

MINUTES OF JULY MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL,
HELD IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD
ON 22nd JULY, 2019

C/215/19 MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllrs N Crossan (Cathaoirleach), L Blaney, K Bradley, C Brogan, P Canning, T Conaghan, D Coyle, G Crawford, T Crossan, A Doherty, L Doherty, R Donaghey, M Farren, M. T. Gallagher, M Harley, N Jordan, J Kavanagh, N Kennedy, F McBrearty Jnr, M Mc Bride, M McClafferty, M McDermott, I Mc Garvey, N McGarvey, P McGowan, B McGuinness, M McMahan, G McMonagle, A Molloy, J Murray, M Naughton, J O'Donnell, J S Ó Fearraigh.

C/216/19 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 McGarvey, A/Director of Water & Environment, Richard Gibson, A/Head of Finance, E Quinn, Senior Planner, Sean O'Daimhin, Oifigeach na Gaeilge, Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer.

C/217/19 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Sweeny who was unable to attend the meeting.

C/218/19 VOTE OF SYMPATHY – LATE CLLR MANUS MANDY KELLY

The Cathaoirleach said that it was his intention to commence the meeting with a tribute to the late Cllr Kelly, and that as a mark of respect the meeting would then be adjourned until later in the afternoon.

Tributes were paid by the various party groupings and sympathy extended to his wife Bernie, children Annie, Mandy, Charlie, Conan and Bella together with his parents Donal and Jacqueline and his extended family circle.

Cllr Brogan thanked the Cathaoirleach and members of all the political groupings for their support and the dignified manner in which they had attended the wake and funeral. He acknowledged the assistance provided by Donegal Motor Club, Glenswilly GAA

Club and St Eunan's GAA Club. He thanked the various media outlets for sympathetic coverage of the tragedy. These sentiments were echoed by Cllr Mc Monagle.

Cllr O' Donnell said that the late Cllr Kelly would have been an exceptional public representative and that his death was a major loss for Donegal County Council.

Cllr Harley extended sympathy to the Fianna Fáil Party on the loss of an esteemed colleague.

Cllr Farren said that he too wished to be associated with the above comments and extended sympathy to the extended Kelly family.

The Chief Executive extended condolences on behalf of the Executive and staff of Donegal County Council.

The Cathaoirleach said that Cllr Kelly's untimely death had been a bitter blow not only for his own family circle but for the sporting community in general. He would, he confirmed be sorely missed.

Sympathy was also extended to the family of former Councillor Fred Coll. He was remembered as a man of great character and a community activist who had contributed enormously to political life in Donegal.

C/219/19 ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

As a mark of respect it was unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting until 2pm.

C/220/19 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 25TH MARCH 2019

On the proposal of Cllr Brogan seconded by Cllr McBride the Minutes of the March Meeting of Donegal County Council held on 25th March, 2019 were adopted.

C/221/19 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ADJOURNED MARCH MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 15TH APRIL, 2019

On the proposal of Cllr Brogan seconded by Cllr Gallagher the Minutes of the Adjourned March Meeting of Donegal County Council held on 15th April, 2019 were adopted.

C/222/19 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 15TH APRIL, 2019

On the proposal of Cllr Harley seconded by Cllr Murray the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on 15th April, 2019 were adopted.

C/223/19 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 18TH APRIL, 2019

On the proposal of Cllr Donaghey seconded by Cllr Brogan the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on 18th April, 2019 were adopted.

C/224/19 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 24TH APRIL, 2019

On the proposal of Cllr Brogan seconded by Cllr Kennedy the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on 24th April, 2019 were adopted.

C/225/19 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 7TH JUNE, 2019

On the proposal of Cllr McDermott seconded by Cllr McMonagle the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Donegal County Council held on 7th June, 2019 were adopted.

C/226/19 DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY IN DONEGAL PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE BY WAY OF LEASE TO NORTH CONNACHT & ULSTER MONEY ADVICE & BUDGETING SERVICE COMPANY

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

On the proposal of Cllr Harley, seconded by Cllr McClafferty it was resolved to dispose of property in the Donegal Public Service Centre by way of lease to North Connacht & Ulster Money Advice & Budgeting Service Company in accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, (as amended).

C/227/19 DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY AT DRUMANEANY, FINTOWN, CO. DONEGAL

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

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher seconded by Cllr McClafferty it was resolved to dispose of property at Drumaneany, Fintown, Co. Donegal to Mr Francis McDevitt in accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, (as amended).

C/228/19 TO APPROVE THE CARRYING OUT OF IMPROVEMENT WORKS FOR PHASE 2 LETTERKENNY DESIGNATED URBAN GATEWAY SCHEME LOWER MAIN STREET

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

On the proposal of Cllr Brogan, seconded by Cllr McBride, the carrying out of improvement works for Phase 2 Letterkenny Designated Urban Gateway Scheme Lower Main Street (L-1005-3) in the Letterkenny- Milford Municipal District under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended) was approved.

C/229/19 TO APPROVE THE CARRYING OUT OF IMPROVEMENT WORKS FOR LETTERKENNY DESIGNATED URBAN GATEWAY SCHEME PHASE 2 – CHURCH LANE (L-5016).

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

On the proposal of Cllr McMonagle seconded by Cllr Brogan the carrying out of improvement works for Letterkenny Designated Urban Gateway Scheme Phase 2 – Church Lane (L-5016) in the Letterkenny- Milford Municipal District under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended) was approved.

Cllr Brogan proposed, seconded by Cllr O' Donnell that a Disabled Parking Bay be provided outside the Church on Church Lane. Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads & Transportation said that he would follow up with the members in relation to same.

C/230/19 TO APPROVE THE CARRYING OUT OF REDEVELOPMENT WORKS IN RESPECT OF THE BURTONPORT HARBOUR REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT AT BURTONPORT IN THE GLENTIES MD

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

On the proposal of Cllr N Mc Garvey seconded by Cllr Gallagher the carrying out of redevelopment works in respect of the Burtonport Harbour Redevelopment Project at Burtonport in the Glenties Municipal District under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended) was approved.

C/231/19 TO APPROVE THE CARRYING OUT OF PROPOSED WORKS IN RESPECT OF THE KILLYBEGS TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION PROJECT IN THE TOWNLAND OF CORPORATION KILLYBEGS IN THE DONEGAL MD

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

On the proposal of Cllr Kennedy seconded by Cllr Jordan the carrying out of proposed works in respect of the Killybegs Town Centre Regeneration Project in the townland of Corporation, Killybegs in the Donegal Municipal District under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended) was approved.

C/232/19 TO APPROVE THE CARRYING OUT OF WORKS TO PROCEED WITH THE NORTH WEST GREENWAY NETWORK – ROUTE 2 (MUFF-DERRY) DEVELOPMENT IN THE INISHOWEN MD

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

On the proposal of Cllr Crossan seconded by Cllr McDermott the carrying out of works in respect of the North West Greenway

Network – Route 2 (Muff-Derry) Development in the Inishowen Municipal District under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended) was approved.

C/233/19 TO APPROVE THE CARRYING OUT OF WORKS IN RESPECT OF THE PROPOSED SOCIAL ENTERPRISE CENTRE & LINEAR PARK GREENWAY (FIRST PHASE) IN THE TOWNLANDS OF BALLYRAINE & GORTLEE, LETTERKENNY IN THE LETTERKENNY-MILFORD MD

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

On the proposal of Cllr Brogan seconded by Cllr McMonagle the carrying out of works in respect of the proposed Social Enterprise Centre and Linear Park Greenway (First Phase) in the townlands of Ballyraine and Gortlee, Letterkenny in the Letterkenny-Milford Municipal District under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended) was approved.

Cllr Blaney cited the need for additional clarity in relation to the co-funding for the project and how the cost of the Council's contribution would be funded.

The Chief Executive advised that the Council is currently engaging with the proposed tenants on the basis that rental income would be sufficient to cover ongoing maintenance and contribute to the cost of loan charges.

C/234/19 DRAFT SCHEME FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES 2019-2024

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

On the proposal of Cllr Brogan seconded by Cllr Harley the Draft Scheme for the establishment and operation of Strategic Policy Committees 2019-2024 was approved to go to public consultation. Mr Joe Peoples, Director Housing , Corporate & Cultural Services said that following the period of public consultation the matter would come back to plenary Council for sign off.

C/235/19 TO NOTE REPORT ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED FOR THE VARIOUS FUNDING PROGRAMMES

The Members noted the Report on the current status of applications submitted and applications in preparation for the various funding programmes.

Mr Seamus Neely, Chief Executive said that the report provided a comprehensive overview of all schemes and their current status. He confirmed that €1.2 to €1.4 million would be required as co-funding for the development of a Digital Hub in Buncrana.

C/236/19 BORROWING OF A LOAN OF €2,000,000 FROM THE HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYMENT OF REBUILDING IRELAND HOUSING LOANS (R.I.H.L.)

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

On the proposal of Cllr Brogan seconded by Cllr Kennedy it was resolved in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act, 2001 (Section 106) to authorise the borrowing of a loan in the sum of €2,000,000 from the Housing Finance Agency for the purpose of payment of Rebuilding Ireland Housing Loans (R.I.H.L.).

C/237/19 REPORT ON THE OUTTURN OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE IN THE LOCAL FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2018

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

On the proposal of Cllr Harley seconded by Cllr McClafferty members approved the actual gross expenditure figure of €162,126,768 as set out on Table 3, Page 3 when compared to the Revised Budget of €161,327,269 (Adopted Budget as amended by net increases in funding received for 2018) for all divisions in accordance with Subsection 7 of Section 104 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.

C/238/19 NOMINATION OF KATHLEEN BONNER, JOE BOLAND AND CHARLENE LOGUE TO FILL THE VACANCIES ON THE DONEGAL LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Members noted the nomination of Kathleen Bonner, Joe Boland and Charlene Logue to fill the vacancies arising on the Donegal Local Community Development Committee in accordance with Part 6 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 and Section 128C (3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2001.

C/239/19 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT 2018

On the proposal of Cllr Brogan seconded by Cllr Kennedy it was resolved to adopt and proceed with the publication of the Donegal County Council Annual Report 2018 in accordance with Section 221 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

C/240/19 ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCE, SEMINAR OR EVENT

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 2006-2018 as amended and directives issued by the Minister in that regard, on the proposal of Cllr Brogan, seconded by Cllr Harley, it was resolved to authorise any member, if he/she so wished, to attend the following conferences, subject to the normal procedures:-

- i. Individual members not exceeding their annual budget for attendance at conferences.
- ii. Payment of expenses for attendance to be conditional on the member furnishing documentary evidence of attendance.
- iii. Submission of a Conference Report.

Training

- AILG Autumn Training Seminar 2019, Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan 11th and 12th September, 2019.

C/241/19 CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

Votes of Sympathy

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:-

- Anne Mc Daid, Housing & Corporate, Carndonagh PSC on the death of her father, Michael O' Donnell.

- Danny Greene, Water Services , Stranorlar MD on the death of his mother, Annie Greene.
- Seamus Sweeney, Water Services, Stranorlar on the death of his father, James Sweeney.
- Donna Maskery, Environment Section, Letterkenny PSC on the death of her sister, Linda Scott.
- Margaret O' Neill, County Laboratory on the death of her mother, Patsy Cunnane.
- Loretta Mc Nicholas, Community & Enterprise on the death of her mother, Philomena Mc Nicholas.
- Catherine Rainsford, Milford Community Library on the death of her mother, Margaret Pawley.
- Eunan Doherty, Water Services, Carndonagh PSC on the death of his mother, Anne Doherty.
- Francis Conaghan, Community & Development on the death of his mother, Jean Conaghan.
- The family of the late Willie Mc Kay, Letterkenny Roads Services.
- James Gallagher, Income Collection Unit, Dungloe PSC on the death of his mother, Breege Gallagher.
- The family of the late P J O' Brien, former Wastewater Inspector, Letterkenny.
- Raymond Mc Laughlin, Motor Tax, Letterkenny PSC on the death of his father, Brian Mc Laughlin.
- Johnny Mc Gettigan, Water & Environment on the death of his mother, Peggy Mc Gettigan.
- Elaine O' Donnell, Central Invoice Matching on the death of her brother, Rev Joseph O' Donnell.

Tourism Promotion Event in the USA 14th – 20th August

The Cathaoirleach said that he had been invited to attend in conjunction with Donegal Tourism a trade mission to the cities of Chicago and Milwaukee from the 14th to the 20th August, 2019. This promotional campaign, he confirmed, was a collaboration between Donegal Tourism and Tourism Ireland in Chicago with the aim of building connections with Tour Operators and stakeholders in the tourism industry so as to open up new routes and packages aimed specifically at people who wanted to visit

Donegal. In addition, he said it was proposed to attend the Irish Fest in Milwaukee which promoted all aspects of Irish, Irish American and Celtic Cultures with a particular section devoted to travel to Ireland. Donegal tourism, he added, were hosting a branded destination display stand at the event.

On the proposal of Cllr Brogan, seconded by Cllr Kennedy the attendance of the Cathaoirleach at the tourism promotional events in Chicago and Milwaukee from the 14th to the 20th August 2019 was approved.

Homecoming Event – Leah Gallen

Members were informed that a homecoming event would take place for Leah Gallen in the Villa Rose Hotel, Ballybofey on the 22nd July, 2019 at 7pm in recognition of her success in the National Under 18 Boxing Championships at 69kg and in light of her winning her fifth national title.

Opening N56 Coolboy to Kilmacrennan

Members were informed that it was intended to hold the official opening in early October. This was endorsed by the members who were then informed that a designated date would be selected in due course.

Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads & Transportation advised that an update would be provided to the Letterkenny Municipal District Members in relation to the Artwork for the N56.

C/242/19

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MANAGEMENT REPORT

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above. An update was provided in relation to the following:-

A number of issues were raised namely:-

- That a number of areas of planning policy were not working and consideration of a variation to the County Development Plan to address these issues should be commenced. It was suggested that a workshop be held to discuss these issues going forward.
- The Cathaoirleach advised that the consideration of variations to the County Development Plan were on hold

pending the adoption of the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (Draft RSES).

- Call for the Beach Wheelchair initiative to be extended to Inishowen and that consideration be given to providing same in Ards, Creeslough, Falcarragh and Dunfanaghy.
- Query as to whether the Ten T Preferred Options Report and associated mapping would be made available to the general public in September.
- Outlined the need for a Special Meeting with Irish Water regarding the provision of rural water in Donegal and also with regard to the exorbitant connection fees being charged at present.
- Members highlighted the necessity of ensuring that the forthcoming economic strategy being produced by the Northern Western Regional Assembly recognised the significant impact of tourism on the North West Region and that a specific footprint was created for the Inishowen area. Infrastructure development and the necessity of delivering on expected funding was highlighted particularly in relation to training facilities at Greencastle Port.
- Litter and the dumping of litter at Bottle Banks in Bundoran it was noted was becoming a major problem within the town.
- Noted that there were ongoing issues with the trunk main in Ramelton and that up to 25 houses had effectively been ignored.
- Concern expressed that Lifford did not feature in the Housing Capital update with regard to social housing developments county-wide.

The Chief Executive advised that work was ongoing in relation to the publication of the Ten T “Preferred Options Report and that the issues such as those at Lurgybrack were being kept under review. There would, he confirmed, be a further meeting with the members of the Lifford –Stranorlar and the Letterkenny – Milford Municipal Districts.

Proposals for a meeting with Irish Water he confirmed had been noted.

With regard to the problem of litter in towns such as Bundoran it was noted that general citizen participation was needed to help alleviate the problem.

The provision of Beach Wheelchairs it was acknowledged was something that could be considered at the locations in question.

It was confirmed that the contractor would be on site at the Long Lane development in Letterkenny by the second week in August, 2019.

Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads & Transportation responding to a query on the status of the ongoing road works in Letterkenny and the reinstatement of same said that he would ask the local engineer to provide an update to members given that the trenching was almost completed.

Cllr Kennedy at this juncture asked that a workshop be held to discuss the 5G Strategy for Donegal and to debate ongoing concerns in relation to the issue of mining licences.

Mr Joe Peoples, Director Housing & Corporate confirmed that a workshop would be held on Monday 23rd September, 2019 in the Regional Training Centre, Stranorlar to discuss the Corporate Plan for 2019-2024.

Members were informed that Mr John Bruton, Minister for Communications, Climate Action and the Environment would hold a Climate Action Meeting in the St John Bosco Centre, Donegal Town at 6.30pm on Tuesday 23rd July, 2019 to discuss the Climate Action Plan 2019.

He concluded by thanking members for their co-operation with the new e-agenda and confirmed that the September meeting would take place in the Council Chamber.

C/243/19 MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS/BODIES

Members noted the following motions from other Councils:-

LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Leitrim County Council to write to the Minister for Health Simon Harris TD and the Minister for Agriculture Michael Creed to call for a ban on the use of Glyphosate (Roundup) as a desiccant on our nations crops.

Roundup is a weed killer and was never intended to be used as desiccant on oats, wheat, barley or any other crop prior to harvest, this practice has gone on for over 40 years. Scientific evidence has linked Glyphosate to various types of cancers and traces of Glyphosate are being found in bread and cereals and in drinking water.”

It was noted that this had been discussed at Municipal District level and that it had been recommended for further discussion to the Climate Action & Environment SPC.

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

“In light of a recent appeal to the EU from 180 scientists and doctors from 36 countries warning about the danger of 5G, which will lead to a massive increase in involuntary exposure to electromagnetic radiation, that Clare County Council in exercising its responsibility to protect the environment and the public from harm:-

- 1) Opposes the roll-out of 5G in the County, and
- 2) Calls on CommReg to deny licensing for its roll-out; and
- 3) Calls on the Minister for Communication, Climate Change and the Environment, to establish a working group to establish the facts about the radiation impact of 5G on the environment & human health due to the current questionable scientific knowledge.”

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

“Clare County Council request Minister for Health Mr Simon Harris to provide for the rollout of free folic acid for all women of childbearing age and to run an educational programme in tandem, not unlike the hugely successful HPV Vaccination Campaign championed by our own late Laura Brennan.”

This concluded the business of the meeting.

