

MINUTES OF THE INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD IN THE PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE, CARNDONAGH ON TUESDAY 10TH MARCH 2020 AT 1.30pm

Councillors Present:

Councillors Paul Canning, Nicholas Crossan, Terry Crossan, Albert Doherty, Rena Donaghey, Martin Farren , Martin McDermott, Bernard McGuinness and Jack Murray.

Officials Present:

John McLaughlin, Director of Roads and Transportation, Aideen Doherty, Area Manager Housing & Corporate, Seamus Hopkins, Area Manager , Roads and Transportation, Killian Smith, Executive Planner, Brian McBrearty, Waste Protection Supervisor, Una Cresswell, A/Senior Staff Officer, Eamonn Mahon, Executive Roads Engineer ,Fiona Doherty, Development Officer, Community and Enterprise and Rosita Mahoney, Senior Economic Development Officer, Economic Development , Information Systems and Emergency Services.

20.18. Consideration of the minutes of the Inishowen Municipal District meeting held on 11th February 2020

On the proposal of Cllr Terry Crossan and seconded by Cllr Paul Canning, the minutes of the Inishowen Municipal District meeting held on 11th February 2020 were agreed.

20.18.01 Correction of Minutes

It was noted that minute 24.14.02 was incorrect. Cllr Rena Donaghey was referred to as Cllr Rena Doherty in error.

20.19 Minutes Silence

A minute silence was held in memory of Dylan Kelly aged eleven years, who tragically passed away as a result of a road traffic accident in Buncrana. Sympathy was expressed to his family and friends.

20.20 Joe McHugh TD Minister for Education

The members collectively welcomed Joe McHugh, Minister for Education to the meeting. Minister McHugh said he hoped to engage more frequently with the Inishowen elected members and that he was happy to work in cooperation. He added that the Covid19/Corona Virus situation presented a huge challenge for everybody but said he was confident that people would get through it. Cllr Martin Farren asked if there would be any reductions in rates for businesses affected by the current situation. Minister McHugh advised that this would be discussed in a cabinet meeting on Friday next. Cllr Martin McDermott made reference to cross border workers who would have to deal with different rules from different jurisdictions. The plight of schools was mentioned. Minister McHugh stated that many decisions would be guided by public health considerations.

Minister McHugh also referred to the huge challenges that were faced and dealt in the recent past in Inishowen, such as the flooding in 2017.

Cllr Jack Murray asked the minister for an update on the Buncrana School Campus. Minister McHugh advised that the positive news was that a valuation company has been appointed.

20.20 PLANNING

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

20.20.01 Appointment of Staff to Planning Service

The members welcomed Killian Smith to the meeting. The consensus was that it was very beneficial in having dedicated Inishowen planners available. Killian advised that he is now appointed as Executive Planner for Inishowen and that Leona Finley was appointed as Assistant Planner. He added that he was already dealing with applications and looked forward to working with the members.

20.20.02 .01 Planning Workshop for Inishowen

Cllr Paul Canning suggested that a planning workshop for Inishowen be held before the county wide workshops as there issues in Inishowen such as flooding, variations etc that required discussion.

20.20.03 Zoning of Lands - Buncrana

Cllr Nicholas Crossan said that zoning of lands for residential use in areas such as Buncrana required review.

20.20.04 Buncrana Local Area Plan

Killian Smith advised that the review of the Buncrana Town Plan will not be completed until next year and that extensive consultations were ongoing.

20.20.05 Review of County Development Plan

Cllr Bernard McGuinness requested details of the time line for the review of the County Development Plan. Killian advised that the matter was with the Central Planning Unit. He added that he will request a workshop with the CPU team.

20.20.06 Rural Planning

Cllr Martin McDermott referred to the depopulation of rural areas and suggested that the council should works towards allowing new build in these areas.

20.20.07 Planning Enforcement

Killian Smith advised that Simon Harran, Executive Planner is the Enforcement Officer dealing with the north of the county. Simon deals with a variety of enforcement cases. He added that generally retention applications can solve many enforcement and compliance issues.

20.20.08 Decentralisation of Planning Staff to Carndonagh Public Service Centre

In response to comments made by Cllr Martin Farren in relation to having planning staff located in Carndonagh PSC, Killian Smith advised that this was unlikely to happen due to administration costs.

20.20.09 Mica

A discussion took place on situations where home owners may have to demolish and rebuild their homes owing to structural issues caused by mica and whether planning permission would be required in this regard. It was suggested that a dedicated planner may be required to deal with mica matters. Killian Smith indicated that current planning laws would dictate that planning permission is required in re build cases. It was suggested that planning should be exempt for those homeowners who have to rebuild their homes.

20. 21 ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

Seamus Hopkins, Area Manager, Roads and Transportation requested that the members approve the Area Roads Schedule of Works 2020 as detailed in the workshop which took place prior to the March Municipal District meeting. On the proposal of Cllr Martin Farren and seconded by Cllr Paul Canning it was agreed that the Schedule of Works was adopted.

20.21.01 Parks and Open Spaces Workshop

As discussed in the Roads workshop, it was agreed that a workshop would take place on 21st April to discuss parks and open spaces with Brendan O'Donnell in attendance. Cllr Martin McDermott reiterated his previous request that a full time gardener be employed for North Inishowen.

20.21.02 Glentogher Road, Carndonagh

Cllr Martin McDermott proposed that a Part 8 planning be initiated for Glentogher Road, Carndonagh as he believed it was vitally important that the works be shovel ready should monies become available. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Albert Doherty. Seamus Hopkins advised that the design is well advanced and that he hopes to include an extended area in the part 8 process, so that additional works would have planning consent, if funds become available.

20.21.03 Railway Road at Farren's Garage

Cllr Jack Murray reiterated his suggestion in previous meetings that the installation of an island at Railway Road would be very beneficial as many school children and pedestrians cross the road there. Seamus Hopkins advised that he has raised the matter with Road Design and that plans are to progress.

20.21.04 Crossing Points

Cllr Albert Doherty reiterated his request that crossing points be considered for areas on the Ballyloskey Road and also in the Carndonagh town area. He said such crossings would be useful particularly for people with mobility issues.

20.21.05 National Primary Roads

Following on from the previous Inishowen Municipal District Meeting regarding upgrading the Muff to Moville Road, the Bridgend to Bunrana and the Quigley's Point to Carndonagh as National Primary Roads by TII (Traffic Infrastructure Ireland) , it was noted that that members wanted to try and have this progressed to obtain more funding from the national pot.

20.21.06 Cats Eyes

Cllr Martin Farren suggested that cat's eyes be installed on other roads as they have been a huge success on the roads where they have been installed.

20.21.07 Inishowen Co Operative Mart Yard, Carndonagh,

Cllr Bernard McGuinness raised his concerns regarding the poor condition of the yards at Inishowen Cooperative Mart in Carndonagh. He requested an update on the ongoing discussions/legalities in relation to the proposed repair works. He added that ratepayers used the yard and that he believed it should be maintained to an acceptable standard. The consensus of the members was that a solution must be found to enable the yard to be repaired. Cllr Martin McDermott suggested that a meeting should take place without prejudice with Inishowen Co Op, the members and John McLaughlin. Seamus Hopkins stated that the land involved was effectively private land.

20.21.08 Works at Malin Hall, Malin

Cllr Bernard McGuinness thanked the Roads service for works recently completed at Malin Hall in Malin.

20.21.09 Works at Greenhill Road

Cllr Bernard McGuinness requested an update on works at the road at Greenhill which is a county road but in bad condition. Seamus Hopkins agreed to review the road.

20.21.10 Culdaff Footbridge

Cllr McGuinness requested an update on the footbridge at Culdaff which he understood was to be completed under the Town and Village renewal Programme 2021. Seamus Hopkins advised that specific funding would be required in this case and that he had met with the C&E design team.

20.21.11 Funding

Cllr Bernard McGuinness expressed his concerns regarding inequality of roads funding and suggested that some areas were losing out such as Clonmany and the Isle of Doagh. Seamus Hopkins said that he did not agree with this suggestion

20.21 12 Taking in Charge of Roads

It was proposed by Cllr McGuinness and seconded by Cllr McDermott that the road at Keenagh, Malin Head be taken in charge by the council and also the road at Moneydarragh. Seamus Hopkins advised of county wide restrictions and how it was difficult to look after roads that the council had already. He added that Inishowen had the largest road resurfacing area in the county.

20.21.13 Reinstatement of Roads by Irish Water

Following on from discussions at previous Municipal District Meetings, regarding reinstating roads to their former condition after works by Irish Water were being carried out, Seamus Hopkins advised that a process was agreed whereby standards are upheld and Irish Water held accountable.

20.21 14 Mindoran Bens

Seamus Hopkins agreed to consider potential works at Mindoran Bens with a view to a Part 8 process and get it shovel ready.

20.21.15 Swan Park, Buncrana

Cllr Rena Donaghey asked whether works had commenced at Swan Park. Eamonn Mahon, Executive Roads Engineer advised that owing to the salmon season, some works were constrained however; he said he believed they were on target for next year

20.22 HOUSING & CORPORATE SERVICES

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

20.22.01 Schedule of Municipal District Works

The Schedule of Municipal District Works 2020 had been submitted to the members prior to the meeting for their consideration and approval.

Cllr Paul Canning proposed and Cllr Albert Doherty seconded and it was resolved that the “Inishowen Municipal District hereby adopts for the financial year ended 31st December 2020, the Schedule of Municipal District Works as set out in the schedules presented at the Municipal District Meeting of the 10th March 2020 as required by Section 103A of the Local Government Act 2001 as (amended) and in line of the requirements of Circular LG27/2014/Fin/2014”

20.22.02 Carndonagh Court House

Cllr Albert Doherty expressed his concerns over the fact that Carndonagh Court House has been closed for over a year. He acknowledged that cases were being heard in Buncrana but added that this is a considerable distance away if you live in parts of Inishowen such as Malin Head. He said he believed that it was imperative that the service be returned to Carndonagh as soon as possible. He added that Judge Paul Kelly recently emphasised the need to open small courts and actually referred to Carndonagh. It was noted that a survey has been carried out by the County Court Service and a report that issued suggested that no significant works were required. It was agreed that this matter should be followed up with the Court’s Service.

20.23. COMMUNITY AND ENTERPRISE

Fiona Doherty Development Officer, Community and Enterprise presented the report to the Members.

20.23.01 Development Fund Initiative

Following on from the Community and Enterprise Workshop and after considerable discussion it was proposed by Councilor Martin Farren and seconded by Cllr Nicholas Crossan that the Development Fund, total being €180,00 be allocated to the various groups (56 in total)a as listed in the schedule below.

Applicant Group		Total By Group
	THE DEVELOPMENT FUND INITIATIVE 2020 ALLOCATIONS	
1	No Barriers Foundation CLG	€1,500.00
4	Donegal County Council (Pride of Place Awards)	€2,400.00
7	Inish Adventures	€2,500.00
14	Notorious Events Ltd	€3,950.00
15	Buncrana Golf Club	€2,500.00
17	Greencastle Committee	€2,500.00
18	Rasheeney NS Scoil Phádraig	€3,000.00
19	Columban Hall Community	€5,000.00
20	Buncrana Tidy Towns	€3,000.00
22	Cloontagh National School	€3,000.00
25	Colgan Community & Resource Centre Ltd	€3,500.00
28	Inishowen Maritime Museum	€2,500.00
31	Illies Community Development Association	€2,500.00
33	Naomh Colmcille CLG	€3,000.00
35	St Patrick's Park Trust Ltd	€5,000.00
36	Buncrana Gun Club	€2,500.00
37	Redcastle Development (Redcastle FC)	€2,500.00
38	Buncrana Anglers Association	€3,000.00
41	Lifeline Inishowen	€2,500.00
42	St Patrick's Boys School BOM	€4,500.00
44	Moville Men's Shed	€2,500.00
47	Naomh Pádraig Uisce Chaoin	€5,000.00
49	West Inishowen History and Heritage Society	€2,500.00
50	Buncrana GAA	€2,500.00
52	Quigleys Point Swifts FC	€4,200.00
53	Muff Festival	€2,500.00
54	Elm Park Residents Committee	€2,500.00
55	Inishowen Agricultural Show	€3,000.00
56	Burt GAA Club	€7,000.00
57	Carrigans Tidy Towns	€3,000.00
60	Moville Tidy Towns	€2,500.00
62	Gleneely Colts - Sports and Leisure Centre Ltd	€2,500.00
63	Inch Island Heritage Committee	€5,000.00
64	The Exchange Inishowen	€2,500.00
65	Inishowen Children's Autism Related Education LTD ICARE	€5,000.00

66	Carndonagh Easter Parade	€2,500.00
67	Inishowen Methodist Churches Merville Property (Account)	€2,500.00
68	Glengad United Football Club	€3,600.00
71	Buncrana Hearts Football Club	€3,500.00
74	9th Donegal Newtowncunningham Scout Group	€3,200.00
75	Illies Golden Gloves BC	€2,750.00
76	Muff Community Development Co-op Society Ltd	€2,500.00
78	Seamus Mac Giola Bhride CCE	€4,000.00
79	Rebecca Strain/Artlink CLG	€2,550.00
80	Irish Red Cross Buncrana Branch	€2,500.00
81	Spraoi agus Spórt	€2,500.00
82	Culdaff Development Association	€3,000.00
83	Ceolan Community Group CLG	€2,500.00
86	Glassalts NS Parents Association	€3,000.00
89	Inishowen Rivers Trust	€2,500.00
91	Ulster Canada Initiative	€5,200.00
92	Men's Shed Carndonagh	€3,000.00
94	Culdaff FC	€6,500.00
95	North West Development	€3,650.00
96	Quigley's Point Community Centre CLG	€2,500.00
97	Malin Head Community Association Ltd	€3,000.00
	Totals	€180,000.00

20.24 ENVIRONMENT

Brian McBrearty, Waste Protection Supervisor presented the Environment report to the members.

20.25 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFORMATION SYSTEMS & EMERGENCY SERVICES

Rosita Mahoney, Senior Economic Development Officer presented a comprehensive report to the members.

20.25.01 Introduction

Rosita Mahoney introduced herself to the members and briefed the members on her role. The members welcomed her.

20.25.02 Concierge Services

Rosita referred to the Concierge Service that is being provided to enable members of the public to navigate council services and supports. She said an event had taken place in Letterkenny and other events were due to take place in other areas including Inishowen.

20.25.03 Tourism Development

Cllr Albert Doherty expressed his view that tourist development appears to more concentrated in other parts of Donegal such as in Bundoran. He said it was important that Inishowen should not be left behind particularly with Brexit approaching. Cllr Martin McDermott agreed and said he believed Donegal tourism does not stretch to Inishowen with tourism brochures having a predominantly south Donegal focus. He added that Inishowen was promoted by Explore Inishowen who do not have the resources or a budget to assist them.

It was noted that Donegal Tourism presentation in the United States did not mention Inishowen. The consensus of the members was that Donegal Tourism should work in cooperation with Inishowen tourism promoters which would benefit all areas north and south of Donegal. Rosita advised that were platforms for the growth of Inishowen tourism and an application for development at Dunree had been submitted. She added that the digital online marketing campaign is for county wide tourism.

20.25.04 WIFI Projects

In response to a query regarding wifi Projects, Rosita advised that she would liaise with her colleagues and report back to the members with an update.

20.25.05 Tug of War Competitors, Clonmany,

Cllr Rena Donaghey said she wished to express her congratulations to the Clonmany Tug of War team who recently won a bronze award in the world wide Tug of War Championships. She expressed particularly gratitude and congratulations to Danny McGonagle. She proposed that they be invited to the Chamber, County House, Lifford in acknowledgment of their achievements. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Martin McDermott.

20.25.06 Fire Hydrants

Clarification was sought on the maintenance of fire hydrants. Rosita advised that she would pass the query on to the relevant personnel.

Date of next meeting

It was agreed the date of the next meeting is Tuesday 7th April at 1.00pm

Certified: _____
Cathaoirleach

Date: _____

Area Manager

Date: _____