

**MINUTES OF THE INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD IN THE PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE,
CARNDONAGH ON TUESDAY 14TH JANUARY 2020 AT 1.00pm**

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, Rosin Kelly, Executive Planner , Mathew Byrne, Waste Protection Officer, Una Cresswell, A/Senior Staff Officer, Eamonn Mahon, Executive Roads Engineer, Jimmy McLaughlin , Executive Roads Engineer and Fiona Doherty, Development Officer, Community and Enterprise

20.01 Adjournment of Meeting

On the proposal of Cllr Farren and seconded by Cllr Murray, it was agreed that the meeting would be adjourned for thirty minutes and would commence at 1.30pm.

**20.02. Consideration of the minutes of the Inishowen Municipal District meeting held on 10th
December 2019**

On the proposal of Cllr Paul Canning and seconded by Cllr Martin Farren, the minutes of the Inishowen Municipal District meeting held on 10th December 2019 were agreed.

20.03 Correction of Minutes

It was noted that minute 19.62.19 was incorrect with regard to the road at Aughaclay being noted as being on the Inishowen 100 when it is not on that route. Also, minute 66.07 should have stated Cllr Jack Murray and not Cllr Jack Doherty.

20.04 PLANNING

The Planning Report was taken as read by Roisin Kelly, Executive Planner

20.04.02 Additional Planning Dates

Roisin Kelly, Executive Planner advised the members of the following additional planning clinic dates.

22/01/2020

29/01/2020

12/02/2020

26/02/2020

11/03/2020

25/03/2020

20.04.03 Strategic Development of Towns Local Area Plan Buncrana

Roisin Kelly advised that consultants have now been appointed to work on the Buncrana Local Area plan and to consider the future strategic direction for Buncrana. She added that the consultants would like to meet with the members in a workshop .It was agreed that a workshop would take place on Thursday 23rd January 2020 at 5.00pm in the Council Offices in Buncrana.

20.04.04 Review of the County Development Plan

In a response to a query from Cllr Bernard McGuinness, Roisin Kelly advised that the review of the County Development Plan would commence in June 2020.

20.05.01 ENVIRONMENT

Mathew Byrne, Waste Protection Officer presented the Environment report to the members.

20.05.02 Buncrana Leisure Centre

Mathew Byrne advised the members that they will be updated on the progress of the refurbishment project for Buncrana Leisure Centre at each meeting of Inishowen Municipal District going forward.

20.05.03 Tidy Towns Workshops

Mathew Byrne advised that workshops will be organised for Tidy Towns committees. He referred to “Let’s Talk Climate” which is an accessible education and awareness workshop for Tidy Towns committees. ‘Let’s Talk Climate’ helps communities to raise awareness of climate change and promote behavior change by encouraging climate action and to undertake projects that will set local communities on a path towards a low carbon, climate resilient future.

20.05.04 Waiver for Waste Collection Fees for Householders with Disabilities

Cllr Albert Doherty reiterated his request for a waiver for waste collection fees for householders with disabilities. Mathew Byrne stated that he had no update on this but that he has passed these concerns on previously.

20.05.05 All Ireland Pollinator Plan

Cllr Albert Doherty congratulated Cathaoirleach of Donegal County Council, Cllr Nicholas Crossan on signing the All Ireland Pollinator Plan. He suggested that Tidy Towns Committees must be encouraged to follow the policy in conjunction with the council being proactive in this regard.

20.05.06 Use of Pesticides in Parks and Footways

Cllr Albert Doherty said that the use of pesticides throughout the county should be reviewed in line with environmental concerns.

20.05.07 Merville Public Conveniences

Cllr Martin Farren requested that an update on the repairs required at Merville Public Conveniences be provided. He also sought clarification on funding for public conveniences.

20.05.08 Dog Fouling in Public Places

Cllr Martin Farren said that he believed the public should be made aware of their responsibilities with regard to dog fouling particularly in public places such as the Shore walk in Moville. Cllr Nicholas Crossan concurred with Cllr Farren but said he believed most dog owners were indeed responsible. He suggested that the presence of a litter warden might deter offenders.

20.05.09 Staffing Matters

Cllr Rena Donaghey requested that a replacement for a member of staff who left the Bunrana outdoor team be put in place as soon as possible as there was increased pressure on the litter warden in the area to carry out his duties. Mathew Byrne stated that the recruitment of a replacement was planned to commence in February.

20.05.10 Litter Warden

Cllr Terry Crossan expressed his gratitude to the litter warden for his prompt response to a recent enquiry.

20.05.10 Westbrook Pumping Station

Cllr Rena Donaghey asked when the upgrade to the pump house at Westbrook was going to take place as it has been on the agenda for the last six years. It was proposed by Cllr Rena Donaghey and seconded by Cllr Martin Farren that Irish Water be asked when they proposed to upgrade the pump house,

20.05.11 Parks and Open Spaces

Cllr Rena Donaghey said she had previously requested that Parks and Open Spaces would be separated from other services and asked when was this going to happen, if ever.

20.05.12 Covert Cameras for Enforcement Purposes

Cllr Bernard McGuinness stated that he believed that additional covert cameras should be in use to discourage the public from dumping refuse and disposing of litter in environmentally unfriendly ways. He suggested that open days should be held to encourage the public to recycle and safely dispose of waste. He added that the public often complained that the recycling centres were too costly and therefore a deterrent. Mathew Byrne confirmed that covert cameras were still in use and he would meet with Cllr McGuinness to discuss the matter further.

20.05.13 Bottle Banks

Cllr Nicholas Crossan congratulated the council on the management of bottle banks over Christmas. Cllr Martin McDermott expressed his concerns over bottle banks in Malin being full to capacity because of the Carn bottle banks not being accessible enough to the public. He said that he has been requesting that a solution be found for this problem the last five years. He suggested that the bottle banks could be relocated outside the recycling centre as the council owned the land adjacent to it. Mathew Byrne advised that he would look into the matter and revert back.

20.05.14 Water Fountains at Beaches

Cllr McGuinness requested that the installation of water fountains at beaches and public places be considered as this would discourage the use of plastic water bottles.

20.06 ROADS

Seamus Hopkins, Area Manager, Roads updated the members in his report on the status of the Road's Work Programme to date. He added there was little change from the end of year report provided in December to the members. He added that there was an overspend in Moville but this was to be balanced by monies that are due.

20.06.01 Works in 2019

Cllr Martin Farren congratulated the Roads team on the works carried out in 2019

20.06.02 Crash Barrier at Bay View

Cllr Martin Farren requested that a crash barrier be installed at Bayview, Redcastle adjacent to where the football pitch is located.

20.06.03 Realignment of Clar Corner

Cllr Martin Farren suggested the realignment at Clar Corner, Redcastle be extended to Ballyratten. He also requested anti skid material be installed to address speed in the area and prevent potential accidents.

20.06.04 Footbridge at Moville

Cllr Martin Farren requested a barrier at the footbridge in Moville.

20.06.05 National Primary Roads Allocation

It was noted that €10 million has been allocated to National Primary Roads. Some discussion took place and the consensus was that the Muff to Moville Road, the Bridgend to Buncrana and the Quigley's Point to Carndonagh roads should be taken over as National Primary Roads by TII (Traffic Infrastructure Ireland) It was noted that the level of traffic on these roads may justify them being classified differently and this has been on the agenda many times. Cllr Bernard McGuinness suggested that that traffic counters be used to determine the level of traffic. He also added that in the past, in some cases it had not been beneficial to have roads classed as National Primary Roads. A comparison was made with the N56 which is the same distance as the Inishowen 100, but as being a National Primary Road gets more funding.

John McLaughlin, Director of Roads and Transportation advised that this issue is reviewed regularly and that the Minister had been written to previously. He suggested that the members write directly to the Minister themselves in the same way they did to progress the Cockhill Bridge Project.

It was proposed by Cllr Martin Farren and seconded by Cllr Rena Donaghey that a request to meet with the new Minister for Transport after the general election be progressed.

20.06.06 Cats Eyes

Cllr Martin Farren suggested that cat's eyes should be installed on all major roads as they make an amazing difference to vision at night particularly on long dark country roads where there is no other lighting.

20.06.07 Footpath – Grove Cottages to Red Cross Building, Muff

Cllr Terry Crossan said that he noticed that Muff was not mentioned on the Roads Programme. He added that a complete footpath and adequate lighting needs to be provided between Grove Cottages and the Red Cross building Muff, as mentioned at a previous Inishowen Municipal District Meeting. Seamus Hopkins advised that this will be considered under the Footpath and Lighting Programme.

20.06.08 White lines Quigley's point to Whitecastle School

Cllr Terry Crossan referred to the request from Cllr Martin Farren at the last Municipal District Meeting to renew the white lines on the road between Quigley's point and Whitecastle School.

20.06.09 Aughaclay Road, Culdaff and Drumnagasson Road, Ballyharry

Cllr Bernard McGuinness requested that the Aughaclay Road, Culdaff and Drumnagasson Road, Ballyharry should be put on the list for works in 2020..

20.06.10 Inishowen 100

Cllr Bernard McGuinness suggested that the success of Malin Head had switched the focus from the Inishowen 100 route and that it was important to keep this route as it covered the whole Inishowen Peninsula. He added that Failte Ireland should be requested to assist with its upkeep.

20.06.11 Glentogher Road, Carndonagh

Cllr McGuinness requested an update on the status of proposed works at Glentogher Road, Carndonagh as significant funding was allocated to it. He added that this road was the main artery to North Inishowen and as such should be upgraded. He said he was conscious of the new government coming in and that these works had to be kept on the agenda in order to not lose funding. Seamus Hopkins advised his response to this query was given at the last meeting and that the decision remained with the Department in relation to obtaining additional funding.

20.06.12 Foot Path Cockhill Road to Buncrana

Cllr Nicholas Crossan referred to the Cockhill Road, Buncrana where there is only one footpath on one side. He said he believed it was dangerous for pedestrians and drivers and requires attention. He added it was difficult for buses turning on the road and a whole new design for the road should be instigated. Seamus Hopkins advised that will be considered under the Footpath and Lighting Programme.

20.06.13 Crossing at Farren's Garage, Buncrana

Cllr Jack Murray reiterated his request for a crossing to be installed at Farren's Garage, Buncrana. He referred to the level of pedestrians and students that cross the road and the potential dangers. Seamus Hopkins advised that he will request that the Road Design team will look at measures.

20.06.14 Street Lighting

Cllr Jack Murray sought clarification on the guidelines for street lighting.

20.06.15 Gritting Programme

Cllr Albert Doherty referred to incidents of black ice on some roads in Inishowen in December and also today and sought clarification on how roads are selected for gritting. Some discussion took place. It was noted that the weather temperature gauge was placed in Skeoge in South Inishowen and it was suggested that a similar gauge should be installed in North Inishowen to improve weather predictions and subsequent requirements for gritting.

20.06.16 Barrack Hill Park

Cllr Albert Doherty requested that a gardener be employed on a five day a week basis at Barrack Hill, Carndonagh and reiterated his request for the public lighting there.

20.06.17 White Lining in Carndonagh

Cllr Albert Doherty suggested that junctions at estates around Carndonagh should be reviewed and white lining renewed in the town. He also suggested Low Cost Safety measures for a crossing should be installed between Ard Bhríde, James Connolly Hospital and St Patrick's Girls School.

20.06.18 Yard at Inishowen Co Operative Mart

It was proposed by Cllr Bernard McGuinness and seconded by Cllr Albert Doherty, that the resurfacing of the yard at Inishowen Cooperative Mart be reconsidered. Seamus Hopkins advised that legal advice is being sought from the council's solicitor on this matter.

20.06.19 Salt Barn

Cllr Bernard McGuinness requested an update on the Council salt barn.

20.06.20 Wild Deer

Cllr Martin Mc Dermott stated that there had been two accidents caused by wild deer running on public roads and that he had previously requested that signs be erected to warn drivers of the dangers in Ballyliffen, Culdaff and Malin. Seamus Hopkins said that he had spoken to Parks and Wildlife.

20.06.21 Malin Head Road to Malin Town

Cllr Martin Mc Dermott referred to works carried out by Irish Water between Malin and Malin Head which he believed was of poor quality and hazardous. It was noted that prior to Irish Water commencing works, that the roads had been resurfaced by the council and this work was now damaged. Cllr Bernard McGuinness suggested that the Roads Service should restore the roads to their previous condition and

invoice Irish Water for the costs incurred. Some discussion took place and the consensus of the members was as these roads were being used by thousands of visitors to Malin Head, it required immediate action.

Cllr McDermott requested that the senior officials in the Roads Service urgently deal directly with Irish Water and get the problem resolved. Seamus Hopkins advised that he considers the condition of the roads as temporary and that Irish Water will have to restore them to the original condition prior to the works and that this was being dealt with. He referred to “purple book standard” that had to be adhered to.

20.06.22 Bus Shelters

Cllr Terry Crossan requested that a bus shelter be erected at Quigley’s Point as outlined in the recent presentation from Local Link.

20.06.23 Lighting in Location of Cyclist’s Rest, Buncrana

Cllr Rena Donaghey asked if there was a possibility of lights being installed near the Cyclist’s Rest public house on the outskirts of Buncrana as this was a very busy road, Seamus Hopkins suggested that maybe a business owner could sponsor lighting with a view to the council adopting it. He added that lights requested outside of urban areas were considered on a case by case basis,

20.06.24 Ramps

Cllr Paul Canning sought clarification on county wide policy on ramps.

20.07 HOUSING & CORPORATE SERVICES

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

20.07.01 Library Service

Cllr Martin Farren expressed his dissatisfaction with regard to a senior member of the library service not attending the meeting as requested at the last meeting. This request was to enable a discussion to take place regarding staffing resources in the library service in Inishowen. Aideen Doherty advised that his request had been passed on and that she would follow up on it.

20.07.02 Expressions of Sympathy

The members collectively expressed their sympathy to Mairead Gibbons on the death of her father Paddy Joe McLaughlin, to Belinda Glackin on the death of her father Philip Glackin and to Fiontan O’ Caolain on the death of his brother, Brendan O’ Caolain. Sympathy was also expressed to the former Buncrana Town Councillor, Peter McLaughlin on the death of his mother, Bernadette McLaughlin.

20.07.03 Christmas Tree Committees

Cllr Martin Farren commended the Christmas Tree Committees in Inishowen for all their efforts in making the towns and villagers look so well over the festive season.

20.07.04 Loans for Owner Occupiers

Cllr Rena Donaghey sought details on DCC loans for owner occupiers who wish to upgrade their homes. Aideen Doherty said she would provide clarification.

20.07.05 General Election 2020

Cllr Albert Doherty requested that actions be taken to ensure that all new voters are able to register to vote in time for the General Election on 8th February. Aideen Doherty advised that this will be dealt with by the County Secretariat and relevant measures would be put in place. She further advised that members would be updated on the process.

20.07.06 SI Houses

Cllr Martin McDermott asked that a focus should be kept on moving forward with all SI applications.

20.07.08 Proposed Development at Crana Crescent, Buncrana

Cllr Nicholas Crossan expressed his dissatisfaction with only nine houses being proposed for Crana Crescent, Buncrana. Aideen Doherty advised that the council were considering all options.

20.07.09 Housing Grant Applications

It was noted that there has been a significant increase in housing grant applications in 2019 compared to 2018.

20.07.10 Workshops Prior to February Inishowen MD Meeting

It was agreed that the following workshops would take place prior to the MD meeting on 11th February

10.30am Inishowen Business Development Association

11.30am Roads

12.30pm DFI & 2020 Programme C& E

2.30pm MD Meeting

20.08.01 COMMUNITY AND ENTERPRISE

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

20.08.02 Visitor Management Plan for Malin Head Signature Discovery Point

A brief conversation took place regarding the Visitor Management Plan for Malin Head Signature Discovery Point and the members noted the contents of the report. Cllr Martin McDermott referred to the draft walking proposed routes and indicated that the walking route proposals would only be developed with full consultation and approval with the landowners. Cllr McDermott highlighted the economic benefit of developing the area and requested that the next steps are now taken to move the plan forward to planning stage and identify funding options.

20.08.03 An Grianan of Aileach Fort

In response to a question from Cllr Jack Murray, Fiona Doherty advised that the Conservation and Management Plan for An Grianan of Aileach was almost completed and it was anticipated that it would be presented to the Members within the next few months.

20.08.04 Buncrana School Campus

Cllr Nicholas Crossan acknowledged that the Council are acting as an agent and currently reviewing additional sites in Buncrana and its environs on behalf of the Department of Education and Skills. Cllr Nicholas Crossan requested that the Council write to the Department of Education and skills requesting an update on the status of the Buncrana School Campus.

20.08.05 Leasing of Land at Barrack Hill

Cllr Albert Doherty stated that the Carndonagh Tidy Towns were seeking to lease lands at Barrack Hill and Cllr Bernard McGuinness stated that the local scouts were also seeking to lease lands there.

20.08.06 Development Fund Initiative 2020

Fiona Doherty sought a date from the Members to consider the 2020 Development Fund Initiative. The Members agreed to hold the meeting at 12.30pm prior to the February MD meeting. The Members discussed the DFI and agreed that the regulations need to be revised to make the process of applying easier for small community groups. It was suggested that this should be discussed at SPC level. It was acknowledged that small groups have difficulties with opening bank accounts and the general administration associated with applying for funds.

20.08.07 Playground Maintenance

Cllr Bernard McGuinness noted the report and outlined his concerns regarding the recurring issues associated with the nature of the sand surface of the playpark in Culdaff. Cllr McGuinness noted that the Executive Engineer was not in attendance at the meeting as he had requested. Fiona Doherty advised that the newly appointed Engineer would attend the workshop meetings in February. Cllr Albert Doherty stated that the play parks at Clos Padraig damaged with the flooding needs to be assessed.

20.08.08 Northburg Castle, Greencastle

Cllr Doherty stated that the Council should look at the potential of developing Northburg Castle and its promotion as a tourist attraction. He acknowledged that it is located within private property similar to Burt Castle and he asked that the Council re-commence engagement with the owners of the property.

Date of next meeting

It was agreed the date of the next meeting is Tuesday 11th February 2.30pm

Certified: _____
Cathaoirleach

Date: _____

Area Manager

Date: _____