal District for the attention of the Roads Services:

- Loughros Point drainage.
- Doochary footpath repairs.
- Necessity for footpath on Mill Road to Randox.
- Inclusion of Ranafast Road on to the Restoration programme.
- A lack of public lighting at the Angle, Dungloe and on the Pole Road.
- Road Safety concerns at Glenveagh on Back of Errigal Road.
- Meenacuing lights.

#### 41.5

#### Ministerial Deputation

In response to a recommendation from Cllr. Gallagher to arrange a deputation from the Municipal District to meet the Minister of Transport to make representations for the prioritisation of local road investments, the Roads Manager undertook to liaise with the Roads Director in this regard.

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