

## **MINUTES OF MEETING OF**

### **GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**HELD ON 12<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2016 IN DUNGLOE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllr. Terence Slowey  
Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher  
Cllr Seamus Ó Domhnaill  
Cllr. Enda Bonner  
Cllr. Mícheál Cholm Mac Giolla Easbuig  
Cllr. John Sheamuis O Fearraigh

**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  
Michael Rowsome – SSO Corporate Services  
Frank Sweeney – Executive Planner, Enforcement

**GMD 01/16**

### **MINUTES OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING – 6<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2015**

On the proposal of Cllr Ó Fearraigh seconded by Cllr Slowey the minutes of the Glenties Municipal District Meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2015 were agreed.

GMD 02/16

**MINUTES OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT  
COMMITTEE MEETING – 19<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2015**

On the proposal of Cllr Slowey seconded by Cllr Ó Fearraigh the minutes of the Glenties Municipal District Meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2015 were agreed.

GMD 03/16

**REPORT FROM WORKSHOP – 19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015**

The Committee noted the report from the Workshop held on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2015 in relation to the Local Area Plan and Casual Trading.

GMD 04/16

**DEPUTATION – COISTE LOCHAN IUIR**

Eugene Greene made a presentation to the Committee in relation to proposed local development plans in Loughanure, and also commended the Roads Services for their work on the Glen Road. Members were informed of roads playground and railway walk proposals in the Loughanure Area requiring assistance from the Council.

The Committee expressed their appreciation to Eugene Greene for his contribution to the betterment of the Loughanure area.

GMD 05/16

**DEPUTATION – NARAN & PORTNOO GOLF CLUB**

Members welcomed the deputation from Naran & Portnoo Golf Club, represented by Sean Hanrahan, Patrick Boyle and Michael Glynn. The Deputation made a presentation to the Committee;

- (i) Requesting a Dune Management Study in relation to coastal erosion and
- (ii) Highlighting the importance of the Golf Club to the local economy.

The A/Director of Water & Environment advised the meeting that he will arrange for a Senior Engineer to liaise with the Golf Club to progress an application to the OPW for an erosion management study.

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| <b>ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION</b> |
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**GMD 06/16**

**MULANTYBOYLE BRIDGE**

The Roads Manager updated Members on the status of this project

**GMD 07/16**

**ARDS SEA DEFENCE**

The Roads Manager advised Members of the works in progress at this location.

**GMD 08/16**

**NRDO**

The Roads Manager undertook to circulate an update to Members on receipt from the NRDO.

**GMD 09/16**

**RESTORATION PROGRAMME 2016-2018**

On the proposal of Cllr Ó Domhnaill seconded by Cllr Gallagher the Committee adopted the 2016-2018 Restoration Programme circulated at the meeting. Members commended the Roads Engineer and staff for their contribution and involvement in the successful preparation of this programme.

The Roads Manager undertook to revert to Members with a costing for footpaths not included in this programme. Cllr MacGiolla Easbuig requested an end to outsourcing of roadworks and the employment of additional roadworkers to carry out the Roads Programme. Cllr Ó Domhnaill expressed an alternative view highlighting the necessity to employ contractors with specialist skills for projects such as Magheraroarty Dredging and also from a value for money prospective.

**GMD 10/16**

**FLOODING**

Cllr Slowey commended the excellent work carried out by roads staff during the recent incidents of flooding throughout the county.

**GMD 11/16**

**SCHOOL LIGHTING**

Members requested a report on issues in relation to the malfunctioning of school lights throughout the Municipal District.

**GMD 12/16**

**CROHY HEAD LOOP ROAD**

Cllr Gallagher requested both a costing and a plan to improve accessibility on this road to facilitate coach tours as an aid to building a local economy to take advantage of “Wild Atlantic Way” tourism.

**GMD 13/06**

**MAINTENANCE ISSUES**

The Committee highlighted the following issues for the attention of the Roads Services.

- Balliness Beach - Road widening
- Dunmore Road Signage
- Killult Council Yard lighting
- Magheraroarty Pier Road – tar and chip
- Derrybeg Hall – Replace light and Road markings
- Derryconnor Bridge – flooding
- Dunlewey Street lighting
- Loughanure and Falcarragh - Pedestrian crossings

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| <b>HOUSING AND BUILDING</b> |
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**GMD 14/16**

**PROGRESS REPORT - GRANTS**

Members noted the report on the status of Housing grants as circulated with the agenda and presented by the Area Housing Manager.

Cllr Gallagher queried viability of Loans and Shared Ownership schemes given the absence of any statistics in this regard.

Cllr Ó Domhnaill welcomed an increase in the level of grant aid available for older people under the various housing grant schemes.

**GMD 15/06**

**CASUAL VACANCIES**

The Committee noted the report circulated previously and presented by the Area Housing Manager in relation to casual vacancies as at the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

**GMD 16/16**

**VOLUNTARY HOUSING ARRANMORE**

In response to a query from Members regarding an update on proposals for the development of a Voluntary Housing Scheme on Arranmore, the Housing Manager advised the Committee that the local promoters have been invited to submit further details in relation to specific need for consideration.

Members recommended that the Council become more proactive in Housing provision via voluntary bodies or acquisition of unfinished housing estates.

The Housing Manager informed the Committee that the Council liaise with Voluntary bodies in relation to proposals that are submitted in regard to locations where there is a need and would also have an interest in unfinished estates where there are no ownership complications.

**GMD 17/16**

**GORT NA MONA HOUSING SCHEME**

Cllr Gallagher advised the Committee of the return of odours on this estate due to the inefficiency of the sewage treatment facilities and requested the attendance of Council engineering staff to report on proposals to connect the scheme to the new sewage plant.

**GMD 18/16**

**SI HOUSING**

In response to a query from Cllr Ó Fearraigh, the Housing Manager informed Members that there are no current proposals for recommencement of this programme.

**GMD 19/16**

**CHAPEL ROAD DUNFANAGHY**

The Housing Manager updated Members of the status of proposals for additional units at this location and undertook to engage in adequate public consultation prior to progression of this development.

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| <b>COMMUNITY CULTURE AND ENTERPRISE</b> |
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**GMD 20/16**

**1916 COMMEMORATION**

Cllr Gallagher suggested the plantation of 7 no. trees in gardens in the 7 major towns in the Municipal District in conjunction with local development groups and tidy towns committees to commemorate the signatories of the proclamation and their role in the 1916 Easter Rising. The Committee expressed agreement with this proposal.

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig proposed that the Irish Citizens Army Flag, the Irish Republican Flag, and the National Flag be flown from the Municipal Building. Cllr Gallagher seconded this proposal.

**GMD 21/16**

**TOGRA ASCENT**

The Community & Enterprise Manager updated Members on the ASCENT project as circulated with the agenda. The Committee were advised that if successfully funded the project will bring together Local and Environmental Authorities to collectively address the environmental challenges facing the conservation and enforcement of Areas of National beauty in the partner regions including Mount Errigal, Derryveagh Mountain. Cllr Ó Domhnaill highlighted the absence of adequate waste disposal or toilet facilities at Errigal and requested the Council to expedite development plans to improve the attraction of this national asset.

**GMD 22/16**

**WALKING TRAILS DEVELOPMENT**

The Committee welcomed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Community and Enterprise Manager regarding the status of the Burtonport – Letterkenny railway line walking trail. On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Ó Domhnaill, Members requested that all relevant Donegal groups involved in developing railway walks and cycleways be invited to a Workshop to assist in compilation of a strategy for investment in this sector.

Cllr Slowey recommended the inclusion of railway walk developments in the County Development Plan.

The A/Director of Water and Environment undertook to liaise with Senior Management regarding the retention of the Burtonport-Letterkenny project as a priority on the “Walking and Trails Development Plan”.

**GMD 23/16**

**PLAYGROUNDS**

Cllr ó Domhnaill informed Members of an ideal landbank in Ballina to facilitate provision of a playground and requested C &E/Housing to obtain a costing.

**GMD 24/16**

**STAFFING RESOURCES**

Cllr Gallagher expressed frustration at the absence of a response to repeated demands for the relocation and transfer of staff to enable the provision of an enhanced C&E Service in the Dungloe PSC.



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| <b>ENVIRONMENT</b> |
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**GMD 25/16**

**OPERATIONS CONSOLIDATION**

The Committee discussed the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the A/Director of Water and Environment regarding the consolidation of the supervision of mobile litter units and litter wardens. Cllr Gallagher recommended the provision of 6 No mobile litter bins for use throughout the Municipal District.

**GMD 26/16**

**RYCYCLING AND ENFORCEMENT**

Members discussed the reports circulated at the meeting and presented by the A/Director of Water & Environment in relation to both the level of recycling activity and waste enforcement action taken by the Council in 2015.

Cllr Ó Fearraigh commended the level of enforcement undertaken by the Council to deter littering and illegal dumping.

Cllr Gallagher acknowledged the effectiveness of camera notification signage as a deterrent to illegal dumping and recommended that the Council promote the provision of additional cameras and signage in consultation with local community groups.

**GMD 27/16**

**THE CHARLES THOMSON AWARD**

The Committee welcomed the report circulated at the meeting in relation to the Council's achievement of the Charles Thomson Award for promotion of improved water safety practices, level of infrastructure, training, operating procedures, and co-operation with other organisations.

**GMD 28//16**

**BEACHES**

Members discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the A/Director of Water & Environment in relation to the Councils application to An Taisce for Donegal's Blue Flag and Green Coast beaches for the 2016 season. Cllr Gallagher recommended the mapping of small beaches to assist in the preservation of public access.

Cllr Ó Domhnaill requested;

- (i) The initiation of a pilot project at Magheraroarty Beach to preserve the dunes and to prevent further erosion.
- (ii) The provision of a water supply to Drumatinney Beach to assist in the development of this location as a centre for marine tourism.

Cllr Bonner requested;

- (i) The Environment service to carry out necessary infrastructural requirements at Dooley to facilitate an application to An Taisce to have Dooley designated a Blue Flag Beach.
- (ii) The Roads service to provide a costing to upgrade the access road to Dooley Beach.

The Roads Manager also informed Members that he has scheduled a meeting with the Port Arthur Committee to improve access to the Beach.

**GMD 29/16**

**PUBLIC CONVENIENCE DUNGLOE**

Cllr Gallagher requested the provision of a public convenience in Dungloe and a management plan for supervision of this facility.

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| <b>PLANNING &amp; ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b> |
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**GMD 30/16**

**PLANNING APPLICATINS,APPEALS AND SIGNIFICANT CASES**

Members noted the reports circulated at the meeting outlining up to date statistics in respect of the above categories for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015.

**GMD 31/16**

**CASUAL TRADING**

The Committee discussed the report circulated at the meeting from the Senior Executive Planner in relation to a request for a further workshop to consider the potential provisions of casual trading byelaws. Members agreed to facilitate a workshop on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February at 1.00pm following completion of the roads agenda.

**GMD 32//16**

**PART V REQUIREMENTS FOR MULTIPLE HOUSING APPLICATIONS**

The Committee noted the report from Eunan Quinn Senior Planner circulated at the meeting regarding changes relating to associated PartV social housing requirements in respect of all multiple housing applications for 10 or more units.

**GMD 33/16**

**REFUSALS**

The Committee discussed the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Executive Planner in relation to planning refusals issued since 16<sup>th</sup> November 2015. Cllr Bonner expressed annoyance at the refusal in respect of reference 15/51388 on the grounds of local documentary evidence submitted in respect of the application in accordance with RH-P-5. Cllr Bonner requested that Planners liaise with Councillors in situations whereby documentary evidence submitted by Members is not considered sufficient.

**GMD 34/16**

**UNFINISHED HOUSING ESTATES**

Members welcomed the report circulated at the meeting from Paul Christy, Senior Executive Planner regarding;

- (i) Special Resolution Fund
- (ii) Public Safety Initiative
- (iii) Bond funded works
- (iv) Enforcement
- (v) Work in progress to enable the private sector to go back onto the unfinished sites.

**GMD 35//16**

**PLANNING SERVICE**

The Committee discussed the report from Eunan Quinn Senior Planner in relation to the ongoing consideration of initiatives to enable effective engagement between the Planner and Members. Members expressed dissatisfaction with the current contact arrangements.

**GMD 36//16**

**LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN**

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Ó Domhnaill Members requested the location of adequate staffing resources in the Dungloe PSC to achieve targets set out in the LECP.

**GMD 37//16**

**INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITY FUNDING REQUIREMENTS**

Members expressed frustration and dissatisfaction that the infrastructural priorities agreed at the Workshop on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2015 on foot of a Council motion were not prioritised as agreed by the Committee. Members queried the inclusion of the “Pol an tSnamh, Ranafast project on the Priority Funding document without any discussion at the MD Workshop and requested a report outlining the manner in which this project was included in the Priorities Report.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

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**Area Manager  
Municipal District of Donegal**

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**Cathaoirleach  
Municipal District of Donegal**