Minutes of Manorhamilton Municipal District Meeting held in Meeting Room 1, HSE Headquarters, Manorhamilton on Monday 14\textsuperscript{th} December, 2015

Members Present: Councillor Padraig Fallon  
Councillor Felim Gurn  
Councillor Justin Warnock  

And Councillor Sean McDermott, Cathaoirleach of Manorhamilton Municipal District presiding

Officials Present: Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Cultural and Emergency Services  
Mr. Padraic MacShera, Senior Executive Engineer, North Leitrim Area Office  
Ms. Sinead Flynn, Administrative Officer, Corporate Services  
Ms. Annette Lee, Clerical Officer, Corporate Services

Apologies: Councillor Mary Bohan  
Councillor Frank Dolan

At the outset of the meeting the Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District, Councillor Sean McDermott offered sympathy to Councillor Frank Dolan on the recent death of his mother-in-law. Councillor McDermott also expressed get well wishes to Mr. Tony Ferguson, former Elected Member of Leitrim County Council having regard to his ill-health.

MMD 15/157  
14/12/15  
Deimhniu Miontuairisci

Proposed by Councillor Felim Gurn, seconded by Councillor Justin Warnock and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

“That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Manorhamilton Municipal District held in Meeting Room 1, HSE Headquarters, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim on Monday 16\textsuperscript{th} November, 2015 be adopted.”

MMD 15/158  
14/12/15  
Correspondence

The following items were considered under Meeting Correspondence:

1. Letter dated 26\textsuperscript{th} November from Minister Simon Harris in relation to Coastal Erosion advising that the matter had been referred to the OPW.

2. Letter dated 07\textsuperscript{th} December from Manorhamilton & District Historical Society in relation to the proposed re-naming of Lower Main Street, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim to Sean MacDiarmada Street.
Ms. Mary Quinn informed the Members that in order to consider the request from the Manorhamilton & District Historical Society in relation to the proposed re-naming of Lower Main Street, Manorhamilton to Sean MacDiarmada Street that official procedures need to be followed in accordance with the legislation as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act, 2014. She outlined that the matter would have to be considered by the Elected Members at a Council Meeting and could not be dealt with at the Municipal District Level.

Councillor Sean McDermott proposed that the matter be included on the agenda for the January, 2016 Council Meeting. This proposal was unanimously supported by the Members.

**Part 1 – Notice of Motions**

**MMD 15/159**

**14/12/15**  
**Coillte and Private Forestry Companies**

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council research and devise a means whereby it retains on account funds from Coillte and all other private forestry companies operating in Leitrim, similar to bonds which are retained in the case of housing developments. If required, these funds could be used in instances where damage has been done for example to public roads by such companies while planting, making roads or harvesting."

**Report by Administrative Officer, Customer Services**

"Policies of this nature should be formulated and agreed at the Environmental, Transportation & Infrastructural Strategic Policy Committee."

Councillor Padraig Fallon acknowledged the reply to his Notice of Motion and he stated that the matter needs to be resolved as the private forestry companies are highly profitable companies that should be held responsible for damage to roads arising from their activities. Councillor Fallon also stated that he is not a member of the Environmental, Transportation & Infrastructural SPC, however, he would be available to attend the next meeting of the SPC when this matter is included as an agenda item.

Councillor Sean McDermott and Councillor Justin Warnock also supported this Notice of Motion.

Mr. Padraig MacSheara as stated in his reply outlined that this matter needs to be reviewed by the Environmental, Transportation & Infrastructural SPC. He outlined that any policy developed would need to examine all stages of the forestry development from the initial planning application up to and including the harvesting of the forestry. He concluded by stating that this is a national issue and should possibly be looked at also in a national context.

**MMD 15/160**

**14/12/15**  
**Footpaths in Drumlease, Dromahair**

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

"I propose that works be prioritised for footpaths in Drumlease Dromahair, in the New Year."
"The footpaths in question will be examined and a costing prepared for any necessary works, a source of funding would need to be identified to carry out improvement and replacement works."

This Notice of Motion was also supported by Councillor Felim Gurn.

MMD 15/161
14/12/15

Social Welfare Claimants

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council to write to the Minister for Social Protection Ms. Joan Burton T.D requesting that details of social welfare claimants in Ballyshannon with Leitrim addresses be shared with the Social Welfare Office in Manorhamilton on a quarterly basis in order to identify potential participants for TUS Schemes in North Leitrim. The unemployed people of the northern end of this county are disenfranchised when it comes to jobs, education and training as a result of the present system."

Councillor Justin Warnock outlined that persons residing in a number of locations in North Leitrim that have their social welfare payments processed by the Ballyshannon Social Welfare Office are being disadvantaged by not being considered for employment activation schemes vacancies in the North Leitrim area e.g. vacancies for TUS/CE/Gateway and Job-Bridge Schemes. He also expressed concern that data in relation to unemployment levels etc in the County is only compiled every 5 years when a nationwide Census is prepared.

MMD 15/162
14/12/15

Proposal to Rename the R281

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council to name the R281 Bothar Sean Mac Diarmada. This road goes from Kinlough to Glenfarne through Kiltyclogher and will be a major route for visitors to the Sean Mac Diaramada Homestead in 2016 and beyond."

Councillor Sean McDermott supported this Notice of Motion. Ms. Mary Quinn proposed that the matter would be referred to the January Council Meeting and that the procedure in relation to the renaming of the road would be provided in advance of the meeting.

Councillor Felim Gurn requested that the following working “Homestead of Sean MacDiarmada” be added to the “Welcome to Leitrim” signs in the County. Councillor Sean McDermott stated that the issue of signage in the County is being considered by the 2016 Centenary Committee.

MMD 15/163
14/12/15

Opening Water Tables

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott;
"Can I ask if there can be more focus on opening water-tables along local roads."

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads
"The need for, and the importance of, good roadside drainage is fully appreciated but it is labour intensive and costly. Drainage work is being carried out on roads in the North Leitrim Engineering Area on an annual rolling basis under National Primary, Regional and Local Road Maintenance Budgets. However, due to staff and financial constraints the amount of drainage work achieved for the last few years was less than desirable but Leitrim County Council will endeavour to concentrate on drainage works in the early part of the year whenever our limited resources are not involved in winter maintenance operations."

Councillor Sean McDermott stated that surface water on roads has a serious effect causing major damage to roads. Councillor Felim Gurn and Councillor Justin Warnock supported this Notice of Motion.

Mr. Padraig MacShera informed the Members that there is a total 850km of roads in the Manorhamilton Municipal District and that roadside drainage is labour intensive and that a total of 30-40km of roads will have drainage works completed on an annual basis.

Councillor Sean McDermott commended the local authority staff in relation to their response to the recent severe weather conditions following Storm Desmond.

MMD 15/164
14/12/15
Enhancing Kiltyclogher Village

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

"I am asking Leitrim County Council to focus on enhancing Kiltyclogher Village before the 2016 Celebrations."

Report by Administrative Officer, Customer Services
"Routine maintenance works are carried out by Leitrim County Council on a weekly basis. Road re-surfacing works were also completed earlier this year and the Council are working with the local Tidy Towns Committee and will continue to do so."

Councillor Sean McDermott expressed concern in relation to the appearance of a number of derelict buildings in Kiltyclogher, Co. Leitrim. He stated that it is anticipated that large number of visitors will travel to Kiltyclogher to participate in a number of events that will take place as part of the 1916 Centenary Commerations including the hosting of a St. Patrick’s Day Parade in the village Councillor McDermott stated that any additional measures or funding to enhance the village would be must welcome and he also referred to the Homestead of Sean McDiarmada as a unique tourist attraction for the County.

Councillor Justin Warnock expressed his concern that the events planned for Kiltyclogher in 2016 will be on a ‘once-off’ basis and he stated that the Kiltyclogher needs to have a more long-term sustainable plan in order to offset rural decline.

Mr. MacShera informed the Members a significant amount of road re-surfacing works were completed in Kiltyclogher and that the roads are in good condition and that the issue appears to be in
relation to the maintenance of a number of private properties that appear to be derelict.

Ms. Mary Quinn outlined that she would relay the concerns of the Members in relation to Kiltyclogher back to the Management Team for discussion.

**MMD 15/165**
14/12/15  
Court House, Manorhamilton

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council to write to The Court Service to find out what plans, if any, are in place regarding the future of the Court House in Manorhamilton."

**MMD 15/166**
14/12/15  
Re-Alignment of Regional Roads

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council is there funding available for the re-alignment of regional roads at the present time?"

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads
"Road realignment schemes of this nature were funded under Specific Improvement Scheme Grants in the past. This grant type has been suspended by the Department of Transport and current indications are that it will not be re-instatement before 2018."

**MMD 15/167**
14/12/15  
Killavoggy Bridge

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

"What is the current position regarding improvements due to be carried out at Killavoggy bridge?"

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads
"Leitrim County Council is now in a position to appoint a Contractor to have the railings and bracing repaired on the bridge. Further works to have the steel structure sandblasted and repainted will go ahead next summer with the agreement of the Inland Fisheries Board."

**MMD 15/168**
14/12/15  
Cameras at Bring Centres

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

"I propose again that Leitrim County Council provide cameras at bring centres throughout the county."

Report by Senior Executive Officer, Planning, Community and Economic Development
"Leitrim County Council is currently engaged in the periodic monitoring of litter black spots within the county using CCTV, including bring centres. The cost of permanent CCTV monitoring would be
prohibitive. In this regard a number of litter fines have already been issued and the Council will continue to pursue this policy to address this issue of littering at bring centres and other litter black spots around the county."

MMD 15/169  
14/12/15  
**Footpaths in Dromahair**

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

"As a follow up to this item I raised at meetings of this authority earlier in the year could the meeting be given an update on the progress to date on the provision of footpaths from St. Patrick’s Church in Dromahair to the Dromahair Arts & Recreation Centre (DARC) community field on the R288."

**Report by Senior Engineer, Roads**  

"A detailed design for the construction of a footpath is now completed. It is proposed that a Part 8 Planning application will be made early in the new year. Discussions are ongoing with the landowner in relation to the land requirement for the scheme. The funding for this scheme will have to be obtained from external bodies e.g. the Leader Programme. Leitrim County Council does not have the necessary financial resources to fund such a scheme."

Councillor Felim Gurn acknowledged the reply to his Notice of Motion, however, he expressed his concern advising that the bridge is a health and safety hazard but he stated that he understands that there are issues with purchasing the land required.

Mr. MacShera advised the members that the plans have been completed and that the process of acquiring of land is in progress. He continued stating that the plans will be put on public display in January.

MMD 15/170  
14/12/15  
**Footbridge and Cycle Walkway Plan**

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

"As a follow up to the issue I raised at meetings of this authority earlier in the year could the meeting be given an update on the progress to date of funding provision for the erection of a pedestrian footbridge at the Castle Street Bridge in Manorhamilton and the cycle-walkway plan around Manorhamilton with particular reference to the area from St. Clare's Hall to the new sports field development at Boggaun."

**Report by Senior Engineer, Roads**  

"This Council is working on trying to acquire land for the construction of the footbridge at Castle Street, Manorhamilton. It is proving difficult due to the number of land owners involved.

The cycleway plan around Manorhamilton is included in our Active Town proposals for the town. At present there is no funding available for such schemes. The proposal to provide a walkway/cycleway to the new sports field will go for planning in early January, 2016. The funding for this scheme will have to be obtained through funding schemes like the Leader Programme as Leitrim County Council does not have the financial resources to fund this scheme."
Mr. Padraic MacShera as detailed in the reply informed the Members that the Council’s Solicitor is currently working on the land acquisition for this project, however, he also outlined that the process is proving difficult due to the number of landowners involved. Mr. MacSheara indicated that it is anticipated that the land acquisition process will be concluded in January/February, 2016.

Councillor Sean McDermott also supported Councillor Gurn’s Notice of Motion.

Ms. Mary Quinn noted that the next meeting of the Manorhamilton Municipal District will take place on Monday 18th January, 2016 at 2.30pm.

This concluded the business of the meeting at 15.30pm.

SIGNED: Councillor Sean McDermott
Cathaoirleach, Manorhamilton Municipal District

SIGNED: Sinead Flynn
Meetings Administrator

DATE: 18th January, 2016