

27th September, 2018

TO ALL MEMBERS OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL
--

The Adjourned September Meeting of Donegal County Council, will be held on Wednesday 3rd October, 2018 at 3pm, in the County House, Lifford to consider the unfinished business listed below:-

Items 20 - 52.

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

Meetings Administrator

MINUTES OF ADJOURNED MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY
COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD ON 3rd OCTOBER,
2018

C/315/18 MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllrs S Ó'Domhnaill (Cathaoirleach), E Bonner, C Brogan, J Campbell, P Canning, T Conaghan, G Crawford, N. Crossan, A Doherty, M Doherty, R Donaghey, M Farren, M. T. Gallagher, M Harley, N Jordan, J Kavanagh, N Kennedy, M C Mac Giolla Easbuig, F Mc Brearty Jnr, M Mc Bride, J P McDaid, I Mc Garvey, P McGowan, B McGuinness, G McMonagle, M Naughton, J S O'Fearraigh, B O' Neill and T Slowey.

C/316/18 OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Seamus Neely, Chief Executive, Joe Peoples, Director of Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services / Meetings Administrator, John McLaughlin, Director of Roads & Transportation, Liam Ward, Director of Community & Planning Services, Michael Mc Garvey, A/Director of Water & Environment, Richard Gibson, A/Head of Finance, Eunan Quinn, Senior Planner, Anne Marie Conlon, Communications Officer, Sean O'Daimhin, Oifigeach na Gaeilge, Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer.

C/317/18 JUDICIAL REVIEW PROCEEDINGS – PLANREE LTD V
DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL- WIND ENERGY
PROVISIONS IN THE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2018-
2024

The Cathaoirleach informed members that the purpose of the meeting was to continue with items 20-52 as outlined in the notification circulated to members. In relation to Item No 5, he said that a recorded vote had been taken by the plenary Council whilst in committee and that the member's decision would be reflected in the Minutes of the meeting of the 24th September, 2018. He said that he had taken legal advice, and that in line with same the matter could not be revisited.

He confirmed, as outlined previously, that the Council would make a full public statement at the appropriate time. He said, he firmly believed that the Wind Energy Section in the Plan would now have to be varied and called on the Chief Executive and the Director of Community & Planning to circulate details of same to members at the earliest possible opportunity.

Cllr Kennedy at this juncture said that she would like to see Item 5 revisited in committee as it had not been adequately finalised at the September Council Meeting. She thus proposed, seconded by Cllr Mc Monagle and in accordance with Section 45 of the Local Government Act, 2001 that the matter be discussed further in committee.

Cllr Mc Brearty queried whether or not the Cathaoirleach was in a position to give legal opinion. He reminded all present that he had not supported the adoption of the County Development Plan and asked that his opposition once again be recorded.

The Cathaoirleach asked those in the public gallery and the members of the media present to leave the Chamber.

Members proceeded to debate the matter in committee.

C/318/18 RETENTION OF THE 9% VAT RATE FOR FOOD, TOURISM AND THE HOSPITALITY SECTOR

Cllr Naughton proposed, seconded by Cllr Brogan, that the following motion be adopted:-

“That Donegal County Council calls on the Minister for Finance, Mr. Paschal Donohue TD, to retain the 9% Vat rate in the upcoming budget for food, tourism and hospitality sector which has helped create and retain jobs in the local and national economy”.

He noted that since the introduction of the 9% vat rate up to 80,000 new jobs had been created in the tourism sector. Donegal and the Northwest had, he advised, benefited significantly with up to €213 million in revenue being generated for the local economy. Failure to maintain this rate would he contended, lead to job losses and present significant problems for the local tourism sector. It would be wrong, he contended, to compare activity and room rates in Dublin with those in the Donegal as the capital had over the past few years experienced a major boost in tourist activity.

Cllr O’ Neill challenged this appraisal of the situation and after a number of heated exchanges the Cathaoirleach adjourned the meeting.

He confirmed that the date for an adjourned meeting would be communicated to members in due course

Cathaoirleach

Dated