

Minutes of Meeting of Mullingar Municipal District held on Monday, 14th March, 2016, at 2.00pm in the Council Chambers, Áras an Chontae, Mullingar.

- Presiding** : Cllr.Avril Whitney, Deputy Mayor
- Members Present** : Cllrs.Frank McDermott, Andrew Duncan, Paul Daly, John Shaw, Sorca Clarke, Ken Glynn, Paddy Hill, Una D’Arcy, Michael Dollard, Johnnie Penrose,
- Apologies** : Cllr.Aidan Davitt.
- Officers Present** : Mr.Martin Murray, Director of Services, Mr.Declan Leonard, District Manager, Mr.Paul McCool, District Engineer, Ms.Kitty Foyle, Meetings Administrator, Ms.Caroline Byrne, Staff Officer.
- In Attendance** : Mr.Peter Burke, T.D.
Mr.Ambrose Clarke, Senior Exec.Engineer; NRO
Ms.Una Mullen, Exec.Engineer, NRO

Item 1 : *Election of Mayor*

The Deputy Mayor opened the Meeting and welcomed all. She advised that the first item of business would be the Election of a Mayor to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Cllr.Peter Burke following his success in the General Election. The Deputy Mayor then called for nominations.

Cllr.McDermott proposed Cllr.Andrew Duncan for the position of Mayor. This proposal was seconded by Cllr.Glynn. As there were no further nominations, Cllr.Duncan was unanimously deemed elected as Mayor of Mullingar Municipal District for the term March 2016 to June 2016. Cllr.Duncan then assumed the Chair.

Members congratulated Cllr.Duncan on his election and also congratulated Deputy Burke on his recent election to Dáil Éireann. Congratulations were also proposed to Deputy Robert Troy, Deputy Willie Penrose and Deputy Kevin “Boxer” Moran on their recent election as new TD’s to Dáil Éireann.

Both Cllr.Duncan and Deputy Burke acknowledged the good wishes of the Members. Cllr.Duncan thanked his proposer and seconder. After formally handing over the Chain of Office to Cllr.Duncan, Deputy Burke then left the Meeting.

Item 2 : *Miontuairisci*

On the proposal of Cllr.Glynn, seconded by Cllr. McDermott, the Minutes of February Meeting of Mullingar Municipal District held on Monday, 8th February, 2016 at 2pm in the Council Chambers, Áras an Chontae, Mullingar were unanimously approved.

Matters Arising:

Cllr.Clarke asked if an amendment could be made to Page 4 of the Minutes of the February Meeting , stating that she had been quoted in relation to the issue regarding bridge rehabilitation works on the road between Lismacaffrey and Streete and this should read Cllr.Hill. It was agreed that this amendment would be made and the Minutes re-circulated to the Members.

Cllr.Hill enquired if a letter had issued to the Department of Environment regarding his proposal that the Department take over all waterways. The Director advised that a letter had issued to the Department but that no reply had yet been received.

At this point, the Mayor advised that Mr.Ambrose Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer with the National Roads Office, would update Members on the road realignment scheme proposals for the N52 from Cloghan to Billistown. Mr.Clarke then addressed the Members. Members noted the update from the National Roads Office.

Item 3 : To note Severe Weather Allocation as per Circular RW 8/2016.

Members noted the allocation of €1m for each of the Municipal Districts in Westmeath for works to roads affected by the winter floods and bad weather. A list of proposed works was circulated to Members and noted. It was also noted that a second list of roads is available should monies become available from the remaining €1m which was allocated to the county. It was agreed that this second list would be circulated to Members.

Item 4 : Mullingar Municipal District Roads Estimates 2016.

The Members had considered the Draft Mullingar Municipal District Roads Estimates 2016 at an earlier meeting. The Director read out a summary of the Estimates under each of the listed headings for the benefit of Members.

On the proposal of Cllr.McDermott, seconded by Cllr.Glynn, the Mullingar Municipal District Estimates for 2016 were unanimously approved by the Members.

Item 5 : To consider Schedule of Municipal District Works in respect of 2016.

Mr.Declan Leonard, District Manager, outlined the background to this item, and advised that the Schedule of Municipal District Works for 2016 will operate along the same lines as in 2015, with similar schedules for street sweeping, parks and open spaces etc.

He advised Members that copies of the individual schedules can be made available and circulated to them if they wished. He stated that it is hoped to reach the same standards as in the past two years and he reminded Members that an update on the Schedule of Municipal District Works will be brought before the Members on a quarterly basis.

Item 6 : To consider Festival & Events Fund 2016.

A breakdown of the Promotion & Event Initiative Fund was circulated to the Members and the Director took questions from the Members in relation to same. Cllr.Hill asked if funding could be increased for the Delvin and Castlepollard St.Patrick's Day Parades. The Director advised that these Parade Committees had received the same funding in 2016 as in 2015. Cllr.Hill then proposed that an additional sum of €250 be given to each of these Committees. This proposal was seconded by Cllr.McDermott and agreed.

Item 7 : Questions

The Replies to Questions for March were noted and supplementary questions answered, as listed hereunder.

Item 8 : Correspondence

There were no items of Correspondence to consider.

Any Other Business:

The Director advised Members that it is necessary to fill the District's appointment on the Westmeath County Heritage Forum and he asked Members for nominations.

Cllr.McDermott proposed that Cllr.Una D'Arcy would be the representative from Mullingar Municipal District on the Westmeath County Heritage Forum. This proposal was seconded by Cllr.Glynn and agreed.

Cllr.Glynn referred to a tree which was removed from Brosna Grove recently and asked if the green area at this location could be restored as soon as possible and if a mature tree could be planted in place of the tree which had been removed. He also asked that if works of this nature were planned in the future, that the Residents Association in Brosna Grove would be advised in advance.

Cllr.Shaw referred to works by utility companies and their application for road opening licences. He asked if a bond is requested and he stated that it is his opinion that should these companies leave the road in an unsatisfactory condition, that they should be penalised financially by the District.

The Director advised that all utility companies must apply for a road opening licence. He advised that the company that Cllr.Shaw is referring to is under examination by the District at present and no road opening licence applications are being dealt with until the matter has been resolved.

Cllr.Clarke commented that insurance for Community Employment Schemes has recently increased by approximately 300% and she stated that this is unacceptable and that rural CE Schemes will suffer as a result.

Cllr.Clarke also referred to the Council's Traveller Accommodation Committee and advised that a meeting of this Committee had taken place earlier that day in Athlone but that it was poorly attended. She asked if members of that Committee could make a greater effort to attend all meetings where possible.

Cllr.Penrose made a comment regarding his disgust at the recent misuse of Facebook where derogatory and abusive comments were made about candidates in the recent General Election.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Mayor

Date

Mullingar Municipal District – 14th MARCH 2016 - QUESTIONS

CCMS	Question	Cllr.	Questions	Reply	Supplementary Question	Reply to Supplementary
188220	Q7.1	Cllr. Johnny Penrose	Q - 14/03/16 - To ask Mullingar Municipal District to repair and resurface road number L11214, which leads to Whitepark, Dysart, as this road is currently in a poor state of repair.	This road can be considered by the Members for funding in the context of the 2016 Estimates.	None	None
188221	Q7.2	Cllr. Johnny Penrose	Q - 14/03/16 - To ask Mullingar Municipal District to repair the road leading to Rathrishogue, Castletown-Geoghegan, as this stretch of road is currently in a poor state of repair and during the recent bad spell of weather, this road flooded and no works have been done to this road in the last number of years.	All potholes have been filled.	None	None
190759	Q7.3	Cllr. Johnny Penrose	Q - 14/03/16 - To ask Mullingar Municipal District to carry out immediate works to alleviate flooding on the R400 outside Matt Kenny's house at Oldtown, Rochfortbridge.	Funding has been received under the Severe Weather Allocation Fund for work at this location.	None	None
190769	Q7.4	Cllr. Michael Dollard	Q - 14/03/16 - Will Mullingar Municipal District carry out repairs to underground service pipes that service the storm trap outside No.63, Ginnell Terrace, as suctioning out of said storm trap will not prevent flooding at this location.	This will be investigated.	Can the service pipes underneath be examined?	Yes
190770	Q7.5	Cllr. Michael Dollard	Q - 14/03/16 - Will Mullingar Municipal District include the road that services 1-6, Assumption Villas in the 2016 Road Restoration Programme?	This is not included in the 2016 Estimates. However, some works will be carried out under the District's Maintenance budget.	None	None

190771	Q7.6	Cllr. Michael Dollard	Q - 14/03/16 - Will Mullingar Municipal District put in place appropriate resources to improve the road that services Swaines, Devenney's and Raleigh's at Rathconnell, Mullingar?	This can be considered in the context of the 2016 Estimates.	Can potholes be repaired?	Yes
190779	Q7.7	Cllr. Ken Glynn	Q - 14/03/16 - To ask Mullingar Municipal District to alleviate flooding at Belmont, Ballinea, which flows down in to a local house, causing flooding on a regular basis.	Water-cuts will be opened at this location.	None	None
190781	Q7.8	Cllr. Ken Glynn	Q - 14/03/16 - To ask Mullingar Municipal District to provide an additional traffic calming measure in O'Growney Drive due to local concerns regarding excessive speed by motorists using this route as a short cut.	There are two speed cushions and a speed ramp on O'Growney Drive. There is no plan or funding for additional traffic calming measures at this location.	Can a letter issue to Gardai?	Yes
190789	Q7.9	Cllr. Ken Glynn	Q - 14/03/16 - To ask Mullingar Municipal District to provide funding for road resurfacing works in this years' budget for the Hopestown cul de sac road in Ballinea.	This can be considered in the context of the 2016 Estimates.	Can this be considered under the MMD Maintenance Budget?	Yes
190793	Q7.10	Cllr. Aidan Davitt	Q - 14/03/16 - To ask Mullingar Municipal District to cut back the overgrown verge on the road opposite Christy Moran's house at 43, Beechgrove.	This area was inspected and was in reasonable condition. The grass in this area is maintained by the residents and will no doubt be cut when the weather improves.	None	None
190794	Q7.11	Cllr. Aidan Davitt	Q - 14/03/16 - To ask Westmeath County Council to address the surface of the gravel pass/path at the rear of Declan Colgan's house at Great Oaks.	This path has been repaired.	None	None

190797	Q7.12	Cllr. Aidan Davitt	Q - 14/03/16 - To ask Mullingar Municipal District to address the flooding at Mrs.Alice Deehy's house at The Downs.	Repairs have been carried out at this location.	None	None
190800	Q7.13	Cllr. Una D'Arcy	Q - 14/03/16 - Can the Municipal District look at the area between Cluain Lorcaín, Delvin and Castletown Court, Delvin and draw up a plan that will help protect the small children playing here.	Mullingar Municipal District will investigate this matter.	None	None
190971	Q7.14	Cllr. Una D'Arcy	Q - 14/03/16 - Will it be possible to put in place small decorative fencing at the front of Castlegrove to create a visual line between the green area and the road.	Mullingar Municipal District will investigate this matter.	None	None
190972	Q7.15	Cllr. Una D'Arcy	Q - 14/03/16 - Will the funding for Housing Grants be available to people soon?	Applications for grants under the three Housing Grant Schemes are currently being processed.	None	None
190804	Q7.16	Cllr. Frank McDermott	Q - 14/03/16 - Will this Municipal District repair and jet the drain in front of Dowling's house at Fennor on Road No. L5620, to prevent further flooding.	This will form part of the Drainage Relief Programme for 2016.	None	None
190805	Q7.17	Cllr. Frank McDermott	Q - 14/03/16 - Will this Municipal District build a wall to secure the Sheerin & County Council lands beside the playground in Clonmellon.	The Council is currently regularising the boundaries between their own land and the balance of the land which is in private ownership with a view to maximising its potential . It is not considered that a wall is required at this stage.	What is involved here?	DOS advised that a legal issue regarding folios is being sorted out at the moment.
190806	Q7.18	Cllr. Frank McDermott	Q - 14/03/16 - When will this Municipal District repair bad sections of the footpath at Old Glenview on the Finea Road, Castlepollard?	This can be considered in the context of 2016 Budget.	None	None

190809	Q7.19	Cllr. Andrew Duncan	Q - 14/03/16 - Can this Municipal District repair the potholes at the exit from Buckley's car park and Friars Mill Road?	These potholes will be filled as soon as possible.	None	None
190810	Q7.20	Cllr. Andrew Duncan	Q - 14/03/16 - Can this Municipal District replace the cap stones at Fairgreen Carpark?	These capping stones will be replaced as soon as possible.	None	None
190811	Q7.21	Cllr. Andrew Duncan	Q - 14/03/16 - Can this Council clarify when it intends to hold the agreed meeting to identify potential opportunities for Westmeath businesses, now that the Center Parcs development has been granted planning permission.	As outlined to previous representations, once Full Planning permission is obtained, Westmeath County Council will organise a meeting to realise all business opportunities that may materialise on foot of the 'Centre Parcs Development'. The LEO will organise same.	None	None
190816	Q7.22	Cllr. Sorca Clarke	Q - 14/03/16 - Can the footpaths in Lynn Heights be examined for the cause of the surface damage and repaired, as they are in a dangerous condition.	The footpaths in Lynn Heights are concrete paths that were overlain with a bituminous slurry seal approximately 15 years ago. In places, the slurry seal has peeled off, but the footpaths still remain serviceable. Repairs will be carried out to several locations where the underlying concrete path has deteriorated. These repairs will be carried out as soon as possible.	None	None
190817	Q7.23	Cllr. Sorca Clarke	Q - 14/03/16 - Can the lock on the access to the river at Relic Road, Kilbeggan be replaced urgently?	This lock has been replaced.	Who has the keys to this lock?	DOS advised the District General Services Supervisor has keys.
190818	Q7.24	Cllr. Sorca Clarke	Q - 14/03/16 - Can the zebra crossing at Gaelscoil an Mhuilinn be repainted as they are very faded from use.	The road markings at this location will be repaired as soon as possible.	None	None

190821	Q7.25	Cllr. Avril Whitney	Q - 14/03/16 - To ask Mullingar Municipal District to return to fill potholes at Castlegaddery, Ballynacargy on L59084 as soon as possible.	These potholes will be repaired as soon as possible.	None	None
190822	Q7.26	Cllr. Avril Whitney	Q - 14/03/16 - To ask Mullingar Municipal District to liaise with the T.I.I. regarding the provision of appropriate signage indicating the different turning lanes on the N4 at Bunbrosna, as prior notice for motorists is essential.	The N4 was fully re-lined and upgraded to the required standards in 2014.	Can additional signage be provided here?	DOS to discuss this matter with NRO in order to bring back to T.I.I.
190823	Q7.27	Cllr. Avril Whitney	Q - 14/03/16 - To ask Mullingar Municipal District to carry out a safety audit in conjunction with T.I.I. at Winetown, Rathowen, as road markings are not adequate at this location.	The N4 was fully re-lined and upgraded to the required standards in 2014.	Can this be re-examined?	DOS to discuss this with NRO in order to bring back to T.I.I.
190826	Q7.28	Cllr. John Shaw	Q - 14/03/16 - Can this Municipal District repair the road at Kerinstown, Killucan?	The potholes on this cul-de-sac have been repaired.	None	None
190827	Q7.29	Cllr. John Shaw	Q - 14/03/16 - Can this Municipal District repair the road at Heffernans, Cushinstown, Killucan?	This relates to Road L5019. Water-cuts will be re-opened and potholes repaired as soon as possible.	None	None
190828	Q7.30	Cllr. John Shaw	Q - 14/03/16 - Can this Municipal District tarmac the piece of footpath at Kirwan's house, Killucan Road, Kinnegad?	There is no proposal for works at this location.	Can this be re-examined?	Yes

Mullingar Municipal District – 14th MARCH 2016 – NOTICES OF MOTION

CCMS	Motions	Cllr	Motions	Reply	Notes
190761	M9.1	Cllr. Johnny Penrose	M - 14/03/16 - That this Municipal District would widen the road between Brian Gavigan's and Donal Gavigan's on the Castletown Geoghegan to Dysart Road at Rathnamuddagh, in the interests of safety.	The County Council is not aware of any traffic incidents at this location. Works required to widen the road would involve major funding.	
190758	M9.2	Cllr. Johnny Penrose	M - 14/03/16 - That Mullingar Municipal District would take immediate steps to surface dress Church Lane, Rathowen, as this road was badly damaged following flooding earlier this year.	This is not included in the 2016 Estimates. However, potholes will be repaired as soon as possible.	Cllr.Penrose stated he hoped this would be included in second phase of severe weather funding. DOS agreed remaining list to be circulated to Members.
190766	M9.3	Cllr. Michael Dollard	M - 14/03/16 - That Mullingar Municipal District would put in place a traffic calming measure at No.3, Canal Avenue, Mullingar to improve road safety at a location that serves 11, OPD's, an apartment complex of 8 units occupied by mostly elderly persons and a support hostel of 7 apartments for former psychiatric patients.	There are no plans for traffic calming at this location as the current road alignment provides for natural traffic calming.	Cllr.Dollard advised area in question is in front of St.Joseph's Cottages, before the 90 degree bend in road. DOS agreed to have this area re-examined.
190767	M9.4	Cllr. Michael Dollard	M - 14/03/16 - That Westmeath County Council would carry out much needed footpath repairs between 6 and 7, Ginnell Terrace, following Irish Water excavations.	These footpaths will be repaired as soon as possible.	

190774	M9.5	Cllr. Ken Glynn	M - 14/03/16 - To call on Mullingar Municipal District to take action to alleviate illegal parking in the taxi rank along Church Avenue, which occurs every weekend, preventing taxis from using it.	Traffic wardens have been monitoring the area. The Gardai have also been notified of the issue. Signage will also be reviewed.	DOS advised that he had received a commitment from Gardai that they would patrol this area on Sunday afternoons. He stated road markings will be replaced in the current week.
190775	M9.6	Cllr. Ken Glynn	M - 14/03/16 - To call on Mullingar Municipal District to ensure the public light at the entrance of Cloon Lara is working as soon as possible, in the interests of public safety, as it has been out of action for a significant amount of time.	This matter has been referred to the Council's public lighting contractor.	Cllr.Glynn stated this light has not worked for three months. DOS advised that there had been a mis-communication between Council and contractor and light will be repaired as soon as possible.
190791	M9.7	Cllr. Aidan Davitt	M - 14/03/16 - To call on Mullingar Municipal District to examine the camber of the road at Mrs.Marie Reilly's house, Knockmant, The Downs, as it is leading to flooding.	This will be examined.	
190792	M9.8	Cllr. Aidan Davitt	M - 14/03/16 - To call on Mullingar Municipal District to address the dip in the road at Matty Forde's house in Clonlost.	There is no plan or funding for works at this location.	
190798	M9.9	Cllr. Una D'Arcy	M - 14/03/16 - That the Members of Mullingar Municipal District expresses support for an immediate ban on the use of wild animals in circuses on animal welfare and ethical grounds as the ISPCA is warning that Ireland risks becoming a dumping ground for wild animal circuses, as more and more EU countries introduce bans on this out-dated and cruel practice.	No reply.	Cllr.D'Arcy asked for support of Members on this issue. A vote was taken on the issue and the Mayor abstained. The vote was passed in favour of supporting the Motion and it was agreed a letter would issue to ISPCA forwarding on a copy of the Notice of Motion.

190799	M9.10	Cllr. Una D'Arcy	M - 14/03/16 - To celebrate St.Patrick's Day and the importance that parades have at the heart of our communities, that we recognise the work carried out by voluntary committees and perhaps a small pin or similar memento could be created for the volunteers involved in the parades in the Mullingar and Coole Areas.	Westmeath County Council provides a wide range of supports for community groups including grants towards St Patricks Day parades. The Council's annual Cathaoirleach Awards event also recognises the input of individuals and groups in their local community.	
190802	M9.11	Cllr. Frank McDermott	M - 14/03/16 - That Mullingar Municipal District would repair Road No. L5517-30 from Clonagapple Cross to Mooretown.	Potholes will be repaired on this section of road in the coming weeks.	
190803	M9.12	Cllr. Frank McDermott	M - 14/03/16 - That this Municipal District would lay a drain at Anthony McNamee's house to the opposite side of the road at Ranahinch, Streamstown on Road No. L5730.	The Council shall investigate when wet conditions prevail to determine the drainage issues.	
190807	M9.13	Cllr. Andrew Duncan	M - 14/03/16 - That this Municipal District would request An Garda Siochana to increase the number of foot patrols in the town, particularly around the Town Park and MacDonalds area.	This matter can be raised at the next JPC Meeting.	Agreed that a letter would issue to 4 new Dáil Deputies seeking support for extra resourcing for An Garda Siochana.
190808	M9.14	Cllr. Andrew Duncan	M - 14/03/16 - That this Municipal District would install cctv in the Town Park.	There are two Garda CCTV systems operating in the Town Park.	
190812	M9.15	Cllr. Sorca Clarke	M - 14/03/16 - That this Municipal District shows solidarity with local Tesco workers who are seeking to have their long standing contracts honoured.	No reply.	This Motion unanimously supported by the Members.

190815	M9.16	Cllr. Sorca Clarke	M - 14/03/16 - That this Municipal District calls on the Local Enterprise Office to extend the marketing training to local voluntary and community groups seeking to build their online base.	Training for Community Groups is provided through Westmeath Public Participation Network, the umbrella structure for community groups in the county. This training does not usually involve commercial activity such as marketing. The new LEADER Rural Development Programme which is currently due to be launched in May 2016 will provide IT training for Community Groups and the Council's implementing partner, Westmeath Community Development Ltd could be consulted in this regard.	DOS agreed to have the C & E Section issue an e-mail to Members re training for community groups. He also stated he would examine Cllr.Shaw's proposal to have training organised for groups wishing to apply for LEADER funding.
190819	M9.17	Cllr. Avril Whitney	M - 14/03/16 - That Mullingar Municipal District would consider the possibility of putting a continuous white line from the crossroads at Loughnavalley out the Glencarra Road, where appropriate (R389), in the interests of safety.	The road markings at this location, which is within the 50km/hr speed limit zone, are in accordance with the Traffic Signs Manual.	DOS to discuss exact location with Cllr.Whitney.
190820	M9.18	Cllr. Avril Whitney	M - 14/03/16 - That Mullingar Municipal District would investigate the cause of flooding at Skeagh Cross earlier this year and improve drainage at this location.	The drainage system at this location has been cleaned out recently.	
190824	M9.19	Cllr. John Shaw	M - 14/03/16 - That this Municipal District would set aside funding for a pedestrian crossing at Treacy's Filling Station, Kinnegad, to cater for primary school children.	This can be considered for funding in the context of the 2016 Estimates.	
190970	M9.20	Cllr. John Shaw	M - 14/03/16 - That this Municipal District would restore the cul de sac at Enniscoffey, Gaybrook, which has deteriorated badly in recent years.	This will be considered in the context of the 2016 Estimates.	