

**MINUTES OF ISLANDS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN DUNGLOE PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE ON
10th SEPTEMBER 2024**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr. Michael McClafferty (Cathaoirleach)
Cllr. John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh
Cllr. Anthony Molloy
Cllr. Micheál Cholm Mac Giolla Easbuig
Cllr. Denis McGee
Cllr. Brian Carr
John O'Brien
Mairín Uí Fhearraigh
William Boyle
Eddie Joe Mac Aoidh

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Michael McGarvey - Director of Water & Environment Service
Michael Rowsome, A/Area Manager, Corporate & Housing
Michéal Mac Giolla Easbuig - Údarás na Gaeltachta
Eugene Allen - Asst. Engineer, Marine & Harbours
Kevin McCloskey - Coastal Officer
Claire McCallan, Architect in Community & Development
John McCarron, SEE, Water & Environment
Jamie Gallagher, Executive Engineer, Roads
Lorna Ramsey - Executive Planner
Breid Neely, S.S.O., Information Systems
Mary Boyle, A/SSO, Housing & Corporate
Clíona Ní Ghallachóir - Aistriúcháin Comhuaineach

APOLOGIES: Noirín Uí Mhaoldomhnaigh
Anne Marie McCole
Marjorie Uí Chearbhall
John McCafferty

IC 13/24 Election of Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach

On the proposal of Cllr. McClafferty, seconded by Councillor Carr, the Committee elected Cllr. John Sheamus Ó Fearraigh as Cathaoirleach of Coiste na nOileán. On the proposal of Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig, seconded by Cllr. John Sheamus Ó Fearraigh, the Committee elected Marjorie Uí Chearbhall as Leas Cathaoirleach of Coiste na nOileán.

There were no other nominations for the above positions. Cllr. Ó Fearraigh commended Cllr. McClafferty for his contribution to Coiste na nOileán and welcomed Cllrs. Carr & McGee to their first Islands meeting.

IC 14/24 Minutes of Meeting

On the proposal of Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig, seconded by Máirín Uí Fhearraigh, the Committee agreed the Minutes of the meeting held on 12th March, 2024.

IC 15/24 Meetings of Coiste na nOileáin

William Boyle expressed concern that members of the public were able to inform him of discussions held during a zoom meeting on 18th April, 2024. The Meetings Administrator advised that the zoom meeting was an information meeting to facilitate discussions between the Committee and the Marine services only. He further advised that Minutes were not taken, but that the Minutes of all meetings of Coiste na nOileán are available on Donegal County Council's website.

In response to a query from John O Brien regarding follow ups to suggestions raised at meetings, the Meetings Administrator advised the Committee that applications are submitted to the Department on many proposed projects but that not all submissions are approved for funding. He further encouraged the Island representatives to engage with the officials in the relevant Marine, Roads, & Environment services.

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig requested the attendance of an official from An Roinn at all Island Meetings and this recommendation was supported by the Cathaoirleach. Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig referred to Council representation at meetings of Comhar na nOileán & queried

the availability of minutes. Máirín Uí Fhearraigh highlighted the importance of Comhar na nOileán and emphasised the importance of ensuring that a representative from Donegal County Council attended their meetings. John O'Brien advised of the importance of promoting fishing related matters at this forum such as salmon quotas & the impact of Brexit.

The Director informed the meeting of the process involved in the selection of Council representation on Comhar na nOileán.

IC 16/24 Marine Services

16.1 Ferry Service to smaller Islands

Island representatives emphasised the importance of a subsidised ferry service to the smaller islands. Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig stated that such a service would be a great incentive to encourage people to move permanently to the smaller islands. In response to a query from Cllr Ó Fearraigh, Mícheál Mac Giolla Easbuig advised that Údaras invest in Islands via the Comharchumainn. The Committee were informed of ongoing discussions with Colm Mac Donnacha (An Roinn).

16.2 Inis Bó Finne

Cllr. Denis McGee raised the question of whether there was a plan in place for the pier. John O'Brien stated that a survey had been carried out previously and requested the Marine service to locate same to progress necessary infrastructural development on the Island. Máirín Uí Fhearraigh requested a meeting with the Marine service regarding status of the pier.

16.3 Gola

Eddie Joe McGee & Máirín Uí Fhearraigh raised the following marine issues.

- Additional rings needed on pier to prevent damage being caused to boats
- Extension to pier
- Re-location of ladder towards end of pier
- Meeting to be arranged with the Marine service in relation to Trá na mBlathán pier.

16.4 Owey

William Boyle requested the repair of the railings on the pier.

16.5 Magheragallen

Máirín Uí Fhearraigh requested a shelter for sea swimmers at this location.

16.6 Magheraroarty

In response to a query from Cllr McGee, The Marine engineer informed the Committee of the process involved in securing a foreshore licence to facilitate necessary dredging.

16.7 Inishmeane

The Marine engineer updated Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig on the status of the proposed works required at the steps on the pier.

16.8 Miscellaneous

The Marine engineer responded to queries from the Committee in relation to pontoons at Bunbeg and status of Rutland project, harbour dues, Kitty Archies Pier, Inishfree & Magheraroarty ferry shelters, Roshine Pier, Inis Caorach & Tory sea walls.

IC 17/24 Roads Service

The Roads engineer updated the Committee on the status of approved road projects on Arranmore, Tory & Owey Islands. Members were also informed of (1) an additional recent submission to An Roinn and allocation of funding for the Helipad Road on Arranmore & the East Town link road on Tory & (2) the current status of the land dedication process in respect of 4 no. roads on Gola. The Roads engineer also responded to queries regarding roads on Inishboffin, Inishfree, Cruit Island & the LIS programme. Máirín Uí Fhearraigh requested commencement of a plan to provide adequate and controlled parking at Magheragallen pier.

IC 18/24 Environment Service

Cllr McGee & Cllr McClafferty raised issues pertaining to campervan owners & the disposal of waste. Cllr McClafferty also highlighted dog fouling & illegal dumping particularly at pier locations.

Members also raised issues regarding the maintenance of current toilet facilities & the necessity for the expansion of public convenience/ eco toilet facilities to smaller islands & mainland piers serving Island communities.

Gola representatives highlighted the ongoing interruptions to water supply & requested a permanent solution to resolve historical issues.

Máirín Úi Fhearraigh commended Kevin McCloskey for the provision of a rubbish container at Magheragallen.

IC 19/24 Magheraroarty Masterplan

Members welcomed the update from the Director regarding recent meetings with An Roinn & internal meetings of Council staff from various services to develop a terms of reference for this potential project.

IC 20/24 Planning

Máirín Úi Fhearraigh requested an update regarding any proposals for offshore wind energy development off the Donegal coast & to be kept abreast of any developments in this regard.

IC 21/24 Miscellaneous

Members requested the replacement of counters at Island locations & also raised issues reading the necessity for helipad on Gola & a shelter at the Helipads on Tory & Falcarragh.

IC 22/24 BRAVERY AWARD

In response to a query from Clr Mac Giolla Easbuig regarding a sea rescue in Magheraroarty, the Coastal Officer advised that the Awards Officer, had unfortunately passed away recently.

This concluded the business of the meeting.