

**Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Stranorlar held  
11 am, 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2019 in County House, Lifford**

<b>Members Present</b>	Cllr. Patrick McGowan, Cllr. Martin Harley, Cllr. Gerry Crawford, Cllr. Gary Doherty, Cllr Liam Doherty, Cllr. Frank McBrearty.
<b>Officials Present</b>	Joe Peoples, Olive Gillespie, Donna McGroarty, Tony Browne, Claire McGeever, Kathleen McGowan, Simon Harran, Fiona Kelly.

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

## **211 Corporate Services**

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### **211.01 Votes of Sympathy**

Members passed a vote of sympathy on the passing of:

- **Colleague John McBride**, Waterworks Inspector (Letterkenny MD), Kilmacloo, Creeslough.
- **Rose McGill**, mother of Mary Carbery, Housing & Corporate, Dungloe.
- **Paddy Fenny McBride**, brother of Mary Clyde, Community & Enterprise.
- **Angela Bravender (née Devine)**, sister of Pauline McLoughlin, Veterinary Section.
- **Bridie Meehan**, mother of Michael Meehan, Council Secretariat.
- **Kieran Henderson**, son of our retired colleague Jim Henderson.
- **Jasmine McMonagle**, Forest Park, Killygordon.

### **211.02 Confirmation of Minutes of Municipal District of Stranorlar held 28<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

The minutes were approved on the proposal of Cllr. G Crawford and seconded by Cllr. G Doherty.

## **212 Confirmation of Date and Venue for Next Meeting and Business Prescribed by Statute**

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**212.01** It was agreed that the next meetings of Stranorlar Municipal District would be held on **Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019 in the Regional Training Centre, Stranorlar** as follows:

- **Workshop** 09.30 am.
- **Meeting** 10.30 am.

## **213 Consideration of Reports & Recommendations from Services**

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### **213.01 Environmental Services**

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

- Cllr. P McGowan queried when the post of Litter Warden would be filled. Fiona Kelly explained that Martin Burke is currently carrying out this role. It was agreed that a contact number for Martin Burke and a date for the filling of the post would be circulated.
- It was requested that Public Conveniences in Ballybofey & Stranorlar be a standing item on the Agenda.
- Cllr. G Doherty requested an update in relation to the provision of Bring Banks in Castlefinn and requested that this be in place before the commencement of the Tidy Towns Competition. Fiona Kelly agreed to revert back to Cllr. G Doherty on this issue.
- Members expressed their disappointment that although funding has been granted in relation to CFRAMS, staff have not yet been appointed and no works have yet taken place. Joe Peoples explained that interviews for the relevant posts are currently being arranged and staff should be in post by the next meeting.
- Cllr. F McBrearty proposed that the Council take the current littering problem to the Environment SPC and recommended a new policy for littering fines – ‘naming and shaming’. Fiona Kelly explained that there is a process in place to follow up with litter fines, but there are some difficulties in dealing with cross border penalties.
- Cllr. G Crawford highlighted that a clean-up exercise resulted in 3 tonnes of litter being collected while another clean-up resulted in 10 tonnes of litter being collected.
- Members highlighted there is currently an issue in relation to littering on the Ballindrait to Lifford Road, Murlog Road and the recycling point in Stranorlar. Fiona Kelly agreed to revert to the litter team to address issues raised.
- Members wished to commend community groups and the local community for carrying out clean-up exercises.

### **213.02 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 requested approval for the Bridge Strengthening Programme 2019. This was agreed on the proposal of Cllr. P McGowan and seconded by Cllr. L Doherty.
- The Draft Restoration Maintenance 2019 programme will be presented to Members at an upcoming workshop.
- The Restoration Improvements 2019 programme is agreed and a number of schemes are out to tender.
- 3 schemes under the Safety Improvements Works 2019 Programme have been submitted to the Department for approval.

- The Local Improvement Scheme 2019 process is now open. The Scheme is currently being advertised and applications should be submitted by the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019.
- The Bridge Strengthening Programme 2018 has been completed as per the programme as outlined, plus works at Cappry bridge and Cloghan bridge.
- In responses to Members questions, Claire McGeever made the following points:
  - Claire McGeever will revert directly to Cllr. F McBrearty in relation to an issue with footpaths in Raphoe.
  - Sand bunkers have all been topped up and the location of these is on the Council's website.
  - The routes of the Gritting Programme will be agreed via the Roads SPC and Management.
  - The Bridge Strengthening Programme does allow for smaller bridges to be replaced.
  - An update will be requested from the NRDO/RMO Office in relation to the lighting issue at Clady junction.
  - Back lanes, if in private ownership, may be eligible for LIS funding.
  - In response to a request to carry out a realignment study at the Kilross junction, Members were advised that in relation to the Ten-T Project, selection was not yet finalised.
  - Roads Central is trying to identify lands for the provision of a salt barn for the Stranorlar MD.
  - Year one of the Footpath Programme has been adopted. Works on the footpaths at Trusk Road, Ballybofey and Admiran, Stranorlar have not yet commenced due to the ongoing works on the Donegal Road, Ballybofey.
  - An issue in relation to tar lifting at the N14 Drumoghill to Manorcunningham roundabout will be referred to the Letterkenny MD.
  - In relation to a request to change the on-street parking charges in Ballybofey & Stranorlar, Members were advised that this would require changes to by-laws, which is a lengthy process. A review of parking charges will be carried out in 2019 for the county, and the views of Members and of the Chamber of Commerce can be taken into consideration as part of the review process.
  - A request can be sent to the NRO regarding resurfacing part of the Woodlands/ Dooish road and in respect of the provision of ducting for street lighting at this location.

### **213.03 Community & Enterprise**

The update report circulated with the agenda was taken as read.

No questions were raised by Members.

### **213.04 Housing & Corporate Services**

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

- Members were advised that the 21 new houses recently completed at Mullindrait, Stranorlar significantly addressed the 3 and 4 bed need in the Ballybofey and Stranorlar area, with only one property remaining to be let in Mullindrait.
- Members were advised that another meeting with Habinteg, in relation to the proposed development of 20 CAS units and 10 CALF units at Castlefin, has been scheduled for the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019.
- Cllr. G Crawford expressed his frustration at the lack availability of social housing in Lifford. He requested details on the numbers of individuals on the Approved Waiting List. Olive Gillespie agreed to provide this before the next meeting. Joe Peoples confirmed the Council is continually examining housing options for Lifford and this is priority work.
- Cllr. G Doherty requested the number of HAP properties inspected by the Council in 2018 under the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations. Olive Gillespie agreed to provide this before the next meeting.
- Cllr. F McBrearty expressed his concerns in relation to housing stock being sold by the Council in Raphoe. Olive Gillespie explained that the Council is currently examining a number of properties as regards refurbishment or disposal. She added any proposed sales of housing stock would be subject to the approval of the Members. An update will be provided to Members at the next meeting.

### **213.05 Planning Services**

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

- Members were advised that the next Planning Clinic is on the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019 and that all the dates for 2019 are on the Councils website.
- Cllr. G Doherty queried if applications for planning retention are issued to An Bord Pleanála. Simon Harron explained that applications for planning retention should be sent to the respective Planning Authority.
- Cllr. F McBrearty requested a report and a final date of completion with regard to Cathedral Hill, Raphoe.
- Cllr. M Harley queried if works based on an original planning permission need to be complete before another planning application can be considered. Simon Harron explained that an applicant may be granted permission and be conditioned to complete the development, and a bond would be levied.
- Cllr. P McGowan requested that Frank Sweeney attend the next meeting. A report in relation to unfinished estates and derelict buildings within the Stranorlar Municipal District was also requested to be brought to the next meeting.

## 214 Motions

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**214.01** The following Motion was submitted by Cllr. G Doherty:

**Motion:** That the Stranorlar Municipal District convene a meeting between An Garda Síochána and the PSNI to discuss cross border co-operation in the wake of increased criminality in the area in recent months.

**Reply:** When the motion is adopted the Municipal District Secretariat will request An Garda Síochána and the PSNI to a meeting with the Council to discuss cross border co-operation having regard in particular to the increase in criminality in the area.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. L Doherty

## 215 Members Written Questions

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**215.01** The following Question was submitted by Cllr. G Crawford:

**Question:** On how many occasions did this Council receive emergency calls for assistance over the Christmas and New Year holiday period.

**Reply:** In respect of the Fire Service, there were 19 incidents across County Donegal between the 24th December 2018 and the 1st January 2019, both dates inclusive, that required a fire brigade response.

The Housing Service provided emergency cover from the 22nd – 26th December, 2018 (both dates inclusive) and the 1st January, 2019. The details of the calls received are listed below:

Donegal	2
Glenties	1
Letterkenny	4
Stranorlar	1

**215.02** The following Question was submitted by Cllr. G Crawford:

**Question:** What progress has been made in relation to providing much need housing in Lifford.

**Reply:** Donegal County Council are currently examining a number of options to provide social housing in Lifford as part of the Social Housing Investment Programme. Options include; land acquisition, acquisition of vacant properties, acquisition of unfinished properties and house acquisitions. In parallel, Donegal County Council is supporting Approved Housing Bodies to deliver Social Housing.

**215.03** The following Question was submitted by Cllr. G Crawford:

**Question:** When is the footpath restoration works due to begin in the Stranorlar Municipal District.

**Reply:** The three year Footpath and Lighting Programme commenced in 2018 with nine schemes prioritised by Members. Four schemes have been completed including the footpath at Chapel Rd. St. Johnston, the footpath at Regional Road, Convoy, the footpath at Ballinalecky Road, Raphoe and street lights at Convoy Road, Raphoe. A further scheme is commencing this week at Ballindrait Road, Raphoe. Further jobs will commence following the close out of all 2018 works.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

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**Cathaoirleach**  
**Municipal District of Stranorlar**

**As agreed at the Stranorlar MD Meeting held 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019.**