

## **MINUTES OF MEETING OF**

### **GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**HELD ON 8<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2016 IN DUNGLOE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE**

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

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Michael McGarvey – A/Director Water & Environment  
Eamonn Brown –A/Area Manager, Housing & Corporate Services  
Brendan McFadden – S.E.E Area Manager, Roads & Transportation  
Frank Sweeney – Executive Planner  
Charles Sweeney – Area Manager, Community Development and Enterprise  
Michael Rowsome – SSO, Motor Tax

**GMD 78/16**      **MINUTES OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING – 9<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2016**

On the proposal of Cllr. Ó Domhnaill seconded by Cllr. Slowey, the minutes of the Glenties Municipal District Meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016 were agreed.

**GMD 79/16**      **REPORT FROM WORKSHOP – 12<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2016**

The Committee noted the report from the Workshop held on the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2016 in relation to the 1916 Centenary Commemoration Programme.

**GMD 80/16**

**REQUEST FOR DEPUTATIONS**

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher seconded by Cllr. Ó Domhanill the Committee agreed to receive deputations from (1) Donegal Caravan & Camping Parks Association and (2) Dungloe Hydropool Committee at the next MD meeting.

**GMD 81/16**

**SCHEDULE OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WORKS 2016**

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the A/Director of Water & Environment in relation to SMDW 2016.

Members were advised that legislative provision Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 inserts a new section 103A in the Local Government Act 2001 providing that, following the adoption of the annual budget, a schedule of proposed works of maintenance and repair to be carried out during the financial year in each MD shall be prepared, for adoption by MD members.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the comparative budgeting allocations between the various Municipal Districts.

Members requested further information & transparency regarding:

- Local Property Tax Payments
- Confirmation that the housing maintenance budget was calculated on a per house basis.
- Criteria for calculation of maintenance of Beaches budget in the MD in the sum of €46,500 to facilitate comparison with the Donegal MD budget in the sum of €87,000.
- Parks & Open Spaces budget distribution in Glenties MD in the sum of €5,399 in comparison to Letterkenny MD (€725,348).

In response to a query from Cllr. Ó Fearraigh regarding the prevalence of ‘Giant Rhubarb’ (*Gunnera Tinctoria*) vegetation throughout Northwest Donegal and the Japanese Knotweed Pilot, the Roads Manager updated the Committee on the status of this project.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill recommended the inclusion of an additional budget line in respect of the upgrade of Wild Atlantic Way Roads in forthcoming budgets and Cllr. Gallagher seconded this proposal.

The Roads Manager responded to Members queries in relation to drainage and hedge cutting programmes and updated the Committee in respect of additional funding sourced from the Severe Weather Allocation Fund.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbaig proposed rejection of the 2016 Schedule of Municipal District Works and his proposal was not supported.

On the proposal of Cllr. Slowey, seconded by Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, the Committee adopted the 2016 Schedule of District Works in the Glenties MD as presented and also requested that a letter issue to the Senior Management Team outlining their concerns regarding the SMDW process.

<b>COMMUNITY CULTURE AND ENTERPRISE</b>
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**GMD 82/16**

**DONEGAL YOUTH COUNCIL**

The Committee welcomed the following Youth Councillors & Co-ordinators to the meeting:

- Tarlach Ó Dochartaigh – Youth Councillor
- Bridget McDyre – Youth Councillor
- Joanne Ní Bhrádaigh – Youth Councillor
- Hannah Healy - Youth Councillor
- Marty Friel – Co-ordinator
- Ciara Conaghan – Co-ordinator

The Youth Councillors made a presentation to Members detailing projects and initiatives undertaken by the Youth Council in relation to Mental Health, Sports, Bullying and Body Image.

The Committee praised the quality of the presentation and the bravery and competence of Youth Councillors in their coverage of difficult and contentious issues.

**GMD 83/16**

**TOURISM DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES**

On the proposal of Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, seconded by Cllr. Slowey, the Committee agreed the report of the Workshop held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2016.

**GMD 84/16**

**ASCENT PROJECT (Apply Skills & Conserve our Environment with new Tools)**

The C & E Manager made a presentation to the Committee on the ASCENT Project which is funded under the Northern Periphery Programme.

Members were informed that out of an overall ASCENT budget of €1.6 million that Donegal will receive funding in the sum of €568,580 and the role of the EU Unit was commended for their contribution to the project.

Donegal County Council is the lead partner in the project which will bring together local and environmental authorities to collectively address the environmental challenges facing the conservation and enhancement of areas of natural beauty in the five partner regions (Ireland, Northern Ireland, Iceland, Finland and Norway).

The C & E Manager advised the Committee of Donegal outputs from the ASCENT Project as follows:

- Research into models of upland access in the partner regions and in Scotland
- Multi Stakeholder progress on developing an intervention at Errigal
- Development of a management plan for Errigal
- Design of access path for Errigal and progressing designs through the necessary assessment and planning processes
- Development and provision of training programmes on path building and maintenance
- Piloting of path models on sections of the Errigal access route
- Development of sustainable recreation and tourism methods

The Committee welcomed the provision of funding, the consultation with the Errigal Stakeholders Group and also commended the C & E Manager for his involvement and contribution to the project.

#### **GMD 85/16**

#### **WALKING TRAILS DEVELOPMENT**

In response to a query from Cllr. Gallagher the C & E Manager informed the Committee that:

- All stakeholders have been asked to nominate people onto the development committee.
- I.S. are mapping the route prior to the first meeting.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill highlighted the neglect of the heritage trail at St. Colmcilles Cross and Chapel in Falcarragh and recommended adoption of a development plan involving local stakeholders. Cllr. Ó Domhnaill also requested the provision of a car park to facilitate tourists visiting Muckish.

#### **GMD 86/16**

#### **1916 COMMEMORATION**

In response to query from Cllr. Bonner regarding the status of the tree planting ceremonies planned for the Glenteis MD, the A/Director of Water & Environment undertook to source costings to expedite this project.

#### **GMD 87/16**

#### **GAELTACHT SERVICE TOWNS**

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the Gaeltacht Act 2012 and the process by which Gaeltacht Service Towns can attain recognition as such.

**GMD 88/06**

**MARINE TOURISM MARKETING & DEVELOPMENT**

Members welcomed the report circulated with the agenda regarding activities being undertaken by Donegal Tourism to develop and market Marine Tourism in the County.

In response to a query from Cllr. Bonner, the C & E Manager advised Members of the status of the Capiten Project.

<b>ROADS &amp; TRANSPORTATION</b>
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**GMD 89/16**

**MULANTYBOYLE BRIDGE PROJECT**

The Roads Manager informed the Committee that work has commenced on this project with an anticipated completion date of June 2016.

**GMD 90/16**

**DRAFT SURFACE DRESSING**

The Committee welcomed the draft Surface Dressing Programme 2016 circulated with the agenda and presented by the Roads Manager,

**GMD 91/16**

**SEVERE WEATHER FUND**

The Committee commended work carried out by the Roads Service to source funding in the sum of €1.44 million for roadworks in the MD.

**GMD 92/16**

**MEENACUING LIGHTING**

In response to queries from the Committee the Roads Manager informed Members that the Road Safety Engineer will attend a meeting to outline findings in respect of this ongoing problem.

**GMD 93/16**

**ROAD MAINTENANCE ISSUES**

The Committee raised the following concerns for the attention of the Roads Service:

- Pipes required to address water stream on road at Knockfolá
- Lighting to the Lighthouse on Arranmore
- Footpath alteration (500m) required at Main Street, Dunfanaghy
- Poor state of Loughcrillen Road & Dorrian Road Glenties
- Road Design at entrance to Glenties Chapel
- Dawros Road, Portnoo

The Roads Manager undertook to revert to Cllr. Ó Domhail regarding the scope of Irish Water works in relation to the Falcarragh Sewerage Scheme.

<b>PLANNING &amp; ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>
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**GMD 94/16**

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The Committee noted the summary of planning applications circulated with the agenda and presented by the Planning Manager in respect of the period from 1/1/16 to 31/1/16.

**GMD 95/06**

**REFUSALS**

The Committee discussed the report previously circulated in relation to planning refusals during the period from 30/1/16 to 26/2/16. Cllr. Bonner expressed annoyance at the high number of refusals in the Glenties MD and outlined specific scenarios in relation to difficulties encountered in facilitating development on Arranmore Island.

Cllr. Gallagher reiterated her concerns previously aired in relation to applications stalling at pre-planning stage and not being reflected in the refusal statistics.

**GMD 96/16**

**PLANNING STAFF**

The Committee outlined difficulties previously aired at MD meetings as follows:

- Gaining access to planners
- Inability of public or agents to contact planners
- Inability to convene site meetings
- Necessity to locate staff locally to achieve targets set out in the Local & Economic Plan.

The A/Director of Water & Environment undertook to convene a Workshop and to invite the Senior Planner to address Members concerns in relation to the provision of a Planning Service.



<b>WATER &amp; ENVIRONMENT</b>
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**GMD 97/16**

**PAY BY WEIGHT**

The Committee noted the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the A/Director of Environment.

**GMD 98/16**

**END OF LIFE TYRES**

The A/Director of Environment informed Members that new regulations regarding the obligation by importers and retailers of tyres is expected shortly to ensure proper tyre disposal and that an approved body REPAK ELT, has been established to manage this process.

**GMD 99/16**

**WASTE ENFORCEMENT REGIONAL LEAD AUTHORITY (WERLA)**

Members were informed that WERLA offices have been established in Donegal & Leitrim County Councils in regard to their responsibility to ensuring a consistent approach to Waste Enforcement in the Connacht Ulster Region.

The WERLA offices will work in conjunction with Waste Management Plan Lead Authorities to ensure that the objectives of the current Regional Waste Management Plan are achieved.

**GMD 100/16**

**WASTE PREVENTION**

The Committee welcomed the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the A/Director of Environment regarding:

- Proposals for implementation of a number of waste prevention campaigns
- Enforcement progress to date
- Recycling
- Clean up campaigns

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill commended the initiatives and activities undertaken by the Environment Service.

**GMD 101/16**

**BEACHES**

Members welcomed the detailed report circulated with the agenda in relation to the 21 no. Donegal Beaches, which are actively managed in respect of their status as Blue Flag, Green Coast and Designated Bathing Areas. Members welcomed the preparation of Dooley and Magherarorty for Designated Bathing Area status during March.

**GMD 102/16**

**COASTAL EROSION**

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the A/Director of Environment regarding coastal erosion applications for funding to the office of Public Works. The status of the beaches in the Glenties MD were detailed as follows:

- Magheraroarty – Application for funding submitted to the O.P.W
- Narin/Portnoo – Awaiting Roads input prior to submission to O.P.W
- Maghery – Invitation issued to NPWS to meet local stakeholders to progress matter.

**GMD 103/16**

**PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the Council to install temporary facilities at Portnablugh Pier during the summer to assist in the provision of Marine Leisure Pursuits.

Cllr. Gallagher requested a report regarding proposals for the provision and management of urgently required facility in Dungloe.

Cllr. Bonner requested a report on the availability of funding for the provision of a public convenience in the Maghery Community Centre. Funding has discontinued since the establishment of Irish Water.

## **HOUSING AND BUILDING**

### **GMD 104/16                    SOCIAL HOUSING PROGRAMME**

The Committee noted the reports circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager in relation to

- (i)     Housing Aid for Older People Grants
- (ii)    Housing Adaption Grants
- (iii)   Mobility Aids Grants

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill recommended that the Council purchase land banks to provide Housing. Cllr. Bonner requested the Council to purchase a house for sale on the Fairhill, Dungloe.

Cllr Gallagher recommended a change in policy to facilitate the purchase of privately owned former Council Housing.

### **GMD 105/16                    CASUAL VACANCIES**

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the A/ Housing Manager in relation to the status of casual vacancies as at the 29<sup>th</sup> of February 2016.

### **GMD 106/16                    TENANT PURCHASE SCHEME**

The A/Housing Manager informed the Committee that the Department of Environment have approved a Tenants Information Booklet in relation to the Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme 2016, and he undertook to issue booklets to Members on receipt of same.

### **GMD 107/16                    DIFFERENTIAL RENT REVIEW**

Cllr. Gallagher undertook to propose inclusion of this issue on the agenda of the Council at the next CPG meeting and expressed frustration that Old Age Pensioners are unaware of upcoming rent increases.

### **GMD 108/16                    HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME**

Cllr. Gallagher recommended that a cover note issue with application forms outlining the necessity to complete only 1 of the 2 forms (Bank or Post Office) accompanying the HAP application form.

**GMD 109/16**

**HOUSING LIST**

Cllr. Bonner requested an updated list of Housing demand in the MD.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

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**Area Manager  
Municipal District of Glenties**

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**Cathaoirleach  
Municipal District of Glenties**