

**MINUTES OF BUDGET MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY
COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNTY HOUSE LIFFORD ON 13th
JANUARY, 2014**

C/35/14

MEMBERS PRESENT

Clrs Ian Mc Garvey, Mayor, Alcorn, Blaney, Boyle, Brogan, Byrne, Campbell, Canning, Crawford, G. Doherty, M. Doherty, P. Doherty, Donaghey, Farren, Gallagher, Harley, Larkin, Mc Brearty, M Mc Bride, N Mc Bride, Mc Eniff, Mc Gowan, Mc Guinness, Murray, O' Domhnaill, O' Neill, Quinn, Ryan and Slowey.

C/36/14

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Seamus Neely, County Manager, Mr Garry Martin, Head of Finance and Director of Emergency Services, Mr Liam Ward, Director Housing and Corporate, Meetings Administrator, Mr Joe Peoples, A/Director Water and Environment, Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads and Transportation, Mr Eunan Quinn A/Director Community, Culture & Planning, Mr Bartley Mc Glynn, Senior Executive Officer, Finance, Ms Anne Marie Conlon, Communications Officer, Ms Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer, Corporate Services.

C/37/14

FILMING IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER

In accordance with Standing order No 29 it was unanimously agreed to suspend Standing Order No 83 so as to allow filming for a brief period in the Council Chamber.

C/38/14

CONSIDERATION OF THE 2014 DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET

The Mayor welcomed Members and the Media to the meeting. On behalf of all Members he extended best wishes to Senator Jimmy Harte who was still in hospital following his recent illness.

Sympathy was extended to the following:

- The Mc Crory Family, Castlefin on the death of Patsy Mc Mc Crory.
- The Mc Cole Family, Killybegs on the death of Kara Mc Cole.
- The family of the late Bridget Mc Gettigan

- The family of the late Clr. Gerry Murray, Gurteen, Co Sligo
- The family of the late Eoin Mc Cann.

As a mark of respect a minutes silence was observed by all present.

C/39/14 CONSIDERATION OF THE 2014 DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET

The Mayor reminded Members of their responsibilities towards the electorate in Donegal. He called on the Meetings Administrator to advise on the status of the proceedings and requested that all filming and recording in the Chamber cease.

Mr Liam Ward, Meetings Administrator advised that the 2014 Budget had not been adopted at the original Budget Meeting on the 18th December, 2013 nor at the subsequent adjournments on the 6th and 7th January, 2014. Referring to the Budget timeframe, he noted, that the adjournments to 6th and 7th January, 2014 were within the 21 day period for adoption as set out in Section 103 of the local Government Act, 2001.

Advice, he confirmed, had been taken regarding the options which existed for the Elected Council prior to the conclusion of the Adjourned Meeting on the 7th January, 2014, and conveyed to Members in the latter stages of that meeting.

On the basis of this advice, Members, he noted, had unanimously agreed to meet again today to consider the 2014 Budget. He drew Members attention to Circular Fin 05/2013 as contained within the Draft Budget Book, which confirmed the prescribed period as extending from the 24th November, 2013 until the 13th January, 2014.

This, he confirmed, was the final day for adopting the Budget and Members in accordance with the advice received, were required to adopt the Budget and all statutory resolutions before 12 midnight.

Failure to adopt same, he stated, would cause Section 216 of the Local Government Act, 2001 to come into play.

He then read into the record the provisions of Section 216 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as outlined below:-

- (1) *The Minister may by order remove from office the members of a local authority if and whenever—*
 - (a) *the Minister, after holding a public local inquiry into the performance by a local authority of its functions, is satisfied that such functions are not being duly and effectually performed, or*
 - (b) *a local authority refuses or neglects to comply with a judgement, order, or decree of any court, or*
 - (c) *a local authority fails to comply with a requirement made by notification under subsection (1) of section 10A, within 21 days after the date of notification, or*
 - (d) *a local authority in the circumstances set out in subsection (6) of section 10A, adopts a revised estimate of expenses which is, in accordance with that section, insufficient, or*
 - (e) *a local authority refuses or wilfully neglects to comply with any other express requirement which is imposed on it by or under any enactment including this Act, or*
 - (f) *the members of a local authority are less in number than the quorum for meetings of such local authority.*

- (2)(a) *Where the members of a local authority are removed from office under this section, every person who immediately before the removal was a member of a linked body within the meaning of [section 220](#) or of any other body and in either case by virtue of being nominated, elected or appointed by such local authority or by virtue of being the Cathaoirleach or by holding any other office or position relating to membership of such authority, shall cease also to be a member of the linked body or other body concerned.*

- (3) *The removal from office of the members of a local authority does not affect or in any way prejudice the continuity of the existence of that local authority as a corporate body by the title appropriate to it under this Act.*

- (4) *An order under subsection (1) may include all such things as the Minister considers necessary or expedient to enable a local authority whose members are removed*

from office to function duly and effectually and generally to enable this Part to have full force and effect.

(5) Without prejudice to [section 20](#) of the [Interpretation Act, 1937](#) , the reference in sections 16 and 17 of the [Local Elections \(Petitions and Disqualifications\) Act, 1974](#) , to Part IV of the [Local Government Act, 1941](#) , shall be read as a reference to this Part.

He advised that if Members failed to adopt the Budget by 12 midnight today, then the Council would be placed in the hands of the Minister, who would then by ministerial order decide the next steps involved.

Clr Mc Brearty enquired as to when the legal advice had been sought and at what time and date the Mayor had been informed of same.

Responding the Meetings Administrator confirmed that the Council Solicitor had been contacted on three occasions on the night of the 7th January, 2014 and that this had been relayed to Members at the first available opportunity.

Clr Mc Brearty asked that every effort be made in future to ensure that legal advice was available to Members in a timely fashion so as to avoid any misunderstanding.

The County Manager informed the meeting that he had been in contact with Irish Water in relation to the Council's request for a meeting. He stated that they had advised of their intention to meet with Councils generally and had indicated the possibility of meeting with Donegal County Council in March 2014.

Contact had been made also with the Department regarding additional funding, he noted, and it was evident that additional funding by way of an increase in the Local Government Fund previously notified would not be forthcoming.

Clr Brogan asked for clarity in relation to the legal advice provided to Members at the Adjourned Meeting on the 7th January, expressing concern that it had been shared with other parties and not presented to the Fianna Fail Grouping.

At this juncture Clr Mc Brearty referred to comments made on Highland Radio by Clr Brogan.

Responding Clr Brogan alluded to the fact that this was not the time and place for such a discussion, and said that he was not going to be intimidated in any way.

The Mayor said there was no question that he would allow anybody to be intimidated, to which Clr Brogan replied that if something was not accurate and true then there was a duty to set the record straight.

Clr Mc Brearty called on Clr Brogan to repeat the allegations and asked that all comments in relation to same be accurately recorded, citing his right to natural justice.

He called on the Mayor to ask Clr Brogan to withdraw his comments regarding the allegation that he had sent threatening e-mails to a Fianna Fail Councillor, and called on Clr Brogan to repeat these allegations in the public domain.

Clr Brogan referred to an e-mail sent to Clr Alcorn from Clr Mc Brearty, and advised that the Fianna Fail Party would not stand for any such intimidation.

Clr Mc Brearty then asked that the e-mail be read into the record. Responding Clr Brogan, indicated that the he was happy with Clr Mc Brearty's acknowledgement that he had sent the e-mail in question.

The Mayor then adjourned the meeting until 12.30pm.

C/40/14

CONSIDERATION OF THE 2014 DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET

On resumption Clr Mc Brearty through the Chair asked Clr Brogan to withdraw his comments.

On the proposal of Clr M Doherty, seconded by, Clr Harley it was resolved to adjourn the meeting for lunch until 2pm

C/41/14 CONSIDERATION OF THE 2014 DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET

The Mayor alluding to the previous discussion advised that he could not allow anything to be read into the record without the consent of the Members.

He urged all concerned to get on with the business of considering the 2014 Draft Budget.

Clr O' Neill noted that there had been no constructive proposals from Fianna Fail and Sinn Fein and that as such the people of Donegal deserved a satisfactory explanation. Irish Water was not something that the Council had any control over and he thus called on all concerned to put on the county jersey and work collectively for the benefit of the citizens of Donegal.

He proposed, seconded by, Clr Boyle that the Party Whips meet to progress the 2014 budget discussions.

The Meetings Administrator referring again to the request to have Clr Mc Brearty's e-mail read into the record, reminded Members of the Mayor's instruction that this could only be done with the consent of all Members.

Clr Brogan objecting to the request, enquired as to whether this was normal practice given that there were other channels for dealing with same.

Clr Mc Brearty said he was prepared to withdraw his request to have the e-mail read into the record of the meeting on the basis that Clr Brogan withdrew his earlier allegations/comments.

Clr Brogan objected to the reading of the e-mail and proposed, seconded by, Clr Mc Eniff that it not be read into the record of the meeting.

A recorded vote was then taken by the Meetings Administrator who asked those in favour of having the e-mail read into the record to vote for the resolution, and those opposed to vote against.

This resulted in 15 voting for, 12 against and 2 abstentions.

Those voting in favour included:-

Clrs Boyle, G. Doherty, M. Doherty, Farren, Gallagher, Harley, Mc Brearty, M. Mc Bride, N. Mc Bride, Mc Guinness, Murray, O' Neill, Quinn, Ryan, and Slowey. (15)

Those voting against included:

Clrs Alcorn, Blaney, Brogan, Byrne, Canning, Crawford, Donaghey, Larkin, Mc Eniff, Mc Garvey, Mc Gowan and O Domhnaill. (12)

Clrs Campbell and P. Doherty abstained.

Clr Mc Brearty read the e-mail of the 11th January, 2014 as forwarded to Clr David Alcorn.

Clr O' Domhnaill said that he believed that he had a right to reply when his name had been mentioned. He said that the e-mail read by Clr Mc Brearty contained a statement in relation to him which had no basis in fact. He asked that the meeting be adjourned so that further clarity could be sought.

C/42/14 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

On the proposal of Clr O' Domhnaill, seconded by Clr Mc Garvey it was resolved to take a 15 minute recess.

C/43/14 CONSIDERATION OF THE 2014 DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET

The Mayor reopening the meeting called on a member of the public present in the public gallery to stop recording the meeting as this was not permitted under Standing Orders No 83.

The Meetings Administrator responding to Clr O' Domhnaill's request for clarification reminded all present that Donegal County Council Meeting Minutes were publically available.

Unhappy with the reply Clr O' Domhnaill asked for confirmation as to the validity of the statement in Clr Mc Brearty's e-mail relating to him.

The Meetings Administrator advised that he had a difficulty in addressing the matter as there was no indication as to what meeting was involved.

Clr O' Domhnaill proposed, seconded by Clr Crawford that in the event the Meetings Administrator, on checking all the relevant Minutes of Council Meetings established that the reference in the e-mail to Clr O' Domhnaill was not supported by the previous minutes, then the reference should not remain as part of the minutes of this meeting.

This was agreed.

Clr Mc Guinness proposed, seconded by Clr Ryan that Members continue with the consideration of the 2014 Draft Revenue Budget.

Clr Brogan returning to the Budget discussion advised that a number of the issues raised by Fianna Fail over the course of the last three meetings had not been addressed namely,

- The consideration of a 5% rate reduction.
- Provision of additional monies for housing maintenance/ retrofit schemes.
- Reinstatement of the Essential Repair and the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme and clarification re national issues affecting same.
- Need to look at NRA allocations and the ability to fund repairs from the Council's own resources.
- Special case needed to be made for rail infrastructure.

He raised concern that there were now 219 staff involved in the Service Level Agreement with Irish Water yet people on the ground were effectively in the dark as to overall service delivery.

There were, he added, specific implications for the County's 350 Group Water Schemes.

Irish Water it was acknowledged was a huge local issue and concern was expressed that they would not be in a position to meet Members until March at least.

He called for immediate action and asked the Minister to intervene in relation to the genuine concerns regarding Irish Water. He said that he did not want to see Donegal County

Council dissolved, but given the lack of clarity and the emerging controversies surrounding Irish Water the Fianna Fail Grouping were not in a position to support the Budget at this time.

He proposed, seconded by Clr Mc Eniff that the matter be put to a vote.

Clrs Farren and M. Mc Bride outlined their support for the Budget. They outlined the need for a common sense approach noting that many of the issues concerning Irish Water were outside the remit of the Council and needed to be thrashed out in other forums.

Clr Mc Guinness accepted that Irish Water was a major stumbling block but warned of the inevitable consequences should the Budget fail to be adopted. There were, he acknowledged serious implications for Council representation on External Bodies, the lack of input into Discretionary Fund allocations etc, thus leading to ineffective representation for the people of Donegal.

Clr Mc Brearty said that he had full confidence in the management of Donegal County Council and called on Sinn Fein together with Independent Councillor John Campbell to support the 2014 Budget consistent with their mandate to represent the citizens of this County.

Clr Campbell advised that considerable time had been wasted and there was still only one proposal on the table and that was to reject the Budget.

He referred to his meeting with the County Manager, the Head of Finance and the Director of Housing & Corporate on the 10th January, 2014 at which he had presented proposals for a reduction in Members Expenses, additional revenue of €300-€350k.

Clr Campbell queried the practical value that a 2% reduction on rates would have on most small businesses in the County. He asked that the increase in the Tourism Development Fund to over €95k be used to actively promote tourism in the County in the absence of the Gathering Initiative. The

creation and maintenance of jobs was also identified as a priority.

He appealed to the County Manager to seek a time extension from Minister Hogan's Department and actively pursue a supplementary allocation from the Local Government Fund.

He thus called on the Fianna Fail Grouping to withdraw their proposal to reject the Budget.

Acknowledging that failure to adopt the Budget would have widespread implications for the administration of the County in general, a number of Members cited the need to get on with budgetary discussions and outlined the necessity of seeking a meeting with Ministers Hogan and Varadakar regarding the possibility of obtaining additional funding.

Clr Quinn said he was of the opinion that the Budget Book offered less services and more taxes coupled with the ongoing impact of reducing staff numbers. There was, he noted, no provision to bring Council Housing Stock up to an acceptable standard and that the issues of Housing Aid for the Elderly and Mobility Aids Grants had not been adequately dealt with. Irish Water, he affirmed, presented many challenges and there were numerous questions still to be answered. He said that Sinn Fein were not in a position to propose any amendments on the basis that it was not possible to balance the 2014 Budget Book.

A lengthy debate ensued with the following issues raised:-

- Concern that the dissolution of the Council would be disastrous for many of the local community groups that depended on DCC funding allocations.
- Clarity requested regarding the distribution of Member funds with the advent of the new Council.
- Need for a fairer rating system and a more equitable means of valuation.
- Normalisation of Rates a priority with new administrative structures.
- No credence had been given to the possibility of a 5% rate reduction.
- Necessity of dealing swiftly with the €781k deficit in the Local Government Fund.

- An audit of deficiencies had not been carried out prior to the takeover by Irish Water.
- There had been a lack of consultation regarding the Irish Water Takeover and that this was another example of the erosion of Local Government powers.
- Water and Sewerage deficiencies across the County and the fact that people in some areas still did not have access to a potable water supply.
- Concern, expressed that, as water usage decreases, prices particularly in times of serious need would increase.
- Reduction in the uptake for Housing Grants and the revision of the relevant criteria.
- Lack of funds and manpower regarding Housing Maintenance and the Retrofit programme.
- Concern expressed that funding for the Sliabh Liag Project would be put in jeopardy if the Council was dissolved.
- Whether Development and DFI Funds would be available to the new Council in June 2014.
- That it would only be possible for the Council to continue with extra investment and funding.
- Lack of improvement in the condition of many of the County's roads with particular emphasis on the Finn Valley Area.
- Outlined the need to stand up for something or fall for everything.
- Issues to be resolved regarding the new Centralised Planning System.
- Ongoing service issues emanating from the reduced staffing structure.
- More work required to fully realise the benefits of the Centralised Contact Centre.

C/44/14

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the proposal of Clr Mc Brearty, seconded by Clr Mc Eniff it was resolved in accordance with Standing Order No 29 to suspend Standing Order No 3 so as to allow the meeting continue beyond 6pm and allow further consideration of the Draft Revenue Budget 2014.

C/45/14

CONSIDERATION OF THE 2014 DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET

The Mayor drew Members attention to Section 27 (Sub Section 2) of the Water Services Bill 2013 and the fact that all public representatives were obliged to strive for a fair and equitable distribution of services.

Clr Mc Brearty proposed , seconded by, Clr Ryan that the meeting be adjourned but after some debate it was agreed to allow the meeting proceed.

Concern was raised that the dissolution of the Council could lead to a loss of political oversight particularly in relation to Donegal County Council's representation on a number of cross-border bodies and committees. It was noted that there were implications also for the Donegal County Development Plan regarding landscape characterisation and variations to the Wind Energy Policy. The impact on the distribution of the DFI Allocations was also noted.

A number of Members expressed the opinion that the dissolution of the Council would result in the diminution of the status of the County and urged all groupings to come together for the betterment of the people of Donegal.

Clr Canning enquired as to whether Donegal County Council would be abolished in the event of the Budget not being adopted , and who would have the responsibility then to agree the Budget for 2014, the Minister or the Commissioner.

Concluding the debate Clr Gallagher advised that she had gone through the Budget Book in detail and could not see how a proposed 2% cut in rates could make any difference to small local enterprises. She outlined the need to find an equitable way of keeping small businesses on track noting that she could not find the source of funding in the Book for the setting up of a Local Improvement Fund in each area. She expressed concern also that Council Housing Policies did not fit the purpose of the Tenants concerned.

The County Manager acknowledged Members concerns advising that the Water Services (No 2) Act had been passed into law effectively transferring the water services function from Local Authorities to Irish Water. With regard to the

next steps, he reminded, Members that they had already been briefed by the Meetings Administrator earlier in the day regarding the provisions of Section 216 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

Members would, he advised, have no say in the proceedings and the Minister could by order remove from office the Members of the Council. He said that he could not speculate on what the Minister might do but that a Commissioner if appointed would carry out the all the reserved functions which previously rested with individual councillors apart from specific exclusions.

He was, he said satisfied that there had been considerable engagement in relation to the budgetary process and that the Council had ample time to consider same. He acknowledged that there were specific technicalities and a number of matters outstanding. Donegal County Council had, it was acknowledged, helped strengthen links with the community at large and had enabled a working environment to allow business succeed.

The assistance of the Members in restructuring Council debt was also applauded. Every effort had been made, he said, to put a fair and equitable budget together. Bringing the discussion to a close, he indicated, that he was available to discuss any further issues that Members might have.

C/46/14 ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

On the proposal of Clr Mc Guinness, seconded by Clr Ryan it was resolved to adjourn the meeting for a short recess.

Clr Brogan proposed, seconded by Clr Mc Eniff that the meeting continue.

Following a short debate it was unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting until 8pm.

C/47/14 ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

On resumption a further adjournment until 8.20pm was proposed by Clr Mc Brearty and seconded by Clr Mc Eniff .

CONSIDERATION OF THE 2014 DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET

Clr O' Neill at this juncture advised that the Fine Gael Party in conjunction with the Labour and Independent Groupings and Independent Councillors J Campbell, M Mc Bride, P Doherty, F. Mc Brearty and Ian Mc Garvey wished to propose the 2014 Budget for Donegal County Council with a zero decrease in commercial rates and subject to the following adjustments:-

1. Tourism & Promotion Funding to be increased by a figure of €250,000.
2. Fund to be introduced for small repair budget for LIS Roads to the sum of €50,000.
3. Increased provision for the purchase of Library Books to the sum of €50,000 for Donegal Library Service.
4. That the same level of funding be available for both the Development Fund Initiative and the Members Development Fund.
5. That the Donegal Brand Initiative be introduced in 2014 to protect Donegal Producers.
6. That the Donegal GAA Centre of Excellence receive an allocation of €25,000.
7. Support be provided for the ongoing Government Review of the Commercial Rates System and a continuation of the Campaign to seek exemptions for small and start-up businesses.
8. That the Home Travel Allowance for Members be reduced by the sum of €5,000.
9. That the Civic Receptions provision be reduced by the sum of €8,000.
10. The provision for Members Conferences abroad to be reduced by €10,000
11. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor's Allowances to be reduced by €16,525.
12. That the SPC Chair Allowance be abolished hence a reduction of €34,000.

The overall adjustment of €375,000 to be financed by maximising the accrual potential on collection accounts therefore aiming to improve on the improvements achieved over the last two years.

Clr Mc Guinness seconded the proposal.

Clr Brogan proposed, seconded by Clr O' Domhnaill that the meeting be adjourned to allow the Fianna Fail Grouping discuss the proposal as presented.

A number of Members called for the vote to proceed.

Clr Larkin said that he was of the opinion under Standing Orders that there needed to be certain clarity as to where the proposals as presented were coming from.

Mr Liam Ward, Meetings Administrator informed Members that the proposals as submitted by Clr O' Neill satisfied the requirements of the Finance Department.

He advised that they now needed to consider (a) the proposals for the adoption of the 2014 Budget as presented by Clr O' Neill and (b) the request for the adjournment as proposed by Clr Brogan.

A recorded vote was taken firstly in relation to Clr Brogan's proposal to adjourn the meeting and allow for further discussion.

This resulted in 14 voting for and 14 voting against.

Those voting in favour included;-

Clrs Alcorn, Blaney, Brogan, Byrne, Canning, Crawford, G. Doherty, Gallagher, Larkin, Mc Eniff, Mc Gowan, Murray, O' Domhnaill and Quinn. (14)

Those voting against included;-

Clrs Boyle, Campbell, M. Doherty, P. Doherty, Farren, Harley, Mc Brearty, M. Mc Bride, N. Mc Bride, Mc Garvey, Mc Guinness, O' Neill, Ryan and Slowey. (14)

Members were informed by the Meetings Administrator that in accordance with Schedule 10,12(1) of the Local Government Act, 2001 that where an equality of votes existed, the matter was to be determined by the second or casting vote of the person chairing the meeting.

At this juncture the Mayor said that he could not support the adjournment of the meeting.

Thus Clr Brogan's motion was defeated by 15 votes to 14

A recorded vote was then taken by the Meetings Administrator in relation to the proposals for the adoption of the 2014 Budget as submitted by the Fine Gael Party in conjunction with the Labour and Independent Groupings and Independent Councillors J Campbell, M Mc Bride, P Doherty, F. Mc Brearty and Ian Mc Garvey

This resulted in 14 voting for and 14 voting against.

Those voting in favour included:-

Clrs Boyle, Campbell, M. Doherty, P. Doherty, Farren, Harley, Mc Brearty, M. Mc Bride, N. Mc Bride, Mc Garvey, Mc Guinness, O' Neill, Ryan and Slowey. (14

Those voting against included:-

Clrs Alcorn, Blaney, Brogan, Byrne, Canning, Crawford, G. Doherty, Gallagher, Larkin, Mc Eniff, Mc Gowan, Murray, O' Domhnaill and Quinn. (14)

Members were informed by the Meetings Administrator that in accordance with Schedule 10,12(1) of the Local Government Act, 2001 that where an equality of votes existed, the matter was to be determined by the second or casting vote of the person chairing the meeting.

Using his casting vote the Mayor voted in favour of the resolution to adopt the 2014 Budget for Donegal County Council.

The Meetings Administrator read the text of the resolution in relation to the adoption of the 2014 Budget to the meeting:-

“That Donegal County Council hereby adopt for the Financial year ended 31st December, 2014, the Budget set out in the amended Tables A and B, resulting in an Annual Rate in the Valuation of €69.70 as shown in Table A and the Budget of money demanded for the Town of Ballyshannon

as set out in Table C resulting in an Annual Rate in Valuation of €3.57 as shown in Column 7 of Table C”

It was subsequently proposed by Clr Boyle and seconded by Clr M. Mc Bride.

A recorded vote was then taken by the Meetings Administrator resulting in 14 voting for and 14 voting against.

Those voting in favour included;-

Clrs Boyle, Campbell, M. Doherty, P. Doherty, Farren, Harley, Mc Brearty, M. Mc Bride, N. Mc Bride, Mc Garvey, Mc Guinness, O’ Neill, Ryan and Slowey. (14)

Those voting against included;-

Clrs Alcorn, Blaney, Brogan, Byrne, Canning, Crawford, G. Doherty, Gallagher, Larkin, Mc Eniff, Mc Gowan, Murray, O’ Domhnaill and Quinn. (14)

The Mayor in accordance with Schedule 10 12(1) of the Local Government Act, 2001 exercised his casting vote and thus the 2014 Budget was adopted by 15 votes to 14.

C/49/14

DETERMINATION IN ANNUAL RATE IN VALUATION

The Meetings Administrator read the text of the resolution in to the meeting as set out below:-

“That Donegal County Council hereby determine, in accordance with the Budget now adopted, the rates set out in

Table A	=	€69.70
Column (7) of Table C	=	€3.57

To be the Annual Rate in Valuation to be levied for the year ended 31st December, 2014 for the purpose set out in Table A and in Table C”

It was duly proposed by Clr P. Doherty and seconded by Clr. M. Doherty.

A recorded vote was then taken by the Meetings Administrator resulting in 14 voting for and 14 voting against.

Those voting in favour included;-

Clrs Boyle, Campbell, M. Doherty, P. Doherty, Farren, Harley, Mc Brearty, M. Mc Bride, N. Mc Bride, Mc Garvey, Mc Guinness, O' Neill, Ryan and Slowey. (14)

Those voting against included;-

Clrs Alcorn, Blaney, Brogan, Byrne, Canning, Crawford, G. Doherty, Gallagher, Larkin, Mc Eniff, Mc Gowan, Murray, O' Domhnaill and Quinn. (14)

The Mayor in accordance with Schedule 10 12(1) of the Local Government Act, 2001 exercised his casting vote and the motion was thus adopted by 15 votes to 14.

C/50/14

COUNTY CHARGE

The Meetings Administrator read the text of the resolution to the meeting, as set out below.

“That the sums set forth hereunder be demanded from the Town Councils by way of County Charge for the services of the year ended 31st December, 2014”

Buncrana	€355,944
Bundoran	€384,000
Letterkenny	€2,200,000

It was subsequently proposed by Clr. Mc Guinness and seconded by Clr. Ryan.

A recorded vote was then taken by the Meetings Administrator resulting in 14 voting for and 14 voting against.

Those voting in favour included;-

Clrs Boyle, Campbell, M. Doherty, P. Doherty, Farren, Harley, Mc Brearty, M. Mc Bride, N. Mc Bride, Mc Garvey, Mc Guinness, O' Neill, Ryan and Slowey. (14)

Those voting against included;-

Clrs Alcorn, Blaney, Brogan, Byrne, Canning, Crawford, G. Doherty, Gallagher, Larkin, Mc Eniff, Mc Gowan, Murray, O' Domhnaill and Quinn. (14)

The Mayor in accordance with Schedule 10 12(1) of the Local Government Act, 2001 exercised his casting vote and the motion was thus adopted by 15 votes to 14.

C/50a/14

CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

A lengthy debate took place during which it was acknowledged that there were many issues to be followed up on and progressed in the weeks and months ahead.

The County Manager thanked Members for their engagement in the process noting that a collective effort was required to ensure effective service delivery. He welcomed the decision to adopt the Budget noting that it would allow the Council as a body to move forward in the interest of the common good.

He thanked the Senior Management Team, and Council Staff for their efforts over the past year including all those involved in the 2014 Budget preparations. The contribution of Mr Bartley Mc Glynn, Senior Executive Officer was also acknowledged.

The extensive coverage provided by the Media was also acknowledged.

This concluded the business of the meeting.