

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE DHUN NA nGALL**

Oifig Riarthóir na gCruinnithe  
Aras an Chontae  
LEIFEAR  
22 Aibreán 2014

Beidh Cruinniú Comhairle Chontae Dhún na nGall ar siúl Dé Luain 28 Aibreán, 2013, ag **11.00 r.n. in Áras an Chontae, Leifear**

**DO GACH BHALL DEN CHOMHAIRLE**

**A Chara**

Iarrtar ort a bheith i láthair ag an chruinniú seo den Chomhairle. Ta Clár an chruinnithe le seo.

Beidh Clár Orduithe an Bhainisteora Contae le feiceáil ag an gcruinniú.

**Mise, le meas**

**Liam Mac a'Bhaird  
Riarthóir Cruinnithe**

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**DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

Office of Meetings Administrator  
County House  
Lifford  
22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2014

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

A Meeting of Donegal County Council will be held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2014, at **11.00 am in the County House, Lifford.**

**TO EACH MEMBER OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Dear Councillor**

You are summoned to attend this meeting of the Council. The Agenda is attached.

The Register of County Manager's Orders will be available for inspection at the meeting.

**Yours sincerely**

**Liam Ward  
Meetings Administrator**

## AGENDA

### **1. Confirmation of Minutes**

- a) Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2014.
- b) Confirmation of Minutes of the Adjourned March Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2014.

### **2. Disposal of Land – Section 211 Planning and Development Act, 2000**

- a) Notice under Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 – to dispose of a Specific Instance Cottage located at Altclough, Meenaneary, Carrick, Co Donegal to Mr Oliver Kennedy, Meenaneary, Carrick, Co Donegal.
- b) Notice under Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 – to dispose of land at the IDA Business and Technology Park, Ballyraine to Zeus Industrial Products (Ireland) Ltd.

### **3. Taking of decision pursuant to Planning & Development Act, 2000 (Part XI), and Planning & Development Regulations, 2001 (Part 8).**

To approve the carrying out of construction of an Adult Fitness Area and Community Poly Tunnel area along with associated works at Barrack Hill, Carndonagh in the Townland of Churchland Quarters.

### **4. Finance**

- a) To approve actual gross expenditure figure of €131,765,707 on Table 2 Page 2 when compared to the revised Budget of €135,769,510 Budget as amended by a net decrease in funding received for 2013 for all Divisions in accordance with sub section 7 of Section 104 of the Local Government Act, 2001.
- b) To consider the Three Year Capital Programme for Donegal County Council for the period 2014 – 2016 inclusive.
- c) To consider and note report on Irrecoverable County Rates 2013.

### **5. Community, Culture and Enterprise**

- a) To approve the amended Donegal County Museum Collection Policy.
- b) To approve the amended Disposal Policy for the Donegal County Museum.
- c) To approve the amended Donegal County Museum Loan Policy.
- d) To note update report on Donegal Gathering 2013/Slogadh Dhun na nGall 2013.(To be circulated)

## **6. Authorisation of representation at a Seminar, Meeting or Event**

Authorisation of representation at a seminar, meeting or event under Section 142 (5) of Local Government Act, 2001, S.I. No 668 of 2006, Local Government (Expenses of Local Authority Members) Regulations 2006, S.I. No 37 of 2010, Guidelines given by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in relation to the Local Government Act, 2001 (Section 142) Regulations 2010:-

- 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Laurentic Conference – Technology, a People and the Ocean to be held Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2014 at the Inishowen Gateway Hotel, Buncrana, Co Donegal.
- The Institute of Professional Training – Training Seminar ‘Getting your Vote out’ (Final Ballot Box to Council Chamber Module) to be held from Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2014 at the Mount Errigal Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.
- Ace Training – Retirement Entitlements and Taxation Benefits for Councillors to be held from Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2014 at the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co Louth.
- Elected Member’s Training Seminar – Service Provision in Local Authorities to be held Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2014 at the Connacht Hotel, Old Dublin Road, Galway City.
- Training Seminar – River Flooding and Management Issues to be held from Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2014 in the Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny.
- Ace Training – Waste Management Legislation – Responsibilities of Local Authorities in disposing and recycling Electrical and Electronic Equipment at the Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co Cork.
- Training Seminar for Councillors – Reformed Local Government and the Councillor to be held Friday 9<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2014 at the Millrace Hotel, Bunclody, Co Wexford.
- Training Seminar – Managing Change in Local Government to be held Friday 9<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2014 in the Quality Hotel, Killarney, Co Kerry.

## **7. Conference Reports**

### **Clr David Alcorn**

LAMA Spring Seminar held Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January and Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2014 in the Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan.

### **Clr Terence Slowey**

25<sup>th</sup> Clare Tourism Conference held Friday 21<sup>st</sup> and Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2014 at the Falls Hotel, Ennistymon.

### **Clr David Alcorn**

25<sup>th</sup> Clare Tourism Conference held Friday 21<sup>st</sup> and Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2014 at the Falls Hotel, Ennistymon.

8. **Reception of Deputation**

Reception of Deputation from MICA Action Group. (3pm)

9. **Mayor's Business**

10. **Manager's Report**

**QUESTIONS**

- (L) Local
- (C) County
- (O) Other

**DONEGAL ELECTORAL AREA**

**Community Culture & Enterprise**

11. **Clr O' Neill**

What are the plans to improve the current Library Service in Ballyshannon? (L)

12. **Clr O' Neill**

Will Donegal County Council immediately erect tourism signage on the main approach roads along By-Pass at Ballyshannon Mart Junction, approaching the Erne Roundabout at Coolcholly and approaching Beleek Road Roundabout at B& B Ireland Headquarters signalling the following?

Welcome to Ballyshannon - Co Donegal Heritage Town (L)

**Roads and Transportation**

13. **Clr O' Neill**

Will Donegal County Council amend the on-street Car Parking Pay and Display charges in Ballyshannon, by permitting the first hour free of charge as and from the 3rd June, 2014? (L)

MINUTES OF APRIL MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL,  
HELD IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD ON 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2014

C/254/14 MEMBERS PRESENT

Clrs I Mc Garvey, Mayor, D Alcorn, L Blaney, J Boyle, C Brogan, B Byrne, J Campbell, P Canning, G Crawford, G Doherty, M. Doherty, Pdraig Doherty, R. Donaghey, M Farren, M T Gallagher, M Harley, D Larkin, F Mc Brearty, M McBride, N Mc Bride, S McEniff, P McGowan, B McGuinness, J Murray, S O'Domhnaill, B O'Neill, M Quinn, J Ryan, and T Slowey.

C/255/14 OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Seamus Neely, County Manager, Mr Liam Ward, Director of Housing and Corporate, Meetings Administrator, Mr John McLaughlin, Director of Roads & Transportation, Mr Garry Martin, Head of Finance & Director of Emergency Services, Mr Joe Peoples, A/Director of Water & Environment, Mr Michael Heaney, Director of Community Culture & Planning, Mr Bartley McGlynn, Senior Executive Officer, Ms Judith McCarthy, Museum Curator, Ms Ann Marie Conlon, Communications Officer, Ms Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer, Corporate Services.

C/256/14 ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

On the proposal of Clr Donaghey, seconded by Clr Ryan, it was resolved to adjourn the Meeting in order to complete the Workshop on Local Government Reform.

C/257/14 USE OF SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION HEADSETS AT MEETINGS

Mr. Liam Ward, Meetings Administrator informed Members that the simultaneous interpretation service would be utilised for Item No 5 as part of the Council's ongoing commitment to the Donegal County Council Language Scheme 2014-2017

Clr Mc Gowan was informed that it would not be possible to deal with Item No 8 any earlier in the meeting as the group in question would not be in attendance until 2.45pm.

C/258/14 TAKING OF A DECISION WITH REGARD TO THE CARRYING OUT OF CONSTRUCTION OF AN ADULT FITNESS AREA AND COMMUNITY POLY TUNNEL AREA ALONG WITH ASSOCIATED WORKS AT BARRACK HILL,

CARNDONAGH IN THE TOWNLAND OF CHURCHLAND QUARTERS

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda, in relation to the above.

On the proposal, of Clr McGuinness, seconded by Clr Donaghey, the carrying out of works under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended) with regard to the carrying out of construction of an adult fitness area and Community Poly Tunnel area along with associated works at Barrack Hill, Carndonagh in the Townland of Churchland Quarters was approved.

- C/259/14 PHOTOGRAPH OF THE CURRENT COUNCIL  
Clr Donaghey proposed, seconded by Clr M Mc Bride that a photograph of the current Council be taken at 1pm in front of the Road Design Office.
- C/260/14 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH, 2014  
On the proposal of Clr McGowan, seconded by, Clr McBrearty, the Minutes of Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2014 were confirmed.
- C/261/14 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF ADJOURNED MARCH MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2014  
On the proposal of Clr McGowan, seconded by, Clr M McBride the Minutes of Adjourned March Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2014 were confirmed.
- C/262/14 DISPOSAL OF SPECIFIC INSTANCE COTTAGE LOCATED AT ALT CLOUGH, MEENANEARY, CARRICK, CO DONEGAL TO MR OLIVER KENNEDY, MEENANEARY, CARRICK, CO DONEGAL  
Members considered the report circulated with agenda, in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Clr Byrne, seconded by, Clr Boyle , it was resolved to formally dispose of Specific Instance Cottage, at Altclough, Meenaneary, Carrick, Co Donegal to Mr Oliver

Kennedy, Meenanery, Carrick, Co Donegal, in accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

C/263/14 DISPOSAL OF LAND AT THE IDA BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY PARK, BALLYRAINE TO ZEUS INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS (IRELAND) LTD

Members considered the report circulated with agenda, in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Clr Brogan, seconded by, Clr N. McBride, it was resolved to formally dispose of land at the IDA Business and Technology Park, Ballyraine, Letterkenny to Zeus Industrial Products (Ireland) Ltd, in accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

C/264/14 TO APPROVE THE ACTUAL GROSS EXPENDITURE FIGURE OF €131,765,707 ON TABLE 2 PAGE 2 WHEN COMPARED TO THE REVISED BUDGET OF €135,769,510 BUDGET AS AMENDED BY A NET DECREASE IN FUNDING RECEIVED FOR 2013 FOR ALL DIVISIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUB SECTION 7 OF SECTION 104 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above. Mr Garry Martin, Head of Finance and Emergency Services outlined the main aspects of his report, and provided an overview of the gross income and expenditure figures for each Directorate in 2013. He noted that Section 104, Part 12 of the Local Government Act, 2001 required Local Authorities to seek the authorisation of the Elected Council whenever the approved budget was to be exceeded. To this end, he confirmed that the income and expenditure out-turn for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2013 displayed a dis-improvement of €693,591 for the local financial year. The adjustment, he added, meant that the Council's Revenue deficit had increased to €17, 796,835 at the end of 2013 as compared to €17,103,244 at the end of 2012. The County Manager informed Members that the outturn was reasonably good despite the difficulties experienced in 2012 and despite the fact that a considerable number of bad debts had proved uncollectable due to the large number of failing businesses.

He alluded to the considerable amount of work done since then in this field and the fact that the €693,591 deficit was only a fraction of what could have materialised.

It was anticipated, he said, that as a result of this excellent ground work, that 2014 expenditure would be within the adopted budget and every effort made to ensure this happens.

Clr Mc Guinness alluded to the excellent work carried out by the County Manager, the Head of Finance, and his team noting that Members who had predicted a €7million deficit had been simply scaremongering. He welcomed the fact that the new Council would not have to carry any major shortfall.

Clr Gallagher stated however that the deficit was in fact increasing year on year and that the result had been reduced service delivery particularly in the Roads and Housing Directorates. Frontline services, Clr Gallagher added, had been particular badly affected.

Members welcome the report and raised a number of issues namely-

- Clarification as to when the Income and Expenditure Report for the Town Councils would be made available. Data requested also in relation their existing assets, liabilities and loan requirements.
- Provisions being made to deal with bad and doubtful debt.
- The need for information in relation to insurance claims pertaining to the County's roads network.
- Concern that the Council was not on a level playing field with the Voluntary Housing Agencies.
- Outlined the need to make the general public aware of the new NPPR Penalty Charges, particularly for those who failed to pay outstanding monies by the 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2014.
- This was an opportune time to highlight funding deficiencies and lobby for the retention of all motor tax monies in the County.
- The lack of funding in the Stranorlar Electoral Area particularly in the Housing and Roads Directorates.
- That tenants who are willing assist the Council in providing for their own accommodation needs should be allowed to do so in order to reduce the Housing Waiting List.



- Funding needed for the development of Play Parks.
- The demise of funding for Public Lighting, LIS and SI Schemes, it was noted, had also severely impacted on the County.
- Request for financial briefing to be made as soon as possible to the incoming Council.
- Highlighted the need to address the needs of the electorate going forward.
- Major challenges ahead in relation Irish Water.

Clr Mc Brearty proposed, seconded by Clr Mc Garvey that the relevant Government Departments be contacted in relation to providing additional funding for Roads and Housing Services in Donegal.

Clr O' Neill expressed his disappointment in relation to some elements of the debate. Acknowledging all who had supported the 2014 Budget, he proceeded to chide those who now complained about lack of funding. They had, he said, not engaged in, or put forward any constructive proposals at budget time.

Concluding the debate, the County Manager, informed Members that there would be early engagement with the new Council regarding the Town Council assets and budgetary requirements. He stated that there had not been one days overdraft since the 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2011 and that all of the liabilities of the Council that had to be met in 2013 had been met. The 2014 Budget, it was acknowledged, made sufficient provision for bad and doubtful debt into 2014.

A financial update, he said, would be provided to the new Council.

Thus on the proposal of Clr Mc Guinness, seconded by Clr. Farren, it was resolved that the actual gross expenditure figure of €131,765, 707 on Table 2, Page 2 when compared to the Revised Budget of €135,769,510 Budget as amended by a net increase in funding received for 2013) for all Divisions in accordance with Subsection 7 of Section 104 of the Local Government Act, 2001 was approved.

C/265/14

CONSIDERATION OF THE THREE YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL FOR THE PERIOD 2014 – 2016 INCLUSIVE

Members were informed that there had been a printing error in the report circulated with the agenda with a number of pages in the main body of the report appearing blank. The corrected version was circulated prior to consideration of the item.

On the proposal of Clr Gallagher, seconded by Clr Brogan it was resolved that the Three Year Capital Programme for Donegal County Council for the period 2014-2016 be deferred for consideration by the new Council.

C/266/14 ADJOURNMENT FOR LUNCH

It was unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting for lunch. Members were informed that the group photograph would be taken at 2.15pm prior to the recommencement of the meeting.

C/267/14 MOTION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS

A request signed by Clrs O' Domhnaill, Byrne, Brogan, Mc Eniff, Crawford, Larkin, Canning, Murray, G Doherty, Gallagher, and McBrearty to have the following motion discussed as urgent business in accordance with Standing Order No 28 was submitted to the Meetings Administrator:-

“That this Council discuss and submit a submission to the Commission for Energy Regulation in regards to the documents which are currently out for public consultation, namely the water charges plan and customer protection phase 1.”

It was unanimously agreed to consider same prior to the close of business.

C/268/14 CONSIDERATION AND NOTING OF THE REPORT ON IRRECOVERABLE COUNTY RATES 2013

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

Mr Garry Martin, Head of Finance outlined the main aspects of his report which had been circulated in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government (Financial Procedures & Audit) Regulations 2002.

Concern was expressed in relation to the new vacancy regulation charges for vacant commercial properties. These it was suggested would ultimately result in the de-selection of property.

Clarity was requested also in relation to the payment of outstanding rates and the fact that the owner of a relevant property would now be liable for a charge equivalent to no more than two years of the outstanding rates due from the previous occupier or occupiers. It was noted that there were implications also in terms of the base year adjustment period particularly for towns like Letterkenny.

A number of Members expressed concern that the rating system did not provide for any distinction between large multi-national enterprises and small medium sized businesses

Calls were made for the introduction of a support system particularly for business enterprises in rural areas together with the initiation of a two tier rate system based on annual turnover.

Members acknowledged the excellent work carried out by the Income Support Unit under the direction of Ms Patricia Mc Intyre.

Mr Garry Martin, Head of Finance, stated that, there were challenges ahead particularly in terms of the implementation of the new regulations. As a result, he said, a number of workshops would be held in order to brief the new Council in June and July of this year. Concluding the debate, he confirmed, that there would be a review of rates carried out in due course and that any anomalies that existed would be ironed out at that stage.

Clr Mc Guinness asked that an update be provided in relation to the top ten rate demands in the County.

C/269/14 VARIATION IN THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

On the proposal of Clr Mc Gowan, seconded by Clr Mc Guinness it was resolved to vary the order of business and deal with Item 8 at this juncture.

C/270/14 RECEPTION OF DEPUTATION FROM MICA ACTION GROUP

The Mayor welcomed Mr William Mc Elhinney, Chairperson, Ms Debbie Mc Daid, PRO, and Mr Philip Mc Daid , Treasurer of the MICA Action Group to the meeting.

The Members of the delegation introduced themselves to the Meeting and giving a brief outline of their respective roles in the MICA Action Group.

Mr William Mc Elhinney, Chairman informed Members that the MICA Action Group consisted of a number of Donegal homeowners who had come together following observation of unusual and severe cracking patterns to their homes. Engagement with structural engineers, it was established, had confirmed, that these were legitimate concerns and due to defective blocks. The group, he said, was essentially looking for redress for all houses affected by defective blocks in County Donegal.

A substance named Muscovite Mica, he said, had been found to be a contributory factor along with inter alia, low cement content, fine stone, high water content, in the degradation of concrete blocks used to build houses in the County.

There were, he said, many incidences of web/map-like cracking and vertical cracks near corners in houses affected by the problem. This cracking, it was noted, had the potential to cause structural failure to dwellings and posed a significant Health and Safety risk to owners and tenants.

Mr Mc Elhinney, said that the houses affected had been built from the year 2000 onwards, though some constructed from the 1980s onwards had also displayed evidence of cracking.

The situation, he noted, was becoming unbearable for many homeowners, as there were now genuine safety and health concerns, further compounded by the fact that the homes in question could not now be sold.

It was noted that the houses could also not be used a equity and that the homeowners in question had been refused building /public liability insurance something which was causing severe mental and emotional stress.

The Group thus requested the following -

- That Donegal County Council engage fully with the MICA Group in the development of a Donegal County Council led strategy to address this issue at local and national level.
- That all public representatives strived to progress the matter in an expedient manner and efficient manner.
- The adoption and implementation of the relevant recommendations of the Pyrite Panel in dealing with the mica problem.

- That Council Engineers liaise with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government together with Engineers from the Pyrite Panel to formulate a solution to the crisis.
- The Council make every effort to use its resources and influence to determine the extent of the problem in Donegal.

The delegation outlined in detail their own personal experiences in dealing with and coping with the MICA problem.

Members welcomed the informative and emotional presentation with a number outlining the need for some form of redress system. The need for collective lobbying on behalf of all groupings in the chamber was noted.

Clr Mc Brearty enquired as to whether legal proceedings had been initiated, stating that it was clear that the State had failed the homeowners in question.

Clr M. Doherty cited the need to lobby the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government with regard to finding a solution to the problem.

A number of Members were of the opinion that a singular approach was necessary whether through some form of redress or alternatively going down the legal route.

Queries were raised also in relation to Council owned housing and whether or not the problem had surfaced in any of these dwellings.

Members enquired as to whether or not the problem was confined to one geographical area or to one specific supplier and as to whether or not there was one specific common denominator causing the problem. They advised of the need to find the best way forward.

Responding to a number of queries Mr Mc Elhinney said that any long term solution needed to be Government led. The problem, he added, was not specific to Inishowen. It was acknowledged that this was a particularly emotive issue and that many of those affected were no longer able to obtain house insurance.

The Group, he confirmed, had to date adopted a restrained approach. However failure to acknowledge and deal with the matter at this juncture, he said, warranted a more high profile approach and concerted media campaign.

A dedicated plan of action was urgently needed, he added, and thus called on the Elected Members to back the group's efforts and adopt a co-ordinated response in dealing with the matter.

With regard to pursuing the matter legally, it was acknowledged that there were complex legal issues involved and that some form of redress was the major priority at this stage.

C/271/14 MOTIONS UNDER URGENT BUSINESS

The Meetings Administrator advised that he had received two further submissions under urgent business but as they had been received after the 4pm deadline specified in Standing Order 28, they could not be accepted. It was intended, he said, to proceed prior to the close of business with the Motion which had been received under urgent business earlier in the meeting.

The Mayor advised that it would not be possible to deviate from normal protocol.

C/272/14 CLUASÁIN ATEANGAIREACHTA CHOMHUAINIGH A ÚSÁID AG CRUINNITHE

Cuireadh in iúl do na Comhaltaí go mbeadh Míreanna 5(a), 5 (b) , 5(c) agus 5(d) á bplé i nGaeilge . Thug Seán Ó Daimhín, Oifigeach Forbartha na Gaeilge, cur síos ar an dóigh leis na cluasáin ateangaireachta chomhuainigh a úsáid. Bhí sé i gceist, ar seisean, úsáid an chórais a leathnú sna míonna amach romhainn.

Members were informed that informed Items 5(a), 5 (b), 5(c) and 5(d) would be dealt with through the medium of Irish . Mr Sean O' Daimhin, Oifigeach na Gaeilge proceeded to demonstrate the use of the simultaneous interpretation headsets. It was intended, he said, to extend and utilise the system over the coming months.

C/273/14 POLASAÍ BAILIÚCHÁIN LEASAITHE IARSMALANN CHONTAE DHÚN NA NGALL A CHEADÚ

Rinne na Baill tuairisc a cuireadh thart i dtaca leis an ábhar thuas a phlé.

Chomhairligh an tUas. Mícheál Ó hÉanaigh, Stiúrthóir Pobail, Cultúir agus Pleanála, go raibh cuntas sa tuairisc ar na leasuithe ar

Pholasaí Bailiúcháin Iarsmalann Chontae Dhún na nGall, a cheadaigh na Baill roimhe seo.

Ar mholadh ón Clr. M Doherty, agus an Clr. Harley ag tacú leis, glacadh le Polasaí leasaithe Bailiúcháin Iarsmalann Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall.

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

Mr Michael Heaney, Director Community, Culture & Planning advised that the report outlined the amendments to the Donegal County Museum Collection Policy which had previously been approved by Members.

On the proposal of Clr M Doherty, seconded by Clr Harley, the amended Donegal County Council Museum Collection Policy was adopted.

C/274/14 POLASAÍ DIÚSCARTHA LEASAITHE D'IARSMALANN CHONTAE DHÚN NA NGALL A CHEADÚ

Rinne na Baill tuairisc a cuireadh thart i dtaca leis an ábhar thuas a phlé.

Chomhairligh an tUas. Mícheál Ó hÉanaigh, Stiúrthóir Pobail, Cultúir agus Pleanála, go rialáionn an ráiteas polasaí seo díbhaint agus diúscairt ábhair ó na bailiúcháin atá ag Iarsmalann Chontae Dhún na nGall.

Ar mholadh ón Clr. Ó Domhnaill, agus an Clr. M Doherty ag tacú leis, glacadh leis an Pholasaí Diúscartha leasaithe d'Iarsmalann Chontae Dhún na nGall.

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

Mr Michael Heaney, Director Community, Culture & Planning advised that this policy statement regulated the deaccessioning and the disposal of items from the collections of the Donegal County Museum.

On the proposal of Clr O' Domhnaill, seconded by Clr M Doherty the amended Disposal Policy for the Donegal County Museum was adopted.

C/275/14 POLASAÍ IASACHTA LEASAITHE IARSMALANN CHONTAE DHÚN NA NGALL A CHEADÚ

Rinne na Baill tuairisc a cuireadh thart i dtaca leis an ábhar thuas a phlé.

Thug an tUas. Mícheál Ó hÉanaigh, Stiúrthóir Pobail, Cultúir agus Pleanála, le fios gurb é ról Iarsmalann Chontae Dhún na nGall an t-ábhar ábhartha agus eolas gaolmhar i dtaca le hoidhreachta ábhartha Dhún na nGall a bhailiú, a thaifeadadh, a chaomhnú, a chur in iúl agus a chur ar taispeáint ar mhaithe le sult agus úsáid an líon is mó daoine sa phobal agus is féidir.

Ar mholadh ón Clr. Mc Guinness, agus an Clr. Quinn ag tacú leis, glacadh le Polasaí leasuithe Iasachta Iarsmalann Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall.

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

Mr Michael Heaney, Director Community, Culture and Planning noted that the role of the Donegal County Museum was to collect record, preserve, communicate and display for use and enjoyment of the widest community possible, the material evidence and associated information of the material heritage of Donegal. On the proposal of Clr Mc Guinness, seconded by Clr Quinn the amended Donegal County Council Museum Loan Policy was adopted.

C/276/14 TUAIRISC IS DÉANAÍ AR SHLÓGADH DHÚN NA NGALL 2013 A THABHAIRT FAOI DEARA

Rinne na Baill tuairisc a cuireadh thart le linn an chruinnithe i dtaca leis an ábhar thuas a phlé.

Dheimhnigh an tUas. Mícheál Ó hÉanaigh, Stiúrthóir Pobail, Cultúir agus Pleanála gur tharla líon iomlán de 196 imeacht de chuid an tSlógaidh i nDún na nGall le linn 2013. D'éirigh thar barr leis, ar seisean, agus fuarthas aiseolas ó 1,378 cuairteoir ar an Chontae. Uaidh seo, ba as oileán na hÉireann 769 acu, agus tháinig 592 ó thíortha eile thar lear. Tugadh faoi deara gur chaith na cuairteoirí ó oileán na hÉireann líon iomlán de 2,320 oíche sa chontae, agus chaith na cuairteoirí ó thíortha thar lear 4,193 oíche. Ba é an mórchuspóir, a dúirt sé, branda láidir a chruthú a chuideodh go fadtéarmach le líon na gcuairteoirí as tíortha thar lear chuig an Chontae a mhéadú, san am i láthair agus san am atá romhainn.

Chomhairligh na baill go raibh gá le Gaeltacht Dhún na nGall a chur chun tosaigh in aon togra turasóireachta amach anseo.

Cuireadh in iúl do na baill go raibh sé i gceist tuilleadh úsáid a bhaint as an chóras aistriúcháin, rud a d'fhéadfadh an Chomhairle úr a úsáid.



Members considered the report circulated during the meeting in relation to the above.

Mr Michael Heaney, Director Community Culture & Planning confirmed that a total of 196 Gathering events had taken place in Donegal during 2013. It had, he noted, been a great success with responses being received from 1,378 visitors to the County. Of these 769 originated on the Island of Ireland and 592 visited from overseas. Visitors from within the Island of Ireland it was acknowledged had spent a total 2,320 nights with overseas visitors spending 4,193 nights. The overall aim it was noted, had been to create a strong brand which in the long term would increase the number of overseas visitors to the County both now and into the future.

Members advised of the need to promote the Donegal Gaeltacht in any future tourism initiatives.

Members were informed that it was intended to make more use of the translation system something and a feature which could be utilised by incoming Council.

C/277/14 CONFERENCES

Having noted the revised arrangements under Section 142 5(d) of the Local Government Act, 2001, introduced by the Local Government (Expenses of Local Authority Members) Regulations 2006 and 2010 and directives issued by the Minister in that regard, on the proposal of Clr Harley, seconded by, Clr M. Doherty, it was resolved to authorise any member, if he/she so wished, to attend the following conferences, subject to the normal procedures:-

1. Individual members not exceeding their annual budget for attendance at conferences.
  2. Payment of expenses for attendance to be conditional on the member furnishing documentary evidence of attendance.
  3. Submission of a Conference Report
- 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Laurentic Conference – Technology, a People and the Ocean to be held Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2014 at the Inishowen Gateway Hotel, Buncrana, Co Donegal.
  - The Institute of Professional Training – Training Seminar ‘Getting your Vote out’ (Final Ballot Box to Council Chamber Module) to

be held from Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2014 at the Mount Errigal Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.

- Ace Training – Retirement Entitlements and Taxation Benefits for Councillors to be held from Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2014 at the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co Louth.
- Elected Member’s Training Seminar – Service Provision in Local Authorities to be held Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2014 at the Connacht Hotel, Old Dublin Road, Galway City.
- Training Seminar – River Flooding and Management Issues to be held from Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2014 in the Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny.
- Ace Training – Waste Management Legislation – Responsibilities of Local Authorities in disposing and recycling Electrical and Electronic Equipment at the Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co Cork.
- Training Seminar for Councillors – Reformed Local Government and the Councillor to be held Friday 9<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2014 at the Millrace Hotel, Bunclody, Co Wexford.
- Training Seminar – Managing Change in Local Government to be held Friday 9<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2014 in the Quality Hotel, Killarney, Co Kerry.

C/278/14 CONFERENCE REPORTS

On the proposal of Clr Harley, seconded by, Clr M Doherty, the following Conference Reports were noted:-

**Clr David Alcorn**

LAMA Spring Seminar held Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January and Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2014 in the Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan.

**Clr Terence Slowey**

25<sup>th</sup> Clare Tourism Conference held Friday 21<sup>st</sup> and Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2014 at the Falls Hotel, Ennistymon.

**Clr David Alcorn**

25<sup>th</sup> Clare Tourism Conference held Friday 21<sup>st</sup> and Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2014 at the Falls Hotel, Ennistymon.

C/279/14 MAYOR’S BUSINESS

The Mayor advised that he had been extremely privileged to represent the electorate in Donegal and had striven to represent the County to the best of his ability both at home and abroad. The County, he noted, had been neglected by numerous Governments and had been disadvantaged by its position on the periphery and

through partition. It was essential, he said, that the message went out that the County was open for business and an ideal location for both business and tourism led initiatives. He thanked all who had helped him over the past year and wished Members every success in the upcoming Local Elections.

C/280/14 MOTION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS

Members considered the following motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order No 28 which had been submitted prior to the 4pm deadline:

“That this Council discuss and submit a submission to the Commission for Energy Regulation in regards to the documents which are currently out for public consultation, namely the water charges plan and customer protection phase 1.”

Introducing the motion, Clr O’ Domhnaill asked that the following items be included in any submission made to the Commission.

1. Reference to the fact that there was genuine concern with regard to the operation of a national single tariff. Members called for the imposition of a regional tariff on the basis of low income levels prevalent in Donegal.
2. Requested that the references to MABS and St Vincent De Paul be omitted from the documentation.
3. Advised that bills should not issue in situations where the water supply is of a sub-standard quality.
4. Cost of water needs to be reviewed especially for those with dependent and young families.
5. Where there are leaks due to inefficiencies in the pipe network the burden should not be placed on the householders concerned.

On the proposal of Clr O’ Domhnaill, seconded by Clr Canning it was resolved to adopt the motion as outlined above and include any issues/concerns raised by Members in the overall submission to the Commission for Energy Regulation.

It was suggested that legal guidance be sought from the Council Solicitor in relation to the consumer rights of those customers receiving substandard water. Irish Water it was acknowledged did have specific obligations to the consumer.

Clr Harley alluded to the fact that only 3% of the treated water in Donegal was used for drinking purposes and the fact that more emphasis needed to be put on the conservation issue. He noted also that Irish Water would have access to funding on the open market.

Concern was raised also as to how Group Water Schemes would be treated

C/281/14 MANAGER'S REPORT

Members noted the contents of the Manger's Report circulated during the Meeting. A briefing was provided in relation to the following:-

- Bealtaine Creativity in Older Age – Highlights 2014.
- Town Council Commemorations.
- Donegal Youth Council.

**Members Noted the following questions:-**

C/282/14 PLANS FOR IMPROVED LIBRARY SERVICE IN BALLYSHANNON

The following question was submitted by Clr O'Neill:-

What are the plans to improve the current Library Service in Ballyshannon?

Clr O'Neill was informed that:-

“At present, the Library in Ballyshannon is available to the public during all hours that the Town Clerk is present in the building, with more extensive services & information available every Thursday morning when a Library staff member is present. The expansion of services will be considered in the context of any new resource that may be become available.”

C/283/14 TOURISM SIGNAGE FOR BALLYSHANNON

The following question was submitted by Clr O'Neill:-

Will Donegal County Council immediately erect Tourism Signage on the main approach roads along By-Pass at Ballyshannon Mart Junction, approaching the Erne Roundabout at Coolcholly and approaching Beleek Road Roundabout at B&B Ireland Head Quarters signalling the following:-

Welcome to Ballyshannon - Co Donegal Heritage Town

Clr O'Neill was informed that:-

“It is recognised that Tourism is a key resource for Ballyshannon. A Tourism Development Plan is to be prepared for Ballyshannon and the issue of appropriate signage will be addressed in this context.”

C/284/14 POSSIBLE AMENDMENT TO THE ON STREET  
CARPARKING PAY AND DISPLAY CHARGES IN  
BALLYSHANNON

The following question was submitted by Clr O'Neill:-

Will Donegal County Council amend the on-street Car Parking Pay and Display charges in Ballyshannon, by permitting the first hour free of charge as and from the 3rd June, 2014?

Clr O'Neill was informed that:-

“The Council as a Road Traffic Authority has made bye-laws for the control and regulation of the parking of vehicles in Ballyshannon. It is a matter for the Council to amend those Byelaws having regard to the Council's adopted budget and the services provided with the funding. The process of amending the bylaws requires a period of statutory public consultation as well as consideration and resolution by Members of the Council. These requirements mean that the 3rd of June date could not be achieved.”

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Certified:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Cathaoirleach.**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_