

MINUTES OF MEETING OF

GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

HELD ON 8th MAY 2015 IN DUNGLOE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE

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

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Micheal Ó Heanaigh- 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
Paul Kelly – Executive Planner
Sinead McClafferty- Assistant Planner
Jamie Gallagher – A/Executive Roads Engineer
Damien McDermott – NRDO Engineer
Michael Rowsome – SSO Corporate Services

APOLOGIES Frank Sweeney – Executive Planner
David Friel – Waste Recycling Officer

GMD 76/15 **MINUTES OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING**

On the proposal of Cllr Ó Domhnaill, seconded by Cllr Gallagher, the minutes of the Glenties Municipal District Meeting held on the 25th March 2015 were confirmed.

ENVIRONMENT SERVICE

GMD 77/15 Cllr Bonner informed Members that coastal erosion is a major threat to many locations in the district and expressed disappointment that the Environment Service were not represented at the meeting. The Committee requested that an Environment representative attend all meetings of the Municipal District to avoid further adjournments.

COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE AND CULTURE

GMD 78/15

STRATEGIC DEVELOPEMNT FUND 2015

78.1

On the Proposal of Cllr Ó Domhnaill seconded by Cllr Ó Fearraigh the Committee agreed the Strategic Development Fund allocations in the sum of €120,000 as detailed hereunder;

Project	Allocation
1 Errigal Mountain Stakeholders Group	€ 8,000.00
2 Junior Achievement 2015	€ 1,000.00
3 Falcarragh - Caiseal na gCorr Railway walk	€ 5,000.00
4 Pride of Place 2015	€ 1,500.00
5 Tir Chonail Commeration Committee	€ 2,500.00
6 Pobail le Cheile, CDP	€ 5,000.00
7 CDP Na Rossan	€ 5,000.00
8 Coiste Pholl an tSnámh	€ 13,000.00
9 Curam Cloich Cheann Fhaola	€ 3,000.00
10 Falcarragh Tourist & Traders.	€ 2,750.00
11 Forbairt na Rosann	€ 3,000.00
12 Coiste Forbartha Dhobhair Teo	€ 2,500.00
13 Keadue Rovers FC	€ 2,500.00
14 Dungloe Senior Band	€ 2,500.00
15 Iontaobhaithe Amharclann Ghaoth Dobhair	€ 5,000.00
16 Comharchumann Forbartha Ghaoth Dobhair	€ 2,500.00
17 Coiste Forbartha Anagaire	€ 2,500.00
18 Dungloe GAA	€ 7,000.00
19 Coiste Sean Iarnród Ailt an Chorráin	€ 2,750.00
20 Rosses Community Dyslexia Group	€ 5,000.00
21 C.L.G Chloich Cheann Fhaola	€ 4,500.00
22 Coiste Halla Naomh Bride	€ 2,500.00
23 Coiste Mhuire	€ 2,500.00
24 Donegal Comhaltas Ceolteoirí Éireann	€ 2,500.00
25 Club Óige Chríost Rí	€ 8,000.00
26 C.L.G Ard an Ratha	€ 14,000.00
27 Mary from Dungloe Festival	€ 4,000.00
Totals	€ 120,000.00

78.2 In response to queries from the Committee regarding minimal allocations permitted, the Community & Culture Director advised that the strategic development fund rules and guidelines have been adhered to in the distribution of allocations in the Glenties Municipal District.

78.3 Cllr MacGiolla Easbaig stated his dissatisfaction with issues brought to his notice by Members of the public subsequent to the consideration of Strategic Development Fund applications.

GMD 79/15 **DONEGAL COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC PLAN**

The Community and Cultural Director informed Members of the role of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and the Local Economic Development Committee in the preparation of the Local Economic & Community Plan which will be the framework strategy for the next 6 years for funding streams issued as SICAP Leader and Interreg.

GMD 80/15 **EU UNIT UPDATE**

The Committee welcomed the EU unit update report circulated at the meeting.

GMD 81/15 **DONEGAL AGE FRIENDLY COUNTY INITIATIVE**

The Community and Enterprise Manager informed Members that the Donegal Age Friendly strategy will be launched on the 22nd of May as part of the Bealtaine Festival.

GMD 82/15 **IPB PRIDE OF PLACE COMPETITION 2015**

Members welcomed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Community & Enterprise Manager. The 5 groups listed hereunder have been nominated to the National Competition.

- Coiste Pobal Gort a' Choirce – Islands and Coastal Communities
- The Workhouse Dunfanaghy – Population over 1000
- Killybegs Communtiy Council – Population over 2000
- Sliabh Sneacht Centre Dumfries – Population up to 1000
- Donegal Youth Council – Young people in the Community Initiative.

GMD 83/15

LEADER PROGRAMME

The Community and Culture Director updated Members regarding proposals for the Local Community and Development Committee to act as the local action group for the purpose of the delivery of the next Leader Programme and expressions of interest are currently being prepared with 4 no. identified delivery partners as follows:

- DLDC
- IDP
- Comhar na nOilean
- Údaras Na Gaeltachta

GMD 84/15

TOURISM

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Community & Enterprise Manager.

Cllr Slowey commended (i) The Greening Donegal Initiative (ii) Promotion of the new Donegal Tourism brochure in Glasgow (iii) Wild Atlantic Way brand. Cllr Gallagher requested a follow up to her recommendation that the Local Enterprise Office and Donegal Tourism attend a future Municipal District Meeting. Cllr Gallagher further requested that the Council engage with businesses to increase linkages to the Councils marketing strategy.

GMD 85/15

IRELAND 1916 CENTENARY PROGRAMME

Cllr Gallagher informed Members that a Committee has been established to commemorate the events of the 1916 Easter rising. In response to dissatisfaction expressed by Members regarding the level of consultation in relation to the establishment of the 1916 Commemoration Committee the Director of Community & Culture undertook to liaise with the Council secretariat in this regard.

HOUSING & BUILDING

GMD 86/15

SOCIAL HOUSING PROGRAMME

Members discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager in relation to the status of the Social Housing Programme as at the 1st May 2015.

The Committee welcomed work in progress on the retro - fit scheme of 60 housing units in the Glenties and Ardara areas. The Housing Manager advised that the second tranche of retro – fit funding will focus on SI units with particular focus on older stock. In response to a query from Cllr Gallagher regarding the status of Housing grants, the Housing Manager undertook to circulate statistical and financial information to Members.

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbaig requested a follow up in relation to previous demands for a report on the status of inadequate sewage infrastructure on many Council schemes.

GMD 87/15

HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENT SCHEME

The Housing Manager informed the Committee that a new housing assistance payment is being introduced for people with a long term housing need and who qualify for social housing supports. The housing assistance payment will eventually replace the rent supplement scheme and will be administered by the Housing Authorities. Relevant details will be forwarded to Members for their information. The Committee recommended enhancement of Housing Services in the Dungloe PSC to facilitate increased involvement and interaction with the public.

GMD 88/15

CASUAL VACANCIES

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager regarding the status of casual vacancies as at 1st May 2015. Cllr Slowey welcomed the tendering of works to expedite the letting of casual vacancies.

GMD 89/15

TENANTS HANDBOOK

In response to concerns expressed by the Committee, the Housing Manager advised Members that maintenance obligations in respect of local Authority Housing stock is dictated by the tenants handbook adopted by the Council, and undertook to circulate a copy of the handbook to Councillors.

Members expressed dissatisfaction with the maintenance and condition of Council housing stock and highlighted various difficulties endured by tenants.

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbaig requested the removal of red algae from walls in Council housing in the Meenaniller area.

Cllr Ó Domhnaill requested the Council to initiate a plan for the maintenance of housing to an acceptable standard and the allocation of adequate staffing resources to implement a maintenance programme.

GMD 90/15

TENANT PURCHASE SCHEME

In response to concerns expressed by Cllr Gallagher regarding the lack of progress by the Council in assisting people to purchase their own housing, the Housing Manager advised Members;

- Of the absence of a national tenant purchase scheme and
- That he anticipated circulation of proposals for a new scheme in the current year.

GMD 91/15

SI HOUSING

In response to a query from Cllr Mac Giolla Easbaig regarding the prioritisation of SI applicants who had previously been approved for funding the Housing Manager informed Members that a policy will have to be determined by the Housing SPC in conjunction with the provision of a funding stream.

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GMD 92/15 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The Committee noted the summary report of planning applications received during the period from 1st January to 31st March 2015.

GMD 93/15 **TRANSBOUNDARY APPLICATIONS**

The Committee discussed the report on transboundary applications circulated with the agenda and presented by Paul Kelly, Executive Planner to highlight the spectrum of work undertaken by the Planning Service.

GMD 94/15 **DEVOLPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME**

In response to a query from Cllr Ó Domhnaill regarding the status of this scheme, the Executive Planner undertook to liaise with the Central Planning Unit in this regard.

GMD 95/15 **MAGHERAROARTY CAR PARK DEVELOPMENT**

Cllr Ó Fearraigh requested an update from the Planning Service in relation to the status of planning in respect of this development.

GMD 96/14 **PRE PLANNING PROTOCOLS**

In response to a query from Cllr Ó Fearraigh regarding the purchase of land prior to the submission of a planning application, Sinead McClafferty Executive Planner advised Members of the Councils pre-planning service, and documentation required in this regard.

Paul Kelly Executive Planner responded to Cllr Slowey's concerns regarding the onerous hurdles placed on prospective planning applicants vis a vis satisfaction of percolation criteria in advance of planning submissions.

GMD 97/15

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Cllr Gallagher recommended that on finalisation of this project that the Central Planning Unit advise Members of the planning implications arising from the mapping of landscape character areas and landscape character types.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GMD 98/15

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher seconded by Cllr Ó Domhnaill the Committee requested an increased emphasis on the economic regeneration and development of West Donegal at the next Municipal District meeting along with a presentation from Donegal Tourism. The Director of Community, Culture and Planning undertook to organise a Workshop as part of the next meeting.

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

GMD 99/15

APPOINTMENT OF ROADS ENGINEER

The Roads Manager introduced Jamie Gallagher Assistant Engineer to the Committee and informed Members that he will be responsible for the area from Burtonport to Cragheyboyle northwards, previously the responsibility of Eunan O Donnell.

GMD 100/15

FOLLOW UP TO MARCH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING

The Roads Manager informed Members that current policy for the distribution of own resource road funding, is on a road length basis and that the Roads SPC is currently reviewing this policy.

GMD 101/15

MULLANTYBOYLE BRIDGE PROJECT

The Committee welcomed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Roads Manager confirming receipt of funding in the sum of €698,808 and listing indicative timelines for completion of the project.

GMD 102/15

DEVELOPMENT CHARGE FUNDING

Members agreed the proposal from the Roads Manager to distribute the Glenties MD allocation of €80,000 equally between the 4 RSS areas,

RSS AREA		WORKS	COST
Dungloe RSS		Improvements to existing footbridge and Widen Pinch Points on Quay Road	€8,000 €12,000
Glenties RSS	1.	Footpath at Glenties Comprehensive School	€20,000
Gweedore RSS	1.	Replace Footpath at Derrybeg towards Parochial House (Old and New)	€20,000
Falcarragh RSS	1.	Repair/Replace/Remove Cattlegrids on Hornhead Scenic Route and Replace footpath at Top of Main street in Dunfanghy below G Flynns.	€20,000

GMD 103/15

NRDO

Damien McDermott NRDO Engineer updated Members on the status of all NRDO projects in the Municipal District. The Committee welcomed the announcement of funding of phase 2 of the Dungloe-Glenties major scheme, and the NRDO engineer advised Members (i) that the appointment of a contractor is imminent & (ii) that there is an expectation that the Kilkenny Maas stretch will be ready for tender by the year end with the anticipation of funding in 2016. The NRDO engineer also undertook to issue Members with contact details for the site management team during construction works.

GMD 104/15

ROADS FOLLOW UPS

Members highlighted various road safety, drainage, lighting, speed limits, footpaths, sea wall repairs and maintenance issues throughout the Municipal District for the attention of the Roads Services.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING