**MINUTES OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE**

**HELD ON 11th November 2016 IN DUNGLOE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher

Cllr. Terence Slowey

Cllr. John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh

Cllr. Enda Bonner

Cllr. Micheal Cholm Mac Giolla Easbaig

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Peadar MacRory – Senior Engineer – Water & Environment

Paul Christie – Senior Executive Planner

Brendan McFadden - Senior Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation

Eamonn Brown - A/Area Manager, Housing & Corporate Services

Charles Sweeney - Area Manager, Community, Culture & Enterprise

David Friel - Coastal Officer

Mairead Cranley - Staff Officer, Community, Culture & Enterprise

Michael Rowsome - S.S.O Corporate & Motor Tax

**APOLOGIES**: Cllr. Seamus Ó Domhnaill

Frank Sweeney - Executive Planner

Michael McGarvey - A/Director Water & Environment

**GMD 299/16 MINUTES OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**MEETING HELD ON 11th OCTOBER 2016**

On the proposal of Cllr. Bonner, seconded by Cllr. Slowey, the minutes of the Glenties Municipal District Meeting held on 11th October 2016 were agreed.

**GMD 300/16 MINUTES OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**MEETING HELD ON 25th OCTOBER 2016**

On the proposal of Cllr. Slowey, seconded by Cllr. Bonner, the minutes of the Glenties Municipal District Meeting held on 25th October 2016 were agreed.

**GMD 301/16 REPORT FROM WORKSHOP 3RD OCTOBER 2016**

Members noted the report from the Workshop held on 3rd October 2016 in relation to the proposed approach to the 2017 General Municipal Allocation and preparation of the 2017 Revenue Budget.

**GMD 302/16 REQUEST FOR DEPUTATION**

On the proposal of Cllr. Slowey, seconded by Cllr. Ó Fearraigh, the committee agreed to receive a deputation from the Moving Mevagh forward group at the January 2017 MD meeting.

**Planning & Economic Development**

**GMD 303/16 Planning Applications**

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Senior Executive Planner detailing the status of applications submitted during the period from 01/01/2016 to 31/10/2016.

**GMD 304/16 Appeals (received & decisions notified)**

The Committee discussed the appeals to An Bórd Pleanála during the period from 01/09/2016 to 28/10/2016 and the Senior Executive Planner responded to Members queries regarding applications 16/50989, 15/50132 and 16/50574.

**GMD 305/16 Refusals**

Members discussed the report circulated previously and presented by the Senior Executive Planner regarding 12 no. refusals issued during the period 01/09/2016 – 28/10/2016.

The Committee expressed concern:

* At the refusal of planning permission for residential and agricultural developments on offshore islands thereby exacerbating further depopulation of coastal, rural and Gaeltacht regions of the County.
* At the proliferation of empty buildings within town centres and the absence of housing developments within central areas
* At the increasing number of refusals in rural areas due to issues involving lay-byes and vision lines.

The Senior Executive Planner undertook to arrange a meeting with Members regarding these issues in the context of the review of the County Development Plan.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig requested that Council meetings be screened online & also raised a number of Roads and Environment issues and left the meeting at this point.

**Housing & Building**

**GMD 306/16 Housing Grants**

The Committee welcomed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager in relation to the status of the following Housing grants as at 7th November 2016:

* Housing Aid for Older People Grants
* Housing Adaptation Grants
* Mobility Aids Grant

**GMD 307/16 Casual Vacancies**

Members discussed the report on casual vacancies as at the 4th November 2016 circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager. The Housing Manager informed the Committee that the current priority for the Housing Service is to expedite offers for lettings prior to the Christmas holiday period.

Cllr. Slowey recommended that the Council investigate the reasons for refusals of offers.

**GMD 308/16 New SI Policy**

The Housing Manager updated the Committee on the current status of the SI policy and undertook to liaise with Members in relation to the roll out of the SI programme.

**GMD 309/16 Acquisition Programme**

The Housing Manager informed Members that:

1. 5 no. house purchases have been completed
2. It is expected that a further 22 no. houses will be acquired in the MD to complete the acquisition programme
3. A list of acquired properties will issue to Members

In response to a query from Cllr. Bonner the Housing Manager:

1. Explained the procedure adopted in the identification of suitable properties for acquisition by the Council.
2. Undertook to revert to Cllr. Bonner regarding the status of a former Council property highlighted by Cllr. Bonner as suitable for acquisition

Cllr. Gallagher recommended that the Housing Service prioritise the purchase of land and properties in close proximity to town centres to minimise the transportation costs for Council tenants.

**GMD 310/16 Burtonport Playground**

In response to a query from Cllr. Gallagher, the Housing Manager advised that the works on the playground at An Choill are in progress.

**GMD 311/16 Tenant Purchase Scheme**

Cllr. Slowey & Cllr. Bonner highlighted scenarios in which tenants with adequate finance were precluded from participating in this scheme due to stringent criteria.

The Housing Manager advised Members that the Housing Director is aware of the necessity for a review of the scheme and that representations will be made in this regard.

**GMD 312/16 Disposal of 45 Horn Head - Dunfnaghy**

In response to a query from Cllr. Ó Fearraigh, the Housing Manager advised that the property is advertised for sale by the appointed estate agent.

**Roads and Transportation**

**GMD 313/16 Roadwork Programme 2016**

The Roads Manager informed Members that:

* The Roadwork Programme is due for completion at the month end
* Island Roadworks on Arranmore have completed and that works on Tory Island are weather dependant
* The Roads Service have met the Dunfanaghy Area Community Network and that minutes in this regard will issue to Members

The Committee praised the Roads Service for the quality of work carried out throughout the MD.

**GMD 314/16 Roadwork Programme 2017**

Members agreed to schedule a Workshop at 10am on Monday 19th December 2016 to discuss:

* the 2017 Roadwork Programme
* the 3 year Restoration Programme
* the draft Surface Dressing Programme
* maintenance Programme – Level of Service

Cllr. Gallagher acknowledged and commended the level of work undertaken by the Roads Service and requested the Council to liaise with the TII to source major funding to upgrade Donegal Road Infrastructure

**GMD 315/16 NRDO Update**

The Roads Manager informed the Committee that:

* N56 Boyoughter to Kilkenny Scheme (Phase 2) will be substantially completed by mid December
* N56 Kilkenny to Letterilly (Phase 3) is designed and ready for tender, subject to approval and funding in 2017
* N56 Dunfanaghy construction likely in Spring 2017
* N56 Log Cabin structural options report awaited and pavement design proceeding in parallel
* N56 Fanaboy Road Pavement Works will commence within a week on 1.6km section of roadway for a duration of approximately 2 weeks.

Cllr. Slowey informed the meeting that he will be a member of a delegation due to meet the TII on 8th December and that funding of Phase 3 & Phase 4 of the Dungloe to Glenties stretch of the N56 will be at the top of this agenda.

**GMD 316/16 Road Maintenance Issues**

The Committee highlighted the following issues for the attention of the Roads Service:

* Remedial works arising from meeting with locals in Lettermacaward including urgent works required at the church car park and cycle lane
* safety concerns at Wood Road, Ardara and Health Centre, Annagry
* necessity for funding of additional Japanesse Knotweed projects
* resurfacing works at Crolly Village
* repair works at Cruit Bridge
* Ranafast Road widening
* Loughanure pavement works
* Deer warning signage at strategic locations

**GMD 317/16 Pole Road, Dungloe**

The Roads Manager advised the Committee that a budget of €105,000 is available to carry out necessary road works on completion of settlement and that temporary works may have to be carried out at this location in the interim.

**Environmental Services**

**GMD 318/16 Coastal Erosion**

The Committee discussed the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Coastal Officer in relation to the status of applications for funding under the OPW’s Coastal Protection Scheme at the following locations:

* Magheraroarty
* Narin/Portnoo
* Maghery

Members welcomed the approval of funding in the sum of €76,500 for a study to identify necessary physical protection measures in the Carrickfinn Peninsula area.

The Committee expressed frustration and disappointment at the rejection of an application to the OPW for Minor Flood Mitigation Works at Maghery and requested the Council to liaise with all Donegal TD’s and the Minister to determine a solution for the installation of necessary protection measures.

**GMD 319/16 Ringbuoy Survey**

The Committee welcomed the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Coastal Officer regarding the submission of ringbuoy locations for inclusion in a national database.

Members were informed of the availability of technology to trigger an alarm when a ringbuoy is removed and the cost of installing remote monitoring technology is currently being considered.

**GMD 320/16 Coastal Shipwrecks**

Members noted the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Coastal Officer regarding a yacht stranding on rocks off St. John’s Point and the public health and safety concerns associated with coastal shipwrecks.

**GMD 321/16 Green Business Seminar**

The Committee welcomed the organisation of a Green Business Seminar in Letterkenny to examine resources efficiency and cost savings through waste prevention and reductions in water and energy consumption.

**GMD 322/16 Reuse Month**

The Committee welcomed the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Coastal Officer in relation to events and activities organised to promote ‘Reuse’ during October.

Cllr. Slowey complemented the open day to showcase the work of the Letterkenny Men’s Shed and the reuse of Waste Materials.

**GMD 323/16 Enforcement**

Members discussed the report circulated at the meeting in relation to the submission of environmental complaints and the serving of Fixed Penalty Notices under the Litter Pollution Act 1997.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh expressed disappointment that fines were issuing to commercial businesses for erecting temporary finger post signage and requested the Council to implement a ‘common sense’ policy.

**GMD 324/16 Dooey Beach**

Cllr. Gallagher requested the Council to liaise with the local Committee in relation to implementation of a traffic management plan for visitors to Dooey Beach.

**Community and Enterprise**

**GMD 325/16 Donegal Walks & Trails**

The Committee welcomed the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Community & Enterprise Manager regarding the status of the following project targets:

* Continuation of consultation with local groups to develop Old Burtonport to Letterkenny Railway Line
* Feasibility study to be procured and commence December 2016
* National Trails Office route inspections in November
* Construction of maintenance programme where damage to the existing routes can be repaired.

**GMD 326/16 Donegal Youth Council**

Members welcomed the report on the topics to be explored by the new Youth Council and Cllr. Bonner requested details of the Youth Council reps from the Glenties MD.

**GMD 327/16 ASCENT**

The Committee noted that the ASCENT project has recently launched and that work has commenced on researching a management model and designing a proposed pathway for Errigal.

**GMD 328/16 Joint Policing Committee**

Members were advised by the Community & Enterprise Manager that a networking evening for community alert groups will be held on the 29th of November.

**GMD 329/16 Pride of Place**

Members welcomed the participation of both Ionad Naomh Padraig Dobhar and Coiste Glan agus Glas in this years competition.

**GMD 330/16 EU Unit**

The Committee welcomed the report circulated at the meeting and Cllr. Slowey commended the expertise and foresight in the EU Unit.

**Corporate Services**

**GMD 331/16 Dungloe Community Network**

The Committee welcomed a deputation from the Dungloe Community network to the meeting, comprising of the following representatives: Kenneth Campbell, Anne McEleney, Patrick Boyle, Mary Ward and Nuala Bonner.

The Dungloe Community Network Deputation circulated a report and made a presentation to Members regarding the following topics:

* Demographics
* Progress to date
* Priorities for the 3 sub groups:
  + - * 1. Economic, Enterprise & Development
        2. Environment, Tourism & Town Development
        3. Culture & Social
      * The Deputation requested advice, assistance and information from the Council to progress their ambitious plans for the long term development of Dungloe and surrounding areas.

Members expressed their appreciation to the Community Network for the impact and the quality of the presentation.

Members requested:

* The Community & Enterprise Manager to ascertain if funding could be sourced to enable the reigning Mary from Dungloe to travel to New York with the Council delegation for the St. Patricks Day festivities.
* The deputation to liaise with Donegal Tourism & Fáilte Ireland.

**GMD 332/16 Date of the Next Meeting**

The Committee agreed to convene the next MD meeting on Tuesday 17th January 2017.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**