Minutes of Manorhamilton Municipal District Meeting held in HSE Office, Manorhamilton on Monday 16th September at 2.30pm

Members Present: Councillor Frank Dolan  
Councillor Padraig Fallon  
Councillor Justin Warnock  
Councillor Sean McDermott  
Councillor Felim Gurn  

And Councillor Mary Bohan, Cathaoirleach of Manorhamilton Municipal District presiding

Officials Present: Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Cultural and Emergency Services  
Ms Marie Mulligan, Senior Executive Engineer, North Leitrim Area Office.  
Mr Kieran Brett, Administrative Officer, Corporate Services

MD 19/82  
16/09/2019  
Deimhniu Miontuirisci

Proposed by Councillor Padraig Fallon, seconded by Councillor Sean McDermott and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

“That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Manorhamilton Municipal District held in HSE Offices, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim on Monday 15th July 2019 be adopted.”

MD 19/83  
16/09/2019  
Deimhniu Miontuirisci

Proposed by Councillor Frank Dolan, seconded by Councillor Felim Gurn and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

“That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Manorhamilton Municipal District held in HSE Offices, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim on Tuesday 6th August be adopted.”

MMD 19/84  
16/09/2019  
Meeting Correspondence

Councillor Justin Warnock stated that he was concerned with the replies received from The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine concerning the use of glyphosate in Ireland. He proposed that we write to the Department again and ask that regulations be introduced in Ireland to ban the use of glyphosate by state bodies rather than follow EU guidance on the matter. This was supported by the members.
Councillor Warnock queried the use of brick paving in towns, as Tidy Towns groups had highlighted to him the difficulty in its maintenance. Ms Marie Mulligan acknowledged that brick paving can be difficult to maintain in areas of low footfall or traffic, and stated that consideration would be given to its use in such areas in future.

Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Services advised the members of members of a proposed programme of road resurfacing works and footpath re-instatement works scheduled for Manorhamilton from 23rd September until 20th November 2019. She further advised the members that a Traffic Management Plan will be put in place for the duration of the works.

**MD 19/85**  
**16/09/2019** To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Felim Gurn;

"There has been a problem on side roads all summer with people contacting me about overgrown hedges and trees along these roads. Unless we get some sort of extra funding or penalize farmers for not maintaining their hedges and trees, these roads are starting to close in and are going to be unusable in the not to distant future."

**Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation.**  
"Under Section 70 of the Roads Act 1993, landowners are responsible for the maintenance of the hedges bordering their land and the public road. The Council through the Hedge Cutting Grant Scheme provides grant aid of up to €150/km to assist landowners in cutting roadside hedges. Adjacent landowners can group together when applying for this scheme to provide greater value for money."

Councillor Sean McDermott stated that matter had come before the Municipal District on several occasions before however the problem did not seem to be improving. He welcomed the increase in grant aid for landowners to maintain their hedges, but stated that the current problem was having an impact on tourism and made driving conditions difficult for bus drivers in particular.

Councillor Justin Warnock welcomed the increase in grant funding and queried the number of community groups that availed of the hedge cutting grant last year.

Ms Marie Mulligan stated that approximately 5 community groups in Manorhamilton Municipal District availed of the grant funding last year. In 2018, it was estimated that the cost of the Council cutting the hedges at all major junction would be in the region of €40,000. Land owners had been advised in writing to maintain their roadside hedges and were given copies of the grant form.

Councillor Mary Bohan proposed that Leitrim County Council write to the Department requesting a special allocation of funding to cut back overgrown hedges along public roads.

It was also proposed that an advertising campaign be ran on local radio publicising the grant scheme that is currently in place.
All members supported the motion.

MD 19/86
16/09/2019  To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Felim Gurn;

"I was amazed at the state of some of the poor quality of council houses in some estates during the election campaign. I know the council through lack of resources and maintenance staff are trying to do their best to stay on top poorly maintained houses. Can more resources be found to hire more maintenance staff and to fund refurbishment of voids and existing houses in poor conditions."

Report by Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Cultural and Emergency Services

"Leitrim County Council currently has a Social Housing Stock in excess of 950 Units. General maintenance works and preventative works are carried out on a priority basis within the confines of the annual budget. Where applicable, funding for void units is sourced from the Department that meet the criteria. Additional resources have recently been recruited to the housing maintenance team."

MD 19/87
16/09/2019  To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Padraig Fallon;

"I propose that this Municipal ask the HSE what is the current position regarding X-Ray facilities in Our Lady’s Hospital Manorhamilton and that they provide further assurance that this facility will be retained."

All Members supported the motion.

MD 19/88
16/09/2019  To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Padraig Fallon;

"I propose that Leitrim County Council Roads Department examine the possibility of widening of bridge located beside Ballinagar Hall L 4263-0; Ballinagar Bridge."

Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation.

"The existing bridge at Ballinagar is 5.4m wide, the bridge is on a slight bend in the road however there is good visibility on both approaches to the bridge. There are many advance warning signs of narrow bridge ahead and a yield to on-coming traffic sign erected along the approach on one side of the bridge. Widening at the Ballinagar Bridge has previously been assessed and would require road realignment and land acquisition. Funding for bridges is sought through the Department of Transport and mainly priorities based on the structural condition of the bridge. Minor repair works have been undertaken on this bridge in recent years but over all the bridge is in good condition. Road safety concerns at this bridge were also previously assessed and the yield to on-coming traffic system was put in place to control the traffic crossing the bridge."
Councillor Fallon queried if this bridge would be gritted as part of the winter maintenance schedule given that a yield to on-coming traffic system was in place.

Ms. Marie Mulligan stated that this location would be considered for inclusion on the Winter Maintenance Schedule for the coming year when the schedule is being prepared.

**MD 19/89**

**15/07/2019** To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Mary Bohan;

"I propose that Leitrim County Council take immediate steps to compel Coillte and private afforestation owners to cut all hedges where necessary as a matter of urgency."

*Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation.*

"Under Section 70 of the Roads Act 1993, landowners including forestry companies are responsible for the maintenance of the hedges bordering their land and the public road. The Council through the Hedge Cutting Grant Scheme provides grant aid of up to €150/km to assist landowners in cutting roadside hedges. The Council has written to many landowners requesting that they undertake the necessary hedge cutting. If hedge cutting is still not undertaken the Council can implement the statutory provisions available under the Roads Act 1993."

Councillor Bohan stated that Coillte and private forestry companies are not abiding by the haulage routes that have been agreed with the local Engineer resulting greater traffic volumes and damage to smaller local roads. Ms. Marie Mulligan stated that felling and subsequent haulage is subject to license and in some cases haulage is being done without a license. Ms Mulligan stated that she has been in contact with the Forestry Inspector in the Department of Agriculture in relation to this matter.

Councillor Bohan proposed that the Council write to Coillte, expressing our dissatisfaction at the way they are carrying out their business and not abiding by the agreed routes for haulage of felled timber and also the lack of maintenance of hedges along public roadways. Councillor Bohan also proposed that we request Coillte to attend the next meeting of the Municipal District to account for their actions.

This was supported by Councillor Justin Warnock, who also suggested that a letter be sent to the Forestry Service regarding private forestry owners.

All members supported this motion.

**MD 19/90**

**15/07/2019** To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Mary Bohan;

"What is the current situation regarding the zoning of the land immediately adjacent to the estates, Gleann Dara and Skreeny Manor in Manorhamilton."

*Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation.*
"The lands immediately to the north and east of Gleann Dara and Skreeny Manor are outside the town boundary of Manorhamilton and are unzoned. The lands immediately to the south are zoned Enterprise and Employment."

**MD 19/91**
**15/07/2019**  
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott;

"I ask Leitrim County Council what progress has been made to provide a supply of water from the mains to Deerpark, Manorhamilton. This location is only 1.5 Km from the town of Manorhamilton on the old Mullies road."

Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation.  
"The Deerpark Manorhamilton scheme has been included in the multi-annual rural water programme 2019-2021. To date - we still are awaiting funding approval for this project from the department. The Council are in close communication with the representative from the scheme."

All members supported this motion.

**MD 19/92**
**15/07/2019**  
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott;

"I ask has any progress been made over the summer regarding the upgrading of the sewerage treatment plant at Gublaun, Rossinver. I am aware that over this Summer terrible odours came from this plant."

Report by Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Cultural and Emergency Services  
"We are currently working with Engineering Consultants to redesign and relocate the treatment plant. It is planned that once these works have been finalised and a funding stream identified, work can start on the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade"

The motion was supported by Councillor Justin Warnock

**MD 19/93**
**15/07/2019**  
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Cllr Frank Dolan;

"I ask that repair works be carried out on a section of the Cloonlougher road (near the bridge) as it is dangerous for people using this road. The surface of the road is fine but the foundation has given way."

Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation.
"This road will be surveyed and maintenance works undertaken as necessary"

This motion was supported by Councillor Justin Warnock and Councillor Felim Gurn

**MD 19/94**
15/07/2019  To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Clr Frank Dolan;

"I ask who is responsible (ie Council or OPW) for the maintenance of the boundary wall at Creevelea Abbey? Presently a short section of the wall near the entrance gate is basically just hanging there and is a major risk especially to children."

Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation.
"The Council owns the wall surrounding Creevelea Abbey but as the structure is protected the Council are in correspondence with the Office of Public works in relation to the maintenance of this wall."

Ms Marie Mulligan advised the members that she had been in contact with the OPW and that an OPW stone Mason will repair the wall in the coming weeks.

All Members supported the motion.

MD 19/95

15/07/2019  To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Justin Warnock

"I ask the Manorhamilton Municipal District Engineer, to make an application under the Low Cost Safety Scheme, as a matter of urgency, to widen the L2075 between the Four Masters National School and Auriva Co Op which is within the Kinlough 50km zone. This raised section of road is very narrow and extremely dangerous and a number of vehicles including cars, a tractor with a tanker and an articulated lorry have left the road at this location."

Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation.
"The Council has previously proposed to widen this section of road however were unable to acquire the necessary land do so. Unless this matter changes the Council are unable to progress this safety scheme as requested."

Councillor Warnock outlined to the meeting the volume of traffic that uses this road on a weekly basis. He outlined he has spoken to the land owner and believes that the land owner is willing to deal with the Council regarding the sale of his land for road widening purposes.

It was agreed that the matter be pursued again with the landowner.

MD 19/96

15/07/2019  To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Justin Warnock;

"I ask that Leitrim County Council make it a requisite that when companies tender for infrastructural works including roads, bridges, boundary walls and any other structural works which are undertaken by this local authority, that stone from local quarries would be sourced. It is important that our local economy benefits from all infrastructural projects which are undertaken by Leitrim County Council in these challenging times."

Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation.
"Your motion has been noted and the Council will endeavour to source stone from local quarries where
possible while operating in line with procurement practices."

This motion was supported by Councillor Sean McDermott and Councillor Mary Bohan

Any Other Business

Councillor Mary Bohan advised the members that IBEC had been in contact with the chairs of the Municipal Districts requesting that they attend an MD meeting to give a presentation on the economic benefits of forestry. The members agreed to receive a presentation from IBEC at the next meeting.

Councillor Felim Gurn asked if there is a public weighbridge in operation in the county. Ms Mary Quinn replied that while there is a private weighbridge within the County there is no public weighbridge.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED:  
Councillor Mary Bohan  
Cathaoirleach, Manorhamilton  
Municipal District

Date: 21st October 2019

SIGNED:  
Mr Kieran Brett  
Administrative Officer