

5ú Feabhra 2020

**GACH BALL DE CHOISTE NA nOILEÁN  
EACH MEMBER OF THE ISLANDS COMMITTEE**

A Chara

*Beidh an chéad cruinniú eile de choiste na nOileán ar 11<sup>ú</sup> lá de mí Feabhra 2020, in Ionad Seirbhísí Pobail, Clochán Liath ag 10.00 r.n.*

The next meeting of the Islands Committee is scheduled for February 11<sup>th</sup> 2020 in the Dungloe Public Services Centre, commencing at 10am.

*Tá clár an chruinniú leagtha amach anseo.*

The Agenda for the meeting is set out hereunder.

*Iarrtar ort a bheith i láthair ag an chruinniú seo.*

Please arrange to be in attendance.

Mise le meas

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**Éamonn de Brún**  
**Bainisteoir Ceantair**  
**Seirbhísí Corparáideacha**  
**Ar son Riarthóir Cruinniú**

**CLÁR**  
**AGENDA**

1. Miontuairiscí Cruinniú 8ú lá Deireadh Fómhair 2019.  
Minutes of Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019
2. Miontuairiscí Cruinniú 25ú lá Deireadh Fómhair 2019.  
Minutes of Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019
3. Miontuairiscí Ceardlann 7ú lá Samhain 2019.  
Minutes Workshop 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019
4. Tógraí Oileán -Island Projects
5. Aon Gnó Eile - Any Other Business

## MINUTES OF AGM OF ISLANDS COMMITTEE

HELD ON OCTOBER 8TH, 2019 IN THE DUNGLOE P.S.C

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- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllr. John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh (Cathaoirleach)  
Cllr. Micheal Choilm Mac Giolla Easbuig  
Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher  
Cllr Anthony Molloy  
Cllr Noreen McGarvey  
Cllr Michael McClafferty  
Séamus Mac Ruairí  
Eamonn S. Mac Aoidh  
William Boyle  
John McCafferty  
Máire Uí Dochartaigh  
Mairín Uí Fhearraigh
- OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Diarmuid Ó Mórdha - An Roinn  
Michael McGarvey - Director of Water & Environment Service  
Eamonn Brown-Area Manager, Housing & Corporate  
Jamie Gallagher - Roads Engineer  
Cathal Mac Suibhne - Marine Engineer  
David Friel - Coastal Officer  
Mairead Cranley  
Charles Sweeney - Administrative Officer, Community Development  
Anne Marie Bonner- Housing Corporate  
Eamonn Brown Area- Manager, Housing Corporate
- OTHERS PRESENT:** Margaret McCullagh  
Thomas McCullagh  
Laird Dinsmore
- APOLOGIES:** Noirin Ui Mhaoldomhnaigh  
Majorie Ui Chearbhall

IC 32/19

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

A minute's silence was observed and a vote of sympathy was passed in respect of the following bereavements:

The late Neilly Gallagher, Ballintra Arranmore

The late Mary Gallagher, Ballintra, Arranmore

The late Mary Rodgers O Donnell, Leabgarrow  
Arranmore

The late Kathleen McGinley, Gola Island

IC 33/19 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2019

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig, the minutes of the meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019 were confirmed.

IC 34/19 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh requested names to be put forward for nomination for post of Chair and Deputy Chair. Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig expressed interest in Islanders being nominated to posts of Chair and Deputy Chair. It was decided in future names can be submitted prior to AGM for proposal to Lifford. Cllr. Ó Fearraigh was returned as Chair and Noirin McGarvey as vice chair proposed by Cllr Gallagher and seconded Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh expressed his frustration and disappointment at the lack of State funding and commitment to offshore islands to date. Cllr. Ó Fearraigh requested that Members put pressure on Joe McHugh TD, Pat the Cope TD and Pearse Doherty TD to expedite the funding.

Eamonn Browne Area Manager Housing Corporate gave an update on correspondence sent to the Minister and his Department. Diarmuid O Mordha, An Roinn stressed that he had contacted the Department and reported that the application was being assessed and he was hopeful funding would be approved.

## **IC 35/19**    **ROADS SERVICE**

The Committee discussed the ongoing issues on the Islands Roads Programme. Jamie Gallagher explained that the 3 year islands road programme has been submitted to An Roinn. Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig proposed that Joe McHugh TD be contacted to arrange a visit to Gola Island.

### **35.1**        **Doctors Road - Arranmore**

Seamus Rodgers requested that councillors amend the takeover policy and proposed a motion to change the takeover policy in relation to roads such as the Doctors Road. He would also like the Gweebarra estuary road to be considered again.

### **35.2**        **Gola**

Eamonn Mac Aoidh and Mairin Ui Fhearraigh highlighted the ongoing roads issues on Gola. It was highlighted that there are now health and safety issues arising. It was proposed that matched funding the Council have in place be used to tackle some of these issues. The Director undertook to liaise with relevant Departments.

**35.3**        Following a passionate discussion on lack of funding for roads on Islands, Director Michael McGarvey requested that his apology to Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig be noted.

**IC 36/19**    Mairin Ui Fhearraigh informed the meeting that the Minister with responsibility for Islands will be in Gweedore on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019. Members requested that a letter issue to An Roinn requesting a meeting with the Minister to once again stress the importance of the islands in regard to their cultural and tourism impact for Donegal.

Mairin Ui Fhearraigh brought it to the Members attention that an Inter Departmental Committee had been set up and met 2 weeks ago. The Committee proposed seeking clarification in relation to board members and the function of this new body.

Maire Ui Dochartaigh proposed that the Local Property Tax that was collected on the island be ring fenced for the islands only.

Maire Ui Dochartaigh also requested that signs in relation to Lymes disease be placed on all the islands as a matter of urgency.

### **IC 37/19 COMHAR NA N-OILEAIN**

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig requested the minutes of Comhar na n-Oileain for the past 5 years be requested for next meeting, he also requested a written report for past five years from the Council's nominee David Alcorn. It was confirmed that Cllr Molloy is the current Council representative on Comhar Na n-Oileain.

Cllr. Molloy informed the Committee that he had requested a meeting with MEP's in relation to funding and he is awaiting a reply & will update Committee accordingly.

### **IC 38/19 ENVIRONMENT SERVICE**

The Committee welcomed the report circulated with the agenda presented by the Coastal Officer. The Islanders commended the Coastal Officer on the provision of portaloos for summer months. The Coastal Officer expressed his thanks for all the support for the recent clean ups on the islands. He congratulated Gola Tidy Towns who gained 7 points this year.

The Coastal Officer advised that tenders have been sent out for permanent Public Toilets on Inishboffin and Owey. He further advised that sourcing land remains an issue with progressing Gola public toilets.

**IC 39/19**    **MARINE SERVICE**

**39.1**        **Marine Funding**

The Marine Engineer updated the Committee in relation to the receipt of funding from the Department of Agriculture, Food. He confirmed that there was no funding for piers.

**39.2**        **Gola Pier**

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

**39.3**        **Small Ferry**

The Committee highlighted the need once again for a small ferry service to boost tourism and facilitate locals with transportation of goods.

**39.4**        Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig requested the provision of lights, power points, and toilet facilities at Bunbeg.

**IC 40/19**    **PLANNING**

Cllr Gallagher expressed dissatisfaction that once again no member of the planning staff had attended the meeting, and requested that a member be present at all future meetings.

**IC 41/19**    **UDARAS NA GAELTACHTA**

Members requested that Udaras Na Gaeltachta should also be requested to attend all future meetings.

**IC 42/19**    **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Mairin Ui Fhearrigh requested that the counters figures that have been collated on the islands be given to the community groups. Charles Sweeney undertook to contact Joy Harron and request this information.

**IC 43/19**    **CLIFF RESCUE/COASTGUARD SERVICE**

Maire Ui Dochtartaigh requested that a letter be sent to Shane Ross to highlight the importance of this valuable service along the coast and requesting restoration of this service.

**IC 44/19**    **HSE PRIMARY CARE ISLAND SERVICES**

Mairin Ni Fhearraigh once again stressed the importance of Island Community Health Care. She reiterated that the smaller islands in Donegal were omitted by HSE from the map accompanying reports in relation to Health care services.

**IC 45/19**    Cllr O Fearraigh offered the committees congratulations to Clara Ni Fhearraigh on winning 1<sup>st</sup> Prize. A presentation was made to Clara on behalf of the Municipal District.

Seamus Rodgers & Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig commended the charity work being done by Denis O Donnell Arranmore.

**IC 46/19**    **SCOTS GAELIC COMMITTEE**

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig proposed that Members liaise with this Committee to promote co-operation between islanders in relation to language and culture.

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



## MINUTES OF EMERGENCY MEETING OF ISLANDS COMMITTEE

HELD ON OCTOBER 25TH, 2019 IN THE DUNGLOE P.S.C

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- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllr. John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh (Cathaoirleach)  
Cllr. Noreen McGarvey  
Cllr. Michael McClafferty  
Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher  
Cllr. Anthony Molloy  
Séamus Mac Ruairí  
William Boyle  
Marjorie Uí Chearbhall  
Eamonn S. Mac Aoidh  
John McCafferty
- OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Eamonn Brown Area Manager, Housing Corporate  
Jamie Gallagher, Roads Engineer  
Cathal Mac Suibhne - Marine Engineer  
Michael Rowsome - SSO Corporate Services  
Seamus Canning - Administrative Officer, LCDC
- OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Joe Ó Curraoin - Project Officer - Comhar na nOileáin  
Jerry Early - (Representing Arranmore Co-op)
- APOLOGIES:** Michael McGarvey, A/Director of Water & Environment  
Diarmuid Ó Mórdha, Roinn na Gaeltachta  
Charles Sweeney - Administrative Officer, Community & Development  
David Friel - Coastal Officer  
Cllr. Ian McGarvey  
Cllr. Michéal Cholm Mac Giolla Easbuig  
Michéal Mac Giolla Easbuig, Údarás na Gaeltachta  
Noirín Uí Mhaoldomhnaigh  
Mairín Uí Fhearraigh

**LEADER (2014-2020) RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

Joe Ó Curraoin, Project Officer, with Comhar na nÓileáin made a presentation to the Committee to encourage the submission of suitable projects from Island Communities in light of the availability of funding in the sum of €424,000. The detailed presentation addressed the following:

- Overview and Budget
- Necessity for Projects to adhere to the following 3 no. Themes:
  - (a) Economic development, Enterprise development and Job creation.
  - (b) Social Inclusion
  - (c) Rural Environment
    - Grant aid ceilings, state aid threshold and community/cash contributions.
    - Application process
    - Operational scales
    - Eligible expenditure
    - Procurement

The Committee expressed concern at the detailed bureaucracy involved in the application process and the difficulties involved in sourcing matching funding to facilitate the submission of eligible projects.

After a lengthy discussion, the Cathaoirleach undertook to schedule a further meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November at 10 a.m. in the Dungloe PSC to be attended by both An Roinn, Údáras na Gaeltachta and Joe Ó Curraoin.

The Island representatives were also requested to have a list of projects for discussion at the meeting.

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

**REPORT FROM WORKSHOP OF ISLANDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019 IN  
DUNGLOE PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE**

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**Members Present:** Cllr. John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh (Cathaoirleach)  
Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher  
Cllr. Anthony Molloy  
Cllr. Noreen McGarvey  
Cllr. Michael McClafferty  
Cllr. Micheal Cholm Mac Giolla Easbuig  
Séamus Mac Ruairí  
William Boyle  
Marjorie Uí Chearbhall  
Éamonn S. Mac Aoidh  
John McCafferty  
Mairín Uí Fhearraigh  
Noirín Uí Mhaoldomhnaigh

**Officials Present:** Michael McGarvey – A/Director Water & Environment  
Charles Sweeney – Administrative Officer, Community Development  
David Friel – Coastal Officer  
Jamie Gallagher – Roads Engineer  
Seamus Canning – Administrative Officer, LCDC  
Michael Rowsome – SSO, Corporate Services

**Others in Attendance:** Joe Ó Curraoin – Project Officer – Comhar na nOileáin  
Micheal Mac Giolla Easbuig – Údarás na Gaeltachta

**Apologies:** Eamonn Brown – Housing & Corporate Manager  
Cathal Mac Suibhne – Marine Engineer  
Diarmuid Ó Mórdha – An Roinn

1. Council and Údarás Directors informed the Committee of the willingness of both State Bodies to provide necessary matching funding to facilitate & support Island Groups in their submission of suitable expressions of interest/applications to Comhar na nOileáin. The Comhar na nOileáin Project Officer responded to Members queries regarding (1) suitable projects, (2) eligible expenditure/procurement, (3) conditions attached to grant allocations and (4) deadlines.

Island representatives informed the meeting of the status of their projects and their intentions to submit expressions of interest to facilitate the drawdown of all Leader funding in respect of Donegal Islands.

The Cathaoirleach undertook to convene a meeting with officials from Údarás, the Council and An Roinn prior to the forthcoming Municipal District Meeting to finalize matching funding commitments.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE WORKSHOP.**