Minutes of Manorhamilton Municipal District Meeting held in Áras an Chontae on Monday 18th November at 2.30pm

Members Present: Councillor Frank Dolan
Councillor Justin Warnock
Councillor Sean McDermott
Councillor Felim Gurn
Councillor Padraig Fallon
Councillor Mary Bohan, Cathaoirleach of Manorhamilton Municipal District presiding

Officials Present: Ms. Samantha Healy, Senior Executive Officer, Housing and Corporate Services,
Ms. Marie Mulligan, Senior Executive Engineer, North Leitrim Area Office.
Mr. Kieran Brett, Administrative Officer, Corporate Services

MD 19/112
18/11/2019 Deimhniu Miontuairisci

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

“That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Manorhamilton Municipal District held in Áras an Chontae on Monday 21st October 2019 be adopted.”

MD 19/113
18/11/2019 Meeting Correspondence

Two items of correspondence in relation to the Childcare facility in Manorhamilton were received from Tusla and from Leitrim County Childcare Committee.

Councillor Mary Bohan stated that it is important that this Municipal District continues to do everything in its power to ensure that the childcare services are re-instated.

All members supported this.

MD 19/114
18/11/2019 To receive a delegation from Coillte
Two representatives from Coillte, Mr. Paul Jordan, Business Area Unit Team Leader and Mr. Des Phelan, Distribution Manager attended to the meeting to listen to the concerns of the members in relation to damage to roads, hedge cutting and other such issues.

Councillor Mary Bohan, welcomed the delegation and stated the purpose of the meeting was to highlight issues on the roads when planting or felling is taking place. The main issues are:

- Lack of communication with the Local Authority
- Non compliance with agreements made with the Local Authority concerning routes for transporting timber
- Weight restrictions on roads not being adhered to.

Councillor Bohan stated that an agreement needs to be put in place with Coillte to avoid these types of issues in the future and the agreement must be honoured.

Ms Marie Mulligan stated that there was a definite lack of communication from Coillte, usually it is the members and the public that bring it to her attention when haulage has started by which point the roads may already be damaged. Ms Mulligan has advised Coillte of a number of roads that are in need of repair and has sought a financial commitment towards Community Involvement Schemes. To date, just one road has received a commitment of €30,000 towards its repair.

Ms Marie Mulligan also advised the Coillte delegation that weight restrictions are not being adhered to, citing the example of the Dawn of Hope road where a 10 ton weight restriction is in effect, yet there is evidence of traffic in excess of the weight limit on the road. Ms. Mulligan also stated that these large vehicles were a safety issue on the Killavoggy to Croagh road.

Ms Marie Mulligan advised the delegation that hedge cutting is a serious issue and as a landowner, Coillte should know when their hedges along public roads need to be cut and should not be waiting on notification from the Local Authority.

Councillor Padraig Fallon also raised the issue regarding weight restrictions on the “Dawn of Hope” road. He queried how local residents were to use the roads while the road is in a deteriorating condition during the forestry operations and before any contribution to repair the road after the haulage is complete is received. He stated that Coillte need to give an assurance or a commitment that they would carry out their operations in a better manner.

Councillor Frank Dolan stated that as a public representative, he is well aware that the condition of the road is a high profile issue for local residents. All of the roads in use were built when traffic volumes and weights where different to what they are being used for now. Where the roads are currently in good condition they must be protected.

Councillor Sean McDermott also stated that the condition of the roads is an important issue for local residents. He also stated that the weight of the truck on the road is having an impact on the water table and leads to increased surface water on roads.
Councillor Felim Gurn asked that Coillte examine the existing roads where they have forests to ensure they are adequate to carry out their operations. He also asked that Coillte engage with Local Communities to help develop the tourism trade by developing recreational facilities such as walks and trails in some of their forests in Leitrim such as Miltown Wood in Lurganboy. He also queried how Coillte manage their forests with regard to forest fires.

Councillor Justin Warnock asked the delegation the following questions:

- How much land is planted by Coillte in County Leitrim?
- A forest at the Barr Rd in Rossinver has been clear felled for some time and the timber has not yet been removed. If the forest been replanted and what species will the forest be replanted with?
- Is clear felling the best option for removing timber or are alternative options being considered as in other European countries?
- What is being done to protect heritage assets in forests?
- Do Coillte carry out aerial fertilization of their forests?
- What is being done with the branches of timber that is left behind on the site once the timber of economic value has been removed?

Mr Paul Jordan dealt with all issues raised as follows:

- Coillte are cognisant of heritage assets that are discovered in their forests. They work with Local Heritage groups to identify heritage assets and will record these on a Coillte database of archeological assets. In karst landscapes such as those in areas of North Leitrim they use a specialist contractor to carry out their operations.
- Coillte has approximately 15,000 hectares of forest in Leitrim. Aerial fertilization is not carried out. Clear felling is the predominant way of harvesting Sitka spruce forests. Continuous Cover Felling (CCF) is currently being trialled as an alternative means of harvesting. Once a forest is clear felled, the licensing agreement to clear fell include replanting, which must be carried out within 2 years. New standards came into effect in 1989 regarding the proximity of forests to homes, streams and rivers, all planting since 1989 is done in accordance with these standards. Coillte are planning to deal with legacy forests planted under previous guidelines before the forest comes to maturity if possible. Sitka is the species predominantly used when replanting with a mix of some broad leaf species.
- In advance of the forest fire season of March/April, Coillte prepare Crews and equipment for such events. A contract is in place with a helicopter provider to deliver an aerial firefighting service as needed. Fire plans have been prepared for each of their properties and these have been shared with the Local Authority Fire Services Department.
- Miltown Wood in Lurganboy is not wholly owned by Coillte. Coillte works with local communities and with Local Authorities to deliver recreational facilities in its forests and this has proven to be the model that works best. A working group has been set up in Coillte to look at sites that will work best as recreational facilities.
- Coillte are currently looking at uses for the branches or “lop and top” waste that is left behind on sites. First trials have been carried out on gathering up this “lop and top” and drying/chipping the material.
- Coillte are currently moving to a 3 year service plan model. Roads and access routes to its properties will be considered in this plan.
- Coillte gave a commitment to work harder and improve on its communication with the Local Authority.
Councillor Mary Bohan asked that an agreement be put in place between the Roads Department of Leitrim County Council and Coillte for dealing with issues such as hedgcutting, haulage routes and maintenance of roads. A report on the progress of this agreement will be prepared for the next Municipal District meeting.

MOTIONS

**MD 19/115**
**18/11/2019**
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Padraig Fallon;

"I propose that this Municipal contact both the Dept of Agriculture and Minister Creed asking that a review of how both the Basic Payment Scheme and the Area of Natural Constraint Scheme farm payments are made or rather held up due to dual claims arising. I am currently dealing with a number of individuals who are still awaiting payments."

This motion was supported by all the members

**MD 19/116**
**18/11/2019**
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Padraig Fallon;

"A number of housing estate have recently being Taken In Charge, many are still without public lighting, I am asking that every effort be made to rectify this situation and proposing that this Municipal ask Leitrim County Council to ensure that this issue is prioritised and address as quickly as possible."

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

"The Council is endeavoring to have these street lights operational as soon as may be possible. Accordingly, we have instructed our street lighting maintenance contractor to inspect the street lights in these estates and undertake repairs where necessary. The contractor has also been instructed to arrange for any reconnection of lights that were disconnected by the electricity service provider and also to arrange for the connection of any street lights that were never connected in the first instance.

As part of this process it is necessary to transfer the existing electricity supply over to the Council's account. This requires the Council to provide the relevant MPRN account number for these various estates to our electricity service provider. This is relatively simple where we have been provided with these account details from the Developer, however, where we do not have the MPRN's the process of transfer will take longer. Applications for completely new connections will also take a period of time as they have to be programmed into the work schedule of both our contractor and ESB Networks."

Councillor Padraig Fallon asked if the process could be expedited by engaging an additional contractor to assist in this work.

Ms. Marie Mulligan replied that a lack of resources on behalf of the existing contractor was not a problem and was not causing any delays.

**MD 19/117**
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Felim Gurn:

"There is a issue with road surface in the village of Lurganboy because of raised manhole covers and overgrown hedges along the road from both directions to Milltown Woods."

Report by Roads - General
"As previously outlined the overgrown hedges is a matter for the landowners while the Council will assess the other items raised and repairs as required will be carried out within the resources available."

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

"I purpose that this municipal call on Coillte to look at the possibility of more walks and trails and paths through Milltown Woods in Lurganboy and car park space which is getting a lot of use from people accessing the woods."

Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation.
"Leitrim County Council has established a working group with Coillte to look at all opportunities to develop recreational facilities at Coillte sites. The proposal in relation to Milltown Woods in Lurganboy will be considered as part of this Working Group. Funding for such measures could be eligible under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme."

Councillor Felim Gurn queried if a footpath could be developed from the town to these woods.

Ms Marie Mulligan replied that the local community would have to provide funding to assist with such development. Funding cannot be provided under any the existing Safety Grants as these are based on locations where accidents frequently occur.

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council why Failte Ireland omitted Tullaghan from the Wild Atlantic Way Passport as one of the Discovery Points on this amazing tourist route?"

Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation.
"The matter will be raised with Failte Ireland"

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

"Can Leitrim County Council tell me if any or what nutrients are discharged from the Sewage and Waste Water Treatment Plant in Kinlough is entering Lough Melvin, as there is a large area covered in an algae bloom in close proximity to this plant at this present time?"

Report by Head of Finance & Water Services
"Kinlough Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) is a Design Build Operate (DBO) plant operated by Ward and Burke (Response Engineering) who report directly to Irish Water (IW) and the EPA. The plant is designed for a Population Equivalent of 2100. The EPA Registration No for this Plant is D0280-01. The licence requires performance data to be reported by Irish Water to the EPA and this data is available on their website. Link to Web Site: http://www.epa.ie/terminalfour/wwda/wwda-view.jsp?regno=D0280-01

The Plant is relatively new WWTP and was designed and built in 2010/2011 as part of the Leitrim Towns and Villages Bundle No 1. A Discharge licence was issued by the EPA on 14th August 2015 to Irish Water. Given the sensitivity and importance of Lough Melvin the EPA Licence conditions for emission limits to the receiving waters are quiet stringent. Irish Water are the Licence holder and report directly to the EPA on the Kinlough Wastewater Treatment plant performance.

In 2019 this waste water treatment plant at Kinlough has performed well and is in compliance with its EPA Waste Water Discharge Treatment Licence. The EPA monitors performance and there are no directives or improvement notices in relation to the operation of this plant.

Lough Melvin has been identified as a priority area for action in the River Basin Management Plan 2018 – 2021. The Local Authority Waters Programme’s catchment assessment teams carry out local catchment assessments within the priority areas for action. The aim of these assessments is to further characterise the catchments, refine the significant pressures and to identify the right measure in the right place with the aim of improving water quality. These measures are in addition to those statutory measures that are already in place. Within each priority area for action the catchment assessment team will complete a desk study, this will then in most instances be followed by a community information meeting prior to the commencement of local catchment assessments. A community information meeting was held in the Lough Melvin and Drowes priority area for action on the 21/02/19 in Rossinver Community Centre, the catchment assessment team started the local catchment assessments in Summer 19 and these assessments are underway in all waterbodies in the Lough Melvin and Drowse PAA including the Drowse 10 waterbody. The Drowse_10 waterbody is the receiving water for effluent from Kinlough wastewater treatment plant. At present the findings from the fieldwork are being compiled and significant pressures will be referred to the relevant implementing body. In the case where urban wastewater has been identified as a significant pressure a referral will be made to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The Environment section in Leitrim County Council will investigate this report in relation to algae bloom in the stream and lake and we will report our findings to Irish Water and EPA."

Councillor Justin Warnock advised that a similar issue has been reported to him of algae blooms in Lough Rinn.

Ms Samantha Healy advised that the Environment Department will be notified of this.

**MD 19/121**

18/11/2019 To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Frank Dolan;

"I ask is there any source of funding available so that works could be carried out on the bridge at the entrance to the community park in Dromahaire. In light of the recent developments that have taken place there, a wider entrance to the facilities is essential."

*Report by Roads - General*
"The bridge mentioned is a private and therefore does not form part of the public road network. The offices of the Area Engineer (Manorhamilton) will assist in technically reviewing the structure and likely improvements. However, relevant funding will have to be secured through the community and applications to funding programmes. Programmes such as CLAR provide for road safety measures up to €50,000 however the costs of this project may exceed this considerably."

This motion was supported by Councillor Mary Bohan.

_md 19/122_

_18/11/2019_  To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Frank Dolan;

"In view of the fact that Deer traffic has increased greatly in recent times on some roads, I suggest that more signage alerting motorists to that fact be erected."

_Report by Roads - General_

"The District Engineer will erect Deer warning signs to warn road users of hazard at the locations identified."

Councillor Dolan stated that he has been informed that insurance companies are refusing to pay claims on accidents involving deer in locations where signage has been erected and although signage will not resolve the issue it does provide a warning to drivers.

_md 19/123_

_18/11/2019_  To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott;

"I ask that a retaining wall that has fallen into the river at a bridge in the townland of Meenagraun, Glenaniff be replaced."

_Report by Roads - General_

"The District Engineer will arrange for an inspection of the bridge and apply for funding to undertake any necessary works."

_md 19/124_

_18/11/2019_  To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott;

"I ask that attention be given to a bridge on the Glenfarne river in the townland of Ardvarney, Glenfarne where fallen trees have flowed down the river and are stuck in the arch of the bridge, remember this is a very unstable bridge that was badly damaged when a crane toppled into the river some years ago."

_Report by Roads - General_

"The District Engineer will arrange for an inspection of the bridge and apply for funding to undertake any necessary works."

_md 19/125_

_18/11/2019_  To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Cllr Mary Bohan;
"What progress has been made regarding the provision of a new suitable site for the bring bank centre in Drumkeeran?"

**Report by Roads - General**

"It is proposed to relocate the Bring Banks to a new location outside the Council Depot. Some preparatory works will be undertaken prior to relocating the Bring Banks, these works will be done in the new year."

Councillor Bohan welcomed the update regarding the new location for the bring banks. She stated that rubbish being left at the Bring Bank continues to be an issue as does road side dumping. There is also an issue with household waste being put in the street bins and causing these to fill up quickly. Ms. Samantha Healy agreed to highlight this issue with Environment.

**MD 19/126**

**18/11/2019 To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Cllr Mary Bohan**;

"I propose that Leitrim County Council seek funding to develop a plan to provide a walkway/cycle way from Drumkeeran village to Spencer Harbour to Waterways Ireland Amenity Area."

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

"This matter had been discussed previously and given the level of project priorities and scale of costs in regard to available opportunities for funding the project would not be weighted highly."

Councillor Bohan expressed her dissatisfaction with the reply and stated that the Local Community Group would be prepared to help bring this project to fruition. Ms Samantha Healy stated that she would raise the matter again with the Economic Development section.

Councillor Mary Bohan stated that we should initiate a process with the local community to identify possible funding streams.

Councillor Felim Gurn supported the motion and stated that there was a need for improved signage for Spencer Harbour.

Councillor Padraig Fallon supported the motion and said that this project had the potential to generate income for communities on the northern shore of Lough Allen.

**A.O.B.**

Councillor Padraig Fallon queried if there was a possibility that Leitrim could be in a more localised Climate Action Regional Office grouping as we are currently in the midlands grouping with the administrative office in Kildare. Ms Samantha Healy stated that representations had been made in respect of this.

Councillor Mary Bohan extended a vote of sympathy to the family of Ms Noelle McHugh R.I.P, former Senior Staff Officer of Leitrim County Council who passed away recently.
This concluded the business of the meeting at 16:25.

SIGNED:  
Councillor Mary Bohan  
Cathaoirleach, Manorhamilton  
Municipal District

Date:  
9th December 2019

SIGNED:  
Mr Kieran Brett  
Administrative Officer