

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
COMMITTEE**

HELD ON 12th JUNE 2018 IN DUNGLOE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr. John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh
Cllr. Seamus Ó Domhnaill
Cllr. Terence Slowey
Cllr. Enda Bonner
Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Michael McGarvey, A/Director Water & Environment
Brendan McFadden - S.E.E. Area Manager, Roads &
Transportation
Eamonn Brown, A/Area Manager, Housing & Building
Sinéad McClafferty - Assistant Planner
David Friel - Coastal Officer
Mairead Cranley, Staff Officer, Community
Development
Michael Rowsome, S.S.O. Motor Tax/Corporate

GMD 47/18

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Slowey, Members agreed to adjourn the meeting to 12.45 p.m.

GMD 48/18

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF AGM OF THE
GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
HELD ON THE 8TH MAY 2018**

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Bonner, the minutes of the AGM of the Glenties Municipal District Committee held on 8th May 2018 were confirmed.

GMD 49/18

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF
GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
HELD ON THE 8TH MAY 2018.**

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Bonner, the minutes of the meeting of the Glenties Municipal District Committee held on 8th May 2018 were confirmed.

GMD 50/18

HOUSING AND BUILDING

50.1

Grants - Progress Report

The Committee noted the status of grant applications in respect of:

- Housing Aid for Older People
- Housing Adaptation
- Mobility Aids

50.2

Casual Vacancies

The Committee welcomed the progress report on the status of casual vacancies as at 1st of June 2018 circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager, who informed Members that 7 no. offers have recently issued.

50.3

Acquisitions

Members welcomed the progress report on housing acquisitions circulated previously and presented by the Housing Manager. The Committee were advised that works ongoing at properties in Gortnamucklagh and Derryconnor are expected to be completed by the end of July 2018.

50.4

Section 183 Disposal of Ard Chroine, Dungloe

On the proposal of Cllr. Bonner, seconded by Cllr. Gallagher, the Committee recommended the disposal of a strip of land (Folio DL5085F) to Julie and Martin Flanagan, 1 Ard Chroine, Dungloe, subject to the approval of the full Council as detailed in the report circulated with the agenda.

50.5

Clós Naomh Chonail, Glenties

In response to a query from Cllr. Gallagher regarding flooding at this location, the Housing Manager advised Members that funding in the sum of €100k has been secured and that the project is currently at design stage.

50.6

Burtonport Housing Schemes

Cllr. Gallagher highlighted the necessity for 2 Housing Schemes at Altán and An Choill to be connected to the Burtonport Waste Water treatment plant and the Housing Manager undertook to liaise with Irish Water in this regard.

50.7

Housing Provision

In response to queries from Cllr. Slowey and Cllr. Bonner, the Housing Manager informed the Committee that the Municipal District target is to purchase 25 properties in 2018 (inclusive of long term leased housing), to accommodate families in situations where scheme housing is unsuitable for their needs. Members were also advised that prospective vendors should register their properties with local estate agents.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill expressed dissatisfaction at the Council's reliance on turnkey housing and requested the building of social housing to be at the forefront of Housing policy.

The Housing Manager informed the Committee that the effort to purchase land for housing development stalled, while the process of inviting turnkey submissions was ongoing.

Cllr. Gallagher informed Members that current Departmental Housing Policy is discriminatory against Rural Housing provision and detailed the positive benefits of Social Housing in the creation of sustainable rural communities in Fintown, Doochary, Annagry, Gortahork and Lettermacaward.

Cllr. Gallagher commended the progress made by the Housing Manager during negotiation with Clúid and Respond Housing Bodies.

In response to a query from Cllr. Ó Fearraigh, the Housing Manager advised that work is ongoing to ascertain reasons for housing applicants remaining on the housing list for an excessive duration.

50.8

Old Fire Station - Falcarragh

On the proposal of Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, seconded by Cllr. Gallagher, the Committee recommended that this location be used to develop a playground as a priority and the Housing Manager undertook to convey this recommendation to the Director of Housing.

GMD 51/18

CORPORATE SERVICES

51.1

Local Economic and Community Plan

Cllr. Gallagher requested the streamlining of the LECP process to simplify guidelines for local community groups.

51.2

Economic Development

Cllr. Gallagher requested (i) the attendance of an official from the Directorate at future Municipal Districts and (ii) attendance of external agencies at a minimum of two Municipal District meetings per year.

The Director informed Members that a detailed update on the alignment of work programmes, in the context of the restructuring of Directorates will be provided at a future Municipal District Meeting.

GMD 52/18

PLANNING

52.1

Development Applications

The Committee discussed the report circulated previously and presented by the Area Planner regarding 2018 statistics for the period ended April 2018. Cllr. Bonner noted the increasing number of refusals in the Glenties Municipal District and also requested a response from Planning regarding the approval of a 'boatshed' development in the Falmore area between the road and the sea.

In response to a query from Cllr. Ó Domhnaill regarding 'bona fide letters' the Area Planner undertook to revert to Councillors if any additional information was required.

52.2

Central Planning Unit

Members noted the updates circulated with the agenda and presented by the Area Planner in relation to (i) County Development Plan and (ii) the Hericoast Project.

In response to queries from Cllr. Gallagher regarding (i) the formulation of a Masterplan after adoption of the strategic local area plans and (ii) Burtonport Harbour Development, the Area Planner undertook to liaise with the Senior Executive Planner.

52.3

Enforcement

The Committee noted the updated statistics circulated with the agenda.

52.4

Planning Clinics

The Committee noted the dates for future planning clinics on the 20th June and 18th July.

GMD 53/18

ENVIRONMENT

53.1

The Committee welcomed the reports circulated with the agenda and presented by the Coastal Officer regarding:

- (i) Green School Awards
- (ii) Tidy Towns Improvement Grant 2018
- (iii) SEAI Competition - 'One Good Idea'.
- (iv) Waste Prevention - Trash 'n Fashion
- (v) Dog fouling awareness campaign
- (vi) Farm Plastics Collection
- (vii) Litter and Waste Statistics
- (viii) New Beach Wheelchair - Marble Hill

53.2

Local Agenda 21

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Coastal Officer regarding the Local Agenda 21 Environmental Partnership Fund 2018 to promote sustainable development by assisting small scale, non-profit environmental projects at local level. Cllr. Gallagher informed the meeting that the local community wish to develop a viewing area at the location of a decommissioned water tank in the Drimlaughdrid area and the Director agreed to follow up on this proposal.

53.3

Coastal Erosion

In relation to a query from Cllr. Bonner regarding the visit of Minister Moran to Donegal in the context of flooding issues, the Coastal Officer advised that confirmation is awaited from the OPW regarding coastal protection applications in respect of Maghery, Magheroarty and Portnoo.

Cllr. Gallagher requested the Council to obtain a price and to submit an application for the restoration of a boardwalk at Maghery.

53.4

Beaches

Cllr. Gallagher requested (i) an update on her previous recommendation for the Council to proceed with a 'beach mapping' programme, (ii) report on upgrading green coast beaches to blue flag status and (iii) Cloughglass beach improvements.

53.5

Public Toilets

Cllr. Gallagher requested the Council to ensure that the public convenience is upgraded in advance of the 'Mary From Dungloe' Festival.

53.6

Waste Prevention

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh requested the Council to initiate an awareness campaign warning against tyre burning prior to 'bonfire night' on the 23rd June and the necessity to utilise Radio na Gaeltachta for all public announcements.

Cllr. Gallagher recommended the screening of recycling bin sites to improve the aesthetics of such facilities.

53.7

Dungloe Bay

Cllr. Gallagher requested access to the water quality tests carried out in Dungloe Bay.

53.8

Water Refilling Facility

In response to a query from Cllr. Gallagher the Committee were advised by the Coastal Officer that the Council has initiated trials in this regard.

GMD 54/18

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

54.1

Follow-up Issues

The Roads Manager updated the Committee on the status of the following outstanding matters:

- (1) In relation to the damage to the road network during construction of the 110kv line, the Roads Service has reached agreement with the ESB regarding repair costs.
- (2) The Roads Service have conducted negotiations with Irish Water and are anticipating an acceptable reinstatement option for necessary works at Quay Road Dungloe, Narin/Portnoo, Glenties-Fintown, Fintown Village and Meenahalla.

Cllr. Gallagher and Cllr. Bonner expressed frustration with the apparent stalling tactics employed by Irish Water, and requested a meeting with decision makers in that organisation. Cllr. Ó Fearraigh outlined issues in Gweedore that require Irish Water input. Cllr. Gallagher queried Irish Water proposals in Burtonport in light of proposed village renewal works.

- (3) Road Design have been requested to survey and report on potential options to address Ballina Housing Estate speeding.
- (4) Members noted the appointment of Northstone Ltd to commence a 1.96km section of the N56 at Crolly.

54.2

Donegal National Roads Office

The Committee welcomed the report circulated previously in relation to:

- Pavement Asset Repair and Renewal (PARR)
- Major and Minor Roads Projects
- National Road Bridge Management

Cllr. Gallagher highlighted the necessity to provide (i) public lighting in Leitir from the graveyard to Mc Cready's Pub and (ii) provision of a budget for the maintenance of cycleways and grass cutting in Leitir.

54.3

Community Involvement Scheme 2018

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill expressed disappointment with the manner in which the Department of Transport announced funding in the sum of €2.1 million for this scheme, as less than 50% of this money will be available for suitable projects in the first year of the 2 year scheme.

54.4

Local Improvement Scheme

Cllr. Bonner expressed concern at the LIS administration process, the decreasing role for Councillors in the Scheme and requested a copy of the LIS Memorandum.

54.5

2018 Roadworks Programme

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Roads Manager regarding the status of the programme in the 4 no. overseer areas.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the Council to address blockages in the sewer network following resurfacing works in Falcarragh and highlighted maintenance issues on the Kildarragh road. Cllr. Gallagher requested assistance from the Council to liaise with the relevant state agency to remove rocks from the pier at Cullion in Maghery to facilitate water sport activity.

GMD 55/18

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

55.1

Donegal Youth Council

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Community and Development Staff Officer regarding Youth Council activity and planning for their showcase event which will take place on the 15th September in the Regional Cultural Centre.

55.2

Pride of Place

Members noted the report circulated previously.

55.3

Donegal Tourism

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Community and Development Staff Officer. Cllr. Ó Domhnaill highlighted the importance of the Council employing a dedicated officer to celebrate and organise tourism activity to commemorate the 1500th anniversary of the birth of St. Colmcille in 2021.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill mentioned iconic sites that are awaiting development and stated that this anniversary offers a unique opportunity to promote and celebrate the anniversary of Colmcille.

Cllr. Bonner requested the Council to liaise with Martin Egan, Caretaker of the Gartan Centre in relation to a shortfall in funding for the development of a garden at this location. Cllr. Gallagher requested Donegal Tourism to promote development of the Crohy Head road link, which currently is a hidden gem on the Wild Atlantic Way.

55.4

Donegal Gathering

Members noted the report circulated previously.

55.5

Rural Development Programme/Leader

The Committee noted the status of the Rural Development Programme.

55.6

Céim Níos Éadroime

The Committee welcomed the progress report in respect of this programme.

55.7

Donegal Walks and Trails

The Committee discussed the report from the Paths and Trails Development Officer circulated with the agenda. Cllr. Gallagher recommended increased consultation and interaction with local residents in relation to promotion of Slí na Rosann, particularly in the Tangevane area of Dungloe, many of whom are unaware of the proximity of this route to their residencies.

55.8

Glenties Courthouse

Cllr. Gallagher reiterated previous recommendations for the 'Brian Friel' Centre and library to be located in this facility and also suggested this venue as a location for the 'Glens of Donegal' project.

55.9

Community Needs Assessment

Cllr. Gallagher requested an update on this project and particularly regarding the development of a brand for the Rosses.

55.10

Bike Week

The Community and Development Staff Officer informed Members that National Bike Week is being celebrated from the 9th to 17th of June and invited their participation at a local launch day with Youth Councillors at the Dungloe PSC on the 14th of June.

55.11

Údarás Buildings, Fintown

Cllr. Gallagher requested Cllr. Ó Fearraigh to make representations to Údarás to inject funding to develop facilities at this location.

55.12

Dungloe Walkway Development

Cllr. Gallagher asked the Council to source funding for safety works necessary at the riverbank near the Dungloe car park.

GMD 56/18

Deputation - Forbairt Dhún Lúiche

Members welcomed Josephine Kelly, Paul Roarty, Neil Roarty and Dermot Gallagher from Forbairt Dhún Lúiche to the meeting.

Members were updated on the status of the following projects & activities:

- Visitors hub for Errigal and Ascent Project
- Invasive species
- Infrastructure and Safety requirements
- Ionad Pobal

The Deputation highlighted assistance required from the Council to expedite progress and development of Dunlewey as a 'honeypot' for tourism.

The Deputation commended the input from Jamie Gallagher, Roads Engineer and also a recent LIS grant for road improvement to benefit their community.

Members commended the quality of the presentation, work carried out to date and their vision for Dunlewey.

GMD 57/18

DEPUTATION - Coiste Forbartha An Fhál Carraigh

The Committee welcomed Paul Anthony Mc Fadden and Sharon O'Brien from Coiste Forbartha An Fhál Carraigh to the meeting.

The Deputation outlined progress on the construction of a new multi-purpose community centre and astro turf facility following extensive local consultation.

The Deputation stated that they were seeking support and assistance from the Council in respect of the following issues to finalise completion of the project:

- Footpath
- Wall at front of building
- Sewerage system and assistance required from Fire Service in this regard
- Carpark and lighting in the Carpark

The Committee commended work to date on the community centre and undertook to liaise with relevant officials to progress completion of this project in areas that the Council have authority.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE
MEETING**