**MINUTES OF MEETING OF ISLANDS COMMITTEE**

**HELD ON 11th JULY 2017 ON TORY ISLAND**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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

Cllr. Enda Bonner

Cllr. John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh

Cllr. Terence Slowey

Cllr. Seamus Ó Domhnaill

William Boyle

Eamonn S. Mac Aoidh

Séamus Mac Ruairí

Marjorie Uí Chearbhaill

Eamonn Bonner

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Declan McKernan-Senior Engineer, Water Services

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

Conor McShane-Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Fire Service

Cathal Sweeney-Marine Engineer

Eunan Quinn-Senior Executive Planner, Planning Service

Brendan McFadden-S.E.E, Area Manager, Roads Service

John Hegarty-Executive Engineer, Roads Service

Rodney Irwin-N.R.D.O Engineer

Colin McNulty-Administrative Officer, Community Service

Eadaoin Healy-G.I.S Assistant, Laboratory

Máire Ní Fhearraigh-C.O, Community & Enterprise

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

**APOLOGIES**: Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig

Cllr. McGarvey

Michael McGarvey-Director of Water Service.

Diarmuid Ó Mórdha – An Roinn

Mairín Uí Fhearraigh

Máire Uí Dochartaigh

Noirín Uí Mhaoldomhnaigh

Roseleen McShane

**IC 19/17** **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 11th APRIL 2017**

On the proposal of William Boyle, seconded by Cllr. Slowey, the minutes of the meeting held on the 11th April 2017 were agreed.

**IC 20/17 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Cllr. Gallagher informed the meeting that the AGM of the Island Committee will be held on the 10th of October 2017.

**IC 21/17 MARINE SERVICES**

21.1 **Owey Island**

The Committee welcomed the report circulated with the Agenda regarding the provision of funding under the Fishery Harbour & Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme 2017 to reconstruct new steps, railings and rings on the pier. In response to a query from William Boyle, the Marine Engineer advised that an order has been placed with a contractor to repair the solar light on Owey at a cost of €1900.

21.2 **Rannagh Pier**

Cllr. Bonner & Seamus Mac Ruairí criticised the absence of any progress in respect of development of Rannagh Pier. The Marine Engineer informed the meeting that there is no funding stream available to pursue a foreshore lease or to extend the Pier.

21.3 **Leabgarrow Boat Yard**

Seamus Mac Ruiarí (i) criticised the length of time it is taking to address the issue of abandoned boats at this location and (ii) expressed concern at the Health & Safety implications in the vicinity of the boat yard and (iii) requested the Council to utilise Harbour Bye law legislation to expedite a solution to this ongoing issue.

The Marine Engineer informed the meeting that the Council are willing to cooperate with any owners of derelict boats to discuss their disposal but that it is proving difficult to trace owners.

21.4 **Gola Island**

The Committee noted the report circulated with the Agenda regarding the status of the crane installation and connection of ESB supply. In response to a recommendation from Eamonn Mac Aoidh, the Marine Engineer undertook to relocate the venue for training in the use of the crane from Bunbeg to Gola. The Marine Engineer informed Members that funding was not provided for the quay steps on Gola Pier but that funding for this project would be reapplied for next year.

21.5 **Rutland**

Members noted that an order has been placed for the provision of a set of steel steps and a handrail to be fitted over the existing steps.

21.6 **Cranes on Magheraroarty & Inishboffin**

The Marine Engineer informed the Committee that applications will be submitted for the provision of facilities on both piers.

21.7 **Magheraroarty**

In response to a query from Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, the Marine Engineer advised that a workshop will be convened prior to the September MD meeting in relation to necessary developments required at this locus. Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the Council to submit funding applications to relevant government departments for development of a Breakwater and also to liaise with Minister McHugh regarding the provision of funding. Marjorie Uí Chearbhaill highlighted the dangerous situation arising from steps in a state of disrepair on the pier.

21.8 **Tory Helipad**

In response to a query from Marjorie Uí Chearbhaill, the Marine Engineer acknowledged the necessity to expedite completion of works at the Helipad.

21.9 **Inishboffin**

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the Council to investigate development of an extension to the sea wall and Cllr. Ó Fearraigh recommended provision of a handrail on the pier.

**IC 22/17 ROADS SERVICE**

22.1 **Owey Island**

William Boyle commended the Roads & Marine Engineers for visiting Owey as previously requested. The Roads Engineer informed the Committee that works will commence in September in conjunction with the Marine Service.

22.2 **Takeover of Island Roads**

Seamus Rodgers recommended the takeover of all Island Roads and in particular the Doctors Road on Arranmore. Cllr. Ó Domhnaill agreed with the takeover of the latter road but disagreed with the takeover of all Island roads as non-county roads are currently funded on a 100% basis by An Roinn. Cllr. Bonner recommended the provision of a separate Island Road fund to address road maintenance necessities on all islands in the County.

22.3 **Gola**

Eamonn Mac Aoidh requested the Council to pursue funding for the repair of roads on Gola in light of the significant increase in tourists to Gola. The Roads Engineer informed that an application for tar, chips & spray of 1,000 metres in length has been submitted to An Roinn for funding as per agreed priority list.

22.4 **Tory Lighthouse Road**

In response to a query from Marjorie Uí Chearbhaill regarding the refusal of Irish Lights to fund this project, the Roads Engineer informed the Committee that An Roinn have received a costed programme for the development of all Island Roads as previously prioritised by the Island Committee.

22.5 **Inishboffin**

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the Council to surface dress the road from the football field to the old school house.

**IC 23/17 FIRE SERVICE**

23.1 **Fire Safety Equipment**

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer informed the Committee that a questionnaire has been compiled for circulation to all Island representatives for completion and submission to enable the identification of all Island residents. This process will enable the Fire Service to:

* prepare a tender for the supply and provision of fire safety equipment to all Island homes
* provide training and refresher training to all residents in the use of fire equipment

23.2 **Fire Tender - Tory**

Marjorie Uí Chearbhaill expressed disappointment at the inability of the Council to provide a fire tender for use on Tory. In response to a query from Cllr. Ó Fearraigh regarding the status of a motion adopted at Plenary Council to provide a fire service on Islands similar to that available on the mainland, the Assistant Chief Fire Officer advised that it is not National policy to provide tenders on Islands as confirmed in the previous Islands meeting.

**IC 24/17 WATER & ENVIRONMENT SERVICE**

24.1 **Tory Island**

Marjorie Uí Chearbhaill highlighted problems on Tory arising from an overflowing septic tank at East Town and requested the Council to expedite necessary remedial action.

24.2 **Public Conveniences**

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh commended the Council for the provision of portaloos during the Inishboffin festival, but stressed the importance of providing a permanent solution on Gola and Inishboffin.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill informed the meeting that locals on Inishboffin are willing to build the relevant infrastructure and requested the Council to liaise with Islanders in this regard.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill also requested the Council to liaise with Udáras regarding the provision of assistance to the Ferry Operator and Café Owner in relation to the maintenance of the toilets at Magheraroarty.

The Water Services Senior Engineer undertook to relay concern of the Committee to the Coastal Officer and the Director of the Environment Service.

**IC 25/17** **TOURISM**

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill recommended the Community and Enterprise Section of the Council to enhance their promotion of offshore Islands in Donegal and mentioned the lack of signage regarding the availability of a ferry service to Tory.

Cllr. Bonner concurred with this view and highlighted the lack of adequate signage for tourists and requested the Council to liaise with Fáilte Ireland in this regard.

**IC 26/17 MINISTERIAL MEETING - ARRANMORE**

Cllr. Bonner expressed disappointment at the failure of the organisers of this meeting on Arranmore on 29th May 2017 to notify all Councillors on the Island Committee of this event.

**IC 27/17 ISLAND PROGRAMME**

The Committee expressed frustration at the omission of Donegal Islands from the recent 2017 Island funding announcement by former Minister Kyne and requested the Council to liaise with Minister McHugh who currently has responsibility for An Roinn.

Cllr. Slowey undertook in his position as the government representative on the Committee, to liaise with Minister McHugh regarding the urgency and necessity of the provision of funding for valuable Island projects in Donegal.

Cllr. Gallagher recommended that the Council liaise with all Island representatives to collate the necessary priorities for discussion at the next meeting prior to submission of a 3 year programme to An Roinn. The Roads Engineer informed the meeting that the Roads Service have already submitted a multi-annual prioritised list of 22 Island roads to An Roinn.

Cllr. Gallagher and Seamus Mac Ruairí requested that the Committee be circulated with a copy of all documentation issuing to An Roinn, in relation to the Islands.

In response to a query from Cllr. Bonner regarding the outcome of a meeting held between Senior Management and Glenties Municipal District Councillors regarding the provision of an additional matching fund for the Island Programme, the Corporate Manager informed the meeting that the Chief Executive Officer advised Members to prioritise relevant issues during the Budgetary process.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill highlighted the necessity for Islanders to travel to County House, Lifford to access Planning and Community & Enterprise Services and requested the Council to decentralise the above services to assist Islanders.

**IC 28/17 Votes of Sympathy**

Seamus Mac Ruairí expressed sympathy to Naul McCole and family on the recent bereavement of Colm McCole.

**IC 29/17 Retirement**

Seamus Mac Ruairí praised the contribution of Manus Gallagher in his role as Burtonport Harbour Master on the occasion of his recent retirement.

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