

MINUTES OF THE INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT 'Go To MEETING' HELD ON TUESDAY 14th September 2021 at 1.00pm

Councillors Present:

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

Officials Present:

Una Cresswell, A/Senior Staff Officer, Housing & Corporate Services, Seamus Hopkins, Area Manager, Roads and Transportation, Jimmy McLaughlin, Executive Engineer, Roads and Transportation, Killian Smith, Executive Planner, Mathew Byrne, Waste Regulation Officer, and Fiona Doherty, Development Officer, Community Development

Apologies

John McLaughlin, Chief Executive Officer
Aideen Doherty, Area Manager, Housing & Corporate

21.69 Adjournment of Meeting

On the proposal of Cllr Nicholas Crossan and seconded by Cllr Martin Mc Dermott, it was agreed that the September meeting of Inishowen Municipal District be opened and immediately adjourned as a mark of respect to the late Inishowen Municipal District Cathaoirleach, Cllr Bernard McGuinness who very sadly passed away on 28th August.

On the proposal of Cllr Jack Murray and seconded by Cllr Martin McDermott, it was agreed that the September meeting would take place on the day of the next Inishowen Municipal District meeting, 12th October 2021

21.70 Tributes to the late Inishowen Municipal District Cathaoirleach, Cllr Bernard McGuinness

Cllr Nicholas Crossan, Leas-Chathaoirleach invited members to pay their tributes to the Late Cllr Bernard McGuinness.

Cllr Terry Crossan said that although he had only relatively recently got to know Cllr McGuinness, he respected him immensely and valued his advice and guidance. He said Cllr McGuinness was always very helpful and will be sadly missed at Council meetings.

Cllr Rena Donaghey stated that she knew Cllr McGuinness very well and like everybody else felt immense sadness and shock at his passing. She said his forty two years service as a public representative was to be admired and acknowledged. She added that he was very committed and had been on many committees and fought hard for all in the Inishowen community and further afield.

Cllr Farren recalled how when he joined Fine Gael in the 1980s he worked alongside Cllr McGuinness who was a seasoned politician who gave sound advice and was totally dedicated to serving the public. He said there was now a huge void to fill.

The members collectively referred to Cllr McGuinness's other qualities and skills such as his ability as a businessman, bee keeper, gardener and singer in the Bocan choir in Culdaff to name a few.

Cllr Martin McDermott said that today was a very sad day and that nobody was expecting Bernard's sudden passing as Bernard was in such good form particularly at the last meeting he attended. He said he will be missed at local and plenary level. He particularly acknowledged Cllr McGuinness's efforts supporting those affected by defective concrete blocks.

Cllr Jack Murray said that Cllr Bernard McGuinness was a giant of politics and will be sorely missed by all. He said he wanted to be associated with all the well deserved, positive tributes.

Cllr Paul Canning said that all the tributes were right and fitting and illustrated what a talented politician Cllr McGuinness was. He said Cllr McGuinness was a great support to all councillors with excellent knowledge that will be sorely missed.

Cllr Albert Doherty said he also wished to be associated with all the comments. He said that he respected Cllr McGuinness's sense of decorum, fairness and the way he always acknowledged other members efforts where due. He said he noted that the minutes of the July Inishowen Municipal District meeting illustrate how hard Cllr McGuinness worked and how he had many plans for the year ahead as Cathaoirleach. He mentioned that the day after Cllr McGuinness's death that €50,000 was awarded for Culdaff under Clar funding which was testament to his efforts.

Cllr Doherty also said he would like to acknowledge Cllr McGuinness's efforts with the North West Cross Border Regional Development Group in promoting Inishowen and his efforts in ensuring that the Lough Foyle Ferry service continued to operate.

Cllr Nicholas Crossan, Leas-Chathaoirleach said that he was saddened by Cllr McGuinness's death and found it difficult that the first function he had to perform as Leas-Chathaoirleach was to pay tribute to the late Cathaoirleach, Cllr Bernard McGuinness. He said that he knew Bernard for a very a, long time. He said that he was a dedicated loyal and faithful servant to the people of Inishowen and Donegal. He added that in forty two years he never lost his seat and this warrants the upmost respect from all .He also added that he had worked most of his adult life as a councillor and his efforts will never be equalled as he was so dedicated and never gave up.

Cllr Crossan said that there are a few projects that Cllr McGuinness felt very strongly about and was hoping to complete in his year as Cathaoirleach, and added that it would be remiss of the Inishowen members if they were not completed in the very near future in Cllr McGuinness's memory. In conclusion, Cllr Crossan said that Cllr McGuinness will be deeply missed by all and will not be forgotten.

He added “It was an untimely death and if there was ever a way to go out it would be to go out as the first citizen of Inishowen”

Seamus Hopkins (Roads & Transportation Manager), Jim McLaughlin (Executive Roads Engineer), Una Cresswell (Senior Staff Officer, Housing and Corporate Services) Fiona Doherty (Development Officer), Matthew Byrne (Waste Prevention Officer) and Killian Smith (Executive Planner) all spoke very warmly of Cllr McGuinness and expressed their sincere condolences to his family and friends.

21.71 Date of Next Meetings Workshops

Budget 2022 Workshop 4th October 2021 at 11.00am

September Meeting of Inishowen Municipal District -Tuesday 12th October at 12.30

October Meeting of Inishowen Municipal District Tuesday 12th October 2021 at 1.00pm

Budget 2022 Meeting 27th October 2021 at 2.00pm

Certified: _____

Date: _____

Leas- Cathaoirleach

Area Manager