

**Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Stranorlar held
11 am, 28th November 2018 in Stranorlar Regional Training Centre**

Members Present	Cllr. Patrick McGowan, Cllr. Martin Harley, Cllr. Gerry Crawford, Cllr. Gary Doherty, Cllr Liam Doherty.
Officials Present	Joe Peoples, Olive Gillespie, Donna McGroarty, Tony Browne, Frank Sweeney, Paul Gallagher, Kathleen McGowan, Claire McGeever.
Apologies	Cllr. Frank McBrearty

Cllr. McGowan thanked everyone for their attendance. Items from the agenda were discussed as follows:

206 Corporate Services

206.01 Votes of Sympathy

Members passed a vote of sympathy on the passing of:

- **Essie McGrenra**, mother of our colleague Aidan McGrenra, Housing Engineer, Inishowen MD., mother-in-law of Annette McGrenra, Customer Service Centre, Milford PSC, aunt of Andrea Harkin, GIS, Environment Section and aunt of Jamie Gallagher, Roads Engineer, Glenties MD.
- **Nelly Doherty**, grandmother of our colleague Shaun Canny, C.O., Station Island, Lifford.
- **Nora Ferry**, mother of Owenie Ferry, Water Works Inspector, Dungloe.
- **Nan Todd**, mother of our colleague Margaret Todd, Customer Service Centre, Milford PSC.
- **Jack Jordan**, father of Cllr. Noel Jordan.
- **Eamonn McCullagh**.
- **Charlie Doherty**.
- **Liam McConnell**.

206.02 Confirmation of Minutes of Municipal District of Stranorlar held 01st October 2018

The minutes were approved on the proposal of Cllr. G Crawford and seconded by Cllr. G Doherty.

206.03 Confirmation of Minutes of Budget 2019 Meeting of Municipal District of Stranorlar held 31st October 2018

The minutes were approved on the proposal of Cllr. M Harley and seconded by Cllr. G Crawford.

207 Confirmation of Date and Venue for Next Meeting and Business Prescribed by Statute

207.01 It was agreed that the next meetings of Stranorlar Municipal District would be held on **Wednesday, 23rd January 2019 in the County House, Lifford** as follows:

- **Workshop** 10.00 am.
- **Meeting** 11.00 am.

208 Consideration of Reports & Recommendations from Services

208.01 Planning Services

Frank Sweeney was invited to address the meeting. The update report circulated with the agenda was taken as read. The following comments were made:

- Members requested that the Taking in Charge of Residential Developments to be kept as an agenda item.
- Cllr. G Doherty requested that members be provided with a written record of enforcement notices issued on a monthly basis. Frank Sweeney agreed to refer this request to the Enforcement Section.
- A discussion took place in relation to the current proposed Wind Energy Policy contained in the County Development Plan 2018-2024, which will be the subject of a variation to be initiated in January 2019. Joe Peoples confirmed that the policy will be varied to reflect the outcome of a recent judicial review in relation to Planree Limited. Frank Sweeney added that the National Guidelines would dictate local policy.
- Cllr. G Doherty advised of issues in relation to wastewater treatment at Brandon Park, St. Johnston and that residents currently have no lighting in the estate. Frank Sweeney confirmed that a temporary solution to the wastewater issue has been provided and that costings for the repair of lights in the estate is to be undertaken.

208.02 Environmental Services

Paul Gallagher was invited to address the meeting. The update report circulated with the agenda was taken as read. The following comments were made:

- Members were advised that in the period from January to October 2018 360 tonnes of waste were collected by the mobile litter units and 902 litter and waste complaints were received.
- Funding has been secured to provide public conveniences in 2019. This is to be piloted in Ballybofey & Stranorlar, to be progressed in the coming weeks.
- Members expressed their disappointment that the post of Litter Warden had not yet been filled. Paul Gallagher advised that the vacancy is being progressed by the HR Department and members will be kept up to date in relation to the appointment.
- A discussion took place in relation to flood defence works and CFRAMS. Paul Gallagher advised Members that the Water & Environment Directorate is now taking responsibility for flooding relief works and CFRAMS, and that funding has been secured for two additional staff members who will work closely with the OPW. Members requested the attendance of the new staff member at future meetings. Joe

Peoples advised that Members will be updated and informed of relevant scheme designs and progress in due course.

- Cllr. G Doherty queried if a site had yet been secured for Bring Banks in Castlefinn. Paul Gallagher agreed to update Members at the next meeting of the Stranorlar Municipal District.
- Members congratulated Kathleen Bonner, Kathleen Given and the CPI Centre, Castlefinn for hosting the Donegal Men's Shed Showcase. Cllr. P McGowan requested that a letter of congratulations be issued to the Finn Valley Men's Choir who opened the event.

208.03 Roads Services

Claire McGeever was invited to address the meeting. The update report circulated with the agenda was taken as read. The following comments were made:

- Members were advised that the deadline for the Clar Programme is the 3rd December 2018. However, it is hoped that this deadline will be extended.
- Works under the LIS Programme for 2017 and Phase 1 of 2018 are now complete and it is anticipated that Phase 2 2018 will be completed in December 2018.
- €95k has been made available to Stranorlar Municipal District for the alleviation of road drainage problems and most works have been completed.
- Works are to be completed in relation to the Binmore Bridge under the Severe Weather Programme 2018.
- Bridge strengthening works are continuing on Findrum Bridge and Ivy Bridge, Cloghan which should be reopened ay Christmas.
- Claire McGeever requested approval for the multi-annual Restoration Programme 2019-2021. This was agreed on the proposal of Cllr. M Harley and seconded by Cllr. P McGowan.
- In responses to Members questions, Claire McGeever made the following points:
 - A Report will be presented to Members to discuss Logues Bridge in workshop.
 - Issues raised in relation to vision lines at Rossgier, Carricknamana, Admiran and difficulty exiting Applegreen and Croaghan Heights will be discussed with the Safety Engineer.
 - Cllr. G Doherty requested that the extremely dangerous junction at Mill Brae to Killygordon and the provision of a footpath adjacent to this turn-off will be reviewed.
 - The Roads Office will contact the landowner of the hedge that is currently blocking the junction at St. Johnston.
 - It is envisaged that the Footpaths Programme will commence at the end of January 2019.
 - The road alignment at Convoy GAA will be referred to the Executive Engineer.
 - A 3 Year Public Lighting Programme is in place and any specific issues in relation to public lighting can be agreed at workshop.
 - Requests for funding of housing estate lanes on the roads schedule should be referred to Roads. All other Council housing estate lanes should be referred to Housing.
 - Works at the lay-by at Ballylast School have been included on the multi-annual restoration programme.

- Safety concerns in relation to an open drain and warning signs at McFeelys Brae, Ballybofey will be reviewed by the Roads Area Office.
- Members were advised of a road opening/closure application in relation to watermain rehabilitation at Meenglass, Ballybofey to the Crossroads, Killygordon.

208.04 Community & Enterprise

Kathleen McGowan was invited to address the meeting. The update report circulated with the agenda was taken as read. The following comments were made:

- Cllr. P McGowan requested that an update report be brought to the next meeting in relation to the Drumboe Walkway.
- Members requested increased involvement in the Foyle/Finn Development Project including attendance at relevant meetings. Kathleen McGowan agreed and advised that a LEADER application for a feasibility study is currently being progressed.
- Cllr. M Harley advised that the Donegal Youth Service is currently trying to buy premises in Letterkenny which would support the Youth Service in Ballybofey. He requested that the Council support this acquisition.
- Cllr. P McGowan advised that the services provided through the Family Enrichment Centre, Stranorlar are to be reinstated thanks to BASSIC who negotiated for the property to be kept in public use. Pobal is supporting the reinstatement of services.
- Cllr. P McGowan requested that the Town Twinning Programme be kept on the agenda.

208.05 Housing & Corporate Services

Olive Gillespie was invited to address the meeting. The update report circulated with the agenda was taken as read. The following comments were made:

- Cllr. P McGowan queried if keys had been issued to tenants of the new housing estate at Gleann na Gréine, Stranorlar. Olive Gillespie advised that 9 families have now received keys and that tenancy agreements are currently being progressed in relation to the remaining properties.
- Members raised the issue of progressing a Serviced Land Initiative for Ballybofey & Stranorlar and the importance of designing new housing developments that promote independent living.

209 Motions

209.01 The following Motion was submitted by Cllr. P McGowan:

Motion: That the Roads Office give a date to begin works on (1) Trusk Road footpath and (2) Letterkenny Road Footpath - Admiran to Allan Park as agreed by this Municipal District.

Reply: Following a request from the Chamber of Commerce all non essential roadworks in the Twin towns have been delayed until after the works on the Donegal Road are complete. In addition to this and in order to maximise drawdown of funds from the Department, the Council has prioritised works funded under the Revenue budget which have tight timelines and deadlines. In 2018 the Stranorlar MD carried out significantly more works programmes than in previous years including Clár, Community Involvement Schemes, Local Improvement Schemes, Drainage Programme and August Flood Remedial works amounting to an additional € 1,178,113, with additional works carried over from the 2017 Local Improvement Scheme works (€ 618,850). Some of these programmes are complex, involve land negotiations and have a short delivery timeframe. Clár, Community Involvement Schemes and Local Improvement Schemes depend on payments from the Groups and delivery of the works has been delayed in many cases as a result. In addition to this the current works programme is continually being updated with additional works. The Stranorlar MD received additional late bridge monies and a culvert at Cappy is currently being replaced as a result. Earlier this month (November) the Department made € 136,839 available to the Stranorlar MD for further Local Improvement Schemes with a deadline of end December. These type of works programmes are dependant on progressing once payment has been received from the promoter and therefore cannot be programmed. They are also weather dependant given the time of year. The Council is seeking clarification from the Department in relation to the Clár programme deadline and as to whether this programme will continue into December. It is therefore envisaged that the three year footpath programme will commence in early 2019 (should there be no additional works or further changes to the programme) once the Council has completed the outstanding 2018 works and essential maintenance. In general footpath programmes are carried out outside of the main Departmental roadworks programmes timeframes and as such generally take place over the quieter months. The 3 year footpath & lighting programme is funded under the Capital budget and as such can be carried forward.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. M Harley.

210 Members Written Questions

210.01 The following Question was submitted by Cllr. P McGowan:

Question: That the roads office carry out an immediate assessment of the roads in the Lissmulladuff- Meenreagh area and ensure that an adequate percentage of funding is allocated in 2019 to address the very serious deteriorating surfaces.

Reply: Following the Harvest Rally an initial assessment took place of the roads in the Lissmulladuff area. Once the EE returns from leave a detailed report in relation to Harvest Rally shall be prepared. A previous assessment of the Lismulladuff area took place earlier in the year following a complaint. The 2019 - 2021 Draft Restoration Improvement Plan was approved by the elected members in October this year. There 2019 programme includes sections at Trusk Rd, Meenreagh and Mullaghneary. The draft 2021 programme includes sections at Lismulladuff and Cronlaghey. A further examination of the roads network will take place prior to finalising the draft 2019 Restoration Maintenance Programme which will be presented to the Elected Members early in 2019.

210.02 The following Question was submitted by Cllr. P McGowan:

Question: Can I get a written progress report on developing a park, playground and other outdoor facilities for Ballybofey-Stranorlar.

Reply: The Council are currently in negotiations with regard to the acquisition of lands for the development of recreational facilities in Ballybofey/Stranorlar. These discussions are at an advanced stage and it is expected that an update will be brought before the Members early in the new year.

210.03 The following Question was submitted by Cllr. G Crawford:

Question: What progress has been made in relation to areas in this MD which have been approved for flood defence works.

Reply: The Office for Public Works (OPW) have requested that DCC progress a number of CFRAMs related projects on their behalf. Agreement has been reached with the OPW on the funding of DCC staff to manage these works. These staff will be deployed within the Water and Environment Directorate. As these staff posts be additional to DCC's current compliment of staff a sanction request has been submitted to the relevant government department approving the filling of these positions. Following sanction approval the process to fill these posts can commence. It is hoped that these staff will be in place in early 2019 at which time a programme of works can be put in place. Members will be advised on the progress of these schemes via updates at the Municipal District meetings.

210.04 The following Question was submitted by Cllr. G Crawford:

Question: What offers have been received to provide turnkey housing in areas in this MD where such was sought.

Reply: Proposals for the provision of social housing through turnkey acquisition were sought for 17 locations in early 2018. Ballybofey/Stranorlar, Lifford and Convoy were included for the Stranorlar Municipal District. Proposals were received for each of the locations and the Council is currently assessing the submissions received.

210.05 The following Question was submitted by Cllr. G Crawford:

Question: Can I be informed of efforts made as a result of my previous motion to provide safe vision lines existing Ard Baithin St Johnston onto R265 And also from the Cloughfin Rd onto the R265 at St Johnston. Both junctions are in close proximity.

Reply: The issue was referred to the RSS following earlier motions. The RSS and Foreman are currently on long term sick leave and as such what dealings they had in relation to the landowner/ hedge cannot currently be ascertained. Donegal County Council did arrange to cut the hedges earlier this year and are arranging to have them cut again. The responsibility, however remains with the landowner and Donegal County Council runs a public awareness campaign every year to this effect.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

**Cathaoirleach
Municipal District of Stranorlar**

As agreed at the Stranorlar MD Meeting held 23rd January 2019.