

Minutes of the Athlone Municipal District Meeting which was held in the Civic Centre, Church Street, Athlone at 3.00 p.m. on Monday, December 5th 2016

Attendance:

Mayor: Cllr. J. Dolan

Members: Cllrs. T. Farrell, P. Hogan, F. Keena, A. McManus, M. O'Brien and A. O'Rourke

Officers: Barry Kehoe, Director of Services
Pat Keating, District Manager
Pat Nally, District Engineer
Anne McNamara, Assistant Staff Officer

Votes of Congratulations:

All the Members wished to be associated with the Mayors vote of congratulations to Moate and Rosemont Communities on their achievement in the "Pride of Place" national competition and acknowledged the assistance given to both communities by the executive.

Minutes:

It was proposed by Cllr. Farrell,
Seconded by Cllr. Hogan and resolved,
"That we hereby adopt and confirm the Minutes of the November Monthly Meeting which was held on the 7th November 2016"

Minutes:

It was proposed by Cllr. Hogan,
Seconded by Cllr. O'Rourke and resolved,
"That we hereby adopt and confirm the Minutes of the In-Committee Meeting held on 23rd November 2016.

Matters Arising:

In response to a query about St. Vincent's the District Manager advised the Members that Joe Ruane, HSE had written confirming that works were on schedule for completion in March 2017 and that he would attend the January Meeting.

The Director confirmed that the monies allocated to the Villages under the Village Renewal scheme can be carried over to next year.

South Lissywollen Local Area Plan:

The Director presented the Plan to the Members who noted that it needs updating but were impressed by it and felt whatever can be done to advance it, should be done. The Director advised that the provision of the two roads linking east/west and north/south are essential for the opening up of the area for development. The Council has applied for funding for the road through Brawny and hopes to get Part 8 procedures done by mid 2017 so that construction of the road may start by the end of next year. A Variation to the existing Plan may be needed.

Recommendations from the 1916 Commemorations Sub-Committee:

The District Manager advised the Members that the subcommittee had met on 3 occasions and recommends the following:

1. Erect a plaque in John Count McCormack Square with the following wording (and directing people to further details of persons known to have been involved on www.westmeathcoco.ie/1916):

*This plaque is erected by the Members of Athlone Municipal District to commemorate all those from the greater Athlone area who were active in
The Irish Volunteers,
The Irish Republican Brotherhood and
Cumann na mBan
at the time of the Easter Rising in 1916.*

2. A database to be researched and prepared to be put on the Westmeath County Council website to highlight the involvement of people from Westmeath in the Fight for Irish Freedom leading to the Treaty in 1922 with a dedicated 1916 section.
3. Commence non statutory public consultation to rename Grace Road (from the White Bridge to Custume Bridge) as Elliot Road.

Cllr. Hogan informed the meeting of a local link with the Irish Citizen Army and it was agreed they be added to the plaque. It was also agreed to have the wording in Irish and English.

It was proposed by Cllr. Hogan,

Seconded by Cllr. Keena and resolved,

“That we hereby approve of the 3 recommendations of the 1916 Commemorations Sub-Committee as circulated, with the amendment of the wording on the Plaque to include the Irish Citizen Army”

The operation of Civic Honours in the District:

The District Manager outlined the procedures for granting Civic Honours and the importance and significance of the Council bestowing such an honour.

It was agreed that a single annual event should be organised to acknowledge success of clubs or sportspersons from the District at *provincial or national* level. Nominations, including details, to be made in writing to the District Administrator by the end of February and an event would be organised around Easter. It was agreed to look at how this was run in Roscommon County Council.

The formation of District Subcommittees for 2016:

The District Manager listed the membership of the various sub-committees, as agreed at the meeting on 23rd November 2016 as follows:

Parking: Mayor J. Dolan, Cllrs. Farrell, Keena, Hogan & O’Brien

Canal: Mayor J. Dolan, Cllrs. P. Hogan, A. McManus & A. O’Rourke

Civic Honours/Plaques, Memorials: All Members

Commemorating 1916: Mayor J Dolan, Cllrs. Farrell, Hogan & Keena.

Report on the Acquisition of Lands for the Railway Field Road:

The Director advised the Members that progress is being made as he is meeting with CIE in the next week or so. It was agreed that the item would be on the Agenda every month for as long as necessary.

Correspondence:

The District Manager informed the Members that the following correspondence had been received:

- (1) Resolution from M.D. of Castleblaney to ask the Taoiseach why he will not appoint a Minister for Brexit.
- (2) Acknowledgement from OPW re letter to S. Canney about scheme for help to rural properties owners for flood protection. It will be brought to his attention.
- (3) Irish Water response about linking houses on Ballymahon Rd to new water main – work to commence Q2/Q3 of 2017.
- (4) Dept of Finance response about motor insurance – Dept has embarked on a Review of policy in Insurance Sector. There will be a Cost of Insurance Working Group, causes of rising costs being examined. Following the Report there will be an Action Plan developed.
- (5) Joe Ruane. Works on schedule and he will attend the January Meeting.
- (6) Acknowledgement from Minister for Justice about CCTV schemes in rural areas.
- (7) Failte Ireland about the re-location of Tourist Office, the rationale behind it and the alternative.
- (8) P. Veale, IDA unable to attend December Meeting but will attend in January or February.

The Members requested copies of all correspondence about the military museum at Custume Barracks and it was agreed to circulate.

A.O.B.

The District Engineer asked the Members to consider their proposals and priorities under the 2017 roads programme. He advised the Members that the cycleway from Garrycastle to the White Gates will be open for Christmas. The Members suggested that students should avail of the cycle way and be dropped at Brawney and walk along the greenway to the various schools in the Retreat area.

The Mayor, Members and Executive wished a Happy Christmas to the Defence Forces, the Emergency Services and the Gardaí who will be working over the Christmas and their families and in particular to those serving overseas.

He wished his Colleagues, the Executive and Staff and the Press a very Happy Christmas and thanked them for their support during the Year. The Director thanked the Mayor and the Members for their constructive role and wished all a Happy Christmas.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

MAYOR

DATE