Minutes of Manorhamilton Municipal District Meeting held in the HSE Offices, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim on Tuesday 24th October, 2017 at 2.30 p.m.

**Members Present:**
Councillor Mary Bohan
Councillor Justin Warnock
Councillor Padraig Fallon
Councillor Felim Gurn
Councillor Sean McDermott

And Councillor Frank Dolan, Cathaoirleach of Manorhamilton Municipal District presiding

**Officials Present:**
Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Chief Executive,
Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing, Corporate, Cultural and Emergency Services
Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance & Water Services.
Mr. Padraic MacShera, Senior Executive Engineer, North Leitrim Area Office.
Mr. Shay O’Connor, Senior Engineer.
Ms. Sinead Flynn, Administrative Officer, Corporate Services.

MMD 17/171
24/10/2017

**Deimhniu Miontuairisci**

**Proposed by Councillor Padraig Fallon, seconded by Councillor Justin Warnock and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

“That the Minutes of the Manorhamilton Municipal District held in HSE Headquarters, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim on Monday 18th September, 2017 be adopted.”

MMD 17/172
24/10/2017

**General Municipal Allocation for Manorhamilton Municipal District**

Mr. Vincent Dwyer provided an overview of the 2018 Budgetary Process and the proposed General Municipal Allocation for the Manorhamilton Municipal District. The report as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 1** of the Minutes of the Meeting in the Minute Book.

Mr. Dwyer outlined that at the September Council meeting, the Members agreed not to vary the Local Property Tax (LPT) for 2018. He advised that the impact of this decision is that the LPT Allocation, including the Equalisation Fund for 2018 will be €8,956,315. Mr. Dwyer outlined that there has been no increase to the Equalisation Fund for 2018 and that a Rates Limitation Order will be imposed by the Minister which means the Local Authority cannot increase commercial rates for 2018 following the Re-Evaluation Process that has taken place in 2017.

He outlined that the Council will be in a position to maintain the GMA Allocation at the same level as 2017 at €75,000 which will be allocated across all three Municipal Districts. Mr. Dwyer provided an overview of the breakdown of the General Municipal Allocation for Manorhamilton as follows: Housing Estate Management Contribution: €7,000, Outdoor Leisure Area Operations: Floral Pride: €3,090, Adopt a Road/Bringbank: €1,716, Amenities/Tidy Towns: €8,500, Community Tourism & Arts Grants: €5,100.

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Chief Executive advised that the budgetary process to compile Budget 2018 is ongoing and that the level of discretionary funding available to the Local Authority is minimal. He
advised that there is an ever increasing demand to delivery additional services in the absence of additional financial resources being provided to finance the cost of service provision.

The update on the General Municipal Allocation was noted by the Members and the following items were raised:

- Councillor Mary Bohan queried the position with regard to the future funding of the Local Improvement Schemes (LIS’s).

Mr. Gilhooly outlined that the Council have no indication from the Department that funding will be provided on an annual basis for LIS’s. He advised that the most recent funding allocation was provided by the Department of Rural and Community Affairs.

Mr. Vincent Dwyer also advised that if funding is provided for LIS Schemes, that labour resources are also required which is a cost element for the Local Authority. He advised that in the past the Local Authority benefited from an increase in the Local Government Fund, however, that this is not the case for 2018.

- Councillor Mary Bohan queried if the Roads Allocation will be based on population of areas.

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly advised that the Roads Allocation will be the subject of a separate discussion with the Elected Members when details of the allocation are issued by the Department in February, 2018.

- Councillor Justin Warnock queried if a skip could be provided to a local area for one day as a once off measure under the Adopt a Bring Bank Scheme.

Mr. Gilhooly agreed that this request could be considered as part of the Environmental Upkeep Programme for 2018. He outlined that the Adopt a Bring Bank Scheme is not as successful as it had been in the past and that the SPC will review the scheme in 2018 with a view to developing a scheme that may generate a better outcome for a similar investment.

- Councillor Warnock also requested clarification on what alternative weed killer to Roundup Tidy Town’s Groups should be using having regard to the Council’s ban on the use of Roundup.

Mr. Shay O’Connor clarified that the Council supported a Notice of Motion calling for a ban on the use but has not implemented an outright ban on the use of Roundup as it does not have the power to do so. Mr. O’Connor agreed to consider alternative environmentally friendly agents that could be used as a weed killer and to revert to the Tidy Town’s Groups with an update in this regard.

Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan, seconded by Councillor Sean McDermott and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

“That the General Municipal Allocation for the Manorhamilton Municipal District in accordance with the provisions of Section 102(4A) (a) of the Local Government Act, 2001 as inserted by Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act, 2014 be adopted.”

MMD 17/173 24/10/2017 Speed Limit Review

Mr. Shay O’Connor presented an updated report on the Speed Limit Review. The report as circulated appears as Appendix No. 2 of the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.
Mr. O’Connor provided a detailed overview of the proposed speed limit review relating to the Manorhamilton Municipal District. The proposed changes were agreed by the Members and the following items were also raised:

- It was agreed to introduce a 50km zone at the Clubhouse in Dromahaire.
- It was agreed to introduce a 50km zone out the Rossinver Road, Kinlough.
- It was agreed that the proposed 60km speed limit on the N15 at Tullaghan be extended to include the Old National School.

Mr. O’Connor outlined that the proposed speed limit reviews for the county will require the approval of Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). He outlined that due to difficulties with proposed changes to the speed limits on the N4 that the adoption of the revised speed limits will not be included on the agenda for the November Council meeting. Mr. O’Connor advised that the matter will most likely be considered at the January 2018 Council meeting.

Councillor Frank Dolan queried if there is any provision to insert signage at tourist locations e.g. Glencar Waterfall and Parke’s Castle to alert tourists to drive on the left hand side of the road.

Mr. O’Connor agreed to insert signage in this regard at the exits of both Parkes Castle and Glencar Waterfall.

MMD 17/174
24/10/2017 Correspondence

1. Letter dated 2nd October, 2017 from the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government with regard to the Repair and Leasing Scheme.
2. Letter dated 2nd October, 2017 from the Department of Health with regard to Our Lady’s Hospital, Manorhamilton.
3. Letter dated 2nd October, 2017 from the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government with regard to the Vacant Property Strategy.
4. Letter dated 6th October, 2017 from the Department of Rural and Community Development with regard to the Repair and Leasing Scheme and the Buy and Renew Scheme.
5. Letter dated 24th October, 2017 from Ms. Teresa McElory in relation to the withdrawal of the COGS Group at Our Lady’s Hospital, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim.

- Councillor Mary Bohan proposed that a further letter issue to the Management Board of Sligo General Hospital with regard to the CareDoc for an out of office GP service for Our Lady’s Hospital, Manorhamilton. Co.Leitrim. Councillor Felim Gurn advised that he had attended a meeting with the Management of Sligo General Hospital. Councillor Gurn advised that he was informed that the HSE had held a recruitments campaign for a GP to provide out of hours cover to the residents of Our Lady’s Hospital, Manorhamilton. He advised that no applications were received for the post.

- It was also agreed that a further letter issue to the Management of Sligo General Hospital with regard to the withdrawal of the COGS Group.
**Part I - Notices of Motion.**

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Frank Dolan at the request of Councillor Mary Bohan agreed to debate Motion No. 15 and No. 16 in the name of Councillor Mary Bohan in order to facilitate Councillor Bohan’s attendance at another meeting.

**MMD 17/175**

24/10/2017  
**Abbey Hotel, Dromahaire**

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Mary Bohan;

"What progress if any has been made in relation to the Abbey Manor Hotel in Dromahaire?"

Report by A/Director of Services Economic Development, Environment, Planning & Transportation.

"As advised when a similar Notice of Motion was submitted at the June Municipal District meeting, the Council has previously served the registered owners of the property with notices to repair and prevent the further decay of the hotel, a Protected Structure. The notices were issued in accordance with the requirements of section 59 of the Planning and Development Acts, 2000-2017. At the time of issuing the endangerment of Protected Structures notices, the Council also issued the owners with notices under the Derelict Sites Act, 1990 to clean up the property or risk having the property recorded in the Derelict Sites Register. Unfortunately the remaining registered owners (as some are deceased) failed to comply with either of these notices within the timeframe stipulated. It was claimed that ownership was transferred to a separate partnership type entity but that the transfer has not been formally recorded. Further action through the Planning and Derelict Sites legislation would probably not deliver the desired result because of the complexity involved.

At this time, the Council is in discussions and exploring various options."

Councillor Bohan expressed her concern in relation to the lack of engagement with the Local Authority by the former owners of the Abbey Manor Hotel, Dromahaire. She stated that the building is a protected structure and has fallen into a serious level of disrepair.

This Notice of Motion was unanimously supported by all members.

The Chief Executive Mr. Joseph Gilhooly acknowledged the concern of the members and stated that the situation is highly complex and difficult to resolve.

**MMD 17/176**

24/10/2017  
**Hedge Cutting**

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Mary Bohan;

"What steps will the Council propose to take to deal with the issue of hedge cutting. A number of roads are nearly impassable due to overgrown hedges."

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads

"The matter of hedge-cutting is primarily the responsibility of the landowners concerned. Whilst we do try to alleviate the dangers along difficult sections of our roadways, albeit at small cost, if we were to engage in extensive hedge-cutting this would impact severely on actual carriage-way improvement works. A community hedge scheme is now in place and landowners should be encouraged to make use of this scheme to offset some of their hedge cutting costs. The details of this scheme have been advertised recently in our local newspaper and are available to view on
our website. If there are certain roads that any councillor has concerns about they should let the district engineer know and hedge cutting notices can be issued to the landowner.”

MMD 17/177
24/10/2017   Glas Payments

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Padraig Fallon;

"That this Municipal District call on Minister Creed and the Department of Agriculture to ensure there are no delays to future GLAS payments once Nutrient Management Plans are submitted."

Proposed by Councillor Padraig Fallon, seconded by Councillor Justin Warnock and unanimously supported: "That this Municipal District call on Minister Creed and the Department of Agriculture to ensure there are no delays to future GLAS payments once Nutrient Management Plans are submitted."

MMD 17/178
24/10/2017   Road Works

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Padraig Fallon;

"I request that when road works are carried out, (repairs or restorations) that every effort is made to minimise the depth of verges and that adequate 'pull in points' for vehicles to be able to pass safely are put in place."

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads
"Restoration maintenance and improvement grants are allocated for re-surfacing and strengthening works on our Regional and Local road network. Every effort is made to minimise the increased height necessary to strengthen our existing carriageways especially adjacent to existing entrances. The construction of pull in points requires availability of land and extra cost on the scheme which will result in a reduction of surfacing works. If there is any location in particular that this motion refers to it can be investigated."

Councillor Fallon acknowledged the reply to his Notice of Motion and he requested that two locations in particular would be examined by the Area Engineer at Drumanny Line and at Kilavoggy, Dromahaire (after the bridge).

Mr. Padraig MacShera agreed to examine these two locations. He also outlined that it is the policy of Leitrim County Council not to ‘black top’ entrances to dwellings when resurfacing or road strengthening works are carried out.

MMD 17/179
24/10/2017   Footpath in Kinlough

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Justin Warnock;

"I will ask Leitrim Council to seek funding under the Road Safety Programs for the completion of the footpath between the Cois Leachta Estate and the Pedestrian Crossing at Barrack Street, Kinlough."
Report by Senior Engineer, Roads
"The completion of this section of footpath is desirable, however, it is dependent on the Council acquiring lands that are in private ownership. The Council have been unable to acquire the necessary lands at this location."

Councillor Justin Warnock stated that he cannot accept the reply to his Notice of Motion and he called for the works to be carried out.

Mr. Padraig MacShera advised that the installation of the Pedestrian Crossing at Barrack Street, Kinlough had been very successful. He also advised that the Council had approached the landowner a number of times to acquire the land to progress the development of the footpath and that no agreement was reached. Mr. MacShera outlined that the Planning Department may have a role in progressing the matter.

Ms. Mary Quinn agreed to review the matter with the Senior Planner.

MMD 17/180
24/10/2017                     Forestry in Leitrim

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Justin Warnock;

"In Ireland in 2016, 6500 hectares of new forests were planted! I ask Leitrim County Council what percentage of that land is in County Leitrim and if possible can a breakdown for each Municipal area be provided."

Report by A/Director of Services Economic Development, Environment, Planning & Transportation.

"The Planning Authority has made contact with the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. The total area of land which was planted in Co. Leitrim in 2016 was 433.78 hectares comprising of 72.68 hectares of broadleaf and 361.10 hectares of conifers. This would equate to 6.7% of the total area planted in the country. All of the planting which took place in Co. Leitrim was private planting. Unfortunately, the Forest Service does not publish a more detailed breakdown of where the planting actually occurs and as a result the Planning Authority cannot provide the detail at Municipal District level as requested. There is information provided on the public consultation section of the Forest Service website which would provide a weekly breakdown of applications received to plant but we have been advised that this is not an accurate reflection of where and when the planting would have occurred."

The Members unanimously supported Councillor Warnock’s Notice of Motion. Councillor Warnock expressed his concern that rural communities are increasing under threat from forestry companies and that in the long-term that this will have a devastating impact on rural communities.

MMD 17/181
24/10/2017                     Group Water Schemes

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Felim Gurn;

"Can the Executive advise of the number of Group Water Schemes there are in the county and also advise as to the assistance available from the Council to any Group seeking to have their scheme administered by Irish Water."
Report by Senior Engineer, Roads
"There are 100 Group Water Schemes within the County. Two Group Water Schemes have applied to Irish Water to be taking into charge. The Group Water Schemes have completed the application forms and submitted to Irish Water for discussion and IW have listed them for takeover but there is no formal approval yet. The Rural Water Section of the Council will assist any Group Water Scheme and provide the Group Water Scheme with the information on the Irish Water taking in charge process, information and provide all application forms required. Firstly, the GWS must meet the IW standards for Take Over i.e. be in a good state of repair with no leakage issues and upgrade if required to meet standards, any water charges arrears must be resolved and agree to sign over assets and wayleaves to IW. Grant funding is available to groups to upgrade their networks to the IW standard. The GWS must then submit the IW application form, consent forms, connection list, as constructed drawings, way leaves and UFW (unaccounted for water) information. This application is submitted to IW for discussion and the Rural Water Section will liaise with Irish Water."

Councillor Felim Gurn acknowledged the reply to his Notice of Motion, however, he expressed concern that Group Water Schemes do not have access to sufficient funding to sustain their schemes.

MMD 17/182
24/10/2017  Flooding of River Bonet

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Felim Gurn;

"Severe flooding occurred on Wednesday 4th October last on land and roads bounding the River Bonet. Has the Council engaged in any works recently along the affected areas and what plans are in place to alleviate this reoccurring problem?"

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads
"The River Bonet is part of a drainage channel that the OPW have responsibility for and have a maintenance programme on. The matter has been reported to the OPW and they are currently investigating if the event was an extreme event or whether there were blockages in the channel that affected its capacity."

Councillor Felim Gurn stated that road signage needs to be put in place where there is a flooding incident in order to alert motorists. Ms. Mary Quinn advised that it is important that all localised flooding incidents are reported to the Area Office in order to build a profile of affected areas. It was agreed that the information should be collated and forwarded to the OPW and where possible photographs of flooding areas should also be recorded.

MMD 17/183
24/10/2017  Footbridge in Manorhamilton

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Frank Dolan;

"I will ask has any progress been made in relation to the proposed foot bridge in Manorhamilton."

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads
"Discussions are underway with the appointed receiver for the property where a wayleave is required to allow the construction of a footbridge. It would be hoped that agreement will be reached on this matter in the near future. It should be noted if the proposed traffic management
layouts are agreed for this street we will be providing a footpath on the bridge."

MMD 17/184
24/10/2017
Taking in Charge of Estates

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Frank Dolan;
"What is the current position regarding the taking in charge of Mill Hill Lawns in Manorhamilton and Forest Grove in Dromahaire?"

Report by A/Director of Services Economic Development, Environment, Planning & Transportation.

"The taking in charge application for Mill Hill Lawns in Manorhamilton is one of a number of valid applications for taking in charge lodged with the Council. The application has progressed and currently awaits final assessment. Council resources have focused on estates that were successful in the application for inclusion in the National Taking in Charge Initiative. This project is nearing completion and will enable consideration of the normal taking in charge applications to resume to include Mill Hill Lawns. Forest Grove in Dromahaire is not being considered for taking in charge at this time. Whilst the Council has agreed a Site Resolution Plan with the Receiver appointed over the estate, all the works necessary to complete the development have not yet been finalised. At this time the installation of the final wearing course and the undergrounding of overhead telecommunication lines along the site frontage remain outstanding. In addition to these works, the Council also requires the provision of a wayleave over the route of the sewer before it can be considered for taking in charge - as the sewer is located on private property, and where the access to these lands is restricted, the connection between the estate and the extant public sewers in Dromahaire is broken when passing over third-party lands. As a consequence of this break in connection, the sewers in the Forest Grove estate do not constitute ‘service connections’ for the purpose of the Planning and Development Acts or Water Services Acts. Because the foul sewer network is not a service connection, Leitrim County Council as the Water Services Authority, will not be in a position to take these elements of the estate in charge unless this matter is satisfactorily resolved and the future responsibility for maintenance of the sewer network will rest with the homeowners in the estate."

Councillor Frank Dolan expressed his concern in relation to the delay in the taking in charge for both of these estates. He stated that he understood that approximately 30 estates are to be taken in charge by the Council in 2017.

Ms. Mary Quinn agreed to provide an update on the Taking in Charge of estates in 2017 for the next meeting of Manorhamilton Municipal District.

MMD 17/185
24/10/2017
Safety Works on the N16

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott;

"At the October Meeting I will ask the Area Engineer to make contact with Transport Infrastructure Ireland regarding the N16 road between Manorhamilton and Glenfarne in the townland of Foxfield, Manorhamilton adjacent to Michael Mc Loughlin’s. In recent months there have been many accidents that could have been serious. The surface of the road may need upgrading and also it may help to have a safety barrier put there to prevent serious accidents when vehicles leave the road and end up in the field."
Report by Senior Engineer, Roads
"This matter will be raised with the TII at our next quarterly meeting. A proposal to reduce the speed limit from 100km/hr to 80km/hr on this section of the N16 is currently proposed as part of the current speed review proposals."

Councillor Sean McDermott expressed his concern in relation to this section of road which he stated is extremely dangerous and he requested that provision be given to installing a barrier as a safety measure.

Mr. Padraig MacShera agreed to make the Road Safety Officer aware of the issue and also to talk to the Gardai with regard to the number of recorded accidents at the location.

MMD 17/186
24/10/2017 Social Housing in Kiltyclogher, Co. Leitrim

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott;

"I am asking, can the midterm review of the Leitrim Development Plan take into account the need for housing in Kiltyclogher, especially with the success of Kitty Live."

Report by Director of Services, Housing, Corporate, Culture & Emergency Services
"The 2 Year Progress Report on realising the objectives of the County Development Plan 2015-2021 was presented to the full Council at the July meeting. The recommendation of the Chief Executive was accepted by the Elected Members at that meeting. There is no further review of the Development Plan scheduled until the preparation of the next County Development Plan which will commence towards the end of next year."

Councillor Sean McDermott called for additional social housing accommodation to be provided to meet the social housing need arising from the relocation of a number of new families to Kiltyclogher in recent months. The Members unanimously supported Councillor McDermott’s Notice of Motion.

Ms. Mary Quinn advised that the Council can only progress any new social housing development once there is an established housing need in that location. She advised that the Council cannot work on the principle of building new accommodation on the assumption that once the accommodation is provided that the demand for housing will then emerge. Ms. Quinn also outlined that ten dwellings will be coming on stream in Drumkeerin in the North Leitrim area.

Councillor Padraig Fallon supported the Notice of Motion and stated that there is a similar issue in Drumkeerin and that increased supply of local authority accommodation needs to be provided in rural parts of the county particularly in North Leitrim. Councillor Fallon suggested that the Council need to adopt a more holistic approach with the objective of sustaining rural communities.

The Chief Executive, Mr. Joseph Gilhooly accept the merits of the discussion, however, he stated that there are two separate components to the matter. He advised that in relation to social housing provision that the Council can only respond to an identified housing need based on data from the Housing Waiting List. Mr. Gilhooly stated that the Council have a separate role to encourage the regeneration of rural areas and that an incentivised scheme is required to encourage private landlords to return properties to habitable use.
Any Other Business

Ms. Mary Quinn advised that the next meeting of Manorhamilton Municipal District will take place in the HSE Offices, Manorhamilton on Monday 20th November, 2017 at 2.30 p.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting at 4 pm.

SIGNED: _____________________ SIGNED: _______________________
Councillor Frank Dolan                 Sinead Flynn
Cathaoirleach, Manorhamilton          Meetings Administrator
Municipal District

Date:  20th November, 2017