

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF
BALLYMOTE-TOBERCURRY HELD ON MONDAY 21ST JANUARY 2019
AT 9.30 A.M. IN MEETING ROOM 1, TEACH LAIGHNE, TUBBERCURRY, CO. SLIGO**

- COUNCILLORS PRESENT:** Councillor Michael Clarke
Councillor Margaret Gormley
Councillor Keith Henry
Councillor Jerry Lundy
Councillor Dara Mulvey
Councillor Joe Queenan (Chair)
Councillor Paul Taylor
- APOLOGIES:** Councillor Martin Baker
Ms. Dorothy Clarke, Director of Services
- OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr. Ciarán Hayes, Chief Executive
Mr. Tom Kilfeather, Director of Services
Mr. Joe Murphy, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. Paddy Hughes, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. Mark Cummins, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. David Golden, Area Engineer
Mr. Joe Devaney, Area Engineer
Ms. Clodagh Quinn, Staff Officer
- CATHAOIRLEACH:** The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Joe Queenan presided and welcomed those present to the meeting.
- 1. MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLYMOTE-TOBERCURRY HELD ON 12TH NOVEMBER 2018 TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT BUDGETARY PLAN:** **Proposed by Councillor P. Taylor**
Seconded by Councillor D. Mulvey
AND AGREED
“To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballymote-Tobercurry held on 12th November 2018 to consider the Draft Budgetary Plan”.
- 2. MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLYMOTE-TOBERCURRY HELD ON 12TH NOVEMBER 2018:** **Proposed by Councillor P. Taylor**
Seconded by Councillor M. Gormley
AND AGREED
“To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballymote-Tobercurry held on 12th November 2018”.
- 3. MATTERS ARISING:** There were no matters arising.
- 4. PRESENTATION ON NORTH CONNACHT 110KV PROJECT:** *The Chief Executive introduced Eirgrid representatives, Mr. Jason Kenna, Mr. Daniel Schweier and Mr. Eoghan O’Sullivan to the meeting.*
Mr. Jason Kenna began by outlining the background to the project and explained how a 110kv solution was developed for the North Connacht region.

4 no. shortlisted options were identified and following consultation with landowners, Local Authorities and the general public, it was found that the best performing option is Moy (Ballina) to Tonroe (Ballaghadereen) – determination of use of overhead or underground lines yet to be established. Mr. Kenna advised that the Tonroe 110kv station would have to be re-developed and a new circuit built between Moy and Tonroe station. The representatives then outlined the next steps in the process in terms of design, construction etc. and explained that extensive stakeholder engagement will be undertaken in the form of public information days, meetings with local, regional and national stakeholders etc.

In reply to questions from Members, the Eirgrid representatives advised that it is a statutory obligation to examine both overground and underground cable options with the underground option proving more expensive in terms of civil engineering costs, labour etc.

In conclusion, the Chief Executive stated that the project is an important piece of infrastructure for the State and thanked the representatives for their presentation.

5. INSTALLATION OF PEDESTRIAN CROSSING & SPEED RAMPS IN CLOONACOOLOO VILLAGE:

Proposed by Councillor J. Lundy
Seconded by Councillor D. Mulvey

AND AGREED

“To request a pedestrian crossing and speed ramps on road 443 in the village of Cloonacool in the interest of road safety and to slow down traffic”

Mr. Paddy Hughes, Senior Executive Engineer, advised that the installation of a speed ramp/pedestrian crossing is not warranted at the location but the installation of vehicular activated speed signs on all access roads to the village may be more appropriate. Mr. Hughes stated that such works could form the basis of a Clár Measure 1 application by the Cloonacool community when the scheme opens in 2019.

6. RE-SURFACING & DRAINAGE WORKS IN ACLARE VILLAGE, ROAD 401:

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

AND AGREED

“To request road re-surfacing and drainage works to be carried out in the village of Aclare, road 401, as soon as possible”.

Mr. Paddy Hughes, Senior Executive Engineer, reported that CR 407/CR 401 Aclare village have been included for funding in the Draft 2019-2021 Multi-Annual Restoration Improvement Programme.

7. UPDATE REGARDING HEALTH CENTRE IN TUBBERCURRY, ROAD & CAR-PARK REPAIRS ETC.:

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

AND AGREED

“To ask the Council to provide an update from the HSE regarding the Health

Centre in Tubbercurry and to ask that road and car-park repairs be also carried out”.

Mr. Paddy Hughes, Senior Executive Engineer stated that Sligo County Council and the HSE are currently in the process of seeking quotations for re-surfacing works and hope to be in a position to carry out the works in Q2 of 2019.

**8. REPLACEMENT OF BOLLARDS
IN BALLYMOTE TOWN
CENTRE:** **Proposed by Councillor K. Henry**
Seconded by Councillor D. Mulvey

AND AGREED

“That the bent steel bollards at junctions around Ballymote town be replaced and if necessary, replace with flexible ones to prevent further damage”.

Mr. Paddy Hughes, Senior Executive Engineer, advised that a survey of the bollards around the town will be undertaken and the damaged bollards replaced with the most suitable and economically viable options available.

**9. DRAINAGE & SURFACE
REPAIRS ON L55072 & L5501:** **Proposed by Councillor K. Henry**
Seconded by Councillor D. Mulvey

AND AGREED

“That the following roads be included for drainage and surface repairs: L55072 at Carrigans and L5501 at Listruntagh and Carrickbanagher”.

Mr. Paddy Hughes, Senior Executive Engineer reported as follows:

- L55072 will be assessed for necessary repairs and drainage requirements. The route is scheduled for surfacing on the Roads Multi-Annual Programme for 2022.
- L5501 will be assessed for necessary repairs and drainage requirements also. The route is scheduled for surfacing on the Roads Multi-Annual Programme for 2020.

**10. RE-SURFACING OF ANTI-SKID
SURFACE IN ARD AISLING
ESTATE, TUBBERCURRY:** **Proposed by Councillor M. Gormley**
Seconded by Councillor J. Lundy

AND AGREED

“That the anti-skid surface in Ard Aisling Estate at the junction with the N17 be resurfaced in the interest of health and safety”.

Mr. Paddy Hughes, Senior Executive Engineer advised that only minor loss of anti-skid surfacing has occurred at the location and renewal of this surfacing and other road markings within the estate would cost in the region of €4,895.

**11. REPORT ON WORKS TO BE
CARRIED OUT ON
OWENMORE RIVER:** **Proposed by Councillor M. Gormley**
Seconded by Councillor D. Mulvey

AND AGREED

“To ask the Director of Services for a report on works to be carried out on the Owenmore River and when they will commence”.

Mr. Paddy Hughes, Senior Executive Engineer advised that consultants on behalf of Sligo County Council are currently developing a maintenance plan for the Owenmore River for the period 2019-2021 which will identify the exact areas of work to be carried out for the period of the plan. It is envisaged that works will go to tender by April 2019. Mr. Hughes further advised that the focus will be on channel works in Reach 2 (Templehouse area) in Q2 of 2019 and vegetation maintenance will be undertaken in Reaches 4 and 5 (Annaghmore area) in Q3 of 2019.

**12. ERECTION OF VEHICULAR
ACTIVATED SPEED WARNING
SIGNS IN CULFADDA
VILLAGE:**

Proposed by Councillor M. Gormley

Seconded by Councillor D. Mulvey

AND AGREED

“That Sligo County Council would erect vehicular activated speed warning signs in the village of Culfadda”.

Mr. Paddy Hughes, Senior Executive Engineer stated that Sligo County Council will examine the location and consider the erection of the warning signs subject to funding.

**13. TAKING IN CHARGE OF L.I.S.
ROAD LINKING ROAD NOS.
410 & 410B:**

Proposed by Councillor J. Lundy

Seconded by Councillor K. Henry

AND AGREED

“I will ask this Municipal District to start the process of “taking in charge” the L.I.S. recently completed to a very high standard by Sligo County Council. This L.I.S. road links two public roads, No. 410 and No. 410 B in the townlands of Creehussaun and Banada in the parish of Tourlestrane. This L.I.S. road is now being used extensively by the public, and the community who contributed to this L.I.S. now request that this be declared a public road which would make good practical and economic sense”.

Mr. Paddy Hughes, Senior Executive Engineer reported as follows:
Roads improved under Local Improvement Schemes (L.I.S.) are private roads and the Council only takes in charge recently built private roads in newly constructed housing estates subject to being built to specification. The upkeep/maintenance of local roads is predominantly paid from the Council’s own resources and the amount of money provided for in the Council’s Annual Budget is not adequate to maintain the existing local road network and taking in charge additional local roads would only add to the deficit. The Roads Act requires Council members to consider several issues when taking roads in charge including the financial impact on the Council.

The road in question is 1262 metres long and was surfaced with stone and double surface dressing under an L.I.S. in 2018. Taking the road in charge would set a precedent for requests to take more private roads in charge which would not be feasible or sustainable at present. Furthermore, there are many roads similar to the aforementioned throughout the county.

A discussion followed on the matter, at the end of which it was agreed that the issue would be brought before the SPC for consideration.

**14. PROPOSAL FOR REDUCTION
ON C.I.S:**

**Proposed by Councillor J. Lundy
Seconded by Councillor D. Mulvey**

AND AGREED

“To call on the Department of Transport to reduce the local contribution on C.I.S. to 5% instead of 15% which is too high, and increase the Dept. of Transport grant to 95%. After all, these are public roads where people must pay road tax”.

On behalf of Mr. Tom Brennan, Senior Engineer, Mr. Paddy Hughes, Senior Executive Engineer informed Members as follows:

The Dept. Circular on Community Involvement Schemes (C.I.S.) which issued in 2018 stipulates that there is to be a local community contribution of 15% payable towards works carried out under the scheme and at present, the Roads Dept. are not aware of any proposals to alter this percentage.

Sligo County Council received a Dept. of Transport grant of €550,000 towards this scheme in 2018 and has been allocated a further grant of €903,000 towards the scheme in 2019. The 15% local contribution brings the total spend under the scheme to €647,060 for 2018 and a potential spend of €1,062,352 in 2019.

Works were carried out on 28 no. schemes in 2018 with a total improved length of road of 12.2 km. It is proposed to advertise this scheme shortly to invite applications for 2019 funding from community groups. Mr. Hughes concluded by adding that some of the 2019 funding is already allocated to schemes.

A discussion followed where Members felt that the 15% contribution sought from community groups is too high. It was suggested that the impending visit to Sligo by the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Mr. Shane Ross T.D., may present an opportunity to raise matters such as this.

**15. EXAMINATION OF
DISABILITY ACCESS ISSUES IN
BALLYMOTE:**

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

AND AGREED

“To ask Sligo County Council to examine disability access issues such as dropped kerbs and yellow X box marked “NO PARKING” zones in Ballymote for wheelchair users”.

Mr. Paddy Hughes, Senior Executive Engineer stated that the Council will examine the existing accesses to see what issues arise and consider options to resolve the issues. During brief discussions, it was also highlighted that the issue of adherence to parking laws needs to be enforced.

**16. TAKING IN CHARGE OF
TOWER HILL ESTATE,
BALLYMOTE:**

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

AND AGREED

“To ask Sligo County Council for an update on the taking in charge of Tower Hill Estate, Ballymote”.

Mr. Mark Cummins, A/Senior Executive Engineer, informed the meeting that the Council has not received any application from the developer nor a plebiscite signed by the majority of the homeowners requesting that the Council take the estate in charge. However, Mr. Cummins stated that the bond has been used to carry out some works to the estate and once an application or a request has been received from the homeowners, a review will be undertaken on what is required to take the estate in charge.

**17. ERECTION OF WARNING
SIGNS FOR DEER ACTIVITY
ON HUNGRY ROCK
MOUNTAIN ROAD:**

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

AND AGREED

“To call on Sligo County Council to erect warning signs for deer activity on the Hungry Rock Mountain Road”.

Mr. Paddy Hughes, Senior Executive Engineer stated that the Council will arrange for the erection of warning signs in the coming weeks.

**18. ACCEPTANCE OF
APPLICATIONS FOR
HOUSING AID FOR THE
ELDERLY:**

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

AND AGREED

“To call on Sligo County Council to make application forms available and accept application forms for housing aid for the elderly as soon as possible”.

On behalf of Mr. Bartley Gavin, A/Director of Services, Mr. Joe Murphy, Senior Executive Officer advised that the Council received an allocation of €1.6m from the Department in 2018 for the payment of the Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability Schemes. No allocation has been received for 2019 to date however the Council can continue to fund the schemes to a maximum of 65% of the sum allocated in 2018 which amounts to €1,040,000.

Mr. Murphy went on to state that the value of applications approved for funding in 2019 together with applications on hand which still have to be processed exceeds €1,040,000 so it is therefore not proposed to change the existing system and accept any applications under the Scheme of Housing Aid for the Elderly at present. The matter will be reviewed when the 2019 allocation is received, at which stage it may be possible to ringfence a portion of the allocation for housing aid for the elderly but this would depend on the sum allocated.

Mr. Murphy concluded by stating that the sum provided in the Council Budget for 2019 is €1,950,000, an increase of €350,000 (22%) on the sum provided in 2018 but warned that staff resourcing is likely to be an issue were an allocation

of this amount to be made to the Council in the current year.

Following queries from Members, Mr. Murphy explained that presently, resources are being concentrated on preparing vacant social houses for occupation.

19. CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

20. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- Councillor Michael Clarke queried whether repairs are likely to be carried out to Polladivva Pier and Easkey Pier to which Director of Services, Mr. Tom Kilfeather replied that both will be included for consideration in 2019 works.
- Councillor Michael Clarke congratulated Easkey football team on reaching the All-Ireland Junior Football Final on 9th February 2019 in Croke Park.
- Councillor Margaret Gormley asked whether contact had been made with the Dept. of Transport, Tourism and Sport regarding securing funding for the upgrade of the R294 – Roads Dept. to follow up on same.
- Councillor Margaret Gormley proposed that Chief Superintendent Aidan Glacken and Superintendent John Lawless be invited to a meeting of the Municipal District to update Members on the situation regarding a new Garda Station for Tubbercurry. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Jerry Lundy.
- The Chief Executive, Mr. Ciarán Hayes, highlighted the fact that Tubbercurry was chosen as Ireland's first Smart Community with the launch of the Smart Community Programme taking place in the town on 18th January 2019. It was then agreed that the committee involved would be invited to attend a Municipal District meeting to share their programme proposals with Members.
- The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Joe Queenan suggested that the next Municipal District meeting would be held in conjunction with the meeting to consider the Schedule of Municipal District Works for 2019 which was agreed.

The business of the meeting concluded at 11.05 a.m.

_____ Date _____
Cathaoirleach

_____ Date _____
Meetings Administrator