

MINUTES/RECORD OF THE INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT 'GOTOMEETING' HELD ON TUESDAY 9th February 2021 at 1.00pm

Councillors Present:

Cllrs Paul Canning, Nicholas Crossan, Terry Crossan, Albert Doherty, Rena Donaghey, Martin Farren, Martin Mc Dermott, Bernard Mc Guinness and Jack Murray.

Officials Present:

John McLaughlin, Chief Executive Officer, Aideen Doherty, Area Manager, Housing & Corporate, Una Cresswell, A/Senior Staff Officer ,Housing & Corporate Services, Seamus Hopkins, Area Manager, Roads and Transportation, Killian Smith , Executive Planner ,Mathew Byrne, Waste Regulation Officer and Fiona Doherty, Development Officer, Community Development, David Friel, Coastal Officer, Michael McGarvey, Senior Engineer.

21.08 Consideration of the minutes of the Inishowen Municipal District "GoToMeeting" held on 12th January 2021

On the proposal of Cllr Nicholas Crossan and seconded by Cllr Terry Crossan, the minutes of the Inishowen Municipal District Meeting held 12th January 2021 on were agreed.

21.09 Minutes Correction re Culdaff Play Park

It was noted that in minute 21.05.07 referring to Culdaff Play Park there was an error describing Culdaff beach as the oldest beach in Donegal when it should have stated that Culdaff playground was the oldest playground in Donegal.

21.10 PLANNING

The Planning Report was taken as read by Killian Smith, Executive Planner.

21.10.01 Taking in Charge of Private Residential Estates-

Riverdale Park, Ballymacarry, Buncrana

Approval was sought from the members for the Taking in Charge of Riverdale Park, Ballymacarry, Buncrana in the Inishowen Municipal District Area in order to complete the Taking in Charge process.

On the proposal of Councillor Rena Donaghey, seconded by Councillor Nicholas Crossan, it was resolved that the Council make an order in accordance with Section 207 of the Planning & Development Act 2000(as amended) for the creation of a public right of way over the estate roads within the housing estate Riverdale Park, Ballymacarry, Buncrana as set out in the attached maps, to enable it to proceed with the taking in charge of the estates.

On the proposal of Councillor Nicholas Crossan, seconded by Councillor Rena Donaghey, it was resolved that the Council make an order in accordance with Section 11 (1) of the Roads Act, 1993 to declare the estate roads within the housing estate Riverdale Park, Ballymacarry, Buncrana to be a public road and note the consequential provisions contained in Section 180(4) of the Planning and Development Act,

2000 (as amended) whereby this Council will also take in charge the water services infrastructure and the public open spaces or car park within the attendant grounds of the development and will subsequently transfer the water services within the estate to Irish Water.

Beacon Hill, Figary, Fahan

On the proposal of Councillor Rena Donaghey, seconded by Councillor Nicholas Crossan, it was resolved that the Council make an order in accordance with Section 207 of the Planning & Development Act 2000(as amended) for the creation of a public right of way over the estate roads within the housing estate Beacon Hill, Figary, Fahan as set out in the attached maps, to enable it to proceed with the taking in charge of the estates.

On the proposal of Councillor Nicholas Crossan, seconded by Councillor Rena Donaghey, it was resolved that the Council make an order in accordance with Section 11 (1) of the Roads Act, 1993 to declare the estate roads within the housing estate Beacon Hill, Figary, Fahan to be a public road and note the consequential provisions contained in Section 180(4) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) whereby this Council will also take in charge the water services infrastructure and the public open spaces or car park within the attendant grounds of the development and will subsequently transfer the water services within the estate to Irish Water.

St John's Park, Ballymacarry Lower, Buncrana

On the proposal of Councillor Jack Murray seconded by Councillor Rena Donaghey it was resolved that the Council make an order in accordance with Section 207 of the Planning & Development Act 2000(as amended) for the creation of a public right of way over the estate roads within the housing estate St John's Park, Ballymacarry Lower, Buncrana as set out in the attached maps, to enable it to proceed with the taking in charge of the estates.

On the proposal of Councillor Jack Murray, seconded by Councillor Rena Donaghey, it was resolved that the Council make an order in accordance with Section 11 (1) of the Roads Act, 1993 to declare the estate roads within the housing estate St John's Park, Ballymacarry Lower, Buncrana to be a public road and note the consequential provisions contained in Section 180(4) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) whereby this Council will also take in charge the water services infrastructure and the public open spaces or car park within the attendant grounds of the development and will subsequently transfer the water services within the estate to Irish Water.

Cllr Jack Murray said it was very positive news that these estates were being taking over and it was very much welcomed.

21.10.02 Inishowen Municipal District Planning Applications

Killian Smith advised that the Inishowen Municipal District have the highest number of planning applications in the county. Cllr Martin Farren reiterated previous remarks made at Inishowen Municipal District meetings with regard to having a planning service available in the Carndonagh Public Service

Centre. Killian Smith advised that currently, decentralisation was not being considered as far as he was aware.

21.10.03 Commencement Notices with Opt Out Option

CLlr Paul Canning raised concerns about commencement notices being completed with the 'Opt Out' option. Some discussion took place on potential problems that may arise in the future.

21.10.04 Planning Enforcement Case

CLlr Rena Donaghey and CLlr Terry Crossan referred to an ongoing complex enforcement issue mentioned at the last Inishowen Municipal District meeting. Concerns were reiterated regarding issues and questions were raised on whose responsibility was it to address ongoing issues. Killian Smith advised that the Environment Section were dealing with this matter.

21.10.05 Mica Redress Scheme

CLlr Martin McDermott raised some planning related issues with regard to homeowners affected by mica who have to rebuild their homes; He asked if they are exempt from building regulations. He sought clarification on rules regarding planning if the homeowner wishes to build a smaller or larger replacement property. Killian Smith said that he would follow up on this matter with Paddy Mullen, Senior Executive Engineer with Building Control.

21.10.06 Invalid Planning Applications

It was noted that twenty three per cent of applications received in Inishowen Municipal District are invalid. CLlr Nicholas Crossan said he was concerned at the level of invalid applications. Killian Smith advised that often applications were complex. He added that applications deemed invalid upon receipt will not necessarily mean that the application will eventually be refused. He advised that Eunan Quinn, Senior Executive Planner has completed an analysis of all invalid applications which he will make available to agents to let them see where common errors are being made

21.10 .07 Planning Clinics

Killian Smith advised that the telephone based Planning Clinics at the Public Service Centre will resume.

21.11 COMMUNITY AND ENTERPRISE

The report was taken as read by Fiona Doherty, Development Officer

20.11.01 Date for Workshop re Malin Head Visitor Management Plan

It was agreed that a Workshop on the Malin Head Visitor Management Plan would take place on 11th March at 12.00pm

20.11.02 Malin Head Visitor Management Plan

A discussion took place on the lack of availability of car parking at Malin Head and the need for this to be addressed as a priority so that the problems that arose in 2020 are avoided. CLlr Martin McDermott said

it was critical that car parking issues are addressed at the workshop. Cllr Albert Doherty stated that he understood that possible solutions were being considered at present and that he hoped that the members would be briefed at the workshop in March on parking, public lighting and the infrastructure in general. Cllr Bernard McGuinness added that a temporary car park at Banbas Crown is required to cater for the increased visitor numbers.

Fiona Doherty advised that there was a plan for forty car parking spaces at Malin Head and that all these matters raised will be discussed at the planned workshop on 11th March.

21.11.03 An Grianán of Aileach Fort

Cllr Paul Canning referred to the Conservation and Management Plan for An Grianán of Aileach Fort. He expressed his concerns over restrictions that may be placed at the Fort which may limit the numbers of visitors allowed there at any one time. He said such measures could have a negative impact on attracting visitors and may end up being counterproductive for tourism in the area. Cllr Jack Murray stated that he believed that a tour guide should be available, as is the case with similar historical tourist attractions around the country. He added that a tour guide would protect the site and improve the visitor experience.

After some discussion, the general consensus was that discussions should take place before the plan is implemented. It was agreed that a workshop with the Office of Public Works should be organised so that all of the members concerns be considered. Fiona Doherty agreed to follow up with the Office of Public Works on matters raised.

21.11.04 Town and Village Renewal scheme

Cllr Martin Farren reiterated his concerns highlighted at the last Inishowen Municipal District Meeting regarding the unsuccessful Town and Village Renewal application for Moville. He requested that alternative funding is explored for the Moville proposal.

Fiona Doherty said that the application may be resubmitted this year subject to assessment.

21.11.05 Development Fund Initiative

A date for a workshop to consider the allocation of the DFI funding was agreed for 8th March 2021 at 12.00pm. Fiona Doherty advised that she would discuss applications with the members five days before the Workshop.

21.11.06` Rural Development Investment Programme - 2020 Clár Funding for Portaleen Viewing point, Glengad.

Councillor Martin McDermott reiterated his request from the previous Inishowen Municipal District Meeting, to ensure that the works associated with the Portaleen Viewing Point at Glengad is progressed and completed for the summer season.

21.11.07 Movice Play Park

Cllr Martin Farren referred to the repair of the broken Zip line equipment at Movice play park. He advised that one of the columns at side of the zip line is very uneven. Fiona Doherty advised that contractors have been contacted.

21.11.08 Activity Wall at Barrack Hill, Carndonagh

Following on from previous meetings, Cllr Albert Doherty requested that a solution regarding the issues with the Activity Wall at Barrack Hill town Park be found. Fiona Doherty stated that senior council officials were dealing with this matter.

21.11.09 Signage at Barrack Hill

Cllr Albert Doherty reiterated his request for the replacement of damaged signage at Barrack Hill.

21.12 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFORMATION SYSTEMS & EMERGENCY SERVICES

21.12.01 Tourism Strategy 2021-25

It was agreed that a workshop would take place on Monday 8th March at 10.00 am to discuss Tourism Strategy 2021-25. It was noted that, Tourism Development International have been appointed to develop a five -year tourism Strategy for the County to guide and steer the recovery, growth and development of the tourism sector in Donegal

Cllr Martin Mc Dermott expressed his concerns that there had been no meetings with Donegal Tourism over the last two years. He said that it was imperative that Inishowen was well presented as a tourist destination and included in Donegal Tourism's international promotions and initiatives. Barney McLaughlin said that owing to the pandemic, few meetings had taken place. He added most of Donegal Tourism's work was about marketing and until it is known when life returns to normal it is difficult to do campaigns.

Cllr Jack Murray asked if there would be funds available for projects such as developing an app for An Grianán of Aileach Fort

21.12.02 Caravan and Camping Study

Barney McLaughlin advised that the Caravan and Camping Study was being carried out by KPMG Future Analytics who are undertaking a study to evaluate the opportunist and challenges facing the Caravan and Camping sector in Donegal.

21.12.03 Promotion of Donegal Overseas

Barney McLaughlin advised that a TV travel programme promoting tourism with footage from Inishowen will air in America. Cllr Martin McDermott said he welcomed this news.

21.12.04 Local Enterprise Office Brexit Stimulus Package

Supports from the Brexit Stimulus Package as outlined in the report were noted. Cllr Martin Farren said he believed that the members should be kept informed of how the funds are spent as Brexit is catastrophic for border areas and particularly Inishowen.

Cllr McGuinness said Brexit was affecting Donegal seriously. He highlighted changes such as Vehicle Registration Tax and lack of availability of some products.

21.12.05 Broadband at Malin Head

It was noted that broadband was not yet live at Malin Head.

21.12.06 Water Tender

Cllr Martin McDermott reiterated his disappointment with the response he received from the Fire Service regarding the new fire tender which is situated in West Donegal. He said that he had spoken with the Chief Fire Officer regarding this.

Barney McLaughlin said he would relay the concerns back to the relevant personnel in the Emergency Services.

21.12.07 Remote Working Strategy

Cllr Albert Doherty stated that some people were unable to conduct business at home due to poor internet and that this should be addressed.

21.13 ENVIRONMENT

Mathew Byrne, Waste Regulation Officer presented the Environment report to the members. David Friel, Coastal Officer and Michael McGarvey, Senior Engineer, Environment Services were also present.

21.13.01 Coastal Erosion

Michael McGarvey said that unfortunately due to clashing with other meeting commitments he has not been able to attend an Inishowen Municipal District meeting in a long time. He said coastal erosion has been on the Agenda since 2014 and there have been funds for surveys but there has been little for intervention. He said that he has met with Jim Casey, from the Office of Public Works and also with John Farren from Ballyliffen Golf club recently. He said that concerns were acknowledged but the current advice remains to continue to monitor erosion at beaches. He added that a series of recommendations will issue to councillors and be available on the council's website by the end of March 2021.

Cllr Martin McDermott expressed his frustration and said by 2045 due to the level of erosion around the Five Fingers Strand area that the seawater could be at Lagg Chapel if not addressed. He said it is clear that the OPW are not interested. He added that considering there was a world renowned golf club nearby that it was unacceptable that no actions were taken. Cllr McGuinness said that if the OPW were not going to do the work let them give the Council permission to do so. Cllr McDermott suggested that

a meeting with Patrick O'Donovan Minister of State with responsibility for Office of Public Works should be organised.

A lengthy discussion took place and it was agreed that the matter needed to be taken seriously. It was noted that in other counties works had taken place to address erosion. Michael McGarvey said he shared the frustration of the members over the issue.

21.13.02 Flooding Measures

Cllr Jack Murray asked if there was any update on flooding prevention measures for Burnfoot.

21.13.03 Diving Board at Buncrana

Cllr Jack Murray asked if the Diving Board could be reinstalled at Buncrana shore front. David Friel advised that the depth of water is insufficient to allow a diving board.

21.13.04 Blue Flag Status for Lisfannon Beach

Cllr Rena Donaghey stated that every effort should be made to have the Blue Flag status restored at Lisfannon

21.13.07 Buncrana Leisure Centre

Cllr Rena Donaghey said that she would like an update on Buncrana Leisure Centre.

21.13.08 Junk Kouture 2020

It was noted that three students from Carndonagh Community School have been crowned 2020 Junk Kouture winners with their winning design, a fishtail gown made of sea glass, plastic milk cartons and recycled glass such as bottles and jam jars. Cllr Donaghey said that she would like to congratulate the team, involving students Brónach Harkin, Robyn O'Donnell and Orlaith Doherty under the guidance of teacher Pauline McDermott who won €1,000 in prize money and a further €2,000 for their school.

21.13.09 Foyle View Estate, Quigley's Point

Cllr Terry Crossan referred to Foyle View Estate outside Quigley's Point where the treatment plant nearby is not working and in a bad state of repair. He added that a man hole is broken and a fence has fallen down.

21.13.10 Rockstown, Muff

Cllr Jack Murray expressed concerns regarding the effluent from the sewerage treatment plant in Muff.

21.13.11 Sewerage Treatment Plants

Cllr Paul Canning said that a survey should be completed to identify and log all the sewerage treatment plants with problems if this has not been done already. He referred to ongoing issues in Bridgend and Burnfoot.

21.13.12 Quads on Beaches

Cllr Martin Farren expressed his concerns over the use of quads on beaches. The difficulty in apprehending and fining offenders was acknowledged but the consensus was that this needs to be addressed.

21.13.13 Kinnego Bay- Flag Status

Cllr Bernard McGuinness proposed and Cllr Albert Doherty seconded that Kinnego Bay should be considered for Blue Flag status. David Friel, Coastal Officer said that he was aware of the desire to get Kinnego Bay designated as a blue flag beach but that there were issues preventing it from obtaining the status, such as car parking issues, emergency access, lack of phone signals etc.

21.13.14 Public Conveniences in Moville

Cllr Martin Farren requested that the Public Conveniences in Moville be refurbished.

21.13.145 Carbon Tax

Cllr Albert Doherty referred to the Carbon Tax Fund and asked who has been driving the funding since it was announced.

21.13.15 Seaweed Harvesting Licenses

A discussion took place on seaweed harvesting and the obtaining of licenses. Clarification was sought on the process and potential issues.

21.14 HOUSING & CORPORATE SERVICES

Aideen Doherty, Area Manager, Housing and Corporate Services presented the Housing report to the members and updated them on matters.

Cllr Paul Canning and Cllr Martin Farren expressed their gratitude to the housing team on the recent allocations. Cllr Canning said that it was encouraging that the housing list was moving. Cllr Terry Crossan complemented the housing team on the efficient processing of grants.

21.14.01 Mica Redress Scheme

Aideen Doherty, Area Manager for Housing and Corporate, updated the members on the number of applications received under the Mica Redress Scheme to date.

Cllr Bernard McGuinness referred to the Mica Redress Scheme and specifically how he believes that the full costs of replacing homes are not going to be met which meant that in some cases homeowners may be at a loss more than €100,000. The cap of €247,500 for the complete demolition and rebuild of the dwelling is an unrealistic amount. He said he believed costs were prohibitive. He added that Insurance companies and financial institutions were causing problems too. There was a suggestion that banks be contacted but it was noted that this had already been addressed by the Mica Action Group. Cllr McDermott concurred with Cllr McGuinness stating that the gap between what can be applied for and

what costs are ,must be closed. Cllr Jack Murray sought clarification on who set the cap on the scheme, was it decided by the Government or by Donegal County Council.

The consensus of the members was that the Mica Redress Scheme had taken a long time to design and now home owners were feeling anxious and distressed with concerns over costs not being fully reimbursed over the scheme. Albert Doherty said he believe the Pyrite Address Scheme covered one hundred per cent of the costs so the Mica Redress Scheme should too.

Some further discussion took place and it was suggested that a workshop addressing concerns and issues around mica was necessary. It was acknowledged that a Housing SPC meeting was taking place on 23rd February where these issues would be raised.

21.14.02 Heathhil; Newtowncunningham

Cllr Terry Crossan referred to the gardens in the new estate in Newtowncunningham being water logged. Aileen Doherty advised that this had been investigated and that this was not a long term problem.

12.14.03 Third Level Students - Motion at Plenary Meeting September 2020

Cllr Albert Doherty referred to his motion at the DCC Plenary meeting requesting that the government initiate immediate actions to support families and third level students.

21.14.04 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Inishowen Municipal District Meeting would take place on 9th March 2021 at 1.00pm

21.15 ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

Seamus Hopkins advised the members that he was preparing the Programme of Works which will be considered at the proposed workshops and then formally agreed at the March Inishowen Municipal District meeting.

Some matters were raised which Seamus Hopkins agreed to update the members on

- Street lights out in Bunrana
- Tullyarb Bridge, Craignahorna
- Works at Glentogher Road – Part 8 funding – Phase Ready to go
- Crash Barrier at Quigley’s Point
- Casey’s Corner
- Hedge Cutting
- Works at Clonbeg Junction.
- Potential for stepping stones at Lisfannon and Stragill

21.15.01 Buncrana Pier.

CLlr Rena Donaghey stated that Buncrana Pier should be considered for a massive overhaul as it was the first thing that visitors see when they disembark from the Rathmullan Ferry. She said that a plan was required to enhance the area around the pier and that there was huge potential such as opening up the fort etc.

21.15.02 Greenways

CLlr Terry Crossan asked for update on the status of Greenways as discussed at the last Inishowen Municipal District meeting with in terms of upgrading the roads in the future and speed limits. He requested an update on the Muff to Culmore Greenway.

Certified: _____
Cathaoirleach

Date: _____

Area Manager

Date: _____