

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

HELD ON 7th MAY 2019 IN DUNGLOE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE

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

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

APOLOGIES: Eunan Quinn - Senior Executive Planner

GMD 50/19 **Minutes of Glenties Municipal District Meeting held
on 9th April 2019**

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Slowey, the minutes of the meeting of the Glenties Municipal District Committee held on the 9th April 2019 were confirmed.

GMD 51/19 **Report from Workshop**

The Committee noted the reports from the Workshop held on the 9th of April 2019 in relation to (1) Development Fund Initiative 2019 & (2) Local Improvement Schemes 2019.

GORSE FIRES

The Committee commended the Council and Community's response to the recent gorse fires in the Rosses area during the Easter Bank Holiday weekend.

Cllr. Gallagher,

- Requested a full report from the Director with responsibility for Emergency Services in relation to development of an emergency protocol to aid expeditious response times and organisation of responders at future emergency events.
- Recommended the unveiling of a plaque in the Dungloe PSC to acknowledge the efforts of all firefighters and volunteers involved in tackling the fires.
- Provision of additional lay-byes and an enhanced hedgecutting programme to assist vehicular access to emergency situations.

Cllr. Gallagher also expressed sympathy to the owners of properties damaged and destroyed in gorse fires.

Cllr. Slowey recommended that the Council initiate a scheme to log satellite navigation co-ordinates for fire hydrants and the post codes of properties adjacent to the hydrants.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig outlined proposals in the Annagry area to establish first responder units and requested the support and co-operation of the Council to provide training and equipment.

Cllr. Bonner highlighted the vulnerability of many properties to gorse fires and recommended the provision of assistance from the Council in this regard.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill outlined:

- The necessity for Irish Water to service and maintain fire hydrants and the importance of the provision of an adequate water pressure to the hydrants.
- Importance of convening a meeting to be attended by all organisations involved in the emergency.
- Expressed frustration at the inadequate response from Central Government in terms of deployment of both a suitably equipped helicopter and Army personnel.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh commended all involved in the effort to tackle the gorse fires and praised Water and Roads staff regarding their valuable contribution and assistance to fire fighters in accessing properties and water infrastructure throughout the emergency.

GMD 53/19

Request for Deputation

The Housing Manager undertook to arrange for the Housing Engineer and Tenant Liaison Officer to meet with the residents of Altan Estate, Burtonport to determine any issues requiring resolution.

GMD 54/19

PLANNING

The Director of Services informed Members that Planners were unavoidably absent due to the rescheduling of the Municipal District Meeting.

54.1

Site Meetings

Cllr. Bonner expressed concern at his inability to arrange site meetings with Planners and that other public representatives were receiving favourable treatment in this regard.

54.2

Test Trial Holes

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, the Committee requested the Director of the Planning Service to meet with the Environmental Health Officer regarding rejection by the EHO, of test trial holes for percolation areas in the context of the planning process.

54.3

Casual Trading Bye-Laws

On the proposal of Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, seconded by Cllr. Gallagher, the Committee recommended that the Director of Planning update and implement casual trading bye-laws in the Municipal District as a matter of urgency.

GMD 55/19

ENVIRONMENT SERVICE

55.1

Donegal Clean-Up 2019

Members welcomed the report circulated at the meeting from the Waste Awareness Officer regarding the success of the Donegal Clean-Up with over 130 clean-ups supported during April.

55.2

Bee Monitoring Workshop

The Committee noted the scheduling of a workshop in Letterkenny on the 19th of May to provide training in bee identification, surveying and recording techniques.

55.3

Irish Farm Film Plastics Group

The Committee noted the collection dates for the bring bank of farm plastics for Donegal in 2019, in the report circulated at the meeting.

55.4

Waste Presentation Bye-Laws

The Committee welcomed the report from the Waste Regulation Officer circulated at the meeting regarding the revision of national waste presentation bye-laws to ensure a consistent approach to managing waste. A presentation regarding this matter will be made to the SPC in July 2019.

55.5

Litter Enforcement

Members noted the report from the Waste Regulation Officer regarding the issue of 54 no. Fixed Penalty notices during the period from January to April 2019.

55.6

Dungloe Public Conveniences

The Committee welcomed the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Coastal Officer regarding the ongoing extensive refurbishment of the Dungloe Public Convenience. In response to a request from Cllr. Gallagher to resurface the Council owned area adjacent to the building and to provide a bus shelter to reduce Main Street parking pressures, the Coastal Officer undertook to liaise with the Roads Service in this regard.

55.7

Drumnatinney Beach

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested resurfacing works at this location.

55.8

Dooley Beach

In response to concerns expressed by Cllr. Bonner, the Coastal Officer informed Members that the Council are liaising with the NPWS and landowners to address problems arising from the use of quads on the beach.

55.9

Waste Collection

In response to a query from Cllr. Gallagher regarding areas not covered by a bin collection service, the Coastal Officer advised Members that Bryson Recycling in Dungloe accept household refuse.

GMD 56/19

ROADS

56.1

The Committee welcomed the report from the Donegal National Roads Office regarding:

- Pavement Asset Repair and Renewal Programme status and
- Major and Minor Road Projects.

Cllr. Gallagher requested a costing in relation to the provision of public lighting in Lettermacaward.

56.2

Road Safety

In response to concerns expressed by Cllr. Ó Domhnaill regarding road safety issues in Creeslough Village, the Roads Manager informed Members that the local school have been assisted with their Clár application in this regard.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh and Cllr. Bonner raised concerns regarding road safety issues at Bloody Foreland and Meenatotten respectively and the Roads Manager undertook to liaise with the Road Safety Engineer in respect of both locations.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested a solution to limited vision lines onto main regional road from the main Derryconnor Road going towards Ardsbeg.

The Roads Manager updated Members on the status of the proposals for the provision of a footpath from

Dunfanaghy to Port na Blagh as recommended by Cllr. Ó Domhnaill.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh requested the erection of warning signage on the N56 at Ballyboe in relation to animals crossing the road.

56.3 Community Involvement Scheme

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Slowey, the Committee agreed the 2019 Community Involvement Scheme detailed hereunder:

Original Allocation: €268,000

Remaining: €198,000

Proposed 2019 Schemes			
210	L-12822-0	Derryherrif	24,500
211	L-51831-0	Moyra	44,590
307	L-5673-2	Ranafast Completion	35,000
306	L-5673-1	Carraig an Choill, Ranafast	15,435
320	L-7563-1	Windmill Rd, Loughfad, Estimate	50,000
96	L-5343-1	❖ Portarthur Road (maybe Partial)	53,900
		Total:	223,425

❖ Scheme to be tailored to meet available Budget

Reserve 2019 Schemes			
212	L7123-1	Purt Lake Rd, Dunfanaghy	23,520
120	L2793-1	Kentucky, Ardara	70,000
121	L80331	Aighe, Glenties	67,200
113	9033-1	Upper Illion, Arranmore	62,244
		Total:	222,964

56.4

Takeover of Non County Roads

On the proposal of Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, seconded by Cllr. Gallagher, the Committee agreed that the following six roads listed on the Report prepared by the Roads Engineer and circulated at the meeting, proceed to public consultation for declaration as a public road:

- Fairhill, Dungloe
- Glen Road, Dungloe
- Cloonbarra Link Road
- Loughros Point at Crannóg Buí
- Meenaniller - Carrickataskin Link
- Teach Neddy, Mullaghduff

56.5

Dungloe Car Park

In response to a query from Cllr. Gallagher, the Roads Manager undertook to address safety issues in respect of a fallen tree at Dungloe Car Park embankment.

GMD 57/19

HOUSING

57.1

Grants

Members welcomed the updated report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Housing Manager regarding the status of housing grants as at the 3rd of May 2019.

57.2

Casual Vacancies

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager in relation to the status of casual vacancies as at the 29th of April 2019.

Members were informed that the status of the 19 no. casual vacancies is as follows:

- Works ongoing at 11 units
- Tenders being sought at 5 units
- Works required at 3 units.

57.3 **Acquisitions**

The Committee noted the report circulated previously in relation to works ongoing at the 3 bed property in Stranacorkra.

57.4 **Approved Housing Bodies**

The Housing Manager updated the Committee in relation to meetings arranged to expedite the provision of additional housing units in Dungloe, in conjunction with Respond and Clúid Approved Housing Bodies.

57.5 **Estate Management**

The Housing Manager informed Members that the role of the Housing Assessment Officer will be expanded to increase tenant liaison in conjunction with the Housing Engineer.

57.6 **Social Housing Provision**

In response to a query from Cllr. Gallagher regarding the urgent necessity of social housing programme in Dungloe, the Housing Manager updated the Committee regarding recent advancements in the procurement of a suitable site locally.

Cllr. Bonner informed the meeting that 8 housing units are for sale on a site in the Maghery area and the Housing Manager confirmed that the Council are aware of availability and that the Housing Assessment Officer is reviewing the Housing List in this regard.

57.7 **Clós Naomh Conaill, Glenties**

In response to a query from Cllr. Bonner regarding the status of ongoing works, the Housing Manager undertook to issue Members with an update.

Cllr. Slowey commended the Housing Service for their response to issues raised by tenants at this location.

57.8

Maintenance

The Housing Manager invited suggestions from Members regarding tendering of a painting programme in the Municipal District, which has been ringfenced in the sum of €120k.

In response to a query from Cllr. Bonner regarding the replacement of a stove by a tenant in Gort na Móna, the Housing Manager undertook to liaise with the Housing Engineer regarding reimbursement.

GMD 58/19

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

58.1

Scéim Scoláireachta 2019

Members welcomed the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Community Development Administrative Officer.

58.2

ASCENT Project

The Committee commended the status of this project as outlined in the report previously circulated and presented by the Administrative Officer. Cllr. Slowey outlined the economic benefits that will accrue from this project and congratulated all parties involved in its progression.

58.3

Age Friendly Activities

Members noted the status of both the Age Friendly Strategy and the Older Persons Council.

Cllr. Gallagher commended Mairead Cranley, Staff Officer for her contribution to the recent success of the walkability audit in Dungloe, involving over 100 people from all sectors of society.

58.4 **Pride of Place**

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

58.5 **Public Participation Network**

Members welcomed the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Administrative Officer regarding the status and progress to date on this link through which organisations from the community and voluntary sectors have a voice on Council decision making bodies and structures.

58.6 **Dungloe Baywalk**

Cllr. Gallagher commended the high standard of works carried out on this project and requested the Council to progress an extension towards the Pond.

58.7 **Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme**

Cllr. Gallagher highlighted the necessity for a 'joined up' approach from all funding bodies in the Gaeltacht to reverse marginalisation, social exclusion and inequality.

GMD 59/19 **CORPORATE SERVICES**

59.1 **Dungloe PSC**

Cllr. Gallagher recommended that the Council carry out environmental works around the PSC to complement the works of the Tidy Towns Committee, and the Housing Manager agreed to liaise with Building Facilities Management in this regard.

59.2 **Irish Water**

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh expressed frustration at the non appearance of Irish Water officials at the meeting to listen to Members concerns regarding inadequate water supply in

the Falcarragh area and the lack of courtesy to local communities in the affected areas.

59.3

Retirement of Cllr. Slowey

The Committee and officials paid a warm tribute to Cllr. Slowey on the occasion of his final attendance at a *Glenties Municipal District Meeting*, commending his service to the Municipal District and the courtesy he afforded officials, Members and the general public.

Cllr. Slowey wished all Members well in the forthcoming election and remembered former colleagues and Diane Byrne R.I.P.

Cllr. Slowey also stressed the importance of unity amongst Municipal District Councillors at Plenary Council to ensure that *Gaeltacht* and Island communities are prioritised for investment.

This concluded the business of the meeting.