

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF SLIGO
HELD ON MONDAY 20th FEBRUARY, 2017 AT 10.00AM
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, QUAY STREET, SLIGO.**

COUNCILLORS PRESENT:

- Councillor Declan Bree
- Councillor Marie Casserly (Mayor)
- Councillor Seamus Kilgannon
- Councillor Tom MacSharry
- Councillor Gino O'Boyle
- Councillor Rosaleen O'Grady

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

- Ms. Dorothy Clarke, Deputy Chief Executive
- Mr. Tom Kilfeather, Director of Services
- Ms. Marie Whelan, Head of Finance
- Mr. Tom Brennan, Senior Engineer
- Mr. Seán Martin, A/Senior Architect
- Mr. Brían Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer
- Mr. Joe Murphy, Senior Executive Officer
- Ms. Sinéad Branley, Staff Officer

APOLOGIES:

- Councillor H. Keaney
- Councillor S. Maguire

MAYOR:

The Mayor, Councillor Marie Casserly presided and welcomed all to the meeting. At the outset Councillor Bree informed the meeting that Councillor Healy would be late.

**1. MINUTES OF MEETING OF
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF SLIGO
HELD ON 19TH DECEMBER,
2016.**

**Proposed by Councillor S. Kilgannon
Seconded by Councillor R. Grady**

AND AGREED

“To confirm the minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Sligo held on 19th December, 2016.”

2. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

**3. SCHEDULE OF MUNICIPAL
DISTRICT WORKS 2017**

Mr. Tom Kilfeather invited Mr. Tom Brennan, Senior Engineer to go through the Programme which had been circulated to the Members in advance of the meeting.

Mr. Brennan took the Members through the draft Schedule of Sligo Municipal District Works for 2017 for Roads, Transportation & Infrastructure.

The Schedule specified the full allocation of monies received together with a detailed breakdown of all planned expenditure for the year in relation to the specific projects and categorised headings. Mr. Brennan outlined each individual category that related to the Sligo Municipal District.

The Mayor Councillor Casserly thanked Mr. Brennan for the comprehensive update and complimented the work of the staff in

producing the report. She then invited queries and comments from Members. The Members thanked the Executive for the report but expressed disappointment with the funding levels contained therein.

In response to specific queries from Members, Mr. Kilfeather, Mr. Brennan and Mr. Flynn responded as follows:

- Staffing: The Council are currently in the process of recruiting engineering staff with interviews scheduled to take place in the coming months. A submission has been sent to the Department requesting an extension of contracts for the temporary outdoor staff. The overall outdoor staffing structure will need to be reviewed in due course.
- The restoration improvement and restoration maintenance grants have been distributed on a 50%/50% weighting based on road lengths/population in each Municipal District (excluding Sligo urban).
- Finisklin Road: Road marking works to take place in 2017
- Safety issues at a) St. John's and b) Scoil Ursula National Schools: a) Realignment works took place at this location in 2016, and b) Road Design Department will review this location.
- Harbour: Roads Department are in the process of taking over responsibility for Sligo harbour. The current budget only allows for day to day maintenance works.
- N16 Sligo to County Boundary: It is hoped that a route will be selected by Q2 of 2017. This will then enable the selection of a Minor Scheme thereafter.
- Western Distributor Road: In 2017 it is envisaged that the Council will complete the detailed design and go to tender.
- Ramps at St. John's Tce and Holborn Hill: These locations will be reviewed in line with planned works to ramps in the urban area.
- Eastern Bridge: Land acquisition is ongoing and will continue in 2017 particularly to the north side of the proposed bridge.
- Faughts Lane: The Council will be carrying out drainage works and surface dressing works at this location.
- School Wardens: The Council is satisfied that the budget will provide cover for 12 locations.

Following further discussion it was then:

Proposed by Councillor S. Kilgannon
Seconded by Councillor R. O'Grady

AND AGREED

"That the Schedule of Municipal District Works for 2017 as presented at the Council meeting of Monday 20th February, 2017 is adopted"

**4. TO APPOINT THREE
MEMBERS TO THE COUNTY
SLIGO PLACENAMES
COMMITTEE:**

Proposed by Councillor R. O'Grady
Seconded by Councillor T. MacSharry

AND AGREED

"To appoint Councillor S. Kilgannon to the County Sligo Placenames Committee."

Proposed by Councillor D. Bree
Seconded by Councillor M. Casserly

AND AGREED

"To appoint Councillor G. O'Boyle to the County Sligo Placenames Committee."

Proposed by Councillor R. O'Grady
Seconded by Councillor G. O'Boyle

AND AGREED

"To appoint Councillor M. Casserly to the County Sligo Placenames Committee"

**5. FOOTPATH REPAIRS AT
RATHCORMAC CEMETERY**

Proposed by Councillor M. Casserly
Seconded by Councillor S. Kilgannon

AND AGREED

"That Sligo County Council carry out footpath repairs at Rathcormac Cemetery"

**6. IRISH VARIABLE RATE
MORTGAGE CUSTOMERS AND
IRISH MORTGAGE LENDERS**

Mr. B. Flynn advised that it is intended that some footpath improvement works will be carried out at this location during the first Quarter of 2017.

Proposed by Councillor S. Kilgannon
Seconded by Councillor R. O'Grady

AND AGREED

"Given that Irish variable rate mortgage customers continue to pay over the odds on their mortgage rate this Council calls on Mortgage lenders in Ireland to avail of the opportunity now to reduce rates to better reflect current market conditions including the very low cost of funds they enjoy"

**7. REPLACEMENT OF SECOND
WALL AT DEADMAN'S POINT**

Proposed by Councillor S. Kilgannon
Seconded by Councillor R. O'Grady

AND AGREED

"To request Sligo County Council to replace the second wall at Deadmans Point, at the Outdoor Swimming Pool in Rosses Point"

Mr. B. Flynn advised the meeting that during November 2016 tenders were invited for the refurbishment of the outdoor swimming pool at Rosses Point. It is anticipated that improvement works at this location will commence during the first quarter of 2017.

**8. DANGEROUS JUNCTION AT
AUGHAGAD, GRANGE**

**Proposed by Councillor M. Casserly
Seconded by Councillor R. O'Grady**

AND AGREED

"That TII urgently address the safety issues at the southbound right turning lane at Aughagad Grange to ensure safety for residents, pedestrians, cyclists and drivers at a very dangerous junction."

Mr. B. Flynn advised the meeting that the matter had been referred to Transport Infrastructure Ireland for consideration.

**9. DERELICT HOUSE IN
WOODBROOK HEIGHTS,
BALLISODARE**

With the agreement of the meeting this item was deferred.

**10. ILLEGAL DUMPING IN
RATHBRAUGHAN PARK AND
THE WOODLANDS,
BALLYTIVNAN**

**Proposed by Councillor G. O'Boyle
Seconded by Councillor D. Bree**

AND AGREED

"Due to the ongoing illegal dumping in Rathbraughan Park and Woodlands Ballytivnan, I call on the Council to erect CCTV cameras in both areas"

Mr. T. Kilfeather accepted that illegal dumping is a significant issue at a number of locations including those mentioned in the NOM. The vacant position of Litter Warden is causing difficulties despite the efforts of the Waste Enforcement Officers and support from Area offices. Significant costs are regularly being incurred by the Council in dealing with such matters in the City and County. The purchase of cameras is being pursued currently. The Programme for Government contains a specific commitment to work with local authorities to tackle the problem of illegal dumping and to develop effective deterrents to discourage people from engaging in this anti-social behaviour. In accordance with this commitment, in correspondence received last week the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Mr Denis Naughten T.D., has advised local authorities that the Department, through the Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities (WERLAs) is launching an Anti-Dumping Initiative to work in partnership with local community organisations in identifying high risk or problem areas, developing appropriate enforcement responses and carrying out clean-up operations. The Department is making available an initial allocation of €650,000 nationally from the Environment Fund to support this initiative which will be delivered through the WERLA offices. Funding will be allocated to support projects where community groups and other state agencies work in partnership to clean-up and prevent illegal dumping and where appropriate enforcement actions are being undertaken by local authorities. SCC intends making a submission under this initiative.

**11. ERECTION OF SIGNS AT
MILLBROOK APARTMENTS,
RIVERSIDE**

**Proposed by Councillor G. O'Boyle
Seconded by Councillor M. Casserly**

AND AGREED

“To call on Sligo County Council to erect illegal dumping signs at the river from the Millbrook apartments, Riverside to the new bridge and also assess the possibility of the river being cleared of all illegal waste from the same area.”

Mr. T. Kilfeather, Director of Services advised the Members that the question of appropriate signage at this location will be considered. With regard to the clearance of all waste from the river this is beyond the resources of the Council. However in line with the response to the previous NOM we will give consideration as to whether a project at this location could be considered under the Departments Anti-Dumping initiative.

12. PEDESTRIAN CROSSING IN WINE STREET

**Proposed by Councillor T. MacSharry
Seconded by Councillor S. Kilgannon**

AND AGREED

“That Sligo County Council Engineering Department seek funding for a pedestrian crossing in Wine Street, Sligo”

Mr. Brian Flynn informed the Members that while undertaking refurbishment works on Wine Street in recent years, the Council carried out some advanced works in the form of ducting and dropped kerbs in order to allow for the installation of a controlled pedestrian crossing at the vehicular entrance to Wine Street car park. Quotations have now been sought for the provision of pedestrian signals at this junction, funding is available for this work and it is anticipated that installation will be completed during Q2 of 2017.

13. GLAS AND AEOS PAYMENTS TO SLIGO FARMERS

With the agreement of the meeting this item was deferred.

14. PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT OLD CARTRON HILL

**Proposed by Councillor T. MacSharry
Seconded by Councillor R. O’Grady**

AND AGREED

“That Sligo County Council engineering department provide members with an update on my motion previously adopted relating to the serious problems at the pedestrian crossing at Old Cartron hill, Sligo”

Mr. Brian Flynn informed the Members that the Roads Department are considering various measures to improve visibility for motorists of the pedestrian crossing at Old Cartron, Sligo. Measures will include the provision of coloured high friction surfacing together with improvements to road markings and the installation of additional driver warning signs. Works will be scheduled for late March / early April subject to appropriate weather condition.

15. SHORE SIDE FACILITIES FOR BOATS BERTHING OVERNIGHT IN SLIGO

**Proposed by Councillor S. Kilgannon
Seconded by Councillor G. O’Boyle**

AND AGREED

“To request Sligo County Council to convert the old Toilet Blocks at the side of the Harbour Office into Shower and Toilet facilities so as to provide modern shore side facilities for boat people bething overnight in Sligo”

Mr. Brian Flynn advised the Members that the possibility of providing such facilities will be considered by the Council and a costing done for the works. There is no funding provided in the 2017 Budget for such works. Consideration in designing and planning such works will also have to have regard to how such Infrastructure would be managed and the ongoing costs associated with operating the Infrastructure. On a related matter under the Fishery Harbour & Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme 2017 the Council has made an application for funding for the detailed design and planning for expansion of the Pontoon at Hughes Bridge. Estimated cost of this work is €35,000

With the agreement of the meeting, items 16 and 22 were taken together.

**16. TRAFFIC CALMING IN
CARNEY**

**Proposed by Councillor S. Kilgannon
Seconded by Councillor M. Casserly**

AND AGREED

“To request Sligo County Council Roads Department for health and safety reasons, to construct Traffic Calming in Carney at the turn off for Maugherow”

AND

**22. PROVISION OF FOOTPATH
IN CARNEY VILLAGE**

**Proposed by Councillor R. O’Grady
Seconded by Councillor M. Casserly**

AND AGREED

“Requesting an update on the provision of the footpath in Carney Village

In response to both motions Mr. Brian Flynn advised that rather than looking at this junction in isolation, the Roads Department will undertake to review existing traffic arrangements and footpath conditions through the village of Carney. Following this review, a schedule of works will be prepared containing traffic calming proposals, footpath improvements etc. Measures may include some of all of the following: hard and soft landscaping, installation of additional signage, road markings, etc. Funding will have to be sought for implementation as there is no dedicated funding stream for such works presently.

The Mayor, Councillor Casserly also added her compliments to the Carney Tidy Towns Committee for their dedicated work in the area.

**17. FAIRGREEN RECREATIONAL
PARK**

**Proposed by Councillor D. Bree
Seconded by Councillor G. O’Boyle**

AND AGREED

“To ask the Executive when it is expected that the next phase of the development of the Fairgreen Recreational Park will commence and to ask if there has been any indication if additional funding under the Sports Capital Programme or other sources will be made available for the project”

Mr. Brian Flynn advised the meeting that Sligo County Council are in the process of submitting an application to the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport under the auspices of the 2017 Sports Capital Programme seeking funding to enable further development of the Fairgreen Recreational Park.

18. FR. O’FLANAGAN HOUSING PROJECT

**Proposed by Councillor D. Bree
Seconded by Councillor G. O’Boyle**

AND AGREED

“That a report be provided to explain why the construction work on the proposed Fr Flanagan housing project has been extensively delayed and to ask when it is expected that work on the scheme will be completed and to ask what other housing construction schemes, if any, are expected to commence in the current year.”

Mr. Seán Martin advised the Members that following changes to in-house staff arrangements and roles, the Fr Flanagan Tce. Housing project was transferred from the Housing Design Section to the Architects Section. This occurred in September following the receipt of the departments Stage 4 - Tender Approval of the proposed development. Pre-contract signing clarifications in relation to the contractor’s insurers and insurance details were required and this process was undertaken between Irish Public Bodies Mutual (IPBM), on behalf of the Council and the building contractor. During this process the contractor’s insurances reached their renewal date, and the contractor procured his insurances from a new insurance company, the terms of these new insurance policies had to be reviewed with the new insurance company and checked by IPB afresh. While this process was underway, the council’s Architects Section were preparing the Part 8 documents and subsequent Chief Executive’s report for the October Council meeting, together with reviewing the and approving the text, and layout of the Cranmore Master Plan which was launched in December. Once the insurance review process was completed, the Fr. Flanagan Tce. Contract was signed on the 22/12/16. Subsequently, in January, the Commencement Notice and associated documentation was the uploaded onto the Building Control Management System (BCMS) in accordance with the requirements of the Building Control Act. A ‘sod turning’ ceremony was carried out on the Fr. Flanagan Tce. by Minister Coveney, on the 17/02/16. The Contractor will commence on Site on the 23/02/17, the construction programme is 20 months, work is expected to be completed on the scheme on Quarter 4/2018.

19. HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENT (HAP)

**Proposed by the Councillor S. Kilgannon
Seconded by Councillor M. Casserly**

AND AGREED

“How many households have qualified for the Housing Assistance payment (HAP) in the Sligo City Area since it was introduced and also how much funding is paid out monthly by Sligo County Council supporting this pilot scheme”

In response Mr. Joe Murphy, SEO advised the meeting that as of 17th February 2017 there are 148 households availing of assistance under the Housing Assistance Payment Scheme (HAP) i.e. HAP tenants within the Sligo Municipal District. Limerick County Council which oversees the operation of HAP pay the landlords.

Proposed by the Councillor R. O’Grady
Seconded by Councillor S. Kilgannon

AND AGREED

20. CONNECTIONS TO GRANGE SEWERAGE PLANT

“That Sligo County Council ensure that the 5 houses immediately west of the Grange Sewerage Plant be connected to the new system when it is upgraded”

Mr. T. Kilfeather, DOS advised the meeting that the motion had been referred to Irish Water and when a response was received it would be circulated to members.

The Mayor Councillor Casserly was in support of the motion and advised that she had previously made representations on the matter in 2016.

Proposed by the Councillor R. O’Grady
Seconded by Councillor S. Kilgannon

AND AGREED

21. PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT MAUGHERABOY BRIDGE

“Requesting an update on the provision of a pedestrian crossing west of Maugheraboy bridge”

Mr. B. Flynn advised the meeting that the roads department are reviewing the matter and will develop options for the provision of same. The crossing could be provided in association with road surface improvement works which are being considered for inclusion in the 2018 Roads Programme.

Proposed by the Councillor D. Bree
Seconded by Councillor G. O’Boyle

AND AGREED

23. VALUATION LIST

“That a full investigation be undertaken to ascertain why the Council management failed to inform the Commissioner of Valuation of two significant commercial developments (property reference no’s 5009195 and 5009236) operating in the county; and that a report be provided outlining the number of new entries on the valuation list for Sligo

during 2015, 2016 and to date in 2017; and further to ask the Chief Executive if the management of the Council has conducted a review of commercial properties so as to ensure that all relevant properties are on the valuation list”

Ms. M. Whelan, HoF outlined the procedures involved in informing the Valuation office of new commercial developments and seeking revisions for change of use of any current valuation. This is an ongoing process as a result of revenue staff observations or having being notified by rate payers and having being notified by the planning department of any commencement notices for commercial developments. The Council’s procedures were reviewed in 2016 as part of the Income Task Force meeting process, to ensure that all new commercial developments are captured at the earliest opportunity.

Ms. Whelan proceeded to state that discussions were had with the valuations office in November 2016 about the two stated developments. Finance also received a notice from the Enforcement Section during 2016 for a substation at a location very close to one of these and this has been followed up. In 2017 the Council have anew valuation in the rate book for a new wind farm that was valued and notified by finance staff to the valuation office bringing in approximately €40,000 additional rates. This valuation took some time to be completed. The Council are satisfied that there are appropriate mechanisms on place to identify new properties for valuation.

Up until recently there has been a significant delay in receiving valuations from the valuations office following the submission by finance staff seeking valuations. E.g. in 2014, 15 submissions were made starting in March 2014, the first of which was received in Oct 2014 but most received back in 2015 and 3 received in November 2016.

In 2015, 29 submissions were made some of which are still outstanding and the first of which came back in October 2015 and most recently in November 2016. 4 submissions were made in 2016 and as 2016 was the initiation of the revaluation project, the rates collection staff were working with the Valuation Revaluation Project Team in looking at all valuations. Over 30 submissions have been sent in 2017 to bring all rate accounts up to date, 20 of which are new and the rest relate to amendments.

There is a cost of €250 to be paid by Sligo County Council for each request and with the historic delay of up to two years in getting a valuation there would have been cases by which the time the valuers came down that the business may have actually closed up again.

A discussion on the matter followed. The Mayor Councillor Casserly called order on proceedings and moving to the next agenda item with the agreement of the meeting.

None.

25. A.O.B.

**Proposed by the Councillor S. Kilgannon
Seconded by Councillor R. O’Grady**

AND AGREED

“That the request from the William Bourke Cockran Foundation to hold an exhibition in City Hall for a minimum period of two weeks from 4th May, 2017 be accommodated”

The Members agreed that the next Sligo Municipal District meeting could be moved to the Council Chamber, Riverside if it clashed with the exhibition.

The Mayor Councillor Casserly welcomed S. Branley back to the meeting on her return from maternity leave.

The business of the meeting ended at 12.10pm.

Signed:

Mayor

Date: _____

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____