

**MINUTES OF THE INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING
HELD IN THE CHAMBER, CARNDONAGH PSC
ON THE 03RD NOVEMBER 2014**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllrs Paul Canning, Nicholas Crossan, Albert Doherty, Rena Donaghey, Martin Farren, Martin Mc Dermott, Bernard Mc Guinness, Jack Murray and John Ryan.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr John G. Mc Laughlin, Ms Lynda Mc Gavigan, Mr Seamus Hopkins, Ms Aideen Doherty, Mr Paul Kelly and Ms Marie Mulhern.

Cllr Crossan opened the meeting and adjourned the meeting for half an hour.

Cllr Murray apologised for not being able to attend the last meeting and offered his sympathy to Cllr Martin Harley on the recent passing of his daughter Kym Harley.

The members observed a minutes silence in respect of the recent passing of

- Hugh Doherty (Dick)
- Kathleen & James Cuddihy
- Annie Devlin
- John Paul Doherty
- Jeff Mc Laughlin
- John Mc Gonagle

**14/27 CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF THE INISHOWEN
ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
04th SEPTEMBER 2014**

On the proposal of Cllr Paul Canning, seconded by Cllr Martin Farren, the minutes of the meeting held on the 04th September 2014 were agreed.

**14/28 CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT STANDING ORDERS FOR
INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS**

On the proposal of Cllr Nicholas Crossan, seconded by Cllr Mc Guinness the draft Standing Orders were agreed.

The members congratulated Cllr Doherty on his retirement and wished him well in the future.

14/29 Deputation on Wee Greenway Initiative

Ronan Gallagher and Blaise Harvey made a presentation on the Wee Greenway initiative.

A map of the proposed 97km cycle route was presented to the members, the route starts and ends in Derry, with the cycle route going through the main towns and villages in Inishowen.

The benefits of the initiative include generating tourism, local business activity, environment & ecological and developing an international reputation.

A number of challenges have been identified as follows

- Construction cost
- Commonage and land access
- Availability of national and international funding
- Competition from around the country

Going forward the group are scheduling a meeting with Derry City Council, incorporating the Wee Greenway initiative as a formal organisation and creating a realistic timeframe for the project.

Inishowen is an untapped destination for tourism with Derry and its hinterland having a population of 235,000.

The members collectively thanked Ronan and Blaise for their presentation and advised that they had the support of the members.

14/30 Deputation from the Irish Basking Shark Study Group

Emmett Johnston made a presentation on the development of marine tourism at Malin Head.

Phase one will be the development of the Malin Head Ocean Centre incorporating a Ocean visitors centre, marine education and training facility and a marine research lab. Phase 2 will be the development of integrated Marine zones incorporating a national marine park and a unesco biosphere fishing area. The development of marine Tourism will foster Inishowen's established marine heritage.

Examples of similar projects are the Scottish Seabird centre, Eden Project Cornwall and the Padstow Lobster Hatchery.

The facility will create 10 high end jobs and 10 temporary jobs, it is a social enterprise with huge benefits for business.

The members thanked Emmett for the presentation and advised that they would support the project.

14/31 HOUSING

31.01 Update report on Housing

Lynda Mc Gavigan presented the Housing report.

31.02 Housing adaptation Grants

Lynda Mc Gavigan advised Cllr Doherty that there would appear to be a county wide issue regarding the relatively low number of applications for housing adaptation grants.

31.03 Housing Loans

Cllr Canning was informed that there is a national policy in place outlining the criteria for the assessment of housing loan applications. A new housing strategy is due to be introduced at the end of the year and this could bring some change.

31.04 Mica

Cllr Doherty enquired if the Council housing stock was Mica free. John G Mc Laughlin advised that the mica issue should initially be dealt with by building control and advised he would follow up. Based on a physical inspection of the Carndonagh PSC it does not look like there is a problem.

Cllr Mc Guinness proposed that the mica issue be placed permanently on agenda for the municipal district meetings and at county level and a progress report brought for each meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Doherty.

31.05 Pairc an Ghrianan, Burnfoot

Cllr Murray requested an update on the sewage problem at Pairc an Ghrianan, Burnfoot. The Council Water section has been in contact with Irish Water and any correspondence will be forwarded to Cllr Murray and Cllr Ryan.

31.06 Tenant Purchase Scheme

Cllr Mc Dermott was advised that the new tenant purchase has not yet been issued from the Department.

31.07 Voluntary Housing

Further to Cllr Mc Guinness enquiry Lynda Mc Gavigan advised that she had worked with the voluntary bodies in the area and had met with 5 or 6 bodies. The Council can only provide advise on the area/s of housing need and the ultimate decision is with the voluntary body.

14/32 ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

32.01 Update Report

Seamus Hopkins presented the update report and in particular referred to the following.

32.02 Work Programme update

The members were updated on the maintenance, restoration improvement, restoration maintenance, low cost safety and own resources specific programmes.

32.03 Taking in charge of private roads

Cllr Mc Guinness proposed that the following roads be made public roads

LP041

LS211 Black Mountain

L5391 & L539-2 Lower Annagh

L111 Upper Clontagh

(not sure if the road numbers are correct)

This was seconded by Cllr Crossan.

Cllr Doherty advised that he had a small road at Cloontagh that he would like to be considered.

John G. Mc Laughlin advised that there is a policy in place for the take over of private roads and there is a limit per year of the number that can be taken over. It was agreed to investigate the roads. Cllr Donaghey advised that she had put 2 roads forward previously, the process went the full way and the roads have still not been taken over. She advised that she wanted these roads taken over before the any other roads are progressed for takeover.

32.04 Provision of bus shelters

Road Design had created a framework of suppliers, however this now needs to be readvertised. Area roads would propose to advertise within Inishowen to identify local suppliers.

32.05 Carrigans Bridge

Work at this location is to be undertaken before the end of the year.

32.06 Drumbarnett Lower, Manor

Further information is being sought.

32.07 Hard Shoulder at Curran's Pub

Given the work required at this location it would need to be managed directly by the NRA. The NRA will be requested to include this project within their work programme.

32.08 School Flashing Lights

Road Design has confirmed that all the school flashing lights are working.

32.09 Cockhill Bridge

Cllr Crossan read out a prepared statement in relation to the update on the Cockhill Bridge, as a temporary measure the members agreed to install temporary traffic lights at the existing junction. This will control traffic flow to a single lane across the bridge and provide a signalled pedestrian crossing on the Cockhill road. The temporary traffic lights are intended to address immediate safety concerns at this location.

Items for follow up

Cllr Mc Guinness enquired about the following

- If the junction at Ballyharry going to Carrowtrasna could be investigated.
- An update on the works at Malin Head at the school.

Cllr Farren enquired about the following

- Armstrong's bridge
- If the land at the old play park in Merville could be made available for a bowling green
- If cats eyes could be provided on the road from Muff and on to Merville.
- If an adequate level of salt was available for the winter
- Will the crossroads to Shroove road continue on the winter maintenance route

Cllr Ryan enquired about the following

- The condition of the road from the Slab road junction to Burnfoot village is in very poor condition
- Relocation of the ramp at Newtown
- NRA safety issue at Drumbarnett, Manor

Cllr Canning enquired about the following

- Safety issue for parent dropping children at the school at Magherabeg, Manorcunningham
- Water tables are being blocked up by leaves
- Takeover of roads in housing estates
- Pedestrian crossing at the school at Newtown

Cllr Murray enquired about the following

- Update on the chevron at Redcastle FC
- Could an island be provided at the junction beside the Harbour Inn at the Tank Road, Ludden
- Could a pedestrian crossing be provided at the back of Keranan's similar to one being provided at Muff village
- Relocation of the Amazing Grace sign in Fahan

Cllr Mc Dermott enquired about the following

- If “slow” was going to be lined on the road at Francis Town as part of the road lining contract.
- Funding for storm damage at Lagg beach, Malin
- Ledging at Baleighan West
- Current costs of the works at Moss Road, Culdaff
- Why the road to Malin was taken off the winter maintenance route
- Update on station road
- Malin to Killourt Road
- Inspection of the pier at Leenan, as the boats are unable to tie up at the Pier
- Sand is back in again at the Malin Head Pier

Cllr Doherty enquired about the following

- The letter sent in by the Ballyloskey Residents Association expressing their concerns in relation to exiting onto the Derry road from Ballyloskey
- Drain clearing to prevent flooding

14/33 PLANNING

33.01 Update Report

Paul Kelly presented the update report and in particular referred to the following.

33.02 Taking in Charge

Cllr Canning stated that he was disappointed that with 97 applications submitted as there were no houses in Inishowen taken in charge. More emphasis should be placed on the process. Cllr Murray concurred. Cllr Farren proposed that a workshop should be arranged as soon as possible, this was seconded by Cllr Crossan.

33.03 Public Safety Initiative & SRF update

Paul Kelly advised that he cannot comment on the taking in charge and the public safety initiative as he does not work on these issues. Earlier in the year workshops had been agreed for Inishowen with Frank Sweeney, A/Senior Executive Planner.

Follow ups

1. Cllr Mc Guinness requested an update on the application for Malin. Could an update also be provided on Clara Meadows, Culdaff.
- 2 Cllr Ryan enquired if a hard copy of the service level agreement with Irish Water could be provided.
- 3 Cllr Murray enquired about the takeover of the 3 estates in Bridgend.
- 4 Cllr Doherty enquired if the members could get a list of the private partners.
- 5 Cllr Doherty also enquired as to what is the minimum standard required for Gerard Way estate, Carndonagh.
- 6 Cllr Mc Dermott asked for an update on the lights at Drumcarbitt Mews, Culdaff.
- 7 Cllr Crossan requested a progress report on the public safety initiative and SRF.
- 8 Cllr Ryan proposed that Frank Sweeney be requested to attend the Municipal District meetings.
- 9 Cllr Mc Guinness requested that the relocation of planning to Lifford be placed on the agenda permanently.

14/34 COMMUNITY & DEVELOPMENT

34.01 Update Report

Aideen Doherty presented the update report and in particular referred to the following.

34.02 Barrack Hill Town Park

The training room has been complete, CCTV has been installed and an outdoor pursuit area has been established. The gardener is in place and he will establish the gardens and he will be working closely with Carrdonagh Tidy Towns committee.

A community management plan will have to be developed to ensure the future running of the park.

The final drawdown from Leader will have to be completed and then the park will be able to be launched when the weather gets better.

34.03 Tip O' Neill Irish Diaspora Awards 2014

The 2014 Tip O' Neill Diaspora Award was presented to the Massachusetts State Senate President Therese Murray.

34.04 Malin Head Interreg IV Programme Loughs Agency

The current phase is now nearing completion and planning for the next phase is currently ongoing in the form of a Part 8, with the closing date for submissions of November 03rd 2014.

34.05 Donegal Film Office

The film office has facilitated a number of productions over the past year including the latest advert for the new Toyota filmed in location in Leenan and Donegal this summer.

34.06 Donegal Community & Economic Plan

Work has commenced on the Donegal Community & Economic plan, the plan will provide the basis for future funding programmes such as the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme and Leader/Rural Development Programme.

34.07 Public Participation Network

Donegal County Council has been instructed by the Department of Environment, Community & Rural Affairs to establish a Public Participation Network as part of the LCDC structures.

34.08 AER Conference

The assembly of European Regions (AER) is the largest independent network of regional authorities in wider Europe, bringing together nearly 230 regions from 35 countries along with 15 interregional organisations.

34.09 Public Area Enhancement Scheme

In April, 2014 Donegal County Council applied for funding to the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government under the public enhancement scheme. The projects in Inishowen included the Colgan hall, Carndonagh and St Eugene's, Moville.

34.10 Social Inclusion Week 2014

Donegal County Council's annual Social Inclusion Week takes place from the 06th – 10th October 2014. The weeks events have been organised in conjunction with the national efforts to mark "2014 – the European Year of the Citizen".

34.11 Connecting the Wild Atlantic Way

Donegal County Council in association with Failte Ireland and Donegal Tourism Ltd hosted the 'Connecting the Wild Atlantic Way' conference on Thursday 25th September 2014 in Solis Lough Eske.

34.12 REN NET (Renewable Energy Network)

Ren Net is planning its next best practice trip for October, this will be centred on Eco Construction.

34.13 Donegal Youth Council

Elections for 2014 – 2016 Youth Council will be taken a new format with all 27 Schools having the option of putting forward a representative to the Youth Council, the remaining seats will be filled from Youth Reach, Traveller Project, Foroige, Donegal Youth Service and Oige.

'Agenda Day' is scheduled for 05th November in the Letterkenny area, representatives from all schools, Youth Reach and youth organisations/clubs will be invited together to discuss the topics they feel are most topical for young people in Donegal.

34.14 Broadband

Cllr Mc Guinness advised that Inishowen needs better internet facilities. The service has gone down.

34.15 Glenburnie Beach, Moville

Cllr Murray discussed the information submitted to the members by the Committee for a Clean Estuary Group and asked could it be sent to the Environment section.

This concluded the business of the meeting.