

**Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Lifford- Stranorlar held
11.00 am, 03rd December 2019 in the Stranorlar Regional Training Centre.**

Members Present	Cllr. Frank McBrearty, Cllr. Gary Doherty, Cllr. Gerry Crawford, Cllr. Liam Doherty, Cllr. Martin Harley, Cllr. Patrick McGowan.
Officials Present	Joe Peoples, Olive Gillespie, Tony Browne, Simon Harran, Paul Gallagher, Claire McGeever, Kathleen McGowan.

Cllr. McBrearty thanked everyone for their attendance. Items from the agenda were discussed as follows:

231 Corporate Services

231.01 Votes of Sympathy

Members passed a vote of sympathy on the passing of:

- Pat Doran, father of Gerard Doran Inishowen Roads Section and Sean Doran, Stranorlar Roads Section.
- Bridie McMenamin (née Bonner), mother of Kevin McMenamin, Housing & Motor Tax Office, Lifford.
- Michael Austin, father of Frances Wilson, Community & Development, Lifford.
- Billy Browne, father of Joy Harron, Tourism Unit and uncle of our former colleague Geoffrey Browne.
- Mary McMonagle (nee Smyth), mother of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle.
- Retired colleague Jimmy McKelvey, Plant Operator, father of Seamus McKelvey, Plant Operator, Glenties Roads Section.
- Packie McGuinness, retired colleague, Roads Department.

231.02 Confirmation of Minutes of Municipal District of Lifford-Stranorlar held 01st October 2019

The Minutes were approved on the proposal of Cllr. G Crawford and seconded by Cllr. P McGowan.

231.03 Confirmation of Minutes of Budget 2020 Meeting of the Municipal District of Lifford-Stranorlar held 23rd October 2019

The Minutes were approved on the proposal of Cllr. P McGowan and seconded by Cllr. M Harley.

232. Confirmation of Date and Venue for Next Meeting and Business Prescribed by Statute

232.01 It was agreed that the next meetings of the Lifford-Stranorlar Municipal District would be held on Tuesday, **21st January 2020 in the County House, Lifford**, as follows:

- **Workshop** **10.00 am.**
- **Meeting** **11.00 am.**

233 Consideration of Reports & Recommendations from Services

233.01 Planning Services

Simon Harran was invited to address the meeting. The update report circulated with the agenda was taken as read. The following comments were made:

- Members noted the contents of the *RTE Investigates - Between a Rock and a Hard Place* programme which aired on the 27th November 2019 in relation to unauthorised quarrying, including a site at Islandmore on the River Foyle estuary. Members wished to highlight that none of the Members of the Lifford-Stranorlar Municipal District were contacted to take part in the programme. Simon Harran confirmed that the issue is currently being dealt with by the Planning Enforcement Section of the council and that an update can be provided to Members in due course in relation to the matter, as appropriate.
- Simon Harran presented a report in relation to *Proposed Additions to the Record of Protected Structures*. At the Lifford-Stranorlar Municipal District meeting held on the 23rd July, 2019 Members resolved that one addition to the Record of Protected Structures (RPS), namely a thatched pub located in Main Street, Convoy, should be published for the purposes of consultation under Section 55 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). Members were advised that no submission/observations were made under the public consultation process and subsequently no observations were received from the Minister. Members were requested to consider the recommendation to proceed with the addition of the following property onto the Record of Protected Structures:

No.	NIAH Ref	Type	Name	Location
1	40832013	Public house	Mannie's bar	Convoy

On the proposal of Cllr. L Doherty, seconded by Cllr. M Harley, Lifford-Stranorlar Municipal District Council resolved in accordance with the Planning & Development

Act 2000 (as amended) to add the structure included in the table immediately above to the Record of Protected Structures.

- Members requested a full report in relation to *Taking in Charge of Estates* be presented at the next meeting in January 2020. Members requested that Brandon Park, St. Johnston, The Glebe, Rossgier, Rossgier Close and Millbrook Estate, Knock, Ballybofey be added to the list. Simon Harran agreed to ask Paddy Mullen to attend the next meeting.
- Cllr. M Harley proposed that Donegal County Council do not purchase land in any unfinished estates until all outstanding works from previous agreements in relation to that estate have been completed by the relevant contractor/developer. This was seconded by Cllr. P McGowan. Simon Harran stated that there are many agreements which involve different issues in relation to the completion of housing estates. For example, a developer may not want to do the top course in an estate until all the heavy machinery works are complete.

233.02 Environmental Services

Paul Gallagher was invited to address the meeting. The update report circulated with the agenda was taken as read. The following comments were made:

- Paul Gallagher stated that the council has received very positive feedback in relation to the Donegal Men's Sheds Showcase which was held in the CPI, Castlefinn on the 23rd October 2019. Mr. Gallagher and Members wished to thank all those involved to help make the event a success.
- Paul Gallagher confirmed that the newly appointed Litter Warden will be taking up post in January 2020.
- Paul Gallagher provided an update to Members in relation to CFRAMS and highlighted an announcement on Friday 29th November 2019 by Minister Kevin 'Boxer' Moran during his visit to the County House, Lifford that additional schemes are to be added to the CFRAM Programme including Ballybofey and Stranorlar. Members welcomed the announcement but voiced concern about the timescales and staffing resources involved to complete the 9 projects currently under this programme.
- Cllr. P McGowan sought clarification of the Council's role regarding 'Pay-By-Weight' in relation to the collection of household waste and suggested that this service should be provided free of charge which would counter littering problems.
- Cllr. G Doherty requested that the council prioritise the provision of a site for Bring Banks in Castlefinn.
- Cllr. G Doherty highlighted issues in relation to the water supply between Killygordon and Castlefinn, and at Tober, Ballindrait which need urgent attention and requested that Irish Water make these issues a priority. Cllr. Doherty referred to the Service Level Agreement between Donegal County Council and Irish Water, and requested that a representative from Irish Water attend Municipal District meetings.

- Cllr. F McBrearty referred to the ongoing problem of fly tipping. Paul Gallagher confirmed that calls in relation to illegal dumping are being reported to the Litter Management Office and followed up as necessary.

233.03 Roads Services

Claire McGeever was invited to address the meeting. The update report circulated with the agenda was taken as read. The following comments were made:

- Claire McGeever presented a report in relation to the 3 Year Restoration Improvement Programme and explained that the Department has advised that Local Authorities are permitted to set up 20% of their RI Programme in advance of the 2020 funding announcement. It was therefore recommended that 7 schemes are set up from the draft 2020 Programme with expenditure of €375,463. This was proposed by Cllr. Gerry Crawford and seconded by Cllr. Patrick McGowan.
- Claire McGeever presented a report in relation to the 2020 Draft Footpath & Public Lighting Programme with expenditure of €394,400. This was proposed by Cllr. Patrick McGowan and seconded by Cllr. Martin Harley.
- Cllr. M Harley referred to the Local Improvement Scheme 2019 and wished to highlight his disappointment that only 6 schemes from a total of 178 applications were funded and completed within the Lifford-Stranorlar Municipal District in 2019.
- Cllr. M Harley stated that the disabled bays in the Twin Towns need to be lined out urgently. Claire McGeever confirmed that this work is imminent.
- Cllr. M Harley stated that there is an issue in relation to excessive noise in Ballybofey as result of heavy vehicles driving over manholes covers. Claire McGeever confirmed that a lot of complaints have been received about manhole covers within the town and agreed to pass on the complaints to Eircom or Irish Water, as appropriate.
- Cllr. M Harley highlighted an issue in relation to the lights at Robertson National School, Stranorlar. Claire McGeever agreed to pass this query onto the Road Safety Engineer.
- Cllr. P McGowan queried if a road at Meenavoy, Drumkeen under the Community Involvement Scheme would be complete by year end. Claire McGeever confirmed that the scheme at this location didn't proceed in 2018 as agreement with the council wasn't finalised. Cllr. McGowan stated that an agreement is in place but that the council needs to make contact with the promoter. Claire McGeever agreed to request the Executive Engineer to make contact with the promoter concerned to see if the scheme can be agreed and reconsidered at a future date.
- Cllr. P McGowan queried progress at Knock Crossroads, Ballybofey under the Safety Improvement Works Programme. Claire McGeever agreed to provide an update to Members.
- Cllr. P McGowan queried if any meetings have taken place in relation to the proposed new school in Stranorlar and the provision of footpaths from McClays Corner to the new school, including the area encompassing the Finn Valley Centre/Swimming Pool. Claire McGeever confirmed that footpaths, traffic etc. was examined at the time of the planning application in 2013 with conditions attached to the permission accordingly. She advised Road Design had been requested to look at Mill Brae. Separate to developments in the area, a traffic review is being carried out

at McClay's Corner and the findings of this review will be reported back to Members when complete. Cllr. McGowan proposed to send a request to the Roads Design Office to attend the next meeting. This was agreed by Members.

- Cllr. L Doherty referred to a Motion previously submitted to the Plenary Council in relation to funding for roads, lights and footpaths in older housing estates, and suggested that the Lifford-Stranorlar Municipal District Council should take a lead in this regard and push for a separate funding stream for this area of work. Cllr. F McBrearty stated that a policy was agreed at SPC to deal with this issue and requested the Executive to clarify what funding may be available. Joe Peoples agreed to revert to Members on this issue.
- Cllr. G Doherty stated that the Castlefinn Bridge is no longer fit for purpose and that a campaign must be initiated to replace the bridge. Claire McGeever agreed to examine previous reports carried out in relation to bridge replacement at this location.
- Cllr. G Doherty stated that the wall at Grahamsland, Castlefinn, across from the school, is crumbling and requested remediation works to be carried out.
- Cllr. G Doherty requested that the speed limit signs at Ballylast School be adjusted as they are currently facing the wrong direction. Cllr. G Crawford stated that the signage issue at the school has been raised on a number of occasions and queried if national roads issues are being followed up when raised through the Municipal District. Claire McGeever agreed to follow up on this issue.
- Cllr. G Doherty requested that potholes on the Drumdoit Road, Castlefinn be filled in.
- Cllr. G Doherty raised an issue in relation to cars parking on the footpath at Grahamsland, Castlefinn resulting in pedestrians having to walk on the road. Claire McGeever confirmed that this is an enforcement issue for An Garda Siochana in towns that do not have a Traffic Warden.
- Cllr. G Doherty raised a roads safety issue at the turn-off to the Robert Emmetts Football Pitch, Castlefinn and suggested that if the left turn was more pronounced, it may help slow down traffic at this location.
- Cllr. G Doherty queried if the existing footpath from Dreenan Bridge could be extended from the Dreenan T-junction towards the Crossroads, Killygordon.
- Cllr. G Crawford requested that safety measures are introduced at the junction located at Croaghan Heights, Lifford and stated that the crossing onto the N14 Letterkenny Road, including the entrance at the Community Centre, is dangerous and requires traffic lights. Claire McGeever advised the Executive Engineer looked at this location with the Safety Engineer following a request from the Members to examine the need for a pelican crossing. The Engineers reported a central island was already in place and the number of pedestrians was minimal. She agreed to refer it again to examine the issue of traffic exiting Croaghan Heights.
- Cllr. G Crawford requested that the junction located at Murlog, Lifford be examined and stated that the current right hand turn-off from the Letterkenny Road leading to Murlog is a hazard.
- Cllr. F McBrearty stated that the current state of the road between Meetinghouse Street and St. Eunan's Terrace, Raphoe is unacceptable and requires resurfacing. Claire McGeever confirmed that the completion of work at this location is included as part of the 2020 funding allocation with tenders going out for these works on the 12th December 2019.

- Cllr. F McBrearty requested an update in relation to the provision of new street lights on the Ballindrait Road. Claire Mc Geever agreed to check and revert back in relation to this issue.
- Cllr. F McBrearty stated that he would like to see an audit of parking bays carried out in Raphoe as several have potholes.

233.04 Community and Enterprise

Kathleen Browne was invited to address the meeting. The update report circulated with the agenda was taken as read.

- Kathleen Browne outlined a request from Donegal Youth Council to attend the next meeting of the Lifford-Stranorlar Municipal District in January 2020. This was agreed by the Members. Cllr. F McBrearty suggested that the Youth Council submit a question to each Directorate to give them an insight into the services provided by the council.
- Cllr. P McGowan requested an update in relation to the Drumboe Town Park and the potential of twinning with another suitable European location.
- Cllr. G Doherty wished to acknowledge the work carried out to date in relation to the Riverine Project and the information meeting held in the Courthouse, Lifford which was useful for members of the public.
- Members requested an update in relation to the Foyle/Finn Development and what is being proposed under the LEADER Programme.
- Cllr. M Harley welcomed the recent meeting held in Kee's Hotel in relation to the Ballybofey-Stranorlar Regeneration Project and requested that updates are provided at Municipal District meetings.
- Cllr. M Harley expressed his disappointment that there remains outstanding work to be completed in relation to the footpath in Drumboe Woods which leads to a pathway adjacent to the Finn Valley College.
- Cllr. F McBrearty thanked Eamon Boyle and staff for their work in relation to the Town and Village Renewal Scheme application for Raphoe which secured €200k under the scheme.

233.05 Housing & Corporate Services

Olive Gillespie reviewed her update report as circulated with the agenda. The following comments were made:

- In response to clarification sought from Cllr. M Harley as to who will be residing at Glenrowan House, Drumkeen when refurbished, Olive Gillespie confirmed this property is being developed by APEX Approved Housing Body who are actively

engaging with the HSE, to agree specific layout requirements and identify the clients who will be decongregating to this building when completed.

- Cllr. G Crawford raised his concerns in relation to medical letters that are required to support housing applications, especially for Housing Transfers. Cllr. Crawford stated that because of the Council's insistence that medical letters must be from a Consultant, the approval of housing applications/transfers are being delayed by up to 3 years. He called for this policy to be reviewed.
- Cllr. P McGowan referred to a Question submitted previously by him requesting a report on the breakdown of staff across the Directorates by Municipal Districts. He reiterated that this report be made available.
- In relation to the proposed scheme at Trusk Road, Ballybofey, Cllr. P McGowan expressed concern that 21 units may be too many for this site. Olive Gillespie explained that the scheme for 21 units was at Preliminary Design Stage and therefore subject to change. Cllr. McGowan requested that an update on this project comes before the Municipal District prior to Part 8 process.
- Cllr. P McGowan requested an update report in relation to the Windows & Doors Replacement Programme, to outline which housing estates will be included in the programme. Olive Gillespie confirmed that this information is currently being collated and when the funding is announced, the programme of works will be finalized.
- On the proposal of Cllr. Martin Harley, seconded by Cllr. Frank McBrearty, it was agreed to hold a Local Area Reception in the County House, Lifford for Leah Gallen in recognition of her achievements at the European Youth Boxing Championships. This will be progressed by Housing & Corporate Services.

234 Motions

234.01 The following Motion was submitted by Cllr. G Doherty:

Motion: That Donegal County Council engages with the family of the late Tommy Peoples to work towards recognising his former homestead as a site of great importance to our local heritage, and to develop this site and others in the St Johnston area as a tourist attraction to honour the legacy of one of Ireland's greatest musicians.

Reply: The Council can initiate discussions with the family of the Late Tommy Peoples with regard to how the former homestead could be promoted, with their agreement, and in recognising the late Tommy Peoples and his legacy as one of Ireland's great Fiddle players.

The Motion was seconded by Cllr. G Crawford.

235 Members Written Questions

235.01 The following Question was submitted by Cllr. G Doherty:

Question: Can this Council develop a short-term solution to the dilapidated state of the roads in our unfinished estates before a serious injury is caused to a motorist/pedestrian?

Reply: Responsibility for the maintenance of roads in private estates, not taken in charge by the Council, remains the responsibility of the Owners/Developers/Management Companies for the particular estate.

Each estate has its own unique circumstances whereby enforcement proceedings may be possible through Planning Enforcement; securities such as bonds may or may not exist; remedial works in order to complete the estate may necessitate excavations to repair underground services; or where a valid application to have the estate taken in charge may or may not have been submitted.

The Planning Authority, through its Taking in Charge team, is currently assessing over 300 applications and is developing a work programme to have outstanding issues, including the poor road conditions, in these estates resolved albeit with limited resources.

The development of a Policy around a short-term solution would be a matter for the Roads or Planning SPC to consider.

235.02 The following Question was submitted by Cllr. G Doherty:

Question: Can I have a breakdown of the numbers of people on the social housing waiting list and how long they have been waiting? Specifically, the number of applicants who have been on the list for the following:

- Less than one year
- 1-2 years
- 2-3 years
- 3-4 years
- 4-5 years
- 5-6 years
- 6-7 years
- 7-8 years
- 8-9 years
- 9- 10 years
- More than 10 years

Reply:

**Lifford-Stranorlar MD - Length of time on Waiting List for Social Housing
(1st Preference) as at 29th November 2019**

Time on List	Gross Need - Number of households	%	Net Need - Number of households	%
< 1 Year	91	31.49%	49	41.18%
1 - 2 Years	51	17.65%	24	20.17%
2 - 3 Years	47	16.26%	17	14.29%
3 - 4 Years	39	13.49%	15	12.61%
4 - 5 Years	20	6.92%	2	1.68%
5 - 6 Years	15	5.19%	6	5.04%
6 - 7 Years	12	4.15%	2	1.68%
7 - 8 Years	3	1.04%	0	0.00%
8 - 9 Years	4	1.38%	0	0.00%
9 - 10 Years	1	0.35%	1	0.84%
> 10 Years	6	2.08%	3	2.52%
Total	289	100.00%	119	100.00%

Gross Need represents all approved households on the Waiting List for Social Housing.

Net Need represents all approved households not availing of social housing support in the form of HAP or Rent Supplement.

Approximately 50% of approved households are waiting 2 years or less for social housing.

The above data may be considered in the context that a number of households have received multiple offers of social housing in their areas of preference, but these offers have been refused.

Olive Gillespie
Area Manager
Housing & Corporate
Services
Lifford-Stranorlar Municipal District

02/12/2019

This concluded the business of the Meeting

Cathaoirleach
Municipal District of Lifford-Stranorlar

As agreed at the Lifford-Stranorlar Municipal District Meeting held 21st January 2020.