



9ú Deireadh Fómhair 2025

**GACH BALL DE CHOISTE NA nOILEÁN**  
**EACH MEMBER OF THE ISLANDS COMMITTEE**

A Chara,

Beidh an chéad cruinniú eile de Choiste na nOileán ar siúl **De Máirt, an 14<sup>ú</sup> lá de mhí Deireadh Fómhair 2025**, ar **Oileán Inis Bó Finne**. Beidh muid ag fágáil cé Machaire Rabhartaigh ar an bhád farantóireachta díreach ag a **10.00 r.n.**

The next meeting of the Islands Committee is scheduled for **Tuesday, 14th October 2025**, on **Inis Bó Finne Island**. We will be leaving **Machaire Rabhartaigh Pier** on the ferry which departs at **10.00 a.m.** sharp.


Tá clár an chruinniú leagtha amach anseo.

The Agenda for the meeting is set out hereunder.

Iarrtar ort a bheith i láthair ag an chruinniú seo.

Please arrange to be in attendance.

Mise le meas,

  
PB Micheál Rowsome

Bainisteoir Ceantair

Seirbhísí Corparáideacha

Ar son Riarthóir Cruinniú

**CLÁR**  
**AGENDA**

1. Toghchán an Chathaoirligh  
Election of Chairperson
  
2. (a) Miontuairiscí Cruinniú 29ú Aibreán, 2025  
Consideration of Minutes of Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025  
  
(b) Néithe ag éirí.  
Matters arising from the Minutes.
  
3. Tógraí Oileán  
Island Projects
  
4. Aon Gnó Eile  
Any Other Business

MINUTES OF ISLANDS COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON ARRANMORE ISLAND ON  
29<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2025

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- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllr. John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh - Cathaoirleach  
Cllr. Michael McClafferty  
Cllr. Micheál Choilm Mac Giolla Easbuig  
Cllr. Denis McGee  
Marjorie Uí Chearbhall  
Eddie Joe MacAoidh  
William Boyle  
John O'Brien  
Noirín Uí Mhaoldomhnaigh  
Dinny McCullagh
- OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Michael McGarvey - Director of Water & Environment  
Michael Rowsome, A/Area Manager, Corporate & Housing  
Jamie Gallagher - Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation  
Michéal Mac Giolla Easbuig - Udarás na Gaeltachta  
Kevin McCloskey - Coastal Officer  
Eugene Allen - Asst. Engineer, Marine & Harbours  
Aidan Smith - Senior Executive Engineer, Water Services  
Hugh B. Kerr - A/Assistant Engineer, Rural Water  
Anne Marie McCole - Community Dev. Staff Officer  
Mary Boyle, A/SSO, Housing & Corporate  
Clíona Ní Ghallachóir - Aistriúcháin Comhuaineach
- APOLOGIES:** Mairín Uí Fhearraigh, Cllr. Anthony Molloy, Cllr. Brian Carr, Lorna Ramsey

IC 22/25

Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig, seconded by Eddie Joe Mac Aoidh, the Committee agreed the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

IC 23/25

Marine - Staff Resources

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig highlighted the ongoing issue regarding the lack of staff in the Marine Section especially, and the negative impact this is having on securing funding for Island Projects. He added that a dedicated team is essential to ensure the much-needed funding is in place so that the many projects can commence. Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig expressed his frustration that only 4 no. small projects were on the table for the Islands in the current year and that compared to the other Islands, Donegal were being left behind once again.

The Marine & Harbour Engineer advised the Committee that as some projects were not delivered last year, it was decided to go smaller in current year and added that they have submitted a request for an Executive Engineer to look after major Island projects.

The Director confirmed that funding has been sought for a number of projects in 2025 and highlighted the significant investment that the Islands and Bunbeg Harbour have benefited from by the Marine Service in the last number of years.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig mentioned a number of projects that are still awaiting funding i.e.

- Inis Oirthear
- Magheraroarty Masterplan
- Inishboffin - pier to be raised and extended
- Tory slipway works
- Rannagh Pier

The Director referred to a report which gave information of funding applied for. Cllr. Ó Fearraigh complimented the Marine Service for all their hard work and effort in completing a number of projects on the Island. The Marine Engineer agreed that the provision of additional staff would be welcomed for major projects.

**IC 24/25**

**Bunbeg Pontoon**

John O'Brien expressed his frustration at fishing vessels being unable to berth and of off-load their catch at Bunbeg Harbour because of the new pontoon there. He added that the pontoon is a great facility but a hindrance to fishing boats who have fish to bring ashore.

The Marine Engineer advised the Committee that they could look at removing part of the pontoon to make way for more berthing bays for fishermen. John O'Brien highlighted the absence of adequate shelter for boats between Burtonport and Rathmullan.

**IC 25/25**

**Harbour Dues**

John O'Brien raised the issue of landing/berthing fees and the Marine Engineer advised that this needs to go through a process and that Bye-Laws are in place which can only be changed at a Plenary Council Meeting.

Cllr. McGee expressed concern that the absence of services at many harbours was a huge inconvenience and that it's not in order to take money from anyone when inadequate services are in place.

The Marine Engineer advised that it would be a huge undertaking to make every pier accessible 24/7 365 days a year.

Rural Water Programme 2024 - 2026

The Senior Executive Engineer advised the Committee that;

- (1) Applications have been submitted to the Department for approval in respect of Inishboffin, Owey & Rutland water supply.
- (2) A trial project is ongoing on Tory to test a filtering system, and that funding is in place for further enhancements.

In response to queries from Denis McCullagh, the Water Engineer & Director confirmed that the first water supply option in all cases is to review local sources and to utilise the expertise of hydrologists to determine the best available drinking water supply.

Eddie Joe Mac Aoidh advised the Committee that connecting pipes between the nearest points on the mainland and on Gola would help to resolve ongoing water supply issues that Uisce Éireann are attempting to resolve regularly.

Public Toilets

The Coastal Officer updated the Committee on:

- (1) the status of the Eco-Loo on Gola
- (2) the application for funding for Eco-Loos on Arranmore and on Inishfree
- (3) Owey Part 8 planning

Cllr. McGee, Cllr. McClafferty & Marjorie Uí Chearbhall highlighted ongoing difficulties regarding the availability and maintenance of toilets in Magheraroarty.

The Director confirmed that the Environment Service acknowledge the requirement for enhanced maintenance and

availability of toilet facilities and are engaging with other local agencies in this regard. The Údaras Manager also outlined the willingness of his organisation to engage with stakeholders to resolve issues.

### Roads

The Roads Engineer discussed the report circulated with the Agenda and in relation to the application to An Roinn for additional funding of Island Roads. He also discussed the L.I.S. allocation for Island Roads.

The Committee were advised that the Council are aware of the potential of the National Broadband Ireland roll out on Islands to negatively impact on the road network and that the Council will monitor same to ensure that recent substantial investment is protected via licence conditions.

### Tory

Marjorie Uí Chearbhall raised the following issues:

- Magheraroarty, storage facility, shelter, masterplan
- Tory - winch, pier study, railings at Port a' Dúin
- Responsibility for Sea Wall
- NBI rollout and necessity to protect roads

### Arranmore

Noirín Uí Mhaoldomhnaigh raised the following matters:

- Campbells Corner update
- Road markings at pier
- Public Lighting from Leabgarrow to Stackamore
- Encourage Campervan owners to utilise available facilities

Noirín also recommended that the Council and An Roinn collaborate in respect of major marine projects to achieve a favourable outcome for the Islands, similar to the Island Road Enhancement.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig raised issues in relation to the Arranmore Fire Service, the Lighthouse, Coastguard Helicopter, Marine Environment and Road projects.

The Meetings Administrator advised that the list submitted by John McClafferty was circulated to the relevant services.

Cllr. McClafferty concurred with Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig regarding the downgrading of the coastguard helicopter service and highlighted the importance of engaging with the Department of Transport in this regard.

### **Inisboffin**

In response to a query from John O'Brien regarding the vacant property grant, the Meetings Administrator advised that funding of €60,000 is available to refurbish vacant properties on populated Islands (€84,000 for derelict Island properties) and Inishboffin is listed as a populated Island by the Department of Rural & Community Development.

### **Gola**

Eddie Joe MacAoidh requested assistance with the following projects:

- Swim shelter/ferry shelter
- Helipad
- Port a Chruinn ladders
- Trá na mBlathán Pier Upgrade

### **Owey**

William Boyle raised the following issues:

- Reinstatement of Counter on Pier
- Barge Service
- Provision of Public Toilet
- Difficult Road Surface

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**