Minutes of Manorhamilton Municipal District Meeting held in HSE Office, Manorhamilton on Monday 15th July at 2.30pm

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

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  
Ms. Stephanie McCabe, Clerical Officer, Corporate Services

MD 19/67  
15/07/2019  
Deimhniu Miontuairisci

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

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

MD 19/68  
15/07/2019  
Deimhniu Miontuairisci

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

“That the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Manorhamilton Municipal District held in HSE Offices, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim on Monday 17th June 2019 be adopted.”

MMD 19/69  
15/07/2019  
Meeting Correspondence

Councillor Justin Warnock stated that he was concerned with the replies received from Department Offices which are merely acknowledging receipt of the correspondence but not actually addressing the issues raised. He queried if we could again write to the Department requesting a reply to the correspondence submitted following previous meeting.
Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Services confirmed that if no response is received before the next meeting a follow up letter will be issued.

**MD 19/70**
15/07/2019  To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Padraig Fallon;

"I propose that when roadworks are carried out, repairs or restorations that every effort is made to minimise the depth of verges and that there are adequate pull in points."

**Report by Roads - General**
"The Council always makes an effort to minimise the level difference between the new road level and verge and where required allows for the provision of passing points."

All Members supported the motion.

**MD 19/71**
15/07/2019  To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Padraig Fallon;

"I propose that funding be sourced to maintain, repair and improve a number of footpaths in towns and villages across this Municipal District."

**Report by Roads - General**
"There is no funding available in this years roads works program for footpaths, as resurfacing of the road network has been given priority. However the issue of footpaths can be considered as part of the 2020 Roadworks Program."

Councillor Padraig Fallon stated that there are a number of footpaths in estates in North Leitrim where works haven’t been carried out for over 20 years. He further stated that the Council won’t be in a position to take funding from the Roads Budgets and requested that we contact the Department specifically regarding a funding stream for footpaths.

Councillor Felim Gurn and Councillor Sean McDermott stated that it is unfair to ask Communities to fund footpaths and the issue needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

All Members supported the motion.

**MD 19/72**
15/07/2019  To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Felim Gurn;

"The increase of speed coming through the village of Killargue coming from the Manorhamilton side and from Holy Well was an issue raised by people on the doorsteps. Can the Council look at putting in speed ramps to slow the traffic down."
Report by Roads - General
"The Special Speed limit was extended recently and in addition Driver feedback signs were installed at this location. If speeding persists in this area, we can ask the Gardaí to carry out speed checks, as this would be a matter of enforcement."

A discussion took place in relation to speed ramps and their positive impact.

Councillor Felim Gurn clarified that he was requesting rumble strips at this location as opposed to speed ramps.

MD 19/73
15/07/2019 To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Felim Gurn;

"The issue of speed is an issue for residents going through the village of Lurganboy while people are out walking."

Report by Roads - General
"There is a 50kmh speed limit currently at this location. We can review the signage and if the issue persists we can speak to the Gardaí re enforcement in this area."

All Members supported the motion.

MD 19/74
15/07/2019 To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott;

"Can I ask if the Council could keep the grass trimmed alongside the roadway down to the boat quay at Meenagh, Kiltyclogher which continues on to Lough MacNean. This boat quay is used a lot by fishermen and tourists"

Report by Roads - General
"The Council will undertake these works before the Outdoor staff go on annual leave."

MD 19/75
15/07/2019 To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott;

"At the July Municipal Meeting I will ask if tourism information electronic machines can be installed in all towns and villages in North Leitrim or at the locations where there are tourism attractions."

Report by Planning
"The Council have in the past installed information touch screens at a number of key tourism locations. However due to technological advances, they are no longer in operation. The Tourism Department have requested that the obsolete touch screens be removed.

There is no funding available in the current budget for the installation of new or replacement electronic tourism information screens. Furthermore, they are ongoing expenses associated with these as they also
require an annual maintenance budget which can be costly as regular exercise software upgrades are also required.

The Tourism Department have spoken to their colleagues in other counties who have installed similar systems and the feedback is that they are only effective if they are operating in real time which requires 24/7 WiFi."

Councillor Sean McDermott expressed his dissatisfaction with the reply and requested that this be looked at again. He stated that out of hours visitors to Sean Mac Diarmada’s homestead or Glencar Waterfall do not have any access to information at these important tourist attractions.

Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Services advised that this would have to be looked at from a feasibility point of view and confirmed touch screen devices need to operate in real time to be effective.

All Members supported the motion.

Councillor Justin Warnock stated that on a recent visit to Knock International Airport there were no brochures on display advertising County Leitrim and he highlighted the importance of marketing the County as a whole.

It was agreed that the matter be raised with the tourism department.

**MD 19/76**
**15/07/2019** To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Justin Warnock;

"I will ask the Senior Engineer with the Roads Department, have they progressed a road design for the R280 between Kinlough and Bundoran from the junction of the L2079 (Moy Road) and Lennox's Bridge and could this project be funded through European Structural and Investment Fund for this Strategic Route?"

**Report by Roads - General**
"A design has not been progressed for improvement of this section of road as we have no funding for such a project. Our priority at present, in this section of road, is for a Specific Improvement Grant for Lennox's Bridge. A funding application submitted to the department last year for Lennox's bridge was unsuccessful, but we will be resubmitting it again for consideration in 2020. Going forward, we will draw up a list of schemes for funding under the Specific Improvement Grant program for future years, and this section of road can be considered in same."

Councillor Justin Warnock expressed his disappointment at the response. He stated that he has raised this issue for a number of years and there are extremely dangerous bends on one of the busiest sections of roads which is Leitrim’s main connection into Donegal and has huge economic potential for tourists visiting Bundoran coming into Leitrim.

All Members supported the motion.

**MD 19/77**
**15/07/2019** To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Justin Warnock;
"In the light of the recent figures released by the Environmental Protection Agency in relation to Septic Tanks and Waste Water inspections in 2017 - 2018, of the 56 that were inspected in Leitrim 35 failed!
a) Can Leitrim County Council make available the main reasons for these failures
b) and reasons given why only 13 of the 35 were fixed?"

Report by Head of Finance & Water Services
"The main reasons for NIP inspection failure in Co Leitrim are as follows:
• direct discharge of septic tank effluent to surface waters/drains,
• direct discharge of grey water to surface water/drains,
• effluent discharge to the surface of the ground (ponding),
• secondary treatment systems not maintained/operational i.e. no electricity, parts not replaced etc.

Reasons why only 13 out of 35 treatment systems found to be defective have been made good?
Advisory Notices were issued to all 35 householders with recommendations on what work needed to be done. Some systems require substantial upgrade and householders are looking to alternative solutions in particular some Group Sewerage Schemes have been applied for and are being considered by the Department. We have also employed an additional member of staff in the Environment Section who will be following up on Septic tank verification inspections with a view to getting improved compliance. Already this year we have seen a slight improvement in compliance."

Councillor Justin Warnock sought clarification on the breakdown of the numbers given and which areas they were based in.

Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Services confirmed that the breakdown as requested will be provided.

MD 19/78
15/07/2019 To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Frank Dolan;

"I will ask at the July Municipal District meeting what the present position is regarding the new Fire Station in Manorhamilton."

Report by Head of Finance & Water Services
"We received approval recently from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to proceed to advertise on eTenders for the selection of Design Consultants for the new station. The notice for the selection of the Design Consultants has been uploaded to eTenders today with a closing date for replies of five weeks from today. Meanwhile the fencing of the new fire station site has been completed on the ground."

Councillor Frank Dolan welcomed the response.

All Members supported the motion.

MD 19/79
15/07/2019 To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Frank Dolan;

"What is the possibility of the road sweeper going to Lurganboy on an occasional basis? The community there make great efforts to keep their village tidy and would appreciate any help that might be available."
Report by Roads - General
"The road sweeper already goes to Lurganboy on an occasional basis and will continue to do so as the need arises."

MD 19/80
15/07/2019 To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Cllr Mary Bohan;

"I Councillor Mary Bohan propose that road No. L81621-0 known as the mountain road be repaired and widened in some areas to cater for the large volume of traffic using this road"

Report by Roads - General
"There are 6 no. existing pull-in areas along the L81621-0 and the road surface is in reasonable condition. This road is not on the 3 year roadworks programme but routine maintenance will be undertaken as the need arises."

Ms Marie Mulligan, Senior Executive Engineer confirmed that there are 6 no. pull-in areas along this road which doesn’t include private houses etc. She also confirmed that this road is a local tertiary road and would not have been intended for the volume of traffic currently using it.

MD 19/81
15/07/2019 To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Cllr Mary Bohan;

"What is the current position regarding caretaking and maintenance in cemeteries in the Manorhamilton Municipal District"

Report by Roads - General
"The Council itself is not in a position to carry out on-going maintenance to all burial grounds but do grant aid capital funding for sizeable works undertaken in burial grounds, in accordance with the Council's Burial Grounds Policy
There are numerous voluntary local committees who carry out much needed maintenance to burial grounds in their localities. The high standard to which these burial grounds are maintained is a credit to these local community groups.
The local Community is encouraged to establish a Burial Ground Committee for their local Burial Ground. The Council would have no objection to the committee organising a relevant supported community employment program to help with this task such as Tus or Rural Social Scheme."

Councillor Mary Bohan stated this issue has been raised over the last number of months. She stated she was of the understanding that caretakers were employed to maintain graveyards and the public appear to have the general perception that the Council have a role to play in maintenance of graveyards. She also stated that a Rural Social Scheme did maintain the graveyard at Kilbride but they were told not to as it was unsafe.

Ms Marie Mulligan confirmed that she is awaiting a report from the Building Control Officer in relation to the issues raised regarding Kilbride and Newbridge Cemeteries.

Councillor Felim Gurn stated that there seems to be confusion amongst the public regarding maintenance of plots. He also stated that without the assistance of Tidy Towns Groups and TÚS Scheme the work would not
be done.

Councillor Padraig Fallon queried if Council Roads Department Staff could help out in exceptional circumstances such as at the time of Blessing of the Graves.

Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Services advised that the Council does not have the resources to carry out ongoing maintenance works and stated that roadworks are priority for the Roads Department.

Councillor Bohan suggested that this issue be raised at the Main Council Meeting.

All Members supported the motion.

Any Other Business

Councillor Felim Gurn outlined his disappointed that the SLNCR Greenway Funding was not granted and requested that everything be done to ensure that the project is shovel ready in advance of making a further application for funding. Councillor Sean McDermott agreed that little or no progress had been made since the Interregg application and there is a definite need to start the process again.

Councillor Justin Warnock raised the issue of a beached whale at Tullaghan and requested the Council’s assistance in the matter. Ms Marie Mulligan, Senior Executive Engineer agreed to contact the Irish Whale & Dolphin Group for advice and confirmed she would revert to Councillor Warnock.

Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Services sought agreement from Members to meet on 6th of August at 9.30am at HSE Offices, in Manorhamilton to consider approval of a Part 8 Application for Manorhamilton Public Realm works. Members agreed to the proposed time and date.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: 

Councillor Mary Bohan
Cathaoirleach, Manorhamilton Municipal District

SIGNED: 

Mr Kieran Brett
Administrative Officer

Date: 16th September 2019