

## **Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Lifford-Stranorlar held remotely on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 2pm.**

<b>Members Present</b>	Cllr. Gary Doherty, Cllr. Gerry Crawford, Cllr. Frank McBrearty, Cllr. Liam Doherty, Cllr. Martin Harley, Cllr. Patrick McGowan.
<b>Officials Present</b>	Joe Peoples, Olive Gillespie, Tony Browne.

Cllr. Gary Doherty opened the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.

Items from the agenda were discussed as follows:

### **256 Adoption of the Standing Orders for Lifford- Stranorlar Municipal District to incorporate the Remote Meetings Procedures.**

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Cllr. Gary Doherty explained the changes to the Standing Orders of the Municipal District which now incorporates procedures to deal with council meetings held remotely. These changes are outlined per Standing Order 81 to Standing Order 102.

The Standing Orders were approved on the proposal of Cllr. Frank McBrearty and seconded by Cllr. Patrick McGowan.

### **257 Review of the National Development Plan.**

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Joe Peoples explained the process in relation to the review of the National Development Plan and highlighted that each Municipal District has an opportunity to make a submission in relation to this review. Mr. Peoples explained further that the views of the Members will be taken in account and the report will then be included on the Agenda for the next meeting of the Plenary Council scheduled for Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021. The deadline for submissions is the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

Cllr. Gary Doherty opened up the meeting for contributions from the Members and the following is the main issues raised:

- Members expressed the view that the timescale for consultation was too short.
- The availability of Broadband and better connectivity was raised, particularly in the context of employment and education.
- The Health Service needs more investment. Patients shouldn't have to travel to Galway or Dublin with services being provided locally in Donegal. Lifford Hospital & St. Josephs Hospital provides vital services and need to be maintained.
- Development of larger urban areas should be treated differently to rural areas - Dublin is not the same as Donegal.
- Funding is required to complete projects, for example Finn Harps Stadium.

- National Guidelines are dictating local issues, for example An Bord Pleanala overturning Donegal County Council's decision in relation to Windfarms.
- Selection of routes for infrastructural projects restricts development, for example the old and new Ballybofey & Stranorlar Bypass routes. Land owners report lands effectively locked until routes are finalised.
- Lifford-Stranorlar MD receives smallest DCC road budget which needs to be addressed.
- Details in relation to quarries in Donegal to be furnished to Municipal District Members by Planning Services from a meeting held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Reference was made to the shortage of stone for construction if Quarries are restricted.
- Level of fees being applied by Irish Water after planning approval granted by Donegal County Council is not fair on individuals.
- Complications/difficulties encountered by land owners trying to get planning permission.
- The thresholds in relation to Social Housing Eligibility need to be reviewed.
- This Municipal District needs positive discrimination when allocating funding, resources.
- The N2/A5 roads project needs completion for accessibility to Donegal.
- The development of rail links to Donegal is required to allow increased accessibility to the county.
- While there are challenges in relation to Brexit, there is also opportunities in relation to tourism and transport on an All-Island basis.
- Town & Village Renewal must be continued.
- CLAR Funding eligibility should be expanded.
- Climate Action issues raised - homes and public buildings should be more energy efficient, Council properties in need of Windows & Doors. Flood Risk /CFRAMS needs to be progressed.
- The work of the NW Regional Assembly & ICBAN, which is vital for this Municipal District, must also be considered.

## **258 Confirmation of Date & Time of the next Municipal District Meeting**

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It was agreed that the next meetings of the Lifford-Stranorlar Municipal District would be held on Tuesday, **2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021** as follows:

- **Workshop**                      **9.30 am.**
- **Meeting**                         **11.00 am.**

Olive Gillespie advised the Members that a Group promoting the concept of a Colmcille Camino, as part of the Colmcille Commemoration Year of events, had requested to meet with the Members to discuss the project. The Members agreed to meet virtually with the Group at 11am on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

Olive Gillespie presented a Report in relation to the disposal of a property at Curraghamone, Ballybofey. The recommendation on the disposal was proposed by Cllr. Martin Harley and seconded by Cllr. Liam Doherty. It was noted a report will be presented to a meeting of the Plenary Council in March 2021 in accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) ) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).

This concluded the business of the Meeting

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**Cathaoirleach**  
**Municipal District of Lifford-Stranorlar**

**As agreed at the Lifford-Stranorlar Municipal District Meeting held 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021**