**MINUTES OF MEETING OF ISLANDS COMMITTEE**

**HELD ON 11th APRIL 2017 IN THE DUNGLOE PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher

Cllr. Enda Bonner

Cllr. John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh

Cllr. Terence Slowey

Cllr. Micheál Cholm Mac Giolla Easbuig

Cllr. Ian McGarvey

William Boyle

Rosaleen McShane

Eamonn S. Mac Aoidh

Mairín Uí Fhearraigh

Maire Uí Dochartaigh

Séamus Mac Ruairí

Marjorie Uí Chearbhaill

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Michael McGarvey, A/Director Water & Environment

Eamonn Brown, A/Area Manager, Housing & Corporate Services

John Hegarty, Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation

David Friel, Coastal Officer

Charles Sweeney, Area Manager, Community & Enterprise

Mairead Cranley, Staff Officer, Community & Enterprise

Diarmuid Ó Mórdha, An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta, Gnóthaí Réigiúnacha, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta

Dermot Brady – SCAFO, Fire Service

Michael Rowsome, S.S.O, Corporate & Motor Tax

**APOLOGIES**: Noirín Uí Mhaoldomhnaigh

Eamonn Bonner

Cathal Sweeney

Cllr. Seamus Ó Domhnaill

**IC 10/17** **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 17th JANUARY 2017**

On the proposal of Mairín Uí Fhearraigh, seconded by Cllr. Ian McGarvey, the minutes of the meeting held on the 17th January 2017 were agreed.

**IC 11/17 ROADS SERVICES**

11.1 The Roads Engineer updated the Committee on:

1. The application to An Roinn for road grants on both Arranmore and Tory and
2. Confirmed receipt of submissions for the addition of Cloughcorr and the Pollawaddy roads on Arranmore to the priority listing.

11.2 **Takeover of Island Roads**

Seamus Mac Ruairí recommended that the Council source investment for the takeover of all Island roads, and in particular the Doctor’s Road on Arranmore to safeguard investment made to date. Cllr. Slowey seconded the recommendation and informed the meeting of the suitability of this road as a pilot takeover project. Cllr. McGarvey requested the Council to designate all Island roads as County roads.

The Roads Engineer undertook to relay the sentiments of the Committee in respect of the Doctor’s Road to the ongoing ‘Road Takeover’ process.

11.3 **Owey Island**

In response to a query from Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig, the Roads Engineer advised the Committee that a meeting has been arranged on Owey with William Boyle regarding road deterioration.

**IC 12/17 MARINE SERVICE**

The Committee (i) noted the report from the Marine Engineer circulated at the meeting (ii) expressed disappointment at the absence of the Marine Engineer to respond to Members concerns.

Cllr. Gallagher as Chairperson of the Committee requested that a list of all matters raised by the Island representatives be forwarded to the Marine Engineer for a response to issue all the Committee.

12.1 **Owey Island**

William Boyle expressed dissatisfaction at the:

1. Absence of funding to repair the pier and informed the Committee that the ferry operator will not provide a service due to health and safety concerns.
2. Failure of the Council to repair pier lighting for a number of years.

12.2 **Pier Grants**

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig queried if a further funding offer will be forthcoming for Island Piers.

12.3 **Rannagh Pier**

Seamus Mac Ruairí queried the status of development proposed at Rannagh Pier and also the status of the foreshore lease at this location.

12.4 **Gola Island**

Mairín Uí Fhearraigh requested an update on both the status of the proposed works to complete the crane installation at Gola Island and also the provision of training for the operation of the Crane. Eamonn Mac Aoidh informed the Committee that issues previously highlighted in respect of piers, roads and toilets are still outstanding a year later and the urgency of expediting solutions prior to the onset of the tourist season.

12.5 **Inis Mhic an Doirn (Rutland)**

Rosaleen McShane requested an update on the repair of steps on Rutland.

12.6 **Leabgarrow Boat Yard**

Seamus Rodgers highlighted the unacceptable situation whereby boat wrecks remain in the boat yard notwithstanding the availability of Harbour Bye-laws to address this matter.

12.7 **Inishboffin**

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh requested the Council to source funding for the provision of a crane on Inishboffin and stressed the importance of crane facilities on offshore islands.

12.8 **Magheroarty**

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh queried the date of commencement of dredging at Magheraroarty and the status of long term plans to address the issue of rising sand levels at Magheroarty Pier.

12.9 **Tory Helipad**

Marjorie Uí Chearbhall and Cllr. Ó Fearraigh highlighted the poor standard of works carried out at this locus.

12.10 **Tory Rock Armour**

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh requested an update on the issue raised at the January meeting regarding an outstanding payment.

**IC 13/17 FIRE SERVICE**

13.1 **Island Roy**

In response to an ongoing query from Mairín Uí Dhochartaigh regarding the provision of a fire hydrant on Island Roy, the Fire Officer informed the Committee of the statutory powers of Irish Water in this regard. Cllr. Slowey requested the fire service to provide a fire hydrant checking programme to ensure the efficient operation of all fire hydrants on Islands.

13.2 **Fire Blankets and Smoke Alarms**

The Chief Assistant Fire Officer informed the Committee that a sufficient supply of smoke alarms and fire blankets are available for immediate distribution to any Island where a deficiency exists and that training will also be provided via a third party.

The A/Director of Water & Environment requested Island representatives to notify the CAFO of requirements on conclusion of the meeting.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig requested that the Fire Service to prioritise the provision of necessary Fire Prevention infrastructure to Islanders.

13.3 **Fire Tenders**

In response to a query from Cllr. McGarvey regarding the provision of fire tenders on Arranmore and Tory, the CAFO advised Members that there are no proposals to provide same.

Cllr. Gallagher informed the Committee that an amendment to Government policy is necessary to expedite this issue and that the Council secretariat have corresponded with the DOE following adoption of a Island Fire Service motion at the Plenary Council proposed by Cllr. Ó Fearraigh.

**IC 14/17 WATER & ENVIRONMENT**

14.1 **Public Conveniences**

Mairín Uí Fhearraigh requested the Council to provide public conveniences on Islands in advance of the tourist season and informed Members that the Island of Inishfree, Gola and Inishboffin are designated discovery points on the Wild Atlantic Way. The A/Director of Water & Environment informed the Committee that the Council are working in conjunction with Tory Co-op to provide a public convenience on Tory but stated that there are budgetary limitations regarding the provision and maintenance of portable facilities on small islands.

14.2 **Tory - Septic Tank**

Marjorie Uí Chearbhaill highlighted the public health concerns arising on Tory from an overflowing septic tank and requested a long term solution to this matter.

**IC 15/17** **Island Funding**

The Committee discussed the criteria and budget for the Island programme.

Diarmuid Ó Mórdha informed Members that An Roinn fund approved road, pier and environmental projects on a 75% basis and the Council provide matched funding in the sum of 25% of the approved cost. Diarmuid Ó Mórdha also clarified that Bóithre Áise grants have been discontinued.

Cllr. Bonner informed the Committee that the current Island budget is in the sum of €20,000 and that a meeting has been sought with the Chief Executive to request an increase in this fund.

On the proposal of Cllr. McGarvey, seconded by Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig, members requested that an invitation issue to Minister Kyne to meet with the Island Committee on the 11th of July.

Cllr. McGarvey also recommended that MEP’s, TD’s and Senators in the County lobby relevant Government officials for special treatment for our Islands.

Cllr. Gallagher requested that the Chief Executive and Director of Finance be contacted prior to the proposed meeting with Glenties MD Councillors to include the following matters on the agenda for the meeting:

* Funding of Islands Programme.
* Scheduling of Departmental allocations to facilitate earlier project commencement.

Cllr. Gallagher also requested that the first item on future Island Agendae is a report from each service following up on specific issues raised at the previous meeting.

The A/Director of Water & Environment updated the Committee in relation to ongoing and completed Island projects.

**IC 16/17 Island Committee Chairperson**

In response to a proposal form Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig regarding the Island representatives being afforded the position of Chairperson, Cllr. Gallagher requested that the matter be discussed at the Council’s AGM.

**IC 17/17 Community Needs Assessment**

The Community & Enterprise Manager updated the Committee in relation to work in progress on this project.

**IC 18/17 Votes of Sympathy**

Seamus Mac Ruairí proposed a vote of sympathy to:

1. The family of the late Packie Glackin, former Roads Supervisor and
2. The families of all those connected to the crew of the Coastguard Helicopter Crew who were involved in the tragedy at Blacksod Bay.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.**