

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

HELD ON 8TH MAY 2018 IN AISLANN GHAOTH DOBHAIR

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

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 38/18

CATHAOIRLEACH

The Committee conveyed their congratulations to Cllr. Ó Fearraigh on his election as Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Glenties and assured him of their support and cooperation. The Cathaoirleach informed the Committee that it was a great honour to be successfully nominated for the role and that he will highlight the necessity for increased investment in the Municipal District. The Director also expressed his congratulations and support to both the Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach (Cllr. Ó Domhnaill) on behalf of the officials.

GMD 39/18

**MINUTES OF THE GLENTIES MD COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON 10TH APRIL 2018**

On the proposal of Cllr. Bonner, seconded by Cllr. Gallagher, the minutes of the meeting of the Municipal District of Glenties held on the 10th April 2018 were agreed subject to the following amendment:

GMD 31.5: The additions to the record of Protected Structures was proposed by Cllr. Ó Domhnaill and seconded by Cllr. Gallagher.

GMD 40/18

PLANNING

40.1

Planning Report

Members noted the report circulated with the Agenda and presented by Sinéad McClafferty, Planner in relation to the following matters:

- Development application statistics to end of March 2018.
- Enforcement cases.
- Planning clinics.
- County Development Plan Review Update.
- Local Area Plans.
- Hericoast Project.
- Additions to Record of Protected Structures.
- Conservation grant scheme allocations for 2018.

40.2

Senior Counsel Planning Review

In response to a query from Cllr. Bonner regarding the status of this review, the Planner advised Members to liaise with Eunan Quinn, Senior Planner in this regard.

40.3

Derelict Properties

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill highlighted the following two instances of derelictions for the attention of relevant personnel in the Council:

- Derelict property owned by a person outside jurisdiction impacting on the quality of life of tenants of an adjoining property.
- Property on approach road to Falcarragh continually being defaced. Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested that a response issue to his submissions in this regard as a matter of courtesy.

GMD 41/18

ENVIRONMENT

41.1

Environmental Reports

The Committee noted the reports circulated at the meeting and presented by the Coastal Officer regarding the following topics:

- New list of dry recyclables for kerbside recycling bins.
- Recycling of electrical goods and batteries.
- Litter Enforcement statistics 2018.
- North West Water Forum.
- Local Authority Scientific Advisory Team.
- Beach Lifeguard Assessments and Beach Preparatory Works.
- Bathing Water Monitoring.

41.2

Clean and Green Awards 2017

Members discussed the report circulated at the meeting and complemented the initiative to honour 5 Tidy Town committees in the County including the Doochary group in the Glenties MD.

In response to a query from Cllr. Bonner, the Director of the Environment Service stated that the presentation of awards was led by the Environment SPC and that Councillors would be invited to future award ceremonies.

Cllr. Gallagher commended the Environment Service for their contribution to the success of the Spring Clean Up campaign and in particular their interaction with local communities.

41.3

Dungloe Bay

In response to a query from Cllr. Gallagher regarding the water testing regime in respect of Dungloe Bay, the Coastal Officer undertook to liaise with Laboratory Staff in this regard.

41.4

Dungloe Sewerage System / Waste Water Treatment

Cllr. Gallagher highlighted unresolved odour issues in Dungloe over the Bank Holiday weekend and commended the response from the Water & Environment Service.

The A/Director informed the Committee that the laboratory staff will analyse samples to establish reasons for odour incidence, and to prevent any recurrence of the contamination.

41.5

Farm effluent

Cllr. Slowey welcomed the commitment of the Council to run a public service announcement on local radio stations to highlight the need for farmers to ensure all effluent collection systems are in good working order.

41.6

Water Pipe - Bursts

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill highlighted the continuing regularity of water pipe bursts in the Derryconnor, Curransport, Glasserchoo, Meenlaragh and Meenacladdy areas, due to the decaying pipe network,. Cllr. Ó Domhnaill also criticised the substandard repair of the road network by Irish Water in the aftermath of pipe replacement incidents and requested a specific meeting with relevant Irish Water officials at a clinic in Lifford as a matter of urgency. Cllr. Gallagher seconded the recommendations. Cllr. Ó Fearraigh suggested the necessity for local staff and offices to provide an efficient service to the Donegal populace.

GMD 42/18

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

42.1

Age Friendly County

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by Mairead Cranley, Staff Officer, regarding:

- National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards and in particular the shortlisting of Donegal for 2 awards under the Age Friendly Transport and Age Friendly Business Innovation Schemes.
- Launch of Donegal Age Friendly Car Parking spaces. Cllr. Slowey commended 'Age Friendly activity in the County and commended the active participation of the Chief Executive Officer in a senior role on the Age Friendly Committee.

42.2

Blueway Developments

Cllr. Gallagher welcomed interaction between the Council and Waterways Ireland in relation to the development of Blueways and requested additional details on any proposals. Cllr. Gallagher also highlighted the need for Blueway developmental projects in the Fintown area.

42.3

Letterkenny Burtonport Greenways

The Committee welcomed the announcement by the Community Development Staff Officer of the appointment of an Assistant Engineer to advance this project.

Cllr. Bonner requested the Council to submit an application for funding of this project.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill recommended that the Assistant Engineer meet with Councillors.

42.4

Community Development Reports

Members noted the reports circulated with the agenda in relation to the following activities:

- International Pan Celtic Festival 2018
- Donegal Tourism
- Marine Tourism Marketing and Development
- Ascent Project
- Rural Development Programme / Leader
- Playgrounds Maintenance
- Town & Village Renewal Scheme
- Cool Route Project

GMD 43/18

DFI Allocation 2018

On the proposal of Cllr. Slowey, seconded by Cllr. Gallagher, the Committee agreed the following amendment to the Development Fund Initiative Allocation previously agreed on 10th April 2018:

- Courses@Cluain na dTor €2500
- Larionad Achmhainní Nadúrtha (LAN) €4000

GMD 44/18

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

44.1

Section 183 Land Disposal

On the proposal of Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, seconded by Cllr. Gallagher, the Committee agreed to the disposal of 0.046 hectares of land (to the rear of Gairmscoil Chú Uladh, Ballinamore) to the Donegal Education and Training Board to regularise their funding of accommodation works in the sum of circa €30,000, at the above location.

44.2

National Roads Office

The Committee welcomed the report circulated with the agenda from Roger Ryan, SEE, and Members commended the aforementioned for his communications with Councillors.

Cllr. Gallagher requested the attendance of an NRDO Engineer at the MD meeting twice a year at a minimum in light of the major national road network programme underway locally.

Cllr. Gallagher requested (i) the installation of public lighting from Duddys to the Cope and the maintenance of the large green area in Lettermacaward, (ii) clarity on the scope of the Dungloe footpath scheme and in particular the inclusion of the Carnmore Road footpath, (iii) clarity on location of tourism point looking towards Nairn.

GMD 45/18

Roadworks Programme 2018

The Committee discussed the reports circulated with the agenda and presented by the Roads Manager in relation to the status of the roadworks programme in all of the 4 Roads Service Supervisor areas.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh highlighted the following issues for consideration by the Roads Service:

- Status of the Lunniagh footpath project.
- Insufficient Car Parking capacity at Meenaweel Chapel.
- Necessity for lining road from Gweedore Secondary School to Ardsbeg Road.
- Potholes on road from Bunaninver school to the pier. Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the Roads Service to include the road from Glenveagh National Park to Errigal on the hedgecutting programme.
- Erection of lighting at Muckish Junction.
- Traffic Calming measures as a matter of urgency on the Ballina Estate. Cllr. Ó Domhnaill highlighted a recent serious incident on the estate and requested both the Roads and Housing Services to collaborate to determine a solution and expressed disappointment that his representations in this regard had not been acknowledged.

In response to queries from the Committee regarding necessary roadworks in the aftermath of Irish Water and ESB developments, the Roads Manager advised that settlement is being monitored on Quay Road, Dungloe, Narin-Portnoo and Fintown-Glenties roads.

GMD 46/18

HOUSING AND BUILDING

46.1

Grants

The Committee welcomed the progress reports circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager in relation to the following grants:

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

46.2

Casual Vacancies

Members discussed the progress report on casual vacancies as at the 30th April 2018, circulated previously and presented by the Housing Manager. Members were informed that 6 letters of offer have issued in the last week.

46.3

Acquisitions

The Committee welcomed the progress report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager who informed Members that 2 properties are undergoing works and that 2 properties have been offered for letting.

46.4

Turnkeys

The Housing Manager informed the Committee that 34 no. submissions were received in response to the public notice invitations for expression of interest.

46.5

Glenties Courthouse

The Housing Manager advised Members that the Glenties Courthouse is in Council ownership. Cllr. Bonner recommended that the Council utilise the building to accommodate a public library.

Cllr. Gallagher also recommended that the 'Brian Friel Centre' and a public library could be incorporated into any proposed development at this location.

46.6

Tenant Purchase Scheme

The Housing Manager informed Members that work has been completed regarding statistics in respect of the above scheme and a report will issue to the Committee. However, Members were advised that the Housing Service were unable to establish the total number of enquiries due to the informal nature of enquiries made in this regard.

46.7

Approved Housing Bodies

The Housing Manager updated the Committee in respect of progress of the Donegal Parents and Friends Development and Clúid Facility at Cois Locha, Dungloe.

Cllr. Gallagher requested the Housing Service to liaise with the Chief Executive of Respond to advance progress in respect of proposals to develop tenancies at Fairhill, Dungloe.

46.8

Radharc an Ghleanna, Ardara

Cllr. Slowey requested the Council to carry out traffic calming measures due to incidents of speeding towards Shanaghan House.

46.9

Register of Electors

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill severely criticised (1) the 'check the register.ie' service and stated that many voters currently registered to vote, are submitting applications to go on the supplement to the register due to their omission from the online system. (2) the erroneous deletion of names from the voting register is an attack on democracy and that the Council need to properly investigate any submission for deletion to ensure that voters are not disenfranchised. Cllr. Ó Domhnaill also requested an immediate meeting with relevant personnel at Coporate HQ to discuss issues regarding the Register of Electors.

Cllr. Gallagher stated that the online voter system is in need of overhaul and if it is not updated, then it would be more beneficial to scrap the system.

Cllr. Slowey recommended the establishment of a new statutory independent body to regulate the register of electors and elections.

46.10

SI Programme

In response to a query from Cllr. Gallagher, the Housing Manager updated Members on the status of the SI programme and ongoing progress.

46.11

Dunlewey Deputation

On the proposal of Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, seconded by Cllr. Gallagher, the Committee agreed to receive a deputation at the next MD meeting.

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