

1st December, 2020

TO ALL MEMBERS OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

The Adjourned November Meeting of Donegal County Council, will be held on Monday 7th December, 2020 at 10.00am in the Aura Leisure Centre, Sallaghagrane, Letterkenny to consider the unfinished business listed below:-

Items 2(b) & (4d)

All reports can be accessed on the eCouncil portal and in the current meeting folder.



Joe Peoples
Meetings Administrator

R

**MINUTES OF THE ADJOURNED MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL,
HELD IN THE AURA LEISURE CENTRE LETTERKENNY ON 7TH DECEMBER,
2020**

C/287/20

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllrs R Donaghey (Cathaoirleach), L Blaney, C Brogan, P Canning, T Conaghan, D Coyle, G Crawford, N Crossan, A Doherty, Maire T Gallagher, M Harley, N Jordan, D M Kelly, M C Mac Giolla Easbuig, F Mc Brearty Jnr, M Mc Bride, M Mc Clafferty, I McGarvey, N Mc Garvey, P Mc Gowan, G Mc Monagle, A Molloy, J Murray, M Naughton, J S Ó Fearraigh, and B Sweeny.

Online

Cllrs G Doherty, J Kavanagh, M Mc Dermott, B Mc Guinness

C/288/20

APOLOGIES

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

C/289/20

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

John McLaughlin, Chief Executive, Joe Peoples, Director of Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services / Meetings Administrator, Liam Ward, Director Community Development & Planning Services, Brendan O'Donnell, A/Director of Roads & Transportation, Richard Gibson, A/Head of Finance, Garry Martin, Director of Economic Development, Information Systems & Emergency Services, Michael Mc Garvey, A/Director of Water & Environment, Sean O'Daimhin, Rannóg na Gaeilge, Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer, Corporate.

C/290/20

APPOINTMENT OF HEAD OF FINANCE

Congratulations were extended to Mr Richard Gibson on his appointment as Head of Finance. The Cathaoirleach wished him all the best in the position and thanked him for the hard work and dedication that he had shown in his role as Acting Head of Finance.

C/291/20

**TO APPROVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF 16 NO. 2 STOREY SOCIAL
HOUSING UNITS COMPLETE WITH LANDSCAPED AREA, CAR
PARKING, NEW ACCESS ROAD INCLUDING ALL ASSOCIATED
SITE WORKS INCLUDING OPEN SPACE AT CRANA CRESCENT,
BUNCRANA INCLUDING CAR PARK UPGRADES TO EXISTING
CRANA VIEW/CRESCENT ESTATE.**

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

Cllr I Mc Garvey proposed, seconded by Cllr Crossan that the construction of 16 no. two storey social housing units complete with landscaped area, car-parking, new access road including open space at Crana Crescent together with car-park upgrades to the existing Crana View/Crana Crescent Estate be approved.

Cllr Murray said that whilst the development of social housing was to be generally welcomed, serious concerns existed in relation to the lack

of roads infrastructure at this location. This, he said, coupled with safety issues were of major concern to local residents. The relevant infrastructure, he contended, should have been put in place much earlier. The residents of Crana View, it was noted, had made a number of detailed submissions in relation to the proposed development. Access to the proposed development should be from the proposed inner relief road, he said, so as to provide for the safety of local residents.

It was imperative, he added, that long-term plans for the area were taken into consideration especially as the new Crana College campus was to be located in this area. He thus proposed, seconded by Cllr T Crossan that the development should not proceed at this stage.

Cllr N Crossan said that he was disappointed with Cllr Murray's proposal and noted that the number of houses in the development had been reduced from 19 to 16 in light of the traffic considerations. With over 3000 people in Donegal on the housing waiting list and over 600 families in Inishowen waiting to be housed, it was outrageous, he said, that members were prepared to vote against the project. He alluded to the fact that considerable expenditure had already been incurred on the planning and development stages. He called on members to show leadership at this juncture and approve what was a much needed development.

Mr Joe Peoples, Meetings Administrator, informed members that there were two proposals before them, one from Cllr I Mc Garvey, seconded by Cllr N Crossan to approve the development and a proposal from Cllr Murray, seconded by Cllr T Crossan not to proceed with the proposed development.

He said that members should now vote either in favour of or against the Part 8 proposal as circulated.

A recorded vote was then taken by the Meetings Administrator.

This resulted in 19 voting for with 9 voting against.

Those voting in favour included:-

Cllrs Blaney, Canning, Conaghan, Coyle, Crawford, N Crossan, Harley, Kelly, Kennedy, Mc Clafferty, Mc Dermott, I Mc Garvey, N Mc Garvey, Mc Gowan, Mc Guinness, Molloy, Naughton, O' Donnell and Sweeny (19)

Those voting against included:-

Cllrs T Crossan, A Doherty, G Doherty, Donaghey, Gallagher, Jordan, Mc Monagle, Murray, and Ó Fearraigh (9)

Thus the construction of 16 no. 2 storey social housing units complete with landscaped area, car parking, new access road including all associated site works including open space at Crana Crescent, Buncrana including car park upgrades to existing Crana View/Crescent Estate 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/292/20

THREE YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2021 -2023

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

The Chief Executive advised that the Three-year Capital Programme was in effect a plan/programme for capital works over the next three years and was distinct from the Revenue Budget agreed in November. Decisions taken in September in relation to the Local Property Tax would enable, he said, progress with a number of capital projects. He provided an overview of the Council's capital expenditure in the years from 2014 and noted that total capital expenditure in 2019 had been €88,815,804, double that of 2017 (€44,006,647), with the 2020 Capital Budget amounting to €157,001,777.

Details in relation to the main areas of expenditure were also provided together with confirmation that total capital expenditure for 2021 would be in the region of €137,656,991.

Mr Richard Gibson, Acting Head of Finance, confirmed that the plan had been prepared in accordance with Section 135(3) of the Local Government Act, 2001 and on the basis of a realistic and prudent assessment of the financial position of the local authority, and also on the basis of the information available to it at this time, and having regard to the measures proposed by the authority to raise additional funding.

There had been, he confirmed, a significant increase in the scale of capital investment from 2014 with a total of €334 million proposed for the next three years. It was acknowledged that €44m had been spent in 2017 and that the spend had increased to €88m by 2019. There was, he advised significant scale of ambition within the programme and a total of €47.5 million identified as the amount required to co-fund identified projects in the period 2021 to 2023. The aim, he said, was to make informed decisions in relation to the prioritisation of specific projects so that there was scope to engage with all funding bodies with the aim of obtaining the best possible outcome.

A lengthy debate ensued during which members raised a number of issues.

The Cathaoirleach said that the programme was an excellent one and congratulated the Head of Finance, the Chief Executive and the Senior Management Team in relation to the effort and hard work that had gone into the production of the 3 year Capital Programme.

The Chief Executive thanked members for their contribution and advised of the following:-

- That there would be considerable investment in the Greenways Programme in 2021 with a master-plan and strategy developed for the whole County.
- The situation with regard to Glencolmcille Fire Station could be reviewed and that there would be an opportunity in the coming week to discuss same at a workshop.
- Arrangements would be made to issue members in the Lifford/Stranorlar and the Letterkenny/ Milford Municipal Districts with clarification regarding the additional spend on the TEN-T project.
- With regard to additional funding requirements a request had been made to meet with members of the Government in mid-January.
- The Council it was noted was anxious to progress the taking in charge of unfinished estates and that this would be progressed within the Community Development and Planning Services.
- The foreshore licence for Mevagh it was noted had been progressed but that it was ultimately a matter for the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage to decide.
- Note to issue to the Letterkenny Milford members in relation to the Boardwalk at Downings.
- Every effort would be made to seek additional monies for works on our piers and harbours but it was unlikely that the level of funding requested would be provided.
- Continued effort to be made in relation to litter enforcement measures.
- The N15 Lifford to Ballybofey/Stranorlar is on the list of needs to be discussed with Transport Infrastructure Ireland at the next scheduled meeting.
- Environment Section to provide details in relation to the provision for Landfill.
- Comments regarding funding for the Heritage Office were noted and would be followed up.

Mr Joe Peoples, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services

clarified the position in relation to funding for the Defective Concrete Blocks grant scheme and social housing. He assured members and tenants that the Council was working towards remedial works on council housing stock.

The Chief Executive thanked all members of the senior Management for their assistance in putting the programme together. He congratulated Richard Gibson on his appointment as Head of Finance.

On the proposal of Cllr Blaney, seconded by Cllr Naughton, members noted the Three Year Capital Programme 2021-2023.

Concluding the meeting, the Cathaoirleach extended her best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

This concluded the business of the meeting