

29th July, 2014

TO ALL MEMBERS OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL
--

The Adjourned July Meeting of Donegal County Council, will be held on Thursday 31st July, 2014, at 2.00pm, in the County House, Lifford to consider the unfinished business listed at Items:-

12 and 13.

Please ensure that you bring the agenda previously distributed to the meeting.

Meetings Administrator

MINUTES OF ADJOURNED JULY MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY
COUNCIL, HELD IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD ON 31st JULY,
2014

C/400/14 MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr J Campbell (Cathaoirleach), E Bonner, C Brogan, P Canning, T Conaghan, G Crawford, N Crossan, A Doherty, G Doherty, L Doherty, R Donaghey, M Farren, M T Gallagher, M Harley, J Kavanagh, N Kennedy, M C Mac Giolla Easbuig, M McBride, J P McDaid, I Mc Garvey, P McGowan, G Mc Monagle, J Murray, S O'Domhnaill, J O'Donnell, J S O'Fearraigh, M Quinn, J Ryan, and T Slowey.

C/401/14 OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Seamus Neely, County Manager, Mr Liam Ward, Director of Housing and Corporate, Meetings Administrator, Mr Michael Heaney, Director of Community Culture & Planning, Ms Eileen Burgess, County Librarian, Mr Stephen Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer, Mr Simon Harron, Executive Planner. Ms Colette Beattie, Assistant Planner, Ms Eileen Burgess, County Librarian, Ms Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer, Corporate Services.

C/402/14 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Jordan, Mc Brearty, Mc Eniff, and Mc Guinness who were unable to attend the meeting.

C/403/14 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Draft Ministerial Direction on Variation No. 2 to the Donegal County Development Plan 2012-2018 (as varied)

The Cathaoirleach alluded to the decision taken at the July Council Meeting in respect of the Member's response to the Draft Ministerial Direction on Variation No 2. He asked Members if they were happy with the draft summary document circulated on the 30th July, 2014 (Vide Appendix 1), noting that this together with the submission drafted previously in relation to the Draft Wind Energy Guidelines would form the collective response from the Members of Donegal County Council.

It was generally acknowledged that the decision by the Council in relation to Variation No 2 had not been taken lightly, and that Members had taken heed of the issues raised through the public consultation process.

There was concern that some Members had not had the opportunity to contribute to the debate at the previous meeting and that their

contribution was essential if a comprehensive submission was to be made.

It was acknowledged that further elaboration was needed in relation to a number of the issues raised.

The Cathaoirleach responding to Members requests, advised that, each Cllr would be given the opportunity to amend or add to his/her submission as contained in the summary document circulated on the 30th July. He advised that a decision was required also in relation to the relevant preamble.

Members proceeded to advise in relation to the accuracy of their submission's and a number of amendments and additions were made to the summary document.

It was thus agreed that the responses provided would be collated and presented to Members for approval later in the meeting.

C/404/14 MOTION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS

On the proposal of Clr Ryan, seconded by Clr McGowan, it was resolved in accordance with Section 45 of the local Government Act, 2001 to continue with the meeting in committee. At the request of the Cathaoirleach, members of the media present vacated the chamber.

C/405/14 ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

On the proposal of Clr McGarvey, seconded by Clr McBride, it was resolved to adjourn the meeting until 5.10pm.

C/406/14 MOTION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS- DUNGLOE LIBRARY

The Cathaoirleach referred to the earlier discussion in committee and advised that the motion under urgent business in relation to the above had been withdrawn.

C/407/14 MOTION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS - GAZA

Cllr G Doherty introducing the motion referred to the growing number of casualties in Gaza and said he was appalled at the senseless bombing of schools, hospitals etc and the murder of innocent men, women and children. He expressed concern at some comments in the local media regarding the Council's consideration of the matter. It would, he said be morally wrong for Donegal County Council to stand back and do nothing.

The Irish people, he said, were clearly of the view that what was happening in Gaza was wrong.

Concern was expressed also in relation Ireland's abstention at the recent UN vote on Gaza. This motion, he confirmed, was intended to send a message of solidarity to the Palestinian People.

Thus on the proposal of Cllr G Doherty, seconded by Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig, the following motion was adopted;-

“That Donegal County Council expresses its solidarity with the besieged Palestinian people and condemns the current atrocities in Gaza. It calls on the Government to send a clear and unequivocal diplomatic message to Israel that these acts of war are against international law and to request an immediate ceasefire. It also calls on the Government to expel the Israeli Ambassador to Ireland until all hostilities are ended, unilateral peace talks are entered into and the human rights of the Palestinian people are respected, and also criticises the Irish Government's stance in abstaining from the UN vote.”

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig also expressed his dissatisfaction with Ireland's abstention from the UN vote noting that every effort had been made to impose sanctions on Russia but that nothing had been done to stop the silent murder in Gaza. He was critical also of the fact that not all Members had signed the motion.

Cllr Murray outlined his support and called for-

1. The boycotting of Israeli goods.
2. A copy of the motion to be circulated for the attention of the Israeli Ambassador.
3. A Book of Condolences to be opened.

It was agreed that all Local Authorities be informed of Donegal County Council's endorsement of the motion and that they be formally requested to consider same.

Clr Slowey said he was of the opinion that additional wording needed to be added and that this should reflect the fact that Hamas needed to stop firing rockets into Israel. He would, he confirmed, make the Minister for Foreign Affairs aware of the views expressed in the Chamber and ask him to make it clear that the indiscriminate killing of civilians was not acceptable.

Members were supportive of the motion and a number outlined the need also for Hamas to stop using civilians as human shields. It was suggested that a copy of the motion be forwarded also for the attention of the US Ambassador. It was thus resolved on the proposal of Cllr Mc Giolla Easbuig , seconded by Cllr Quinn to extend the motion as follows:-

“To call on the people of Donegal to boycott Israeli goods and that any national investment in Israel is withdrawn by the Irish Government.

That the Palestinian Ambassador be officially welcomed by Donegal County Council on his visit to the County on the 14th August, 2014.”

Cllr G Doherty concluding the debate agreed to amend the motion thus providing for the circulation of the motion to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Israeli Ambassador, the US Ambassador and to all other Local Authorities.

A show of hands was taken by the Meetings Administrator and the motion amended as follows:-

“That Donegal County Council expresses its solidarity with the besieged Palestinian people and condemns the current atrocities in Gaza. It calls on the Government to send a clear and unequivocal diplomatic message to Israel that these acts of war are against international law and to request an immediate ceasefire. It also calls on the Government to expel the Israeli Ambassador to Ireland until all hostilities are ended, unilateral peace talks are entered into and the human rights of the Palestinian people are respected, and also criticises the Irish Government’s stance in abstaining from the UN vote and that the people of Donegal boycott Israeli goods and that any national investment in Israel is withdrawn by the Government.

It was agreed also to circulate a copy of the motion to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Israeli Ambassador, the US Ambassador, and all other Local Authorities.

Members agreed to extend an official welcome to the Palestinian Ambassador on his visit to the County on the 14th August, 2014.”

Cllr Doherty thanked all who had supported the motion , affirming that the plight of the Palestinian people was more than just a political issue and that something needed to be done immediately on humanitarian grounds.

C/408/14 CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Draft Ministerial Direction on Variation No. 2 to the Donegal County Development Plan 2012-2018 (as varied)

Members considered the amended summary as requested earlier in the meeting. (Vide Appendix 2)

On the proposal of Cllr Kennedy, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was resolved that the following be inserted as the preamble to the submission from the Members of Donegal County Council regarding the Draft Ministerial Direction in relation to Variation No 2 to the Donegal County Development Plan 2012 to 2018 (as varied):-

“The Members of Donegal County Council have taken regard to the notice of intent to issue a direction relating to the Donegal County Development Plan 2012-2018 (as varied). The points discussed have been summarised below by way of a submission from the Elected Council of Donegal.

The Members expressed their dissatisfaction at the fact that the Minister and the Department are not prepared to accept the democratic wishes of the Elected Council and indeed the Donegal public through the vote on the variation which was taken on 30th June, 2014.

Below are the sentiments expressed by the respective Councillors of Donegal County Council.”

Cllr O’ Domhnaill proposed, seconded by Cllr Quinn that the summary as circulated inclusive of the preamble agreed above, together with submission circulated in respect of the Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006 be forwarded as the Members of Donegal County Council’s response to the Draft Ministerial Direction on Variation No 2 to the Donegal County Development Plan 2013-2018 as varied.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

