

**MINUTES OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE**  
**HELD ON 28<sup>th</sup> September 2016 IN DUNGLOE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE**

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**Members Present**

Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher  
Cllr. Seamus Ó Domhnaill  
Cllr. Michael Cholm Mac Giolla Easbaig  
Cllr. John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh  
Cllr. Enda Bonner

**Officials Present**

Mr. Michael McGarvey, A/Director of Water & Environment  
Eamonn Brown - A/Area Manager, Housing & Corporate Services  
Brendan McFadden - Senior Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation  
Frank Sweeney - Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development  
David Friel - Coastal Officer, Water & Environment  
Charles Sweeney - Area Manager, Community Culture & Enterprise  
Mairead Cranley - Staff Officer, Community Culture & Enterprise  
Michael Rowsome - SSO Motor Tax

**Apologies**

Cllr. Terence Slowey - Representing Donegal County Council in his role as Cathaoirleach at a function.

**GMD 235/16      COUNCIL MOTION 26/9/2016 - PUBLIC ATTENDANCE**  
**AT MEETINGS TO DECIDE ON FUNDING OF**  
**DEVELOPMENT FUND INITIATIVE ALLOCATIONS**

Cllr. Gallagher outlined her dissatisfaction with public misrepresentation of her comments by Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbaig, subsequent to the debate on the above motion at Plenary Council meeting.

Cllr. Gallagher outlined her promotion of transparency and accountability at all stages in her representational role as a Public Representative.

Cllrs. Bonner, Ó Fearraigh & Ó Domhnaill outlined their confidence in the Cathaoirleach of the Committee and for her fairness in the conduct of all meetings of the Municipal District.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill stated that there is an onus on all Members to abide by democratically reached decisions for the benefit of the Municipal District.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbaig stated that the withdrawal of funding from 1 of the 2 projects that he was associated with as a committee member was a political decision, rather than on the grounds of a conflict of interest. Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbaig informed the Committee that he would welcome an investigation by the ethics registrar if any Councillor deemed his conduct unethical in respect of the DFI applications.

**GMD 236/16**

**MINUTES OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT  
MEETING HELD ON 12<sup>th</sup> JULY 2016**

On the proposal of Cllr. Bonner, seconded by Cllr. Ó Fearraigh, the minutes of the Glenties Municipal District Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2016 were agreed.

**GMD 237/16**

**REPORT FROM WORKSHOP - 12<sup>th</sup> JULY 2016**

On the proposal of Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, seconded by Cllr. Bonner the report from the Workshop held on the 12<sup>th</sup> July 2016 in relation to Meenacuing Lights was agreed.

## Environmental Services

**GMD 238/16**

### **Environment Reports**

Members noted the reported circulated with the agenda and presented by the Coastal Officer in relation to:

- WEEE Collections of electrical goods
- Waste Awareness at Festivals
- Upcycle Challenge 2016
- Battery Recycling Campaign
- Free Household Hazardous Waste Collections
- Rathmullan Public Convenience
- Enforcement Statistics

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh requested the Council to differentiate between litter and business signage and to use discretion to avoid situations where rate paying business owners are being fined for advertising their business locations, many of which are located in rural areas.

The A/Director of Water & Environment informed the Committee that there will be a review of the Unauthorised Road Signage Policy at S.P.C level in conjunction with the Roads & Planning Directorates.

**GMD 239/16**

### **Beach Awards**

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Coastal Officer concerning the status of a review to identify the potential to increase the number of Blue Flag Beach awards in the County.

In response to a request from Cllr. Ó Fearraigh to submit applications for beach awards in relation to Island beaches, the Coastal Officer advised that a 4 year history of water quality testing is a necessity and that the Council are pursuing other initiatives to develop Island Beaches in terms of access and provision of life buoys.

The A/Director of Water & Environment highlighted the importance of retaining current Blue Flag awards, advised that a review of facilities at all beaches is ongoing and that a proposed Capital Programme will be prepared for Members consideration.

**GMD 240/16**

**Beach Maintenance**

Members discussed the report previously circulated and presented by the Coastal Officer in relation to the upgrade of both the car park and access improvements at Dooley Beach.

Cllr. Bonner requested the widening of the roadway leading to Dooley.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill welcomed improvement works at Drumnatinney, Killahoey and Dooley.

In response to a query from Cllr. Ó Domhnaill regarding car parking concerns at Marble Hill, the Coastal Officer advised that a consultant has been appointed to assess the potential impact of reclaiming the road overgrown by vegetation in line with recommendations from National Parks & Wildlife Service.

Members were informed that improvements are expected to commence in October.

**GMD 241/16**

**Bathing Water Quality**

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the collection and analysis of 300 individual water samples, to meet the Bathing Water Requirements in respect of the 21 Designated Bathing Waters around the Donegal Coast.

**GMD 242/16**

**Domestic Waste**

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the Council to liaise with holiday home owners throughout the County in relation to their waste disposal obligations in accordance with the Waste

Management Act and recommended that the Council arrange a leaflet drop in this regard.

The Coastal Officer informed Members that further clarity is awaited from the Department of Environment in relation to proposed Pay by Weight Legislation.

## Roads and Transportation

**GMD 243/16**

### **Follow up to Issues raises at the last MD Meeting**

Members welcomed the update circulated previously by the Roads Manager.

**GMD 244/16**

### **Roadworks Programme 2016**

The Committee welcomed the status report on the 2016 roadwork programme and noted work in progress in the 4 no. supervisor areas of the MD.

**GMD 245/16**

### **An Roinn Grants**

Members welcomed the notification of grant allocations in respect of Arranmore & Tory Island Road Schemes and were advised that permission may be sought for the transfer to 2017 of the Tory grant if adverse weather conditions prevail.

**GMD 246/16**

### **Loughanure Footpath - School to Crossroads**

In response to a request from Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbaig for Council support to develop a footpath at this location, the Roads Manager advised that a decision had been made locally by the Committee to complete the Glen Road overlay as opposed to reducing the length of the Glen Road Scheme to accommodate a footpath costing in the sum of €35k.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbaig left the meeting at this point.

Members stated that if funding becomes available for this specific footpath scheme that they would welcome & support this worthwhile project.

The Committee were also informed that the Roads Service had received a letter of appreciation from residents of the Glen Road.

**GMD 247/16**

### **Horn Head**

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill commended the provision of lay byes at this location.



**GMD 248/16**      **Speed Limit Review**

The Committee highlighted concerns in relation to NRA proposals to reduce the speed limit on the N56 to 80km per hour, and the potential for this measure to have a negative impact on employment.

**GMD 249/16**      **Mullantyboyle Bridge**

Cllr. Gallagher commended the interaction and co-operation between locals and the Roads Service during the course of this project.

**GMD 250/16**      **Road Safety**

In response to a query from Cllr. Ó Fearraigh the Roads Manager advised that the Road Safety Engineer will investigate and liaise with locals in the Knockastoller area concerning a number of recent accidents. Cllr. Gallagher requested a surface inspection in the Annagry Crossroads/Dispensary area.

**GMD 251/16**      **Pole Road Dungloe**

Cllr. Bonner welcomed the outcome of negotiations to provide reinstatement monies for this roadway. Cllr. Gallagher complemented the Roads Foreman for liaising with Pole Road residents in relation to proposals to upgrade the Pole Road. Cllr. Gallagher outlined the frustrations involved in attempting to liaise with Irish Water and recommended adoption of a protocol to assist the Council in this regard.

**GMD 252/16**      **Japanese Knotweed**

In response to a query from Cllr. Ó Fearraigh, the Roads Manager advised Members of ongoing monitoring of pilot sites and that the knotweed on the N56 will be sprayed before the year end.

**GMD 253/16**

**Hedgecutting**

Cllr. Bonner requested the Roads Service to increase hedge cutting in the MD. The Roads Manager informed the Committee that landowners have a responsibility under the Roads Act to cut hedges on their property but that the Council will intervene in situations where there are Health & Safety concerns.

**GMD 254/16**

**Dungloe Bridge**

The Roads Manager updated the Committee in relation to substantial completion of works at this location on the main street.

**GMD 255/16**

**Planning Statistics**

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Planning Manager in relation to planning applications received, granted, refused, invalid, appeals and deferrals during the period from 1/1/2016 to 31/8/2016.

Members expressed the following concerns for the attention of the Planning Service:

- Highest refusal rate in the County is within the Glenties MD
- Agents not being given opportunity to submit further information requests
- Absence of locally based planning staff conversant in the Irish Language
- Lack of familiarity with the MD local area amongst planning staff
- Inability of Councillors to schedule site meetings
- Inability of Councillors to liaise with planning staff
- Inconsistency in decision making amongst planning staff
- Absence of a development planner at MD meetings

The MD Cathaoirleach requested that a meeting be scheduled in County House with Senior Planning Staff to address these concerns.

The Planning Manager informed Members that;

- 2 no. executive planners have recently been appointed.
- Interviews were recently held to recruit a further 3 no. assistant planners.

**GMD 256/16**

**Village Renewal Funding**

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested that a Planning Workshop be convened to determine protocols for the distribution of funding for future village renewal monies and expressed disappointment that village renewal schemes were recently presented to Members as a 'fait accompli'.

**GMD 257/16**

**Irish Language Protocols**

Cllr Ó Fearraigh stressed the necessity for the Council to issue Irish Language responses to any communications submitted in Irish & the Planner Manager advised that there is a protocol in place in dealing with Irish language applications and that this is adhered to. He undertook to liaise with appropriate staff in relation to the established protocol.

<b>Community and Enterprise</b>
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**GMD 258/16**      **DFI Workshop 5<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

On the proposal of Cllr. Ó Domhanill, seconded by Cllr. Ó Fearraigh, the Committee agreed the report from the Workshop held on the 5<sup>th</sup> September 2016 regarding the allocation of DFI funding in the sum of €9,300.

**GMD 259/16**      **Social Inclusion**

The C & E Manager introduced Mairead Cranley, the Councils recently appointed Social Inclusion Officer to the Committee and informed Members of upcoming Social Inclusion events.

**GMD 260/16**      **Poison Glen - Viewing Area - Errigal**

The Committee welcomed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the C & E Manager in relation to enhancement works to the car park/boundary of the viewing area, and the installation of picnic tables and benches.

Members were also updated in relation to the installation of a pedestrian counter at the entrance to Errigal and the useful information now available to inform both the management plan and the pathway design as part of the ASCENT project, due to be launched on 20<sup>th</sup> of October 2016.

**GMD 261/16**      **Aire de Service**

Members welcomed the report circulated with the agenda and the update provided by the C & E Manager regarding the provision of Aire de Service points at Maghery & Magheraroarty.

In response to concerns expressed by Cllr. Gallagher in relation to signposting of these facilities, the C & E Manager undertook to liaise with the Engineer with responsibility for this project.

**GMD 262/16**      **Youth Council**

The Committee noted the activities undertaken by the Youth Council and Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested that a letter of appreciation issue to Martin Keeney who is departing his role as Youth Council Co-ordinator

**GMD 263/16**      **Rural Recreation Projects**

The Committee welcomed the report circulated previously and the update from the C & E Manager regarding funding received from the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs as follows:

- Bealach na Gaeltachta - 7 walks                      €30,281
- Letterkenny - Burtonport Railway Trail              €5,120

**GMD 264/16**      **Pride of Place**

Members noted the report circulated previously and the success of both Ionad Naomh Pádraig, Dore & Glan agus Glas, Falcarragh in the competition.

**GMD 265/16**      **European Policy & Funding Unit**

The Committee noted the status reports circulated with the agenda.

**GMD 266/16**      **Library Services**

Cllr. Gallagher expressed concern at the potential negative impact of the proposed automated library service and requested clarification on this matter.

**GMD 267/16**      **Community Action Plan**

Cllr. Gallagher requested an update on the development of a plan to ensure local communities are consulted and at the forefront of the decision making process on allocation of community funding schemes.

**GMD 268/16**      **Request for Deputation**

On the proposal of Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, seconded by Cllr. Bonner, Members agreed to receive a deputation from the Dunfanaghy Area Community Network at the MD meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> of October 2016.

**GMD 269/16**      **Civic Reception - Sister Mary Dolores Sweeney**

On the proposal of Cllr. Bonner seconded by Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, the Committee proposed that a civic reception be held in Dungloe PSC to honour Sister Mary Dolores on the occasion of her receipt of a Presidential Distinguished Service Award for the Irish Abroad 2016 in the Peace Reconciliation and Development Category.

**GMD 270/16**      **Housing Grants**

The Committee discussed the reports circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager regarding the status of the following grants as at the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2016:

- Housing Aid for Older People
- Housing Adaptation
- Mobility Aids

In response to a proposal from Cllr. Gallagher that the Council & Occupational Therapists agree policy interpretations, the Housing Manager informed Members that he met with Anne Flannery, OT Manager and that he will liaise with the new Divisional Housing Manager regarding mobility aid grant restrictions.

**GMD 271/16**      **Casual Vacancies**

The Committee noted the report on casual vacancies as at the 20<sup>th</sup> August 2016 circulated previously and presented by the Housing Manager.

**GMD 272/16**

**CAS Project**

Members welcomed the report circulated with the agenda and the sketch plan circulated at the meeting in relation to the design of 3 units containing 5 bedrooms which is being lead by Rhattigans Architects on behalf of County Donegal Parents & Friends Housing Association Ltd.

Cllr. Gallagher informed the meeting of the repeated announcements of funding for this project and stressed the importance of expediting delivery of the scheme.

**GMD 273/16**

**Housing Needs Assessment 2016**

The Committee welcomed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager in relation to completion of the Social Housing Assessment for return to the Department.

**GMD 274/16**

**Tenant Incremental Purchase Scheme**

Members discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager, regarding the status of tenant purchase applications received in the Glenties MD.

In response to a proposal from Cllr. Ó Fearraigh for relaxation of the rules necessitating an annual income of €15,000 per year to qualify for the scheme, the Housing Manager advised that the Council are bound by National Regulations, but that he will liaise with the Housing Director in this regard.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**