

MINUTES OF MEETING OF

GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

HELD ON 9th FEBRUARY 2016 IN DUNGLOE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher
Cllr. Terence Slowey
Cllr. Mícheál Cholm Mac Giolla Easbuig
Cllr. John Sheamuis Ó Fearraigh
Cllr Seamús Ó Domhnaill

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Enda Bonner

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Michael McGarvey – A/Director Water & Environment
Paul McGill - Area Manager, Housing & Corporate Services
Brendan McFadden – S.E.E Area Manager, Roads & Transportation
Charles Sweeney – Area Manager, Community Development and Enterprise
Eamonn Brown – SSO, Community Development and Enterprise
John Gallagher – Senior Executive Engineer, WEE Capital
Brian Campbell – Resident Engineer, Water & Environment
Fergal Towey – Executive Engineer, NRDO
Michael Rowsome – SSO, Motor Tax

GMD 38/16

MINUTES OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING – 12th JANUARY 2016

On the proposal of Cllr Slowey, seconded by Cllr Ó Fearraigh the minutes of the Glenties Municipal District Meeting held on the 12th January 2016 were agreed.

GMD 39/16

REPORT FROM WORKSHOP – 12th JANUARY 2016

The Committee noted the report from the Workshop held on the 12th January 2016 is relation to Coastal Erosion.

GMD 40/16

VOTE OF SYMPATHY

A vote of sympathy was extended to the extended Kelly family and Michael McGarvey A/Director of Water & Environment on the death of his aunt Catherine-Anne Kelly, Balliness, Falcarragh.

GMD 41/16

MAGHERY COASTAL EROSION

John Gallagher SEE Water & Environment updated the Committee in relation to a meeting held between Councillors, Planners, Environmental staff and the Maghery Committee prior to commencement of the MD meeting.

Members were advised that:

- The Environment Service will liaise with National Parks & Wildlife Service in relation to permissible solutions within the parameters of Special Areas of Conservation Legislation.
- The Environment Service will meet with Professor Jackson to explore further solutions for addressing coastal erosion in Maghery.
- Application to OPW for funding will be deferred until a solution acceptable to all concerned parties is agreed.

COMMUNITY CULTURE AND ENTERPRISE

GMD 42/16

WALKING TRAILS DEVELOPMENT

Members welcomed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Area Community & Enterprise Manager.

The Committee welcomed recommendations that a facilitated project stake holders meeting be arranged to commence a process to arrive at a concluding decision in relation to a development plan, funding application and ongoing monitoring until conclusion of the project. Cllr Ó Domhnaill expressed disappointment that the recent announcement in the sum of €15,000 for development of walkway/cycle paths from Burtonport to Termon was not at a level expected by stakeholders.

GMD 43/16

LADDER PROJECT

Members noted the report previously circulated in relation to Local Authorises becoming drivers for development education and awareness raising (DEAR).

GMD 44/16

TOGRA ASCENT

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the ASCENT project which will bring together Local and Environmental Authorities to collectively address environmental challenges facing the conservation and enhancement of areas of natural beauty.

GMD 45/16

DONEGAL YOUTH COUNCIL

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the C & E Manager regarding Youth Council activity. The C & E Manager informed Members that a deputation from the Youth Council will attend the next MD meeting.

GMD 46/16

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT FUND

The C & E Manager informed Members that Public Notices will be published in the press in the coming weeks inviting applications for funding from Local Committees.

GMD 47/16

1916 COMMEMORATION

In response to queries from the Committee, both the C & E & Roads Managers informed Members of their role in the tree planting ceremonies to commemorate the 1916 Easter Rising.

Members acknowledged the necessity of Councillors, officials and local groups to expedite the consultation and decision making process in this regard and agreed to schedule a Workshop on Friday 12th February at 4pm in the Dungloe PSC.

GMD 48/16

LAND BANK – BALLINA ESTATE

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the Council to ascertain if the recreational land bank on the Ballina Estate could be developed into a playground or transferred to a local Committee for development.

GMD 49/06

POL AN tSNÁMH - RANAFAST

A lengthy debate ensued in relation to the inclusion of this project on the Infrastructural Priorities Report.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easpaig proposed that Members vote regarding inclusion or removal of the project from the Infrastructural Report. This proposal was not seconded.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill informed the meeting that having reviewed the feasibility study and discussed the project with local residents that concerns remain in relation to value for money benefits of this project.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh expressed dissatisfaction that the priorities agreed by all Members at the Workshop on Infrastructural Priorities on the 8th May had not been adhered to by Senior Council Management.

Cllr. Slowey queried the inclusion of a Project on the Report that had not been agreed by Members.

Cllr. Gallagher referred to the importance of the principle of transparency in compiling the list of Infrastructural Priorities and that any deviation from the agreed methodology was unacceptable.

The C & E Manager & A/Director of Water & Environment informed Members of the methodology used in developing the Infrastructure Requirements and also advised Members that all projects are dependent on the availability of funding and that the absence of a project from the Infrastructural Priority Report will not prejudice future funding of a project.

On conclusion of the debate on this project Cllr. Ó Domhnaill proposed that in the interests of avoiding any further negative publicity in respect of this item that a Workshop be convened on Tourism Strategic Infrastructure Priorities.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh seconded this proposal.

WATER & ENVIRONMENT

GMD 50/16

The Committee welcomed Brian Campbell, Resident Engineer on the Dungloe & Glenties Sewerage Schemes to the meeting and he updated Members on the current status of both schemes and timelines for completion of outstanding works.

Cllr. Gallagher highlighted odour issues on Glenties Main Street, Gort na Móna estate Dungloe, An Choill & Altan Burtonport and requested immediate action by the Council to address this longstanding problem on the 3 no. Estates.

Cllr. Slowey expressed frustration that odour issues remain in Glenties as Council staff were fully aware of all related issues prior to completion of Major Capital contracts.

The A/Director Water & Environment stated that the Council are engaged in ongoing works to alleviate odour issues and that additional funding will assist in further odour mitigation.

In response to a request from Cllr. Gallagher regarding the ongoing work of the Dungloe Community Network in relation to the Baywalk Project, the A/Director of Water & Environment requested the Resident Engineer to liaise with both the Community group and the Contractors to offer any assistance to aid this project.

GMD 51/16

WASTE ENFORCEMENT

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the SEE Water & Environment in relation to Waste Enforcement activity throughout the County.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh recommended the employment of an additional Litter Warden in the Glenties MD to assist the sole warden in the entire MD.

GMD 52/16

CIVIC AMENITY SITES

Members welcomed the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the locations and opening times of the 6 no. Civic Amenity Sites in the County.

In response to a query from Cllr. Slowey regarding overflowing can banks in Ardara, the SEE undertook to investigate this issue.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easpaig requested the location of recycling facilities in rural areas to reduce the travel costs borne by persons travelling to the Dungloe recycling facility.

GMD 53/16

WASTE AWARENESS - SPRING SUMMER CLEAN UP CAMPAIGN

The Committee welcomed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the SEE, regarding the provision of equipment and hi viz vests to tidy town groups in conjunction with the collection of litter post clean up.

GMD 54/16

EU (HOUSEHOLD FOOD WASTE & BIO WASTE) REGULATIONS 2013

In response to a query from Cllr. Slowey regarding the introduction of a requirement obliging Household Waste Collectors to charge customers on a pay by weight basis from 1st of July 2016, the SEE informed Members that the Council have consulted contractors in this regard.

GMD 55/16

BEACHES

Members welcomed the report circulated previously in relation to the submission of 13 no. Beaches for Blue Flag status and 5 no. Beaches for Green Flag status to An Taisce.

The SEE, informed the Committee that:

1. further works in terms of access, signage, dune preservation and illegal dumping is required at Dooley beach
2. will revert to Members regarding sources of funding to develop Drumnatinney beach

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the Council to expedite the provision of a water supply to Drumnatinney beach as a first step in the development of this location as a centre for Marine Tourism activity.

Cllr. Slowey commended the work of the Environment Service in relation to beach maintenance and recommended the marketing of Donegal Beaches in conjunction with promotion of the “Wild Atlantic Way”.

The A/Director of Water & Environment informed Members that the Coastal Officer is progressing interactive mapping of Donegal Beaches & Cllr. Gallagher welcomed commencement of this project.

GMD 56/16

COASTAL EROSION

The SEE, presented Members with a report on work carried out by the Environment Service to address coastal erosion influence at Maghery, Magheroarty & Carrickfinn.

HOUSING AND BUILDING

GMD 57/16

SOCIAL HOUSING PROGRAMME

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager in relation to the status of the Social Housing Programme as at 1st February 2016.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill criticised the length of time taken to process grant applications and requested a report outlining reasons for delays and also a report on the letting of a house in Carrowcannon that was previously raised at an MD meeting.

GMD 58/06

CASUAL VACANCIES

Members discussed the report circulated previously and presented by the Area Housing Manager regarding the status of casual vacancies as at 1st February 2016. The Housing Manager informed the Committee that a submission is being finalised under the Voids Programme.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the Council to expedite the re letting of a casual vacancy at Lower Killult, Falcarragh.

GMD 59/16

ESTATE MANAGEMENT

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easpaig requested the Housing Service :

- to paint over the Red Algae on houses at Alt Aoibhinn, Gweedore
- to remove stones to enable the creation of a green area on the Radharc an Iúir estate in Loughanure.
- traffic management/ramps at An Choill, Burtonport

Cllr. Gallagher expressed concern at the continuing failure to address sewerage treatment on the Gort na Móna estate in Dungloe and the 2 council estates in Burtonport and requested the scheduling of a meeting to progress this issue as a matter of urgency.

GMD 60/16

DIFFERENTIAL SCHEME

Cllr. Gallagher and Cllr. Slowey recommended that the proposed increase to be levied on elderly tenants due to come into effect on 1st April be included on the agenda for the next Council meeting.

GMD 61/16

COUNCIL LAND BANK - DUNFANAGHY

In response to a query from Cllr Ó Fearraigh following on from a recent meeting in relation to retention of the community health centre in Dunfanaghy, the Area Housing Manager advised Members that the area known as 'Pats Plot' is the only Council owned land Bank in Dunfanaghy.

GMD 62/16

STAFFING

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill & Cllr. Gallagher requested that a Workshop be convened;

- To discuss the future of the Dungloe P.S.C in light of the full time presence of only 2 Area Managers in the P.S.C
- To discuss Housing Service comparative statistics in respect of housing stock, staff and work programmes over the last number of years to facilitate Members representation to Senior Management to source additional resources in the MD.

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
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GMD 63/16

PLANNING APPLICATIONS, APPEALS AND SIGNIFICANT CASES

Members considered the reports circulated with the agenda and presented by the Planning Manager summarising applications, appeals and significant cases for the period ended 29/1/2016.

GMD 64/16

REFUSALS

The Committee considered the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Planning Manager in relation to planning refusals issued in the period from 1/1/2016 – 29/1/2016.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill criticised the reluctance of Planners:

- to issue further information requests to minimise the number of refusals leading to the imposition of additional costs on planning applicants
- to liaise with applicants and/or their agents

Cllr. Gallagher cited the increasing number of applications stalling at the pre planning stage of the process and not being truly reflected in the refusal rate.

GMD 65/16

PLANNING STAFF

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh requested the attendance of a planner in the Dungloe PSC for a minimum of one day per week to provide a planning service to customers and Members.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill recommended that the Planning Service relocate to the PSC and requested that a Planner with responsibility for development also attend MD meetings to assist the Planning Enforcement Official.

Cllr. Gallagher requested an update on the proposal of the January meeting to provide adequate staffing resources in the Dungloe PSC to achieve targets set out in the Local & Economic Plan in addition to developing a familiarity with local issues.

GMD 66/16

ROAD DAMAGE

In response to a query from Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbaig regarding heavy vehicular damage to roads in Meenacorwick, the Planning Manager undertook to liaise with Roads in relation to this matter.

ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

GMD 67/16

FOLLOW UP ISSUES RAISED AT PREVIOUS MD MEETING

The Committee welcomed the report issued previously to Members in respect of queries raised at the MD meeting held on 12th January 2016. The Committee also commended the preparation of a discussion document for meeting the Port Arthur Committee in relation to Roads & Marine related issues.

GMD 68/16

NRDO PROJECTS

Fergus Towey, Executive Engineer updated the Committee in relation:

- to work on progress on the N56 Boyoughter to Kilkenny Scheme.
- to ongoing design works to provide a solution to road safety concerns at the Log Cabin, Creeslough

The Committee also highlighted the following issues for the attention of the NRDO staff:

- Inadequate Lighting at Meenacuing
- Creeslough Cycle Track land acquisition
- Dangerous bend at Pete Greenes, Gweedore Road, Dungloe
- Entrance to Glenties Chapel
- Flooding at Edergole Bridge
- Dangerous Road Surface at Maloneys shop in Ardara
- Pedestrian crossing at Main St, Falcarragh
- Review of speed limit signs at Loughanure & Crollly
- Road Signage Complications at Maghera/Laconnell Ardara
- Footpath disrepair at Front Street, Ardara and on N56 in Gweedore

The NRDO Engineer informed Members that he will:

- liaise with Trevor Gordon, Road Safety Engineer in relation to all road safety concerns and lighting at Meenacuing
- revert to Members with appropriate timelines from the Road Design Office in Lifford who are dealing with Speed Limit Reviews.

GMD 69/16

MULANTYBOYLE BRIDGE

The Roads Manager updated Members on the status of this project.

GMD 70/16

ARDS SEA DEFENCE

The Committee welcomed the update from the Roads Manager in relation to completion of this project.

GMD 71/16

SEVERE WEATHER DAMAGE APPLICATION

Cllr. Slowey commended the Roads Service for their interaction with Members in the course of their preparation of an application to the Department of Transport within a short time frame.

GMD 72/16

ROAD MAPS

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbaig requested that road maps listing the MD roads and road numbers be circulated to all Councillors.

GMD 73/16

TAKEOVER OF NON COUNTY ROADS

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the Roads Service to add this issue to the agenda of the Roads Workshop scheduled for 24th of February.

GMD 74/16

CARRICK TO PORT ARTHUR ROAD (L5323-1)

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh requested the Council to investigate potential funding sources to upgrade this roadway at an approximate cost in the sum of €50,000.

GMD 75/16

DUNGLOE ROUNDABOUT

Cllr. Gallagher requested the Roads Service to review the safety of the roundabout at the Gweedore Rd/Carnmore Rd junction.

GMD 76/16

ROAD MAINTENANCE ISSUES

Members raised the following concerns for the attention of the Roads Service:

- Destruction of roadway by heavy vehicular traffic at Granny, Ardara
- Road Widening to Balliness Pier
- Excess surface Water at Lunniagh National School
- Flooding at Mullaghduff
- Repairs of public lighting in Ranafast
- Footpath repair Carnmore Road, Dungloe

CORPORATE SERVICES

GMD 77/16

STAFF CHANGES

The Committee conveyed their good wishes to Paul McGill on his transfer to the County House and praised his contribution to the Housing & Corporate Services in the Glenties MD & also his co-operation with Members.

Members welcomed Eamonn Brown to the MD in his new role as A/Area Housing & Corporate Manager.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

**Area Manager
Municipal District of Donegal**

**Cathaoirleach
Municipal District of Donegal**