

MINUTES OF MEETING OF

GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

HELD ON 9th December 2014, IN DUNGLOE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr. Terence Slowey
Cllr John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh
Cllr Seamus Ó Domhnaill
Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher
Cllr. Enda Bonner
Cllr. Mícheál Cholm Mac Giolla Easbuig

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Micheal Heaney- Director of Community Culture & Planning
Paul McGill - Area Manager, Housing & Corporate Services
Brendan McFadden – S.E.E Area Manager, Roads & Transportation
Charles Sweeney – Area Manager, Community & Culture
Sinead McClafferty- Executive Planner
Damien McDermott – NRDO Engineer
Mary Boyle – ASO Housing/Corporate Service

GMD 40/14 **VOTE OF SYMPATHY**

The Committee observed a minutes silence in memory of Diane Byrne (RIP). Members expressed a vote of sympathy to the family, friends, and colleagues of Diane Byrne and paid a warm tribute to Diane. The Housing Corporate Manger expressed appreciation to Councillors for their tribute to Diane and to the general public for their empathy and understanding during the period of Diane’s bereavement.

GMD 41/14 **MINUTES OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING 23RD SEPTEMBER 2014**

On the proposal of Cllr Bonner, seconded by Cllr O Fearraigh the minutes of the Glenties Municipal District Meeting held on the 23rd of September 2014 were confirmed.

GMD 42/14

**MINUTES OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
COMMITTEE MEETING 6th OCTOBER 2014**

On the proposal of Cllr O Domhnaill, seconded by Cllr Gallagher, the minutes of the Glenties Municipal District Meeting held on the 6th October, 2014 were confirmed.

GMD 43/14

**MINUTES OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
COMMITTEE MEETING 17th NOVEMBER 2014**

On the proposal of Cllr Bonner, seconded by Cllr O Domhnaill, the minutes of the Glenties Municipal District Meeting held on the 17th November, 2014 were confirmed.

GMD 44/14

REPORT FROM WORKSHOP – 23RD SEPTEMBER 2014

On the proposal of Cllr Bonner, seconded by Cllr O Fearraigh, the report from the Workshop held on 23rd September 2014 was agreed.

GMD 45/14

REPORT FROM WORKSHOP – 17TH NOVEMBER 2014

On the proposal of Cllr O Domhnaill, seconded by Cllr Gallagher the Committee agreed the report from the Workshop held on the 17th November, 2014.

GMD 46/14 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Members noted the summary of planning application circulated with the agenda and presented by Sinead McClafferty, Executive Planner.

GMD 47/14 **APPEALS**

The Committee noted the appeals received and decisions notified which were circulated previously and presented by the Executive Planner.

GMD 48/14 **PART 8**

Members noted the report circulated with the Agenda and presented by the Executive Planner regarding the status of the Part 8 application at Ard Connell, Ardara (PG14.07)

GMD 49/14 **COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN – LOCAL AREA PLAN**

The Committee highlighted the following issues for the attention of the Planning Service.

- Development of a local area plan for Dungloe (Tier 2)
- Necessity to preserve the unique culture of both the Gaeltacht Area and the Offshore Islands in the compilation of any area plan within the Glenties Municipal District
- Importance of accommodating indigenous communities in the planning process.
- Response required to previous representations in respect of Rural Housing Policy 5 in the County Development Plan.

On the proposal of Cllr O Domhnaill seconded by Cllr Gallagher the Committee requested the Council to convene a Workshop on Economic Development proposals for West Donegal.

GMD 50/14 **TREATMENT PLANT – POLE ROAD DUNGLOE**

In response to queries from the Committee regarding the location & scale of the treatment plant, the Executive Planner advised that these issues were being referred to Planning Enforcement for a follow up response. Members also recommended the attendance of Irish Water Engineers at the next Municipal District Meeting to clarify Members and Community concerns.

GMD 51/14

FOLLOW UP ISSUES

The Committee welcomed the report circulated with the agenda in relation to outstanding issues from previous meetings.

GMD 52/14

2014 ROADWORKS PROGRAMME

The Committee discussed the report circulated previously and presented by the Roads Manager advising of the completion of both the Road Restoration Improvement and the Surface Dressing Programmes. Members were advised that December priorities for the Roads Service are in relation to pothole repairs and drainage works. Cllr O Fearraigh commended the Hedgecutting Programme in the Gweedore Area. Cllr Slowey complimented the footpath works carried out by the Roads Service in Ardara.

In response to a query from Cllr. O Domhnaill regarding establishment of a database in respect of drainage works the Roads Manager requested Members to submit their drainage concerns at all locations for consideration.

GMD 53/14

PREPARATION OF 2015 ROADWORKS PROGRAMME

The Roads Manager outlined the protocols involved in the preparation of the 2015 Roadworks Programme. He updated Members on the anticipated allocations and the expected programme of works and advised that any additional funding would be notified and works identified in conjunction with the Committee.

GMD 54/14

NRDO UPDATE

The NRDO Engineer updated the Committee on the status of proposals for continuation of the N56 scheme and responded to Members queries in this regard. Members requested a report outlining the status of the Meenacuing Lighting scheme.

GMD 55/14

MULLANTYBOYLE BRIDGE – DEPUTATION

The Roads Manager updated the Committee in relation to the status of this project and informed members that an allocation is awaited to commence the tendering process.

At this stage the Committee received a deputation from the Mullantyboyle Action Group represented by Charles Hanlon, Brian Carr, and Glen Hughes. The Deputation aired their frustration at the loss of the Mullantyboyle Bridge and outlined the consequences for the wider area. On the proposal of Cllr Slowey seconded by Cllr Gallagher the Committee undertook to request a meeting with relevant

Government Ministers to request funding to expedite the provision of a bridge at this location.

GMD 56/14

ROAD MAINTENANCE

The Committee raised the following issues for the consideration of the Roads Service.

- Luinnagh National School, Pole Road & Caravan Road, Dungloe footpath requirements
- Dunlewey Junction and Annagry road safety concerns
- Relocation of ESB pole on footpath in Annagry
- Lights on route to Magheraroarty Pier
- Drainage requirements at Corveen and Glasserchoo crossroads
- Meenaroy Bridge

The Roads Manager advised Members of the absence of funding for Public Lighting and back roads, and will seek clarity from Roads SPC in relation to the takeover of Non County Roads.

On the proposal of Cllr O Domhnaill and seconded by Cllr Bonner the Committee recommended an increase in the speed limit on the back of Errigal Road outside Dunlewey from 80km to 100km per hour.

GMD 57/14

SWEENEYS SHOP – MAIN STREET DUNGLOE

On the proposal of Cllr Bonner, seconded by Cllr O Domhnaill, the Committee recommended that the Council purchase this premises to facilitate the provision of a footpath across the bridge. The Roads Manager informed Members that he was aware of the availability of the property and that the project costing in the sum of €90,000 can be considered in the context of 2015/2016 work programmes.

GMD 58/14

TAKEOVER OF NON COUNTY ROADS

Cllr. O Domhnaill in the absence of progress on this issue, recommended that the Cloonbarra link road be taken in charge as a test case and this proposal was seconded by Cllr Bonner. The Roads Manager informed the Committee that he will obtain feedback on the policy currently being developed by the Roads SPC.

GMD 59/14

REPAIR WORKS TO NON COUNTY ROADS

The Committee highlighted the increasing number of non county roads serving multiple housing units which are in a poor state of repair. The Roads Manager advised that the L.I.S and Bóithre Áise funding streams are no longer available and that Countywide funding in the sum of €50,000 was allocated in the 2014 budget book. The Roads Manager undertook to seek clarity as to whether any central allocation was available in 2015.

GMD 60/14

DONEGAL COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC PLAN

Members noted the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Community & Culture Manager regarding future funding programmes such as the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) and the Leader/Rural Development Programme.

GMD 61/14

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK

The Committee welcomed the report circulated at the meeting regarding the establishment of a Public Participation Networks as part of the Local and Community Development Committee (LCDC)

GMD 62/14

DONEGAL AGE FRIENDLY COUNTY INITIATIVE

The Committee noted the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Community & Culture Manger in relation to the anticipated launch of the Donegal Age Friendly strategy in January 2015.

GMD 63/14

PROPOSED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT AN EARAGAIL

The Community and Culture Manager informed the Committee that potential funding sources are currently being investigated in relation to developing sustainable access to An Earagail.

GMD 64/14

COMMUNITY AND ENTERPRISE ACTIVITIES

Members noted the reports circulated at the meeting and presented by the Community & Cultural Manager in relation to the following activities.

- Enterprise Development Forum
- Dunfanaghy Community Development Network
- Renewable Energy Network
- Donegal Youth Council
- Donegal Heritage Plan

GMD 65/14

FORBAIRT DHUN LUICHE

The Chairperson Cllr Slowey welcomed a deputation from Forbairt Dhun Luiche. The Deputation made a presentation and highlighted issues of importance in the Dunlewey area and requested the Council's assistance in progressing their aims and ambitions summarised as follows;

- Roads
- Street lights
- Footpaths
- Littering
- Hedgecutting
- Invasive species
- Viewing Points
- Errigal Path

The Committee commended both the quality of the presentation and the commitment of Forbairt Dhún Luiche to enhancing the viability of the Dunlewey area.

GMD 66/14

DEVELOPMENT FUND INITIATIVE

A short discussion ensued in relation to the operation of the Development Fund Initiative. Cllr O Fearraigh recommended that enhanced communications with local community groups is required vis a vis grant availability. The Director of Community & Culture informed Members that the Development Fund Initiative has been rebranded as the Strategic Development Fund. It is envisaged that each Municipal District would target this fund to assist with the strategic developments of sufficient scale which will benefit their district within the broader context of local economic and community development. A budget of €120,000 is available in 2015 to the Glenties Municipal District for strategic development funding.

GMD 67/14

FIBRE BROADBAND

Cllr Slowey highlighted the current broadband deficiencies in the absence of a fibre optic service in Donegal.

HOUSING & CORPORATE SERVICES

GMD 68/14

SOCIAL HOUSING PROGRAMME

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager in relation to the status of loan/shared ownership schemes and grant schemes as at the 9th December, 2014. Cllr O Domhnaill requested the Council to expedite completion of engineering inspections reports and Cllr Bonner also requested that repairs be carried out expeditiously.

Cllr Gallagher requested an updated Tenants Handbook to enhance the provision of maintenance services to Council tenants.

GMD 69/14

DISPOSAL OF HOUSING UNITS

The Housing Manager informed the Committee of the intention of the Council to dispose of 2no. Single Housing units at Maghera (Ardara) and Drimaneany (Fintown). Members were advised that the units are in bad state of disrepair and that there is no demand from any applicants for these houses.

Members supported the disposal of the above Housing units, and where possible, the ringfencing of any monies accruing from the sale for the provision of new social housing in 2015.

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig disagreed with the Committee and recommended that the units should be upgraded and maintained for the provision of rural housing as the need arises.

GMD 70/14

VACANT UNITS - DUNFANAGHY

On the proposal of Cllr O Domhnaill seconded by Cllr O Fearraigh the Committee recommended the demolition of 3 vacant older Housing units in Dunfanaghy.

Members were advised of Health and Safety concerns at this locus.

GMD 71/14

NEW DOOCHARY HOUSING SCHEME

Cllr Bonner requested the co-operation of the Housing and Roads Service to deal with flooding and drainage deficiencies at this location.

GMD 72/14

WATER & ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Cllr O Domhnaill highlighted the inadequacies of responses received to local Water & Environmental issues. Cllr Slowey recommended that a representative of Water & Environment attend all future Municipal District Meetings.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2015

The Committee agreed the following schedule of meetings for 2015

MONTH	DATE
January	13 th
March	10 th
May (AGM & MD)	12 th
July	14 th
September	8 th
October (Budget)	13 th
December	8 th

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING