

MINUTES OF MEETING OF ISLANDS COMMITTEE

HELD ON APRIL 9TH, 2019 IN THE DUNGLOE P.S.C

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllr. John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh (Cathaoirleach)
Cllr. Micheal Choilm Mac Giolla Easbuig
Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher
Cllr. Terence Slowey
Cllr. Enda Bonner
Séamus Mac Ruairí
Eamonn S. Mac Aoidh
William Boyle
Noirín Uí Mhaoldomhnaigh
John McCafferty
Marjorie Uí Chearbhall
Máire Uí Dochartaigh
- OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Diarmuid Ó Mórdha - An Roinn
Michael McGarvey - Director of Water & Environment Service
Eamonn Brown-Area Manager, Housing & Corporate
Brendan McFadden, SEE Area Manager, Roads
John Hegarty-Executive Engineer, Roads Service
Cathal Mac Suibhne - Marine Engineer
David Friel - Coastal Officer
Charles Sweeney - Administrative Officer, Community Development
Killian Smith - Planner
Michael Rowsome-S.S.O, Corporate & Motor Tax
Máire Ní Fhearraigh - Gaeltacht Tourism Officer
- APOLOGIES:** Cllr. Seamus Ó Domhnaill
Roseleen McShane
Mairín Uí Fhearraigh
Michéal Mac Giolla Easbuig - Údarás na Gaeltachta

IC 10/19 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12TH FEBRUARY 2019

On the proposal of Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig, seconded by William Boyle, the minutes of the meeting held on the 12th February 2019 were confirmed.

IC 11/19 Comharchumann Forbartha & Fostaíochta Árains Mhór

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh welcomed John Mc Cafferty, Manager of the Arranmore Island Development and Employment Co-op to the meeting.

Seamus Mac Ruairí expressed appreciation to Eamonn Bonner, for his representation of Arranmore on the Islands Committee and wished him well in his new employment.

IC 12/19 ROADS SERVICE

12.1 The Committee discussed (i) the submission from Comharchumann Oileán Árains Mhóir Teo., circulated with the agenda and (ii) the draft 3 year proposal for roadworks on the Islands circulated at the meeting and presented by the Road Engineering staff.

Following a lengthy discussion, amendments were made by the Committee resulting in an agreed 3 year Island Roadworks Priority list proposed by Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig & seconded by William Boyle:

**Agreed 3 Year Proposal for Roadworks on the Islands
Estimate Prices (Based on Current Costs April 2019)**

2019 Agreed Proposal

Priority	Road Name	Cost Estimate	25%	75%
			DCC Contribution	Roinn Contribution
1	Leabgarrow Road from School to Co-op Junction (Overlay)	€126,000	€31,500	€94,500
2	50% of the Alice McCauley to Trá na Caisil with piped drainage and minor widening	€39,900	€9,975	€29,925
3	Sections of the Stacamór Pier road with drainage crossings	€26,600	€6,650	€19,950

Other County Roads:

Priority	Road Name	Cost Estimate	25%	75%
			DCC Contribution	Roinn Contribution
4	Owey county Road	€69,300	€17,325	€51,975

Other Non-County Roads:

Priority	Road Name	Cost Estimate	0%	100%
			DCC Contribution	Roinn Contribution
5	Lighthouse Road – Tory	€178,500	€0	€178,500
6	Gola Island Road	€76,230	€0	€76,230

€516,530

2020 Agreed Proposal:

Priority	Road Name	Cost Estimate	0%	100%
			DCC Contribution	Roinn Contribution
1	Mary Earley's Road, Cloghcorr	€48,944	€0	€48,944
2	Lebranagh Upper Ploghogue Road – Arranmore	€62,700	€0	€62,700
3	Upper Fallagowan Road (RTE Mast Road)	€51,300	€0	€51,300
4	Lighthouse Road – Tory	€178,500	€0	€178,500
5	Gola Island Road	€83,160	€0	€83,160
6	Inishboffin Island Road	€87,120	€0	€87,120

€511,724

2021 Agreed Proposal

Priority	Road Name	Cost Estimate	0%	100%
			DCC Contribution	Roinn Contribution
1	Lighthouse Road Arranmore – Non County Section	€173,280	€0	€173,280
2	Ring Road – Arranmore	€145,920	€0	€145,920
3	Lebranagh Upper Ploghogue Road – Arranmore	€72,732	€0	€72,732
4	Poirin Ghlais Road, Tory Island	€87,500	€0	€87,500
5	Reannaigh Pier, Arranmore (Pier 1 to Pier 2)	€49,665	€0	€49,665

€529,097

- 12.2 William Boyle stressed the necessity for the Council to commence all Island works in September to take advantage of favourable weather conditions and to adhere to compliance with the Birds Directive.
- 12.3 In response to a query from Cllr. Bonner regarding the establishment of 'special Island fund' for Roadworks only, in addition to the annual Island fund, the Director informed the Committee (a) that Senior Management have been informed of recommendations from the Committee in this regard and (b) Senior Management have committed to matching any funding from An Roinn.
- 12.4 Marjorie Uí Chearbhall informed Members of the poor condition of the Tory Lighthouse Road and the Roads Manager stated that an application will have to be made to An Roinn for 100% funding due to the 'non county' status of this road.
- 12.5 Seamus Mac Ruairí informed the meeting of his dissatisfaction with Minister Ring and the absence of any special Island allocations to tackle rural depopulation. Seamus Rodgers also criticised the absence of any funding from RTÉ to repair the road to the mast.

IC 13/19 ENVIRONMENT SERVICE

- 13.1 The Committee welcomed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Coastal Officer regarding the commencement of the planning process in respect of the provision of a Public Convenience on Inishboffin Island.

13.2 Marine Litter - Arranmore

Members discussed the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Coastal Officer regarding beach clean ups at 5 no. locations on Arranmore on the 1st of April. The Coastal Officer paid tribute to all volunteers involved in the cleanup and the assistance received from the Red Ferry Service.

13.3 Coastal Safety

In response to concerns expressed by Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig, the Coastal Officer undertook to erect warning signage and life buoys at appropriate locations on Cruit and to provide life buoys on Inishfree.

13.4 Gola Island

The Coastal Officer undertook to liaise with Eamonn Mac Aoidh in relation to the provision of life buoys on Gola. The Committee were also informed that portaloos will be provided on Gola and on Magheragallon Pier during the tourist season.

13.5 Magheroarty Pier

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig requested the provision of a bin at this location.

IC 14/19 MARINE SERVICE

14.1 Marine Funding

The Marine Engineer updated the Committee in relation to the receipt of funding in the sum of €172,500 from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to upgrade and repair 6 piers in Donegal.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig, & Marjorie Uí Chearbhall expressed disappointment at the minimal Departmental funding allocated within Donegal.

14.2 Bunbeg Pier

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig and Eamonn S. Mac Aoidh highlighted the necessity for lighting, power supply, dredging and parking restrictions at this location. The Committee were also advised of pollution at Bunbeg Pier.

Eamonn Mac Aoidh informed Members of difficulties experienced by the Coastguard Service during the launch of their emergency

service. The Marine Engineer acknowledged the issues highlighted and informed the Committee that the Harbour Master will be notified of concerns at this location.

14.3 Magheroarty Pier

Marjorie Uí Chearbhaill requested the Marine Service to repair the slipway to address safety concerns.

14.4 Gola Pier

Eamonn S. Mac Aoidh requested the provision of a ladder at Gola Pier.

14.5 Cullion Pier

Cllr. Gallagher updated the Committee regarding activities undertaken by 'Maghera Coastal Adventures' at this location and requested the removal of rocks to facilitate shelter for the boats and to reduce the possibility of damage to boats. The Marine Engineer undertook to liaise with pier users.

14.6 Owey

William Boyle informed the Committee of the requirement for dredging at the bottom of the pier, necessity for power provision and painting of yellow boxes on the pier.

14.7 Stacamór Pier

In response to a recommendation from John McCafferty for the provision of a crane at Stacamór Pier, the Marine Engineer informed the Committee that the previous facility at this location had been damaged and that it would be difficult to obtain funding in light of the proximity of an alternative crane on the Island.

14.8 Arranmore and Burtonport Rural Regeneration

Cllr. Gallagher stressed the importance of this proposed project for the development of both locations and requested the Council to

prioritise advancement of this project. Cllr. Gallagher also requested the Council to expedite the progression of lining to aid parking in the context of the village renewal programme.

IC 15/19 GAELTACHT TOURISM

The Gaeltacht Tourism Officer updated the Committee in relation to recent engagements in which she attended numerous holiday shows and trade events to promote the Gaeltacht and Islands to the public, tour operators and agents. The Committee were informed that:

(1) Maps and brochures produced by Comharchumann na n-Oileáin Bheaga have been circulated at these events

(2) Donegal Tourism Brochure launched in February includes extra material in relation to the Islands.

The Gaeltacht Tourism Officer also informed Members of her intention to visit all Islands to view their respective tourism products.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig highlighted the valuable contribution of Ian Miller to promoting Marine and Island Tourism.

IC 16/19 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Community Development Manager informed the Committee that:

(i) The Council are in the process of appointing a consultant to progress the foreshore project on Arranmore

(ii) Work is underway regarding route scheduling and feasibility surveys in respect of a ferry service to the smaller Islands but that a budget remains outstanding

IC 17/19 Cliff Rescue

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig informed Members that he has written to the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport to request a meeting to restore cliff rescue operations to the Coastal Rescue Service. Eamonn Mac Aoidh highlighted the importance of this valuable service along the coast and also requested restoration of this service.

IC 18/19 PLANNING

In response to a query from Eamonn S. Mac Aoidh regarding the status of enforcement cases on Gola Island, the Executive Planner stated that ongoing legal proceedings precluded any public commentary.

IC 19/19 Sympathy

Seamus Mac Ruairí expressed sympathy to the Boyle, Sweeney and Rodgers families following recent family bereavements.

IC 20/19 Retirement

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh informed Members that Cllr. Slowey is not seeking re-election to the Council and that this meeting represents his final attendance at Coiste na n-Oileáin. Cllr. Ó Fearraigh commended the contribution of Cllr. Slowey to the Islands Committee.

Cllr. Slowey outlined the importance of Island communities to the cultural, social and economic fabric of life in Ireland and stressed the importance of supporting and enhancing initiatives to develop Islands. Cllr. Slowey also commended Council and An Roinn officials for their ongoing contribution to Coiste na nOileáin.

IC 21/19 Date of next meeting

The Committee agreed that the next meeting of the Islands Committee will be held on the 9th of July. Cllr. Gallagher requested the Council to commit to resuming quarterly meetings on completion of the Council AGM to avoid unnecessary delays.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.