

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

HELD ON 12TH JULY 2016 IN DUNGLOE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher
Cllr. John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh
Cllr. Terence Slowey
Cllr. Seamus Ó Domhnaill
Cllr. Enda Bonner

OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Eamonn Brown - A/Area Manager, Housing & Corporate Services
Brendan McFadden - Senior Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation
Frank Sweeney - Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development
John Gallagher - Senior Executive Engineer, Water & Environment
Charles Sweeney - Area Manager, Community Culture & Enterprise
Anne Marie McCole - Staff Officer

APOLOGIES:

Cllr. Michael Cholm Mac Giolla Easbaig
Mr. Michael McGarvey, A/Director of Water & Environment

GMD 211 /16

**MINUTES OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
MEETING HELD ON 16TH JUNE 2016**

On the proposal of Cllr. Slowey, seconded by Cllr. Bonner, the minutes of the Glenties Municipal District Meeting held on 16th June 2016 were agreed.

GMD 212 /16 REPORT FROM WORKSHOP- 16th JUNE 2016

On the proposal of Cllr. Bonner, seconded by Cllr. Ó Fearraigh the minutes of the Workshop held on 16th June 2016 in relation to Dungloe Local Area Draft Plan 2016 - Tier 2 Town and the Disposal of 45 Horn Head, Dunfanaghy were agreed.

**GMD 213 /16 DEPUTATION FROM DOLMEN CENTRE
(NARIN, PORTNOO, ROSBEG COMMUNITY CO-OP
SOC. LTD.)**

Members welcomed the deputation from the Dolmen Centre (Narin, Portnoo, Rosbeg Co-op. Soc. Ltd.) represented by Mr. Leonard Molloy and Mr. Tony Kitterick. Mr. Molloy made a presentation to the Committee. He advised the Members of the project work undertaken by the group to date and their future plans for the delivery of an Eco powered public swimming pool facility for South West Donegal. He requested support for the project and offered Members the opportunity to visit the Dolmen centre. They outlined why a pool is needed in the area, details of the proposed pool, why it is proposed at the Dolmen Centre, the sustainability of the project etc. Members commended the presentation and were very supportive of the innovative project and agreed that a further meeting again next year may assist in progressing the project.

GMD 214 /16 DEPUTATION – COISTE PHOLL AN tSNAMH

Niall Mac Eachmharcaigh & Donnchadh Ó Baoill, Coiste Pholl an tSnámh made a presentation to the Committee in relation to the repair of the old swimming pool in Ranafast. They reported that a feasibility study had been carried out and that the project would cost in the region of €750,000. They were seeking funding for planning permission and support from the councillors. They explained the importance of the project for the heritage, culture and irish language in the area. The Members generally thought that the cost of the project was very high and also that it was very unclear how sustainable an outdoor pool would be in the area. They felt that the project should be approached on a phased basis and led and driven locally.

GMD 215/16 VOTE OF SYMPATHY

The Committee extended a vote of sympathy to the family of the late Seamus McGeady R.I.P. and also to his colleagues in Radio na Gaeltachta. A minutes silence was observed.

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GMD 216/ 16 Planning Applications

The Committee noted the summary report of planning applications circulated with the agenda regarding planning applications and expressed concern that the highest number of refusals and deferrals were in the Glenties Municipal District. Mr. Frank Sweeney outlined that there are a number of reasons for refusals such as public health issues, proximity to N56 etc. Members agreed that they would be seeking changes in this regard as part of the review of the County Development Plan. Cllr. Gallagher stated that the Council should improve the Design Guide so that it is accessible on the website.

GMD 217/16 Unfinished Housing Estates

It was noted that Donegal County Council had received over €1 million to carry out work on unfinished estates in the county. Mr. Frank Sweeney was commended for his good work on the submission to the Department for this funding.

GMD 218/16 Agents – contact with planners

Councillor Terence Slowey advised that agents were finding it difficult to contact the Planners and that change is required in this process. Mr. Frank Sweeney reported that planners take calls every Friday and he undertook to follow up on this issue.

HOUSING

GMD 219/16 Tenant Incremental Purchase Scheme 2016

Mr. E. Brown advised the Committee that there were 14 applications received under the Tenant Incremental Purchase Scheme. He stated that 9 of these were valid with a further 4 being returned as invalid and that progress had been delayed because a valuer had not been appointed. However, he added that a valuer has now been appointed and that the Council will be progressing the applications. If the tenant is unhappy they can seek an independent assessment from one of 4 other valuers at their own cost.

GMD 220/16 Housing Needs Assessment

The A/Area Manager updated members on the Housing Needs Assessment. He advised that this is a National Assessment with a deadline of 21st September and that letters are being issued to applicants seeking updated information. It was noted that interviews will be carried out in the event of a change in circumstances.

GMD 221/16 CAS Project

The Committee was informed that the County Donegal Parents & Friends Association met with the A/ Housing Manager recently in relation to the CAS project at Meenmore, Dungloe. They were looking at the design and what work is required. Councillor Bonner highlighted that the bottom floor of the Respond Housing block at Fairhill, Dungloe is still vacant.

ENVIRONMENT

GMD 222/16 Business signage/Fines

Members referred to complaints which have been received from local businesses with signage as they are getting fines of €150 through the post without any consultation from the Council. Members believed that this was not litter and businesses were trying to attract visitors. The Committee felt that the Council should consult with these businesses prior to the issue of fines. Mr. John Gallagher stated that road signage can come under the responsibility of 3 different sections, ie. Roads, Planning and Environment. He added that this matter may need further discussion at SPC level.

GMD 223/16 Provision of Bring Banks

Councillor Ó Domhnaill referred to sealed skips run by charities in the UK. A discussion took place regarding the provision of bring banks in towns which do not currently have ones. Mr. John Gallagher undertook to investigate this matter further and he advised that there can be difficulties with skips. It was noted that people were concerned about the new refuse disposal arrangements. The work at Drumnatinney beach was commended.

GMD 224/16 Blue Flag Beaches

Councillor Bonner asked if Dooey beach could be considered for entry as a Blue Flag Beach. Councillor Ó Domhnaill stated that Donegal should aim to have the highest number of Blue Flag Beaches in the country. Mr. John Gallagher stated that the Council should establish which beaches were closet to achieving the Blue Flag Status. He added that there would be budgeting issues but that the matter would be examined positively. He advised that a report would be submitted to the Committee in the Autumn.

COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE

GMD 225/16 Donegal Age Friendly – County Programme

Mr. Charles Sweeney circulated a brochure entitled ‘Information Guide to Services for Older People in County Donegal’. He advised that there is a new member of staff being assigned to the Community & Enterprise Directorate in the Glenties Municipal District from September 2016 and the Members welcomed this.

GMD 226/16 Development Initiative

It was noted that there was money in the Development Initiative not allocated to date and that a workshop was needed to be set up to decide how the funding should be spent. The Members decided to meet on 5th September to agree this.

GMD 227/16 Doon Fort

Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher & Cllr. Slowey detailed to the Committee their recent visit to Doon Fort. It was noted that it is the only National Monument of its kind on an island in a lake in its original condition. They added that its difficult to access and that it should be supported and preserved. Cllr. Ó Domhnaill stated that he is part of the County Donegal Heritage Forum and that he will progress this matter.

ROADS

GMD 228/16 Roadworks Programme 2016

The Committee welcomed the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the Roadworks Programme 2016. Mr. B. McFadden advised that the Programme is progressing as planned.

GMD 229/16 Mullantyboyle Bridge Project

Mr. B. McFadden advised that Mullantyboyle Bridge should be finished within the next few weeks and that as agreed with Members the 5th September 2016 will be aimed for re opening subject to protocols being followed.

GMD 230/16 Works on N56 - Lettermacaward

Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher stated that a meeting is required regarding the work on the N56 as there are numerous issues which are being raised by the Community in Lettermacaward. Mr. B. McFadden, Area Manager agreed to liaise with the NRDO in this regard.

GMD 231/16 Regional Roads

Members commended the good work being carried out on the regional roads particularly the R262 and also commended the progress report submitted by the Area Manager, Roads.

GMD 232/16 Road Maintenance Issues

A small number of road maintenance issues were raised. Mr. B. McFadden, Area Manager agreed to liaise directly with the Members concerned regarding the issues raised.

GMD 233/16 Dunlewey

Councillor Ó Domhnaill referred to the forthcoming Dunlewey festival and requested maintenance work to be carried out in this area. Mr. B. McFadden undertook to follow up on this.

GMD 234/16 Meeting

The Members agreed to meet on 5th September for the following:

- Decide future funding under the Development Initiative.
- Meet NRDO on site regarding N56
- Opening of Mullantyboyle Bridge

Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Glenties Municipal District would be held on 20th September 2016.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

