

**Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Stranorlar held
14th March 2018 in County House, Lifford at 11 am**

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

Cllr. Harley thanked everyone for their attendance and welcomed Paul Gallagher to the meeting. Items from the agenda were discussed as follows:

181 Corporate Services

181.01 Votes of Sympathy

Members passed a vote of sympathy on the passing of:

- **Joseph Doherty**, our former colleague, Plant Operator in the Milford and Dunfanaghy Areas.
- **Sean McIvor**, father of Niall Mc Ivor, Economic Development Section, Lifford.
- **Brian McNeely**, father of Bernard McNeely, Housing Services, Donegal Town PSC.
- **Mary Byrne**, mother of Angela Gallagher, Water Section.
- **Jimmy McGurran**, our former colleague, father of Evelyn Sharpe (Finance) and father-in-law of Noel Sharpe (Bundoran Roads).
- **John Tourish**, father of Maeve McElroy, Central Planning Unit.
- **Anthony Patton**, Ballybofey.
- **Michael Gallagher**, Craigadooes, St. Johnston.

181.02 Confirmation of Minutes of Municipal District of Stranorlar Workshop held 24th January 2018.

The minutes were approved on the proposal of Cllr. Gerry Crawford and seconded by Cllr. Patrick McGowan.

181.03 Confirmation of Minutes of Municipal District of Stranorlar Meeting held 24th January 2018.

The minutes were approved on the proposal of Cllr. Patrick McGowan and seconded by Cllr. Gary Doherty on the basis of including comments from Cllr. McGowan that the Balor Theatre should be incorporated in to Council services.

182 Confirmation of Date and Venue for Next Meeting

182.01 It was agreed that the next meetings of Stranorlar Municipal District would be held as follows:

- **Workshop** – Monday 9th April 2018 at 9.30am in County House, Lifford with An Gardai.
- **Workshop** – Wednesday, 25th April 2018 at 10am in Stranorlar Regional Training Centre.
- **Meeting** – Wednesday, 25th April 2018 at 11am in Stranorlar Regional Training Centre.

183 Consideration of Reports & Recommendations from Services

183.01 Planning

The update report circulated with the agenda was taken as read. The following comments were made:

- A plenary workshop in relation to the Draft County Development Plan 2018-2024 is scheduled for March 16th 2018.
- Initial work has commenced on the development of a Letterkenny Town Development Plan and members will be kept up to date on progress.
- Cllr. McBrearty suggested that the County Development Plan should require the use of hydraulic systems in housing developments to mitigate against flooding.

183.02 Environment

The update report circulated with the agenda was taken as read. The following comments were made:

- Members welcomed anti-dumping initiatives however agreed that illegal dumping is becoming a significant issue across the county. Paul Gallagher agreed to circulate a list of initiatives and proposed clean ups to members.
- Cllr. G Doherty requested that the installation of Bring Banks at Castlefin be progressed.
- Cllr. McGowan requested that funding and grants to community organisations be streamlined to ensure that members are fully aware of the level of funding provided by the Council.
- Members requested an update on CFRAMS, advising that same is now overdue.
- Cllr. McGowan requested that litter pick-up's on the N15 & N13 be carried out.
- Cllr. G Doherty requested the installation of a bus stop at Castlefin.

183.03 Roads

The update report circulated with the agenda was taken as read. The following comments were made:

- Cllr. Harley advised that he has requested a meeting with Minister Ross TD in relation to the priority projects for Stranorlar Municipal District. Cllr. G Doherty advised of the urgent need for this meeting given the current state of road surfaces in many areas of the Stranorlar Municipal District. Proposed dates are currently awaited from the Minister's office and it was agreed that an internal workshop would be held in advance of any meeting with the Minister.

- Cllr. L Doherty stated that the quality of tar utilised on roads should be of a very high standard.
- Cllr. McGowan queried that status of the proposed link road from Mulrine's factory to Glenfin Road.
- Members advised that during proposed road works at Clady that local lorries should be permitted through restrictions. Claire McGeever agreed to forward dates of the public consultation process to members.
- Members were advised that a tendering process is required to establish costs for works to Ballybofey / Stranorlar Main St.
- The 3 year Footpath Programme will utilise any available funding from old development charges.

Claire McGeever made a presentation outlining proposals for 2018 and the following was agreed:

- On the proposal of Cllr. McGowan, seconded by Cllr. G Doherty, the proposed Bridge Strengthening Programme for 2018 was approved to include (1) Findrum, (2) Roganspark, (3) Tullyrap, (4) Dromore.
- Claire McGeever agreed to provide members with a list of submitted funding applications.
- A total of €30,000 has been allocated to improve pedestrian facilities at the Diamond, Raphoe.
- The Regional Road Surface Dressing Programme for 2018 was agreed as presented at a total of €94,860.
- The Local Road Surface Dressing Programme for 2018 was agreed as presented at a total of €340,468.
- The Restoration Improvement programme for 2018 was agreed as presented at €1,817,972.

Aidan Smith was invited to make a presentation and circulated an additional report to members. The following comments were made:

- Cllr. McGowan advised that light spillage in Ballybofey / Stranorlar is not sufficient and suggested the erection of double lamps at each location to improve spillage.
- Cllr. McBrearty advised that the public lighting in Raphoe is in keeping the Heritage Town status and that LED lamps can be installed.
- Members were advised that the only budget for lighting for 2018 is a maintenance budget of €17,500.

183.04 Community & Enterprise

The update report circulated with the agenda was taken as read. The following comments were made:

- Donegal County Council and Derry City and Strabane District Council met with the SEUPB with regard the refusal of a funding application for the Riverine application. A second call for applications is to be made on March 16th 2018. Members advised of their disappointment of the refusal given the lack of shared leisure and recreational facilities in the locality.

- Members agreed that groups and organisations which receive funding through the DFI should be required to acknowledge funding.
- An official launch of East Donegal Tourism is scheduled to take place on March 22nd 2018 in Oakfield Park, Raphoe.
- Cllr. McBrearty advised of a funding allocation to carry out upgrade works at Beltany Stone Circle.
- On the proposal of Cllr McGowan, seconded by Cllr G Doherty, the following allocations were approved under the Development Fund Initiative for 2018:

Organisation / Group	Total Allocated for 2018
Raphoe Tidy Towns Ltd	€3,600
BASICC	€10,000
Raphoe Senior Friday Club	€2,500
Raphoe Ulster-Scots Pipe Band	€8,000
Castlefin Partnership Initiative Ltd (CPI)	€7,000
Gleann Fhinne Cuideachta Faoi Theorainn Rathaiochta	€4,250
Naomh Padraig Lifford GAA Club	€5,000
Raphoe Boxing Club	€10,500
Lifford Community Garden	€2,700
Castlefin Tidy Towns	€4,625
Butt Drama Circle Company Ltd.	€7,250
St. Eunan's Church	€5,000
Balor Developmental Community Arts (DCA) Group	€5,750
Convoy Community & Environmental Committee	€5,125
Isacc Butt Heritage Committee	€2,500
Red Hugh's GAA Club	€2,500
Planet Youth	€2,700
CLG Gleann Fhinne	€2,500
Butt Hall Tennis Club	€2,500
Railway Avenue Residents Association	€2,500
Ballybofey United Football Club	€3,500
Robert Emmets Minor Board	€6,000
Lifford Association Tourism Commerce Heritage (LATCH)	€2,500
St. Mary's GAA Club	€9,000
Finn Valley Broadcasting Ltd.	€2,500
Total	€120,000.00

183.05 Housing

The update report circulated with the agenda was taken as read and the following items were agreed:

- A discussion took place with regard retrofit programmes including upgrading of windows and doors and insulation works. Olive Gillespie agreed to circulate an update report to members on the replacement of windows and doors as soon as possible.

- Members were requested to inform tenants that reports of condensation / damp in social houses should be made to the Housing Office for investigation and remediation as required.
- In response to Cllr. G Doherty's concerns in relation to the levels of rent that some tenants are paying in addition to the HAP payment, Cllr. F McBrearty advised that the Housing & Corporate Services SPC is planning to review this area.
- Olive Gillespie gave an overview of the Council's policy on dealing with occurrences of homelessness.

184 Members Written Questions

184.01 The following Question was submitted by Cllr. Gerry Crawford:

Question: Road conditions in the Stranorlar MD are in a terrible state in many places. Funding is not sufficient to meet the needs of restoring these roads. What action is ongoing to seek additional funding to enable essential works be carried out?

Reply: Roads within the Stranorlar Municipal District have deteriorated for a number of reasons including the prolonged period of frost and rain. Funding applications can be made in relation to the National Road network for specific works. This option is not available in relation to non national roads and the Department allocates the respective budgets to each Local Authority on an annual basis.

In relation to the National network within the Stranorlar MD, an application has been made for emergency funding for the N15 in relation to patching of Stranorlar's Main Street (northern carriageway). A further application was made for drainage monies on the N13.

Funding applications are currently being submitted in respect of the N13, N14 and N15 for drainage works and/ or patching. Further funding applications may be made in relation to the National Primary Roads due to the 30% reduction in the maintenance allocation and where the need arises.

With regards to non national roads a funding application was made in respect of the August flood damaged roads and an allocation has been received to the value of € 571,226 for the Stranorlar MD.

184.02 The following Question was submitted by Cllr. Gerry Crawford:

Question: Could I be updated on the 2018 footpath restoration programme for the Stranorlar MD?

Reply: The Draft 3 year footpath and lighting programme was agreed in Workshop with the elected members in October 2017. The Area staff is currently liaising with the Public Lighting team regarding updated lighting needs. It is envisaged that the Programme will be brought to the next Municipal District meeting for adoption. It would be envisaged that works on this programme will commence later in the

year after the strengthening, surface dressing and development contribution programmes are complete.

184.03 The following Question was submitted by Cllr. Gerry Crawford:

Question: When will the public lighting replacement programme begin?

Reply: A comprehensive report has been made available to the members and will be discussed at the March Municipal District meeting.

184.04 The following Question was submitted by Cllr. Patrick McGowan:

Question: Could the Council furnish me with the latest traffic figures for all roads around the twin towns?

Reply:

Location	2017 AADT
N13 to the north of Stranorlar	10,131
N15 to the south of Ballybofey	7,126

There are a number of counts on non national roads but they were taken quite a few years ago and there are no up to date figures.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

**Cathaoirleach
Municipal District of Stranorlar**

As agreed at the Stranorlar MD Meeting held 25th April 2018.