

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF SLIGO
HELD ON MONDAY 26th JUNE, 2017 AT 10.00AM
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, QUAY STREET, SLIGO.**

COUNCILLORS PRESENT:

- Councillor Declan Bree
- Councillor Thomas Healy
- Councillor Hubert Keaney (Mayor)
- Councillor Seamus Kilgannon
- Councillor Chris MacManus
- Councillor Tom MacSharry
- Councillor Sinéad Maguire
- Councillor Gino O'Boyle

APOLOGIES:

- Councillor Rosaleen O'Grady

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

- Mr. Ciarán Hayes, Chief Executive
- Ms. Marie Whelan, Head of Finance
- Mr. Tom Brennan, A/Director of Services
- Mr. Joe Murphy, A/Director of Services
- Ms. Margaret McConnell, A/Director of Services
- Mr. Brian Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer
- Ms. Sinéad Branley, Staff Officer

MAYOR:

The Mayor, Councillor Hubert Keaney presided and welcomed all to the meeting.

**1. MINUTES OF MEETING OF
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF SLIGO
HELD ON 24TH APRIL, 2017.**

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

AND AGREED

“To confirm the minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Sligo held on 24th April, 2017.”

**2. MINUTES OF ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING OF
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF SLIGO
HELD ON 19TH JUNE, 2017.**

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

AND AGREED

“To confirm the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Municipal District of Sligo held on 19th June, 2017.”

3. MATTERS ARISING

Councillor C. Mac Manus requested an update on the following:

- When will the assessment of the junction at Maugheraboy P.O. take place and when will the adjacent pedestrian crossing lights on Maugheraboy Road be fixed.
- Update regarding provision of portable toilet facilities at the Back Avenue

In response to the above queries, Mr. Brian Flynn informed the meeting as follows:

- Works at the Maugheraboy junction are not scheduled for the foreseeable future as the onus is on addressing works outlined in the current 2017 Roads Programme.

- The Council met with a preferred provider and are awaiting quotations for units at both the Cleveragh and Back Avenue locations.

4. DRAFT SPEED LIMIT BYE-LAWS:

Mr. Tom Brennan briefed the Members on the two reports which had been circulated to the Members in advance of the meeting. The reports outlined the current status of the review of speed limits for National Roads, Non-National Roads and housing estates in County Sligo.

Mr. Brennan stated that reports on the speed limit review had previously been presented to the Sligo Municipal District at its meeting in October 2016. He stated the TII had appointed consultants RPS to review speed limits on National Roads in the context of the new Guidelines. A draft of the National Road speed limit amendments and bye laws have been finalised by RPS and are documented in the RPS report entitled “National Road Speed Limit Review 2015-2017 County Sligo” dated 19th December, 2016 Rev F01.

Mr. Brennan added that Sligo County Council’s Road Design Section is reviewing the speed limit Bye-Laws for Non National Roads and housing estates. The list of housing estates where it is proposed to implement a “30 kph Slow Zone” speed limit areas was presented to members of the Municipal District at the October 2016 meeting. The first schedule of ‘slow zone’ speed limit bye laws for housing estates is proceeding through the statutory public consultation process and will be presented to members for approval as part of the statutory process in due course.

The proposed speed limit amendments of National Roads, Non National Roads and the remaining housing estates of Sligo County Council will proceed as part of a separate statutory process.

In response to specific queries, Mr. Brennan advised as follows:

- The Council has no authority with regard to the introduction of speed limits in private estates, but planning guidelines state that estates should be designed in such a way so as to slow traffic down.
- N59 Corhownagh to Ballisodare: The TII review suggested the 80 kph limit.
- Rathcormac Village: TII Consultants felt that a 60 kph limit was more appropriate for that stretch of roadway.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Brennan for the report.

5. REPAIR AND LEASE SCHEME FOR VACANT HOUSES:

Mr. Joe Murphy outlined details of the Repair and Leasing Scheme for vacant houses. The Scheme is open to owners of houses or apartments that have been vacant for at least one year and which require an amount of repairs to bring the property to the required standard for rented properties. Repair and improvement works necessary to suitable vacant properties are to be funded by Local Authorities or Approved Housing Bodies (A.H.B.) in return for the property being made available for social housing through a lease for a period of between 10 and 20 years. The cost of the works is deducted from lease (rent) payments over an agreed lease period. Property inspections would be carried out by Council or Approved

Housing Body staff that would identify the works required to bring the property to the required standard. The maximum cost of repairs allowed under the Scheme will be €40,000. The target set for the Council by the Department has been set at 10 units for 2017. Details of the Scheme are on the Council Website. There has been limited interest in the Scheme to date.

6. MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE OWENMORE RIVER:

**Proposed by Councillor T. Healy
Seconded by Councillor G. O'Boyle**

AND AGREED

“To call on Sligo County Council to convene a special meeting regarding implementing a management plan for the Owenmore River with the Minister of the OPW and other stakeholders to meet with members of Sligo County Council”

7. FOOTPATH WORKS IN OAKFIELD PARK, OAKFIELD CRESENT AND ADREE DRIVE:

**Proposed by Councillor C. MacManus
Seconded by Councillor T. Healy**

AND AGREED

“That Sligo County Council prepare a schedule of works to be carried out on the footpaths in the Oakfield Park, Oakfield Crescent and Ardee Drive area”

Mr. Brian Flynn advised the meeting that the Roads Management Office (RMO) in association with Irish Public Bodies (IPB) are developing a mobile application which will enable local authorities to carry out condition rating surveys on public footpaths within their municipality. The primary function of the application is to assist each local authority to properly manage and maintain public footpaths within their ownership and control. LA's will use the app to record all asset data e.g. footpath length, construction type, condition, age, defects present etc. Earlier this year, Sligo County Council was selected as one of five towns/cities to pilot this application. It is intended to pilot the application within the Sligo City area. Training in the use of this application will be provided later this month, following which a complete survey of all footpaths within the urban/suburban area will be carried out. This baseline data will subsequently be used to better inform technical staff on future funding of footpath refurbishment schemes. With the exception of planned refurbishment works within the core city streets and until such time as the footpath condition survey is complete it is not intended to carry out footpath upgrades at any other locations other than where works are considered necessary for safety reasons.

8. RECYCLING FACILITIES IN MAUGHERABOY:

**Proposed by Councillor C. MacManus
Seconded by Councillor S. Kilgannon**

AND AGREED

“That Sligo County Council give a report on the possible provision of a bottle bank in the Maugheraboy area. Currently no recycling facilities

exist in the Sligo Town area west of the Inner Relief Road”

Mr. Tom Brennan informed the meeting that he did not have a report from the Environment Department but would have the matter checked out and revert to the members.

**9. TAKING IN CHARGE OF
DORRINS STRAND, STRANDHILL:**

**Proposed by Councillor C. MacManus
Seconded by Councillor T. MacSharry**

AND AGREED

“To ask for a report about the taking in charge of Dorrins Strand in Strandhill”

Ms. Margaret McConnell informed the meeting that the Council carried out testing of the sewers and services in this development recently. The public lighting system was repaired and upgraded. At the beginning of June 2017 the Council advertised for tenders to carry out repairs to the roads and services. Tenders are due in by 30th June 2017. After evaluation, the successful tenderer should be ready to commence work by August 2017. On successful completion of these repairs, the Council hope to recommend to elected members to Take in Charge this development later in the year.

**10. PROPOSED COLUMBARIUM
FOR ROSSES POINT CEMETERY:**

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

AND AGREED

"That Sligo County Council provide an update on the proposed Columbarium for Rosses Point cemetery"

Mr. Brían Flynn advised the meeting that it is recommended that engagement is commenced with key stakeholders and an analysis conducted in order to determine that the installation of a columbarium is appropriate to the needs of the Rosses Point Community. Despite the increasing demand for columbaria, it would appear as of yet that there are few suppliers in the Irish market. Council personnel have engaged in preliminary discussions with one supplier, further to which we await quotations for supply and installation of a standard unit containing 20 niches. During the stakeholder engagement phase, personnel will undertake further research regarding this supply market.

With the agreement of the meeting items 11 and 13 were taken together.

**11. IRISH WATER SEWERAGE
BUNDLE SCHEME FOR GRANGE,
STRANDHILL & TUBBERCERRY**

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

AND AGREED

"That Sligo County Council write to Irish Water outlining our frustration at the delay in starting the Sewerage Bundle Scheme (Grange, Strandhill and Tubbercurry)"

AND,

13. WASTE WATER PLANTS AT GRANGE, STRANDHILL, TUBBERCURRY & BALLINAFAD.

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

AND AGREED

“To request Sligo County Council for an up to-date report on the Contract for the design, building and operation of the waste water plants at Grange, Strandhill, Tubbercurry and Ballinafad”

Mr. Tom Brennan advised the members that the following response was received from Irish Water. The Grange, Tubbercurry, Strandhill & Ballinafad Design Build Operate Contract tender has been priced by the market and is going through internal approvals within Irish Water at the moment. An Oral Hearing for the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) process was convened by An Bord Pleanála on 02nd June 2017. Irish Water is awaiting the Bord's confirmation (or otherwise) of the CPO. Irish Water will be in a position to sign the DBO contract on confirmation of the CPO by An Bord Pleanála. The project is a priority scheme for Irish Water and is included in Irish Waters Business Plan for funding and completion.

12. SLIGO GARDA STATION:

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

AND AGREED

"That Sligo County Council write to the Minister for Justice and the OPW requesting an urgent update on the provision of a Garda Station in Sligo fit for purpose"

14. TRAFFIC CALMING ON R292 AT SCOIL URSULA, STRANDHILL ROAD:

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

AND AGREED

“To ask that Sligo County Council will take all actions necessary to curtail speeding traffic on the R 292 at Scoil Ursula on the Strandhill road in the interest of road safety”

Mr. Brian Flynn advised the meeting that technical personnel from the Council's Road's Design office are at present preparing proposals for increased traffic calming measures in this area. Such measures are likely to comprise additional road markings, signage and parking restrictions. It is intended that works will be carried out during August 2017 and to be completed in advance of the new school year.

15. INCLUSION OF ROAD NO. L.6101.0 STREAMSTOWN, BALLYSADARE IN THE 2018 ROADS PROGRAMME:

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

AND AGREED

“To request Sligo County Council Roads Department to include Road no L.6101.0 at Streamstown, Ballysadare for funding in 2018 Roads program”

Mr. Brían Flynn informed the meeting that the L-6101 is included on the 2017 Roadworks Programme. Restoration maintenance works will be carried out along circa 1.4km of this roadway in the coming weeks.

**16. FOOTPATH/WALKWAY
SOUTH OF CARRAROE ON THE
R284:**

With the agreement of the meeting this item was deferred.

**17. COMMERCIAL RATES IN
FORMER BOROUGH AREA:**

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

AND AGREED

“That the Chief Executive provide a report indicating the number of commercial/industrial premises in the former Sligo Borough area on which rates were levied in each of the years 2016, 2015 and 2014; the report to also include the number of such premises which sought and received a refund in each of the years 2016, 2015 and 2014 on grounds that the property was vacant and available for letting or the property was undergoing alteration, renovations or repairs; the report to also include the loss of potential income to the Council in each year as a result of the refunds being provided”

Ms. Marie Whelan informed the meeting that the Rate book for each of the years 2014, 2015 and 2016 sets out all premises of Sligo Borough Council in 2014 and as Sligo County Council for 2015 and 2016 for which Rates has been levied is available for inspection here in the chamber and in Finance at any time. The Schedule of uncollected rates setting out the reasons for non-collection of the rates for 2014, 2015 and 2016 is also available for inspection here in the chamber and in Finance at any time. This identifies the amounts uncollectable for vacant premises. As per Appendix 7 of the Annual Financial Statements Summary of Major Revenue Collections the value of Vacant Property Adjustments in 2015 was €2,614,690 and for 2016 was €2,311,682.

A discussion then followed among the members regarding rates rebates with a request that this item be considered further for the estimates meeting.

**18. LONG TERM VACANT
PROPERTY INCENTIVE SCHEME:**

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

AND AGREED

“That the Chief Executive provide a report outlining why the Long Term Vacant Property Incentive Scheme has not been introduced in Sligo”

Ms. Marie Whelan informed the meeting that the Local Government (Financial and Audit Procedures) Regulations 2014, Part 5 provides for a change in rating law in relation to the refund of rates on vacant properties: it provides discretion to the elected members of individual local authorities to vary the level of rates refunds that apply in individual local electoral areas with the authority's overall administrative area. The amendment did not make any change to the eligibility or otherwise of refunds as provided for in relevant legislation but amended the legislation for the new reserved function of a local

authority. It has never been possible to collect rates from Owners of Vacant property in Sligo in order to consider this variation. Only 8 Local Authorities operate a vacant property refund scheme.

It was then

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

AND AGREED

“That the executive prepare a Long Term Vacant Property Incentive Scheme for consideration by the Council”

Ms. Marie Whelan informed the meeting that this could be considered at budget time.

**19. PROVISION OF BINS IN
DOORLY PARK:**

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

AND AGREED

“Can Sligo County Council provide bins at both North West Hospice and Irish Kidney Association seating areas in Doorly Park”

Mr. Brían Flynn informed the meeting that there are no plans to provide additional bins within the Doorly Park area. It is considered that there are an appropriate number of litter bins provided in this area.

**20. LOWERING OF FOOTPATH AT
FISH QUAY:**

Proposed by Councillor G. O'Boyle
Seconded by Councillor T. Healy

AND AGREED

“Can Sligo County Council lower the footpath at the Post office side of the slip at Fish Quay”

Mr. Brían Flynn informed the meeting that due to the extensive network of telecommunications infrastructure at this junction, it is not possible to reduce footpath levels across this junction. This matter however has been considered in the context of the O'Connell Street refurbishment project and this scheme will make provision for pedestrian movements across this junction. In the interim, pedestrians can continue to cross via the dropped kerbs which are located approx. 10m north of this junction.

**21. LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSING
EXTENSION APPLICATIONS:**

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

AND AGREED

“That a report be provided indicating the number of valid applications received for extensions to local authority houses in each of the years 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016; the number of house extensions completed in each of the said years; and the number of applications remaining on the waiting list”

Mr. Joe Murphy advised the meeting as follows:

Completed:

2013/2014- The Department approved five extensions to council property and the funding for same. The works to these properties were completed in 2014/2015.

2016- The Department approved one further extension to council property and the funding for same in 2016. The works to this property was completed in 2017.

Applications:

2013/2014- Figures unavailable for 2013 or 2014 when both Sligo County Council and Sligo Borough Council were in existence.

At February 2015- The Council had 7 requests for extensions on file.

At January 2016- This had increased to 15 no. requests. Six of these requests were subsequently approved by Housing, with one recently completed. The other five are currently being processed by the Architects Department and are at varying stages, and all with a view to works commencing in late 2017. Most of these have not progressed significantly to date due to staff shortages which the members are aware of. It has only been with the recent addition of staff to the Section that the Council is now in a position to progress these extensions. Seven of the remaining nine have been resolved by either the offer/acceptance of alternative more suitable accommodation or by the application being refused. It is the view of the Council that the other two applications can be resolved by suitable alternative accommodation. Since January 2016, a further 6 applications have been submitted to the Council. One no. has been refused. Other housing options are being explored for the remaining five.

Finally the Council has also a number of applications for extensions to property at Ballyfree which are also under consideration.

General:

Department approval is required where the cost of the extension exceeds €75,000. Generally this limit is exceeded. In such circumstances a full Capital Appraisal, with indicative costings, is required which would include examining all the various options and identifying the most appropriate solution to the housing need. 90% of the costs are funded by the Department with 10% funded by the Council. The Department view is that past experience has shown that extensions have the potential to be expensive and poor value for money in the long term. The Department advice to Local Authorities is that they should use their existing stock of vacant properties to meet this need.

UPDATE REGARDING NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 8:

Mr. Tom Brennan informed the meeting that he had just received an update regarding the earlier motion on the provision of bottle banks at Merville. He advised a Bring Bank site was located in the car park of the Merville Community Centre but these banks were subsequently moved in 2007 at the request of the centre due to regular illegal dumping and miss-use of the facility. Sligo County Council has not been able to locate a suitable site in this area since on either public or private property. In March/April 2015, the Manager of Merville Community Centre was approached about the possibility of re-instating the banks; however, this was not successful. There are no plans at present to provide a recycling bank in the west ward as there is no site suitable to locate

such a facility. Any location where Bring Banks are located must be a safe place for users and must have adequate parking facilities. Bring Bank facilities should not be located too close to residential developments and consideration must also be given to overhead ESB wires and lorry access for maintenance of the banks. If a suitable site in the west ward is identified and Sligo County Council is in a position to finance the upgrade of the site to suitable standards, Sligo County Council would commit to the maintenance of the site thereafter.

22. CORRESPONDENCE:

This was noted and agreed by the members.

23. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

None.

The Mayor Councillor Keaney thanked all present for attending and asked that Members stay on for a separate meeting with Michael Carty regarding a Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2017 update in Meeting Room 3.

The business of the meeting ended at 11.40am

Signed:

Mayor

Date: _____

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____