**MINUTES OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE**

**HELD ON 13th JUNE 2017 IN DUNGLOE PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllr. Micheal Cholm Mac Giolla Easbaig

Cllr. John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh

Cllr. Terence Slowey

Cllr. Enda Bonner

Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher

Cllr. Seamus Ó Domhnaill

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

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

Brendan McFadden – SEE, Area Manager, Roads & Transportation

Frank Sweeney – Executive Planner

David Friel – Coastal Officer

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

**Apologies** Charles Sweeney – Area Manager, Community, Culture & Enterprise

**GMD 178/17 MINUTES OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**MEETING HELD ON 9th MAY 2017**

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Ó Fearraigh, the minutes of the Glenties Municipal District Meeting held on 9th May 2017 were confirmed.

**CORPORATE SERVICES**

**GMD 179/17 Palestinian Ambassador**

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig informed the Committee that he has arranged with the Palestinian Ambassador to raise the Palestinian Flag outside the Dungloe PSC on Wednesday, 21st June at 1 p.m.

In response to a request from the Cathaoirleach for agreement with this proposal, Cllr. Gallagher confirmed that this matter had been previously discussed at the Municipal District meeting held on 9th May.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill expressed annoyance that Members were being asked to ‘rubber stamp’ an arrangement made by the Cathaoirleach without any input from the Committee.

**GMD 180/17 Naming of Dungloe PSC**

In response to a recommendation from the Cathaoirleach, that the Dungloe PSC be named after Peadar Ó Domhnaill & Eithne Coyle, the Committee outlined the importance of public consultation and also consultation with the family of both of the above named.

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Ó Domhnaill the Committee recommended that this matter be referred to the Corporate Policy Group for instigation of an appropriate protocol in relation to the naming of PSCs.

**HOUSING**

**GMD 181/17 Progress Report - Grants**

Members discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager, regarding the status of the following grants as at the 1st of June 2017.

1. Housing Aid for Older People
2. Housing Adaptation
3. Mobility Aids

In response to a query from Cllr. Ó Fearraigh regarding the high refusal rate in respect of grant applications, the Housing Manager acknowledged the restrictive nature of the eligibility criteria.

Cllr. Gallagher recommended that the Housing SPC be requested to review policies in relation to Housing Grants to facilitate applicants with severe medical needs.

**GMD 182/17 Casual Vacancies**

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager in relation to the status of casual vacancies as at the 1st June 2017.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the Council to expedite the turnaround times for the letting of casual vacancies to within a maximum of 6 months, and to convene a workshop where the time limit is exceeded, to outline the reasons for excessive delays.

Cllr. Gallagher seconded this recommendation and also requested the Committee to liaise with the ETB & Solas in relation to shortages in availability of adequate numbers of tradesmen.

The Housing Manager informed the Committee:

1. That the vacancy list will be reduced by the end of the summer.
2. Of the issues surrounding the availability of Contractors and the low number of tenders submitted for recently advertised contracts.
3. The importance of additional Contractors registering with the Council with appropriate Health & Safety statements and adequate insurances in place.
4. The Council are finishing houses to a higher standard on account of the availability of increased funding, therefore reducing long-term maintenance budgetary provision.

**GMD 183/17 2017 Acquisitions**

Members welcomed the progress report on the current status of the Acquisition Programme at the 1st of June 2017.

**GMD 184/17 CAS Project**

The Committee welcomed the report previously circulated and presented by the Housing Manager regarding positive project progress and an increased budget in the sum of €1.4 million.

**GMD 185/17 Fairhill Lodge**

The Housing Manager informed Members that initial design work for 4no. x 2 beds and 6no. x 1 bed units has been completed, and the current challenge for the Housing Service is to source funding to progress this project.

**GMD 186/17 Construction**

Members welcomed the expected completion date of July 2017 for 8 no. units in Ardara and the Housing Manager responded to queries regarding the status of planning approval for 13 no. units in Dunfanaghy. The Housing Manager informed the Committee of possible developments in relation to land acquisition in the Glenties and Falcarragh areas.

On the proposal of Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, seconded by Cllr. Ó Fearraigh, the Committee recommended development of a state of the art playground facility in Falcarragh prior to commencement of onsite construction of the scheme, as a gesture of goodwill to the local community.

Members were advised that there were no submissions in response to the provision of a turnkey scheme in Dungloe and that the Council will seek to acquire suitable land for housing development in the local area.

**GMD 187/17 Cois Locha Estate-Dungloe**

Cllr. Gallagher outlined the lack of security of tenure experienced by tenants in the Cois Locha scheme.

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, the Committee requested the Council to liaise with both, the Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government and Clúid Housing to promote opportunities for tenant ownership in the scheme.

**WATER & ENVIRONMENT**

**GMD 188/17 Green Schools**

The Committee welcomed the report circulated previously and presented by the Coastal Officer in relation to the 20 year success of the Green Schools Programme.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh commended the award of ‘Irish Water School of the Year’ to Gairmscoil Chú Uladh, Ballinamore in recognition of their 80% water usage reduction and recommended that their environmental practices be rolled out to other schools.

**GMD 189/17 SEAI – One Good Idea Schools Competition**

Members noted the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Coastal Officer.

**GMD 190/17 St. John’s Night Bonfires**

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Coastal Officer. Cllr. Bonner expressed annoyance with the contents of the report & outlined the importance of this historical tradition to local areas.

The Director of the Environment Service stated that the report is advisory in nature & requested the public not to use the opportunity presented by bonfires to dispose of waste illegally.

**GMD 191/17 Farm Plastic Collections**

Members welcomed the report circulated with the agenda regarding:

1. The list of confirmed dates and location of Bring Centres.
2. Cllr. Ó Fearraigh requested the Council to include a Bring Centre in the Cloughaneely area.

**GMD 192/17 LOCAL Agenda 21**

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh recommended that the Council liaise with development Committees to promote the availability of financial assistance for initiatives that could help to increase local awareness of environmental issues.

**GMD 193/17 Blue Flag and Green Coast Awards**

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Coastal Officer, in relation to the award of 13 Blue Flags to beaches in the County. The Glenties Municipal District retained all its Green Coast and Blue Flag Beach awards in 2017 notwithstanding the necessity to comply with increasingly stringent criteria.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill commended the success of the Council in its Blue Flag achievements and recommended that the Council strive to achieve the highest number of awards in the Country to facilitate a unique marketing campaign to boost coastal tourism. Cllr. Ó Domhnaill specifically highlighted Magheroarty Beach as a potential Blue Flag entrant on account of the dedicated tourist infrastructure at this location.

**GMD 194/17 Bicycle Stands**

The Committee commended the Council’s promotion of cycling as an alternative to short car trips to beaches via the installation of 12 no. bicycle stands around the coastline.

**GMD 195/17 Beach Wheelchairs**

Members welcomed the report presented by the Coastal Officer in relation to full wheelchair accessibility at 13 no. beaches in the County. The Environment Service is awaiting a decision in respect of their application to BIM for funding under the FLAG Programme for the provision of a beach wheelchair at Carrickfinn Beach.

**GMD 196/17 Public Conveniences**

The Committee welcomed the identification of a preferred bidder for the upgrade of the public convenience in Dungloe.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh informed the meeting of ongoing swimming classes at Bunaninver Pier and requested the Council to provide toilet facilities at this location.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the Council to provide portaloos at Doe Castle and Portnablagh Pier to encourage the further growth of tourism at both locations.

**GMD 197/17 Enforcement**

The Committee noted the statistics circulated with the agenda.

**GMD 198/17 Irish Water**

Cllr. Gallagher expressed ongoing frustration at Irish Water and their contractors, in relation to the disruption, slow pace of works and lack of consultation with residents on the Quay

Road, Dungloe. In response to a recommendation from Cllr. Gallagher that the Council meet with Irish Water to insist on adequate public consultation with affected residents the Director of the Water Service undertook to liaise with the contractor and to stress the necessity for compliance with the licence issued by the Roads Service.

**GMD 199/17 Coastal Erosion**

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Coastal Officer regarding the submission of 2 independent applications to the OPW for funding of coastal erosion works at Maghery beach.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the Environment Service to:

1. Urgently visit Ballyness Bay and Drumnatinney Beach to witness at first hand the destruction of this area of natural beauty by coastal erosion and to produce a report on relevant findings.
2. Request a meeting with the OPW to explore options for commencement of essential coastal protection works.

**GMD 200/17 Invasive Species**

The Director of the Environment Service informed Members of the status of a pilot project to tackle the spread of invasive species in the Municipal District.

Cllr. Gallagher requested a progress update and stressed the importance of the provision of National Funding to commence a regime of eradication.

**GMD 201/17 Refuse Collection**

In response to queries from the Committee regarding confusion over the collection of refuse, the Director of the Environment Service updated the Committee on ongoing efforts to resolve this matter.

**ROADS & TRANSPORTATION**

**GMD 202/17 Follow-up Issues**

The Committee welcomed the report issued to the Committee in advance of the meeting.

**GMD 203/17 Roadworks Programme 2017**

Members commended the progress updates in respect of the 4 Road Service Supervisor areas, which were circulated in advance of the meeting and presented by the Roads Manager.

**GMD 204/17 Pole Road, Dungloe**

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, the Committee recommended immediate maintenance works and full reinstatement prior to commencement of the ‘Mary from Dungloe’ Festival. The Roads Manager undertook to liaise with the Contractor.

**GMD 205/17 Lay Byes**

**205.1** **Doe Castle Road**

On the proposal of Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, seconded by Cllr. Ó Fearraigh, the Committee recommended the provision of lay byes and road widening on the Road leading to this tourist amenity.

**205.2** **Muckish Road**

In response to a query from Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, regarding the provision of additional lay byes, the Roads Manager undertook to revert with a programme of small works.

**205.3** **Falmore Road**

Cllr. Gallagher requested the provision of additional lay byes and commended work carried out to date.

**GMD 206/17 Dunfanaghy Main Street**

The Roads Manager informed the Committee that the ongoing works are nearing completion and that a snag list will be produced prior to completion of this job.

**GMD 207/17 Keadue School**

In response to a query from Cllr. Bonner, the Roads Manager advised the Committee that an announcement of further Clár Funding is yet to be announced.

**GMD 208/17 Glassagh Bridge**

In response to a recommendation from Cllr. Ó Fearraigh for public consultation with locals prior to commencement of this project, the Roads Manager informed Members that works are planned for September and a traffic management plan will be prepared to minimize disruption. Members and the public will be notified of proposed arrangements in advance of the project start date.

**GMD 209/17 Wood Road, Ardara**

In response to a query from Cllr. Slowey regarding necessary works at this location, the Roads Manager advised that this project has been scheduled for commencement prior to the month end.

**GMD 210/17 Coshclady**

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh highlighted concerns raised by a local committee regarding the increase in speed limits to 80 kph at this locus. The Roads Manager advised Members of the extensive consultation and strict guidelines in relation to the speed limit review process and undertook to relate concerns to Road Design.

**GMD 211/17 Annagry/Ranafast**

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig highlighted safety/flooding concerns in the vicinity of Annagry Chapel and on the road leading to Pol an tSnámh. Cllr. Gallagher requested additional monitoring of Eir Broadband works during weekends in the interest of health and safety.

**GMD 212/17 Maghery Public Lighting**

The Roads Manager undertook to revert to the Committee regarding commissioning of public lighting in Maghery in response to query received by Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig and Cllr. Gallagher.

**GMD 213/17 Footpath Mitigation Works**

The Roads Manager;

(i) Informed the Committee that a map of ‘claim prone’ locations is available and that this will influence the allocation of funding.

(ii) Undertook to revert to Cllr. Ó Domhnaill regarding provision of public lighting under the scope of this scheme.

**GMD 214/17 Bloody Foreland Works**

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh requested the Council to complete an additional stretch of approximately 50 metres at this location.

**GMD 215/17 NRA/NRDO**

On the proposal of Cllr. Bonner, seconded by Cllr. Gallagher, the Committee requested the scheduling of a meeting with representatives of NRDO/NRA in relation to Stage 3 and Stage 4 N56 of the Dungloe/Glenties Major Roads Scheme. Cllr. Slowey requested the attendance of a representative from the NRDO at all Municipal District meetings and to submit a report on occasions where a representative cannot attend MD meetings.

**PLANNING**

**GMD 216/17 Development Applications**

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Executive Planner. Cllr. Ó Domhnaill welcomed the reduction in the rate of refusals in the Glenties Municipal District.

**GMD 217/17 County Development Plan**

Members discussed the report circulated previously and presented by the Executive Planner regarding the ongoing public consultation stage of the review until the 31st July 2017. Cllr. Ó Domhnaill criticised the lack of feedback from the Planning Service and also the absence from the Draft Plan of Members views, needs and aspirations as highlighted at workshop and Municipal District Meetings.

Cllr. Gallagher requested the Council to:

1. Promote the Draft Plan on Social Media and to divide the Plan into different sections for dissemination and
2. Initiate alternative proposals to assist in increasing the relevancy of the Plan to members of the public.

**GMD 218/17 Local Area Plans**

Members discussed the report circulated with the agenda regarding the preparation of a finalised Draft Plan in respect of Tier 2 Towns for Members consideration during September 2017.

On the proposal of Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, seconded by Cllr. Ó Fearraigh, the Committee recommended that Port na Blagh be designated as a Tier 3 settlement.

Cllr. Bonner highlighted difficulties being experienced in relation to settlement maps and requested an opportunity to revise same.

**GMD 219/17 Additions to Record of Protected Structures**

On the proposal of Cllr. Slowey, seconded by Cllr. Gallagher, the Committee recommended the addition of ‘The Laurels’ in Glenties to the Record of Protected Structures.

**GMD 220/17 Conservation Grant Schemes**

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the provision of Departmental funding in the sum of:

1. €72,320 for 9 no. Built Heritage at Risk Schemes and
2. €59,000 for 2 no. Structures at Risk Schemes.

**GMD 221/17 Hericoast Project**

The Committee noted the report regarding the Hericoast Project update.

**GMD 222/17 Taking in Charge of Estates**

The Executive Planner advised Members that an update will be provided to the Committee within 2 months.

**GMD 223/17 Planning Clinics**

The Committee insisted that the Planning Clinics scheduled for 28th June, 26th July and 9th August proceed as arranged in the Dungloe PSC.

**COMMUNITY, CULTURE & ENTERPRISE**

**GMD 224/17 Tourism Sectoral Forum**

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, the Committee proposed that at least 1 no. Member from the Glenties Municipal District be nominated onto the above group.

**GMD 225/17 Community Needs Assessment**

Cllr. Gallagher commended both the participation by the Community and also leadership from the Council in this process.

**GMD 226/17 Service Representation**

The Committee requested the attendance of an official from the Community, Culture & Enterprise Service on occasions when the CCE Manager is unable to attend the Municipal District Meeting.

**GMD 227/17 Community, Culture & Enterprise Reports**

The Committee noted the reports circulated with the agenda.

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