

**Minutes of the Athlone Municipal District Meeting which was held in the Civic Centre, Church Street, Athlone at 3.00 p.m. on Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup> 2017.**

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**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  
Frank Dolan, A/District Administrator  
Anne McNamara, Assistant Staff Officer  
Ciaran Jordan, Senior Executive Engineer Environment  
Leo Buckley, Assistant Engineer, Environment  
Charlie Sorohan, Executive Engineer, Housing  
Ray Canavan, Clerk of Works, Housing

**Votes of Congratulations:**

All the Members wished to be associated with votes of congratulations to Barry Lennon on his promotion and wished him well in his new role with Longford County Council. They thanked him for his assistance, fairness and directness, through the years.

They also expressed good wishes to Anne McNamara on her upcoming retirement. They thanked her for her assistance down through the years and wished her and her family, a long and happy retirement.

**Votes of Sympathy:**

All the Members wished to be associated with expressions of sympathy to the families of Eamonn O'Donohoe, Kiltoom, Martin Golden, Coosan and to the La Sainté Union Sisters on the death of Sr. Christopher Callon.

**Minutes:**

It was proposed by Cllr. Hogan,

Seconded by Cllr. Farrell and resolved,

“That we hereby adopt and confirm the Minutes of the February Monthly Meeting which was held on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017”.

It was subsequently agreed to amend the minutes to state that the members had agreed that a letter should be sent to An Taoiseach in relation to Motion on Rates Valuations

**Matters arising:**

The Director thanked the Members for their vote of sympathy at the last meeting following the death of his father.

He advised Cllr. Farrell that a one way system has to be in place at the Streamstown link to the Cycleway, before the access and car park can be opened safely.

He advised Cllr. Keena that the sites at Killenboylegan, Moate will be sold as one plot not individual sites when Property Management have everything in order. Money received will be reinvested in the area.

Cllr. O'Rourke informed the Meeting that he understands serious issues have arisen over staffing of St. Vincent's and re-opening to its fullest capacity might be in danger. It was agreed to write to the HSE management seeking clarification.

Cllr. Keena was advised that the date for the Bridge Renaming should be agreed before the next meeting and the closing date for submissions on the renaming of Grace Road was Friday last 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

Cllr. Farrell asked that the Cycleway bye laws regulate the use of electric bicycles too.

Cllr. O'Brien asked that the letter to the Taoiseach about the valuation process be sent immediately and it was agreed to do so.

### **The Draft Litter Management Plan:**

Ciaran Jordan and Leo Buckley gave a presentation on the Draft Litter Management Plan 2017-2019 outlining the existing waste facilities, the objectives of the Plan and the plans for its implementation. The Members highlighted various issues including dog fouling with designated bags and bins; recruitment of a second Litter Warden; more CCTV and audio device usage; the hiring of a security firm; bottle refund scheme; more underground bins and the advertising of the free phone number to report littering, on all Council vehicles. Ciaran Jordan confirmed that the draft plan when completed will be placed on public display and submissions invited. A report on submissions and a final plan will be brought back before the Athlone Municipal District Members for adoption at a future meeting. He also agreed to ask the Environment Officer to arrange a presentation from IBAL at a District Meeting.

The Director added that there are two main issues, fly-tipping and littering in general and these are very difficult to overcome at local level. He said national solutions such as incorporation of a refuse charge into the local property tax may be required.

The two related Motions were taken at this stage.

#### c) Cllr. T. Farrell:

“That Athlone Municipal District considers the use of smart bins as a way of reducing costs of Litter Management in the area”

**Response: Some of the larger urban local authorities have trialled smart bins which have solar powered compactors and can be fitted with a SIM card to notify supervisors when the bin needs to be emptied. There is a significant capital cost in the supply and installation of the system but the manufacturer claims that local authorities could achieve a substantial operating cost reduction.**

**Concerns have been expressed with regard to the weight of the compacted rubbish being a practical and health & safety issue for the emptying of the bin. As the bins do not have to be serviced as often, the contents of the bin may start to decompose in the bin resulting in smells, particularly in the summer. There is also a concern at the significant capital and maintenance cost with an indicated unit cost of between €3,500 and €5,000.**

**The use of smart bins is not deemed to be viable.**

Despite their cost, Cllr. Farrell felt the Council should still consider them.

#### s) Cllr. P. Hogan:

“That Athlone Municipal District provide a cardboard recycling receptacle at all glass recycling units”

**Response: Cardboard recycling facilities at all bottle banks would be an uneconomic proposition, requiring expensive infrastructure (large receptacles, compactors, power etc.) and increased servicing costs.**

**Cardboard recycling facilities are widely available throughout the Athlone Municipal District with the availability of a blue bin service to each and every property. In addition, there are extensive recycling facilities provided at the Civic Amenity Centre at Golden Island, which is open 6 days per week.**

Cllr. Hogan stated that he will bring this Motion to the Environment SPC as it is a policy issue.

### **Report on Housing Maintenance:**

Charlie Sorohan and Ray Canavan attended the Meeting from Housing and Mr. Sorohan stated that the Department have indicated that consideration to Phase 3 will not take place until all other Local Authorities have completed Phase 2. While 226 no. houses have been identified as needing door or window replacement under the next possible Phase, it is more cost effective to wait for the Department Scheme, where up to 90% of costs may be reclaimable.

The Director stated that in the meantime, the Members can identify serious issues and the Council will endeavour to address them while funding is available. They will be kept updated. The Members again listed the estates that have problem double glazed windows (Milbank, Ashdale, Cornamaddy and Ave Maria, Moate) and while they appreciated tenants had responsibilities regarding upkeep, these windows were faulty from the beginning. Mr. Sorohan stated that new windows are installed to comply with specifications at the time houses are built.

It was proposed by Cllr. O'Rourke, seconded by Cllr. Hogan and resolved that the District writes to the Department to support the need for Phase 3 to commence quickly.

### **Festival and Event Grant Scheme 2017:**

The Director advised the Members of the recommendations for Round 1 of the Grants Scheme and the Members welcomed them. They requested that in future there be a column showing the amount for which each group applied.

It was proposed by Cllr. Dolan,

Seconded by Cllr. O'Rourke and resolved,

"We hereby agree to increase the grant for the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Athlone from €5,000 to €6,800"

It was proposed by Cllr. Keena,

Seconded by Cllr. Dolan and resolved,

"We hereby agree to increase the grant for the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Moate from €750 to €1,000"

It was proposed by Cllr. Dolan,

Seconded by Cllr. O'Brien and resolved,

"We hereby agree approve of the Festivals and Events Grant Scheme for the first half of 2017 as circulated, together with the two amendments agreed"

### **Nominate of a Member to Athlone Rapid Area Implementation Team:**

The District Manager advised of the need to regularise the representative on RAPID as it has not been done since the Town Council nominated its Member, Cllr. Hogan in 2009.

It was proposed by Cllr. Farrell,

Seconded by Cllr. McManus and resolved,

"We hereby nominate Cllr. Paul Hogan as the representative from the Athlone Municipal District to the RAPID Area Implementation Team"

Cllr. Hogan thanked his proposer and seconder and said he is very interested in RAPID and would like to stay on it. He suggested that the Mayor, ex-officio also sit on the Team and this was unanimously agreed by all.

### **The Roads Programme for 2017:**

The District Engineer circulated the Roads Programme and the Members welcomed it and thanked him for the work that had gone into it.

It was proposed by Cllr. Dolan,

Seconded by Cllr. O'Brien and resolved,

"We hereby adopt the Roads Programme for 2017 as circulated at this Meeting"

### **Update on the Acquisition of Lands for the Railway Field Road:**

The Director advised the Members that the new design to facilitate the safe manoeuvring of buses at the Station had been submitted to CIE, but they were not satisfied with it. He feels the Council have a solution now and he is meeting again on Thursday with CIE. He undertook to email the Members on Friday, with the outcome of that meeting.

### **Questions:**

1. Cllr. T. Farrell:

What is the current status of Phase 2 of the Portlick Improvement Scheme?

**Reply: Due to other work priorities within the Planning Section, this plan has yet to be completed. However, additional staff resources will be available within Planning from April onwards and it is intended that this plan would be finalised as soon as possible thereafter.**

2. Cllr. T. Farrell:

When will the Council erect signs re littering on the Rosemont to Moate Road at Suntown Cross?

**Reply: The District Engineer was not aware of a litter problem at this location but will arrange for a sign if it will assist in deterring illegal dumping.**

3. Cllr. T. Farrell:

When will the Council erect a Stop sign at the head of the Shinglis Road in Ballymore?

**Reply: The District Engineer will arrange for the erection of a STOP sign at this location within the next couple of weeks.**

4. Cllr. M. O'Brien:

What is the current position regarding the feasibility study into the provision a tourist train from Moate to Athlone along the Greenway?

**Reply: This study will be progressed when the Tourism Officer is appointed, which it is intended will be in April 2017.**

5. Cllr. M. O'Brien:

When will the old Dublin Road in Moate be resurfaced?

**Reply: Funding for this road has been included in the 2017 Roads Programme for the consideration of the Members. Subject to the Programme being approved, it is anticipated that works will commence in May 2017.**

6. Cllr. M. O'Brien:

Can this Municipal District provide us with a schedule of works due to be carried out in Moate as a result of Rural Renewal funding?

**Reply: The following works will be carried out in Moate under the first round of the Town and Village Renewal Scheme:**

- **Public realm improvements at The Harbour**
- **A comprehensive information signage scheme**

## Preparing a streetscape plan for the Main Street from Station Road to the old Post Office.

### 7. Cllr. J. Dolan:

As per my motion last year, have the Council progressed the preparation of Bye Laws to prohibit the use of Sulkys in urban and some rural areas?

**Reply: Such bye laws are not currently under preparation. However, the issue will be discussed in the context of the County road safety strategy, which will be considered and brought before the Council before the end of 2017.**

### 8. Cllr. J. Dolan:

When can selective planting be undertaken to help maintain the privacy of some houses whose back gardens are exposed to the new green way?

**Reply: If the members are aware of particular houses where privacy has been compromised and where replacement hedging has not been provided, these should be brought to the attention of the District Engineer, who will carry out an assessment and arrange for replacement hedging where required.**

### 9. Cllr. J. Dolan:

How many businesses have taken advantage of the Rates Rebate scheme in Westmeath in 2016?

**Reply: In 2016, 31 new applications were received and 16 of these are approved and paid or are in the process of being paid.**

**5 applications were refused; 3 as being ineligible and 2 for commercial rates not being cleared. 10 applications are awaiting further information or documentation before final approval can be given.**

**A further 12 businesses which received the grant in 2015 have already been paid or are in the process of being paid their 2<sup>nd</sup> year grant for 2016.**

Supp Q. Can we have a full report at the May Meeting?

Reply: Yes.

### 10. Cllr. F. Keena:

In light of the ongoing issues with illegal dumping throughout the area can this Municipal District provide appropriate signage to warn people of the consequences?

**Reply: Many such signs are in place. However, the people who engage in such illegal dumping do not seem to fear the consequences. A review will be carried out to ensure that there is a sign at each location where such illegal dumping is occurring.**

Supp Q. Can we use metal signs instead?

**Reply: These would be very costly, possibly up to €200 per sign.**

### 11. Cllr. F. Keena:

What is the delay in erecting the name signs that were agreed last year for the roundabouts in Athlone & Moate?

**Reply: There was a delay in getting the text on the signs translated into Irish. This is now in hand and the District Engineer will procure and erect the signs when a funding source has been identified.**

### 12. Cllr. A. O'Rourke:

What is the current situation regarding the long overdue removal of the OPW shed at the Docks?

**Reply: The Council and Waterways Ireland are currently completing the legal documents associated with the transfer of this shared the Council and the transfer of the site at Wansboro Park to waterways Ireland. It is hoped that the process will be concluded very shortly.**

### 13. Cllr. A. O'Rourke:

Is paid parking in operation on Mardyke Street, as there are no signs and no machine on this street?

**Reply: Pay parking is in operation on Mardyke Street but the nearest ticket machine is located at the lower end of St Mary's Square. There is a sign on the street.**

Supp. Q. Can we install a parking meter here?

Reply: It would not be worth-while, very few spaces and meters are very costly.

14. Cllr. A. O'Rourke:

Can this District repair and finish off the area under the mature trees between Count John McCormack Square and the Prince of Wales Hotel as it is very untidy and not suitably finished?

**Reply: This area was to be planted. However, it was postponed because the Prince of Wales Hotel expressed interest in leasing it from the Council and the matter is being considered.**

Supp. Q. Can it be expedited before the summer?

Reply: It will be considered.

**Correspondence:**

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

- The Office of the Minister for Finance re inclusion of An Post in the SEPA.
- The Office of the Minister for Defence re Larium.
- The Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food & the Marine – acknowledgement re Lab at Coosan.
- Irish Water re update on the Westmeath Regional Water Scheme.
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Cllr. Keena asked that we write to the Minister for Defence again about the museum at Custume Barracks and it was agreed to do so.

All correspondence to be circulated.

**Motions:**

a) Cllr. T. Farrell:

“That Athlone Municipal District considers creating a car compound for abandoned cars”

**Response: When the Council is aware of abandoned cars on public areas, a warning notice can be placed advising that it must be removed immediately and that failing this, the cost of removal and storage must be paid before it can be recovered. The Council can then arrange for it to be removed and if it is not claimed within 6 weeks, it can be disposed of to cover storage and removal costs.**

**Alternately a notice under the Litter Pollution Act can be served on the owner where known. The District has not identified any need to provide a compound for abandoned cars.**

b) Cllr. T. Farrell:

“That Athlone Municipal District considers installing a zebra crossing on the old Dublin Road near the Shack and shop units”

**Response: A survey can be carried out at this location to see if it satisfies the warrants for a controlled crossing. Should the survey indicate that a controlled crossing is warranted, its provision will have to be considered by the Members in the context of the 2018 Roads Programme.**

c) Cllr. T. Farrell:

“That Athlone Municipal District considers the use of smart bins as a way of reducing costs of Litter Management in the area”

**Response: Some of the larger urban local authorities have trialled smart bins which have solar powered compactors and can be fitted with a SIM card to notify supervisors when the bin needs to be emptied. There is a significant capital cost in the supply and installation of the system but the manufacturer claims that local authorities could achieve a substantial operating cost reduction.**

**Concerns have been expressed with regard to the weight of the compacted rubbish being a practical and health & safety issue for the emptying of the bin. As the bins do not have to be serviced as often, the contents of the bin may start to decompose in the bin resulting in smells, particularly in the summer. There is also a concern at the significant capital and maintenance cost with an indicated unit cost of between €3,500 and €5,000.**

**The use of smart bins is not deemed to be viable.**

d) Cllr. A. McManus:

“That this Municipal District provides a detailed update on the status of the Clonbrusk Watermain replacement”

**Response: Tenders for the replacement of this watermain were assessed by Irish Water and Westmeath County Council on 6<sup>th</sup> February and a pre-commencement meeting is scheduled with the contractor on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017. It is hoped that work on site will start in the latter half of March and that it will be completed within 3 to 4 weeks of commencement.**

e) Cllr. A. McManus :

“That this Municipal District replaces and upgrades the lights on the bridge”

**Response: The Transportation Section is aware of the desire to upgrade these lights; however, the current limited funding is being prioritised to locations where there are immediate safety issues with the existing public lighting network.**

All the Members supported this Motion and suggested applying to Failte Ireland for funding. The Director agreed that lighting this area would be beneficial for the town and he proposed bundling the lighting of the two sides of the Bridge, the Bridge itself and the Castle, into a single project.

It will be expensive he added but worthwhile in the long run.

### **Suspension of Standing Orders:**

It was proposed by Cllr. O'Rourke,

Seconded by Cllr. Farrell and resolved,

“We hereby suspend Standing Orders in order to deal with the remaining items on the Agenda”

Two Motions of a similar nature were taken together next:

f) Cllr. A. McManus:

“That Athlone Municipal District supports the designation of a growth centre in the Midlands, to ensure that it develops to its full potential”

l) Cllr. J. Dolan:

“That this Municipal District actively support the submission for the establishment of a Midlands Region in the new National Planning Framework ‘Ireland 2040’

**Response: The current consultation under the National Planning Framework presents an opportunity for Westmeath County Council to indicate to the Department of Housing Planning Community and Local Government that there is a need for a focus on the Midlands. In this context and following the February meeting of Westmeath County Council, the submission is being prepared and will be circulated to the Members before 10<sup>th</sup> of March. Any comments received thereafter will be taken into consideration before the submission is made.**

The Members unanimously supported the two motions and welcomed this business driven initiative. They felt Athlone is well placed to be the hub of the midlands region.

g) Cllr. M. O’Brien:

“That Athlone Municipal District lease Council land at Clara Road, Moate to Moate Celtic Football Club for the purpose of playing and club facilities”

**Response: The Council engaged with Moate Celtic in 2011/2012 regarding site for playing and club facilities at Clara Road. Planning permission for the development was granted and Section 183 Notice was approved by the Council. If the club is now in a position to proceed with the development, the Council will cooperate with and support the endeavour.**

h) Cllr. M. O’Brien:

“That Athlone Municipal District provides CCTV along the urban stretch of the Greenway from Garrycastle to the White Gates in Athlone and Station Road to Lake Road in Moate, in the interest of public safety”

**Response: The provision of CCTV in the public domain is not a matter for Westmeath County Council but rather for the Department of Justice. A letter can issue to the Department if the Members so wish.**

It was noted that surveillance on this stretch of old railway has been improved by the development of the cycleway. It was agreed that this is a matter for the Department and that a letter would issue.

i) Cllr. M. O’Brien:

“That Athlone Municipal District completes the new footpath on Ballycumber Road, Moate”

**Response: Funding for the next phase of this footpath has been included in the 2017 Roads Programme for the consideration of the Members.**

Two Motions of a similar nature were taken together next:

j) Cllr. J. Dolan:

“That this Municipal District establishes a pilot scheme for bicycle hire in Moate and seeks expressions of interest in the running of such a pilot scheme”

**Response: There is a growing need for services along the counties walkways and cycleways. One of these needs is in terms of bicycle hire and options in this regard are available in Mullingar, Athlone and Moate. The Council will investigate the possibility of providing a structure at Moate station from which bicycle repair and hire services might be provided.**

t) Cllr. P. Hogan:



“That Athlone Municipal District in association with the National Transport Authority consider the provision of a public bike share scheme akin to similar schemes rolled out by other Local Authorities for use on the Greenway”

**Response: There are leisure bicycle hire businesses in place in Mullingar, Athlone and Moate. The bicycle hire schemes in Dublin and Galway are designed to be used by people wish to travel a short distance within the city for meetings, lectures, or even to socialise. Such schemes require a substantial subsidy and require a large customer base to be in any way viable. The Council will make contact with Galway City Council regarding the scheme in operation there and will revert in due course.**

All the Members supported both Motions and welcomed the proposed liaising with Galway County Council. Cll. Keena added that there is a scheme in Clonakilty that is working very well and it was agreed that the District Manager would arrange an inspection trip to Clonakilty for the Members.

k) Cllr. J. Dolan:

“That this Municipal District erects crash barriers on the Athlone Road from Mount Temple before Flanagans”

**Response: The road at this location was formed by cutting into the hill on the opposite side with a very narrow verge on this side. This scenario is common throughout the District. The District Engineer is not aware of a high recorded accident history at this location but will check the records with Transportation Section. If there is an accident history, we will seek funding for a low cost safety scheme to carry out any works.**

m) Cllr. F. Keena:

“That Athlone Municipal District erect a memorial plaque in John Count McCormack Square in honour of those brave men of the A Company, 35th Battalion who took part in the siege of Jadotville in 1961 and to grant permission to the 2nd Infantry Battalion Association to hold a ceremony in this Square on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2017 at 1400 hrs to mark Jadotville Day”

**Response: A plaque can be erected if the Members so decide and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Battalion Association would be welcome to hold a ceremony on McCormack Square on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2017.**

It was agreed to erect a Plaque and grant permission for the ceremony in October.

n) Cllr. F. Keena:

“That Athlone Municipal District immediately writes to Minister Shane Ross and the management of Bus Eireann outlining deep concerns on the planned proposals to close the 021 Athlone - Westport Expressway Bus Route”

**Response: A letter can issue to Minister Ross if the Members so decide.**

It was agreed to write to the Minister.

o) Cllr. F. Keena:

“That Athlone Municipal District undertakes a streetscape plan / business study from Dunnes Stores in Irishtown to the Castlemaine Street Roundabout with the intention of enhancing this area for existing businesses and residents and to encourage new businesses to occupy any vacant units along these streets”

**Response: This can be considered in the context of the enhancement of Athlone Town Centre. However, the immediate priorities are the current scheme from Griffith Street to Custume Place and Phase II of this scheme from Griffith Street to Irishtown.**

While all agreed this area needs attention, the Director reiterated that finances will only allow the proposed enhancement works as advertised. The District Engineer advised the Members that the road surface and footpaths were renewed last year and the Council is doing what it can to assist the sale of the old shopping centre.

p) Cllr. A. O'Rourke:

"For this Municipal District to work with Athlone IT and Students Union to provide a new bus shelter on the R916 to the east of the college campus on the Garrycastle Road"

**Response: The provision of a bus shelter at the bus stop as it currently stands would not be appropriate. A new set back bus stop would have to be constructed to allow busses to pull in off the busy R916 before a shelter could be considered.**

The Members felt the College might allow buses onto the campus to use the existing bus shelter there and Cllr. O'Rourke undertook to arrange a meeting with the AIT, Bus Eireann and the Council.

q) Cllr. A. O'Rourke:

"For this Municipal District to consider implementing a new traffic light controlled junction to replace the roundabout at the Luan Gallery / Athlone Castle"

**Response: The provision of signals at this junction would have significant beneficial effects in terms of traffic management and safety. A design for such a scheme will be prepared. However, the signalisation of the Old Galway Road / Roscommon Road junction is considered to be a higher priority, should funding become available.**

r) Cllr. A. O'Rourke:

"For this Municipal District to write to Simon Coveney TD, Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government and to Minister of State for Housing, Damien English to express this District's strong view that the current criteria for qualification under the Tenant Purchase Scheme is unworkable and unreasonable and needs to be revised"

**Response: A letter can issue to Minister Coveney if the Members so decide.**

It was agreed to write to the Minister.

s) Cllr. P. Hogan:

"That Athlone Municipal District provide a cardboard recycling receptacle at all glass recycling units"

**Response: Cardboard recycling facilities at all bottle banks would be an uneconomic proposition, requiring expensive infrastructure (large receptacles, compactors, power etc.) and increased servicing costs.**

**Cardboard recycling facilities are widely available throughout the Athlone Municipal District with the availability of a blue bin service to each and every property. In addition, there are extensive recycling facilities provided at the Civic Amenity Centre at Golden Island, which is open 6 days per week.**

u) Cllr. P. Hogan:

"That the Members be updated on the Waterfront Strategy"

**Response: The Waterfront Strategy has been formally incorporated as part of the Athlone Town Plan 2014 – 2020 and to date the following measures have been progressed:**

- **A funding application has been made to Failte Ireland for a board walk at The Strand and a decision is awaited**

- **Proposals for a pedestrian and cycleway bridge across the Shannon have been subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment, which will be submitted to an Bord Pleanala**
- **The Council is at an advanced stage in terms of the acquisition of the Waterways Ireland shed at the docks, which will be demolished to open access to the River at this location.**
- **The extension to Burgess Park has been completed and Waterways Ireland are constructing a new landing area at this location**
- **Improvement works have been carried out to the canal**
- **Angling facilities are being provided at the Golden Mile in Ranelagh.**

Cllr. Hogan stressed the fact that we should improve on the facilities we already have.

### **A.O.B.**

The Civic Honours Sub-Committee had met and agreed to send a request to the CPG for an Address of Recognition to be granted to Moate Ballard Group who won an All Ireland Scor Competition.

It was proposed by Cllr. Dolan,

Seconded by Cllr. Farrell and resolved,

“We hereby approve of requesting the CPG to consider granting a Civic Honour to Moate Ballard Group on winning an All Ireland Competition in Scor”

Cllr. Farrell noted that there should not be a ban on children playing different sports

Cllr. Farrell asked that the phone system in the Civic Centre be upgraded to have an engaged tone when people are on the phone, rather than continuous ringing as is the case at the moment.

Cllr. O'Rourke asked if any progress has been made on the grouping of honours for all sporting achievements during each year and the District Manager advised that he has met with Hugh O'Reilly regarding protocol and he will report back to the April Meeting. Cllrs Farrell and O'Rourke had been to see the way the event is dealt with by Roscommon County Council and it was agreed to get together with the District Manager to discuss the format.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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**MAYOR**

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**DATE**