

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF
BALLYMOTE-TOBERCURRY HELD ON MONDAY 20TH MARCH 2017
AT 9.30AM IN TEACH LAIGHNE, TUBBERCURRY, CO. SLIGO.**

COUNCILLORS PRESENT:

- Councillor Martin Baker
- Councillor Michael Clarke
- Councillor Margaret Gormley
- Councillor Keith Henry
- Councillor Jerry Lundy
- Councillor Dara Mulvey (Chair)
- Councillor Paul Taylor

APOLOGIES:

- Councillor Joe Queenan

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

- Ms. Marie Whelan, Head of Finance
- Mr. Bartley Gavin, A/Director of Services
- Mr. Tom Brennan, Senior Engineer
- Mr. Paddy Hughes, Senior Executive Engineer
- Ms. Margaret McConnell, Senior Executive Officer
- Mr. David Golden, Area Engineer
- Ms. Sinead Branley, Meetings Administrator

CATHAOIRLEACH:

The Cathaoirleach Councillor Mulvey presided and welcomed those present to the meeting.

At the outset Councillor Mulvey proposed a minutes silence for the missing crew of Rescue 116. This was agreed by the members.

**1. MINUTES OF MEETING OF
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF
BALLYMOTE-TOBERCURRY HELD
ON 16TH JANUARY, 2017:**

**Proposed by Councillor J. Lundy
Seconded by Councillor P. Taylor**

AND AGREED

“To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District held on 16th January, 2017”

**2. MINUTES OF MEETING OF
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF
BALLYMOTE-TOBERCURRY HELD
ON 20TH FEBRUARY, 2017:**

**Proposed by Councillor J. Lundy
Seconded by Councillor P. Taylor**

AND AGREED

“To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballymote-Tobercurry held on 20th February, 2017.”

3. MATTERS ARISING:

Councillor Gormley queried if there was an update with regards to the cleanup of the dumping which took place in Connolly Park, Tubbercurry. In response Mr. Bartley Gavin advised that a cleanup had been carried out and the Council were in the process of trying to include the vacant properties in the voids programme. Councillor Gormley asked that an update be provided for the members.

Councillor Gormley then queried the position with regards to the appointment of a litter warden. In response Ms. Marie Whelan and Mr. Bartley Gavin advised that the Human Resources Department had advertised the post and interviews were in the process of being organised. The Cathaoirleach Councillor Mulvey added his support to the urgent need to appoint a litter warden to avoid dumping taking place in Connolly Park and other areas throughout the county.

The Cathaoirleach Councillor Mulvey raised a query regarding a damaged wall at L2101 at Ard cotton, Collooney. In response Mr. Paddy Hughes confirmed that some tidy up works were due to be carried out shortly.

With the agreement of the meeting it was decided that agenda item no. 11 would be taken next.

**11. ILLEGAL DUMPING AT
RANAGHAN, COOLANEY:**

**Proposed by Councillor D. Mulvey
Seconded by Councillor M. Gormley**

AND AGREED

“To call on Sligo County Council to investigate the ongoing problem of illegal dumping at Ranaghan, Coolaney. The local residents are asking for a collecting of this rubbish by the Sligo County Council and fixed signs to be erected to prevent this continuing. The dumping of tyres, household items etc are creating a health hazard and very unsightly. As this area is used as a walking route by lots of locals, will it be possible for the area to be cleaned up once and for all ”

Mr. P. Hughes delivered his report on the motion which stated that illegal dumping is a significant issue. However interviews to fill the vacant litter warden position will be scheduled shortly. The purchase of cameras is being pursued and is well advanced and their use and deployment will be considered for locations that are giving rise to problems with illegal dumping. The Council have a number of sites to deal with in terms of clean up and will be making every effort to do so notwithstanding that the costs to be incurred by the Council in so doing are going to be significant and well in excess of the modest budgets available.

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

**Proposed by Councillor M. Gormley
Seconded by Councillors P. Taylor**

AND AGREED

“To appoint Councillor M. Clarke to the County Sligo Placenames Committee.”

**Proposed by Councillor P. Taylor
Seconded by Councillors D. Mulvey**

AND AGREED

“To appoint Councillor K. Henry to the County Sligo Placenames Committee.”

Proposed by Councillor M. Clarke

Seconded by Councillors D. Mulvey

AND AGREED

“To appoint Councillor M. Gormley to the County Sligo Placenames Committee”

**5. ROAD L8204 AND R293 AT
COAGH AND THE ADJOINING
RINN ROAD:**

**Proposed by Councillor K. Henry
Seconded by Councillor M. Gormley**

AND AGREED

“That Sligo County Council repair road L 8204 where it joins the R293 at Coagh and include it and the adjoining Rinn Road in the Schedule of Municipal Works 2018 for strengthening and repair works”

Mr. Paddy Hughes informed the meeting that pothole repairs will be undertaken in the coming weeks but as the restoration improvement programme 2018 has already been approved the inclusion of this road will be difficult without a significant increase in the restoration improvement grant for 2018 from the Department of Transport. If Clár funding for class 2 & class 3 becomes available within 2017 this road will be given consideration for upgrade.

**6. INSPECTION AND SURVEY OF
OLD CLAY STORM WATER PIPES
IN COOLANEY:**

**Proposed by Councillor D. Mulvey
Seconded by Councillor M. Clarke**

AND AGREED

“To call on Sligo County Council to carry out a full inspection and survey of the old clay storm water pipes in Coolaney due to repeated blockages during heavy rain fall”

Mr. P. Hughes delivered his report and informed the Members that a source of funding for the cost of the works will have to be identified.

**7. A) WORKS ON ROAD 685
MEELROE, CLOONLOO, AND B)
DRAINAGE WORKS ON CAMROSS
ROAD:**

**Proposed by Councillor M. Gormley
Seconded by Councillor P. Taylor**

AND AGREED

- A. “Call on Sligo Co Council to have works carried out on road 685 Meelroe, Cloonloo where water is lodging at bridge resulting in potholes that are not visible to road users destroying vehicles” and,
- B. “That drainage works be carried out on the Camross Road in the interest of safety”

In response to the motion Mr. P. Hughes advised that

- A. Works are required beneath the over bridge of the Dublin – Sligo railway line. This matter has been discussed with CIE at local level with a view to obtaining a resolution to this historic issue and,
- B. The Ballymote Area Engineer will prepare an estimate of the cost of the work and it can be considered for funding under a future Schedule of

Municipal works.

In response to part A) of the motion Councillor Taylor advised the meeting that he had already met with Engineers from CIE at the site in Cloonloo but progress was slow. The members asked that the Council follow up with CIE as a matter of urgency to progress works at this location.

Following a query from Councillor Lundy regarding compensation for road users for damage to cars as a result of potholes, Mr. T. Brennan advised that there is no comeback for drivers as due care needs to be taken by road users.

**8. IMPROVEMENT WORKS AT
KEASH HILL:**

**Proposed by Councillor M. Gormley
Seconded by Councillor P. Taylor**

AND AGREED

“That improvement works be carried out on area near stile where walkers go to climb Keash Hill”

Ms. Margaret McConnell informed the meeting that Sligo County Council has been involved in the development of a range of walking trails throughout the county and continues to pursue recreation access opportunities when they arise. Keash Hill Trail was formally launched in 2013 and remains one of south Sligo’s leading walks. Firstly the Council needs to establish the ownership of the area in question which is either part of the public road boundary or perhaps in private ownership. Either way further considerations may be needed from a road safety pt of view so it might be a case of liaising with the roads section following this. The members were also advised that car parking is provided for this facility and the most appropriate and identified car park is situated at the public car park adjacent to Keash Church nearby, approx 500mm away, at the trailhead.

**9. ROAD L1601 AT
TEMPLEHOUSE/CARROWNTAWY:**

**Proposed by Councillor K. Henry
Seconded by Councillor D. Mulvey**

AND AGREED

“That Sligo County Council repair the L1601 at Templehouse/Carrowntawy and include it in future Schedule of Municipal Works if necessary”

Mr. P. Hughes informed the meeting that the 2017 Schedule of Municipal Works had been adopted and this road was not listed. However the Council will maintain the road and keep potholes repaired in so far as is possible.

**10. EXCLUSION OF RATHLEE N.S.
FROM LIST OF NEW RURAL DEIS
SCHOOLS:**

**Proposed by Councillor M. Clarke
Seconded by Councillor M. Gormley**

AND AGREED

“That this Council expresses its concern that the announcement of the new Rural Deis Schools that removed Rathlee N.S. Roll No 16492N from the list which is detrimental to the school and the area. We now ask Richard Bruton,

Minister for Education & Skills for a review this decision and Social Inclusion Unit, Department of Education and Skills Cornamaddy, Athlone, Co. Westmeath N37 X659”

12. IMPROVEMENT WORKS ON ROAD L58017:

Proposed by Councillor M. Clarke
Seconded by Councillor M. Gormley

AND AGREED

“To call on Sligo County Council to carry out improvement works on road no L58017 ”

Mr. Hughes reported that the road will be maintained in a reasonable condition until such time as it is listed for improvement in the future.

13. LOCAL ROAD 431.D IN TUBBERCURRY TOWN:

Proposed by Councillor J. Lundy
Seconded by Councillor M. Gormley

AND AGREED

“To ask that drainage works, public lighting and road improvements be carried out on Local Road 431.D in Tubbercurry Town, to help all local business owners who use this road”

Mr. Hughes advised the meeting that there are no funds available at present for the upgrade to the storm network, installation of additional public lighting or the application of a structural overlay to this road. This work can be considered as part of the schedule of roadworks for the Ballymote / Tubbercurry M.D in 2018.

14. ALL-IRELAND DRAMA FINALS IN ST. BRIGID’S HALL, TUBBERCURRY:

Proposed by Councillor J. Lundy
Seconded by Councillor M. Gormley

AND AGREED

“The All-Ireland confirmed drama finals are being held in St. Brigid’s Hall, Tubbercurry from April 21st to April 29th next. This is a huge opportunity for the town, in terms of business, tourism and the arts. I will ask that the Council do whatever it can to help the town look its best for the many visitors and locals who will be attending these All-Ireland drama finals”

Councillor Lundy added that the St. Brigid’s Hall Committee were particularly concerned with the appearance of the car park in front of the hall. He added that he had spoken with the Area Engineer on the matter. Ms. Margaret McConnell informed the meeting about a new Community Facilities Scheme which had just been announced by the Department. Each applicant could avail of a grant of €1,000 towards capital works. The St. Brigid’s Hall Committee could consider putting an application forward. Ms. McConnell agreed that her details could be passed to the relevant committee members for follow up. Mr. T. Brennan added that the Area Office would ensure that Tubbercurry will be looking its best for the event in April.

**15. TANSEY'S BRIDGE ON
REGIONAL ROAD R294 AT
KNOCKALASS/KNOCKRAWER:**

**Proposed by Councillor J. Lundy
Seconded by Councillor P. Taylor**

AND AGREED

"I will ask that funding be applied for by the Council to replace the old bridge, (known locally as Tansey's Bridge) under the R294 Regional Road between the townlands of Knockalass/Knockrawer, in the interest of safety for road users, and to prevent farmland from flooding upstream from this bridge"

Mr. P. Hughes advised the meeting that the bridge and road surface are in reasonable condition and the Council have no plans to improve the bridge at present.

**16. REQUEST TO UPGRADE
REGIONAL ROAD R294:**

**Proposed by Councillor M. Gormley
Seconded by Councillor P. Taylor**

AND AGREED

"As Regional Road 294 is the main artery from Ballina to Boyle passing through, Tubbercurry, Gurteen, Cloonloo that this council put forward proposals to the Minister for Transport and the Minister for Rural Development to make a special allocation of funds available for its upgrade."

Mr. T. Brennan stated that a report on the condition of the road and the sections that required improvement works was developed in late 2004. Since the financial downturn no specific improvement grant has been available to permit improvements on this strategically important route in south Sligo. This report can be reviewed with a view to commencing discussion with the Department of Transport re possible additional funding for this route in 2018. Following further discussion on the motion the members requested that the Council contact the adjoining Local Authorities of Mayo and Roscommon with a view to progressing plans for upgrade works.

17. CORRESPONDENCE:

None

18. AOB:

- Councillor Lundy raised the matter of water lodging where the three roads meet at Banada Bridge. The Banada Tidy Towns Committee brought the matter to his attention following mention of it in the Tidy Towns Adjudicators report.
- Councillor Baker raised the matter of An Bord Pleanala's decision to overturn the Council's decision to grant permission to Joe Kelly in Dromard. Councillor Baker stressed the importance of this fruit and veg distribution business to the local area. The members concurred with Councillor Baker's comments and expressed their disappointment with An Bord Pleanala's decision.
- Councillor Clarke raised the Tuam Babies scandal and asked that members pay respects to the families involved.
- Councillor Mulvey queried if hedge cutting could be carried out in Coolaney before the end of March following a request from the Coolaney Tidy Towns Group.
- Councillor Clarke queried the position with regards to the Chain of Office for the Cathaoirleach of the Ballymote-Tobercurry Municipal District. In response Mr. Gavin advised the meeting that the chain had

been ordered.

- Cllr's Baker, Clarke and Mulvey asked if the Area Engineers could attend future meetings of the Municipal District. In response Mr. T. Brennan advised that the engineering areas are going through a realignment and changes are currently ongoing.
- Councillor Taylor queried if the Council's depot in Gurteen was due to close. In response Mr. Brennan stated that the Council had no plans to close the depot.

19. VOTE OF SYMPATHY:

**Proposed by Councillor M. Gormley
Seconded by Councillor M. Clarke**

AND AGREED

"That a vote of sympathy be extended to the Lavin family on the death of Tommy Lavin

**Proposed by Councillor M. Gormley
Seconded by Councillor M. Clarke**

AND AGREED

"That a vote of sympathy be extended to the Walsh family, Drimbane on the death of Pat Walsh"

**Proposed by Councillor M. Clarke
Seconded by Councillor M. Gormley**

AND AGREED

"That a vote of sympathy be extended to Patrick Naughton and family and also the Kerins family on the death of PJ Naughton"

**20. VOTE OF
CONGRATULATIONS:**

**Proposed by Councillor M. Baker
Seconded by Councillor P. Taylor**

AND AGREED

"That a vote of congratulations be extended to Patrick McCormack on his retirement"

**Proposed by Councillor M. Gormley
Seconded by Councillor P. Taylor**

AND AGREED

"That a vote of congratulations be extended to Tommy Underwood on his retirement"

The Cathaoirleach thanked all present for attending.

The meeting concluded at 11.25 am

_____ **Date** _____
Cathaoirleach

_____ **Date** _____
Meetings Administrator