

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF SLIGO
HELD ON MONDAY 24TH APRIL, 2017 AT 10.00AM
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, QUAY STREET, SLIGO.**

COUNCILLORS PRESENT:

- Councillor Declan Bree
- Councillor Marie Casserly (Mayor)
- Councillor Thomas Healy
- Councillor Hubert Keaney
- Councillor Seamus Kilgannon
- Councillor Chris MacManus
- Councillor Tom MacSharry
- Councillor Sinead Maguire
- Councillor Gino O'Boyle
- Councillor Rosaleen O'Grady

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

- Mr. Ciarán Hayes, Chief Executive
- Mr. Tom Kilfeather, Director of Services
- Mr. Bartley Gavin, A/Director of Services
- Mr. Frank Moylan, Senior Executive Planner
- Mr. Brían Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer
- Mr. John Reilly, Head of Sligo LEO
- Ms. Sinéad Branley, Staff Officer

MAYOR:

The Mayor, Councillor Marie Casserly presided and welcomed all to the meeting.

At the outset Councillor O'Boyle proposed that the meeting be adjourned for a short period as a mark of respect to Sonny and Sean Harte who died tragically in a house fire over the weekend. This was seconded by Councillor Bree and agreed. The members present expressed their sympathies to the Harte family on the tragedy. The Mayor Councillor Casserly also proposed that a book of condolence be opened. This was agreed by the members.

**1. MINUTES OF MEETING OF
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF SLIGO
HELD ON 20TH FEBRUARY, 2017.**

Upon the resumption of the meeting it was:

**Proposed by Councillor S. Kilgannon
Seconded by Councillor D. Bree**

AND AGREED

"To confirm the minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Sligo held on 20th February, 2017."

2. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

**3. PROPOSAL FOR SURF CENTRE
IN STRANDHILL**

Mr. Bartley Gavin went through the proposal which had been circulated to the Members in advance of the meeting. The report outlined details of the proposed development including a new two storey surfing and community centre, changing facilities and a multipurpose space. Mr. Gavin stated that the purpose of the report was to outline to the Municipal District progress made by the Maritime Company and to describe property transactions which are intended to facilitate development by both the Maritime Company and Celtic Seabaths Ltd.

The proposed disposal of the Council's freehold interest and the proposed grant of a long term lease by the Council to the Maritime Company of the Four Winds Site can only progress if Sligo County Council approves of same in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act. The Chief Executive Mr. Hayes added that the matter will come before the full Council in due course for consideration.

The Mayor Councillor Casserly thanked Mr. Gavin for the comprehensive report and complimented the work of the community and executive in their work to date. She also took a moment to congratulate the organisers of the Shore Shots Surfing Conference which had been held in Sligo over the weekend. She then invited queries and comments from Members.

Councillor Bree as chair of the Maritime Company welcomed the report and acknowledged the work of the Maritime Company, local community in Strandhill and Executive of Sligo County Council. Councillors Maguire, MacSharry and O'Grady added their support and welcomed the provision of the facility in Strandhill. Councillor O'Grady also acknowledged the contribution of Mick McEnroe to the project. This was agreed by the members present.

4. LEO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS:

Mr. John Reilly Head of Sligo LEO updated the meeting regarding ongoing economic development proposals. This included updates on the following:

- USA (Rhode Island) Programme
- Building Block (formerly Waterfront House)
- LEAN Programme
- Free wi-fi for Sligo City
- Food Hub

The Mayor and members complimented Mr. Reilly and his team on the work and stated that it was a good example of how the Council can work with external agencies for the promotion of Sligo. Regarding US contacts, the members were in agreement that contact should be ongoing rather than on a once off basis in March each year.

At this point, the Mayor Councillor Casserly stated that Councillors Kilgannon, O'Grady and MacSharry had to leave early to attend a funeral and with the agreement of the meeting their motions and AOB would be taken first. This was agreed by the meeting.

With the agreement of the meeting items 12 and 20 were taken together.

12. MABS AND CITIZEN INFORMATION SERVICES:

**Proposed by Councillor S. Kilgannon
Seconded by Councillor T. MacSharry**

AND AGREED

AND

"The County Council calls on the Minister for Social Protection Mr Leo Varadkar to allow time for meaningful dialogue before reducing the number of Money Advise and Budgeting Service (MABS) centres and also the reduction of Citizens Information Service centres throughout the country".

20. CITIZEN INFORMATION SERVICES AND MONEY ADVISE AND BUDGETING SERVICES:

**Proposed by Councillor T. MacSharry
Seconded by Councillor S. Kilgannon**

AND AGREED

"That Sligo County Council calls on the Minister for Social Protection Leo Varadkar to immediately stop plans to regionalise Citizens Information Services and Money Advise and Budgeting Services and retain the County model which is run by local Boards of Management"

13. SPEED LIMIT EXTENSION ON ROAD NO. 3507:

**Proposed by Councillor S. Kilgannon
Seconded by Councillor T. MacSharry**

AND AGREED

"That Sligo County Council in the interest of road safety apply to have the 60 kilometres Speed limit extended on Road no 3507 through Woodville towards Knocknarea".

Mr. Brían Flynn advised the meeting that the speed limit at this location can be reviewed during the next county wide review of speed limits.

16. POST BOX IN FINISKLIN INDUSTRIAL PARK:

**Proposed by Councillor S. Kilgannon
Seconded by Councillor M. Casserly**

AND AGREED

"To ask Sligo County Council to request An Post in the interest of road safety to relocate the post box in the Finisklin Industrial Park".

Mr. Brían Flynn advised the meeting that he spoke with Councillor Kilgannon on the matter and the Council will liaise with An Post in the near future.

23. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Councillor O'Grady informed the meeting that the Purple Flag assessors visited Sligo over the Easter Bank Holiday weekend and thanked the Cathaoirleach Councillor Keaney and Mayor Councillor Casserly for being in attendance. A decision on whether Sligo would retain the Purple Flag would be forthcoming in due course. Councillor O'Grady complimented the Council and the Sligo BID team for the enormous work carried out around the town since the initial Purple Flag application two years ago.

At this point, Councillors Kilgannon, O'Grady and MacSharry left the meeting and Councillor Healy joined the meeting.

5. DERELICT HOUSE IN WOODBROOK HEIGHTS, BALLISODARE:

**Proposed by Councillor T. Healy
Seconded by Councillor M. Casserly**

AND AGREED

"To call on Sligo County Council to give a update report on a derelict

house in Woodbrook Heights, Ballisodare and ask that the council write to the owners to give a date and time when work is to commence on this house to address the concerns of residents in the estate”

Mr. Frank Moylan informed the meeting that the Council have ascertained the names of the owners of the house and a letter has issued requesting that works be carried out to address the derelict appearance of the property.

6. GLAS AND AEOS PAYMENTS TO SLIGO FARMERS

Proposed by Councillor T. Healy
Seconded by Councillor M. Casserly

AND AGREED

“I propose that Sligo County Council write to the Minister for Agriculture, Michael Creed T.D, to ensure that the remaining GLAS and AEOS payments due to Sligo farmers are released immediately. These vital payments were due last October however first instalments were only released in December.”

7. SWEEPING OF CYCLE LANES

Proposed by Councillor M. Casserly
Seconded by Councillor H. Keaney

AND AGREED

That Cycle Lanes in the Municipal District, particularly the Cycle lanes from Sligo Town to Rosses Point be swept, any minor road repairs to be carried out and branches cut back to ensure safe cycling along the route.

Mr. Brian Flynn advised the meeting that in advance of the Yeats Tour of Sligo any cycle lanes within the Sligo Municipal District and which form part of the cycle tour route will be swept and repaired. All other dedicated cycle lanes within the Municipal District will be swept in the coming 4 – 6 weeks. Minor road repairs and localised cutting back of branches will also be undertaken where necessary.

8. TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AT JUNCTION OF MAUGHERABOY ESTATE AND LYNDALE:

Proposed by Councillor C. MacManus
Seconded by Councillor T. Healy

AND AGREED

“That Sligo County Council prepares a report on traffic management re: access onto the Maugheraboy Road and parking at the junction entering Maugheraboy Estate & Lynndale adjacent to Maugheraboy Post Office”.

Mr. Brian Flynn informed the meeting that the Roads Department will undertake an assessment of this junction over the coming months and revert with road lining / signage proposals in due course.

9. ILLEGAL PARKING AT ENTRANCE TO KNOCKNAREA TRAIL IN STRANDHILL:

Proposed by Councillor C. MacManus
Seconded by Councillor S. Maguire

AND AGREED

“That Sligo County Council prepares a report on what steps it will take to prevent illicit vehicle parking on cycling lanes at the entrance to the Knocknarea Trail in Strandhill Village”.

Mr. Brian Flynn informed the meeting that the Council undertook work at this location in recent months in order to discourage the parking of vehicles on cycle lanes. Works included the provision of safe pedestrian crossing facilities and car parking on adjacent lands. The matter will be reviewed again in an effort to establish what further works can and should be carried out at this location.

10. PROVISION OF PORTABLE TOILET FACILITIES AT THE BACK AVENUE

**Proposed by Councillor C. MacManus
Seconded by Councillor M. Casserly**

AND AGREED

“That Sligo County Council gives consideration of the provision of portable toilet facilities at the ‘Back Avenue’ area used by water sports enthusiasts”.

Mr. Brian Flynn informed the meeting that the Parks Department are considering proposals for the provision of portable toilet facilities in and around the Cleveragh Regional Park Area. As part of this process, we will also assess the need for such facilities adjacent to the Jetty.

11. MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR OWENMORE RIVER:

With the agreement of the members Councillor Healy asked that this item be deferred as he had listed it for inclusion on the May Ordinary Council Meeting agenda. This was agreed.

14. HAP SCHEME:

**Proposed by Councillor G. O’ Boyle
Seconded by Councillor D. Bree**

AND AGREED

“Sligo County Council write to estate agents and auctioneers and seek clarification as to why some will not accept HAP schemes”

In response Mr. Bartley Gavin advised the meeting that he had spoken to members of the HAP team and to date; there has been no issue with Estates Agents and auctioneers who are not willing to sign into HAP agreements. From a general check of the HAP applications it would appear that Sligo County Council has received HAP applications from all of the landlords within the Sligo urban area and many more in the rural Sligo area.

15. NOTICE TO RESIDENTS REGARDING IRISH WATER WORKS:

**Proposed by Councillor G. O’ Boyle
Seconded by Councillor D. Bree**

AND AGREED

“Sligo County Council write to Irish Water and ask that residents be given sufficient notice regarding water being turned off”

Mr. Tom Kilfeather advised the meeting that the motion had been forwarded to Irish Water for comment. A response had been received, the details of which were as follows: "At present we receive notification of water works and outages from local water departments in each Local Authority which is then relayed to the public. Where possible, information relating to water outages and/or planned maintenance work is made available on www.water.ie/help-centre/service-updates/ and via www.twitter.com/irishwater. Irish Water also endeavour to notify customers using more traditional media such as newspaper and radio adverts. There may be times due to the nature of the work where Irish Water is unable to provide sufficient notification of a water outage, such as in the case of a burst mains. In all scenarios Irish Water will endeavour to have water supply returned as soon as feasibly possible. For planned water outages, direct notification is not made to businesses and homeowners and instead the channels of communication outlined previously are used. However, where an estimated outage is longer than 4 hours, Priority, or Vulnerable Customers who have registered with us will be directly contacted by Irish Water

**17. WORKS AT ROSSES POINT
PIER AND PONTOON:**

**Proposed by Councillor D. Bree
Seconded by Councillor O'Boyle**

AND AGREED

"That we be provided with a report (a) outlining when it is expected that a contractor will be appointed to carry out the works on the proposed Rosses Point Pier and Pontoon project; (b) when construction work is expected to commence on the project; and (c) when it is expected that the works will be completed."

Mr. T. Kilfeather advised the meeting that by correspondence sent 4th April, Sligo County Council have accepted the Grant offer of €111,750. The estimated cost of the project is €149,000 which taking account of the funding approved, will require matched funding from Sligo County Council of approximately €37,000. Contract documents and procurement will now be progressed. In the Council's correspondence of 4th April to DAFM it was indicated that it is expected to commence works on site in July with all works expected to be complete by early October.

18. STAFFING LEVELS:

**Proposed by the Councillor D. Bree
Seconded by Councillor G. O'Boyle**

AND AGREED

"That a report be provided indicating (a) the current staffing level in the Housing Department (b) the additional staff required and (c) the number of additional posts the Chief Executive has sought approval for".

In response Mr. Bartley Gavin informed the meeting that currently there is 43 staff in the housing section comprising 11 technical staff, 5 outdoor staff and 27 administrative staff with 7 staff in the Cranmore Regeneration Project. There is also a project working in Caltragh and Ballytivnan who is based in the Cranmore offices. Approval was

granted by the department for an additional 9 staff – 6 technical and 3 administrative. It is clear that there is insufficient staff in the Council, both in the administration and technical areas to deal with the ongoing work programmes. This applies to a number of Sections including the Housing Section. Indeed the members will be aware that the opening hours in that Section were reduced to try and deal with that very issue. Unfortunately the Council does not have the additional budgetary resources which are necessary to meet the salaries of additional staff. An application to the Department for additional staffing would not be approved unless the Council can indicate that it has the resources to fund same.

19. WATERMAIN AT DUCK STREET ROUNDABOUT:

Proposed by the Councillor G. O'Boyle
Seconded by Councillor T. Healy

AND AGREED

“Can Sligo County Council write to Irish Water and ask them to replace the 6in asbestos cement watermain at Duck Street roundabout to Beechwood court as there has been 16 bursts since last August”

Mr. Tom Kilfeather advised the meeting that the motion had been forwarded to Irish Water for comment. A response had been received, the details of which were as follows: “We have received an update from the relevant department advising tender documents are currently being prepared to replace this pipeline. Irish Water expect to have a contractor appointed later this year”.

21. REINSTATEMENT OF TELEPHONE ALLOWANCE TO OLD AGE PENSIONERS:

Proposed by the Councillor D. Bree
Seconded by Councillor G. O'Boyle

AND AGREED

“That we call on the Minister for Social Protection to reinstate the telephone allowance credit for Old Age Pensioner households which was abolished by government as part of its austerity programme in January 2014.”

22. CORRESPONDENCE

The Mayor Councillor Casserly advised the meeting that the correspondence items had already been covered under items 15 and 19 respectively.

23. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Councillor MacManus expressed his good wishes to Shauna Kelly, Strandhill Road who is taking part in BBC's Masterchef television series.

Councillor Keane expressed his congratulations to Barry Anderson who won the West of Ireland Amateur Open Championship in Rosses Point last weekend. He also expressed his congratulations to the Rosses Point Golf Club on hosting the event.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS:

At this point the Mayor Councillor Casserly suspended standing orders to deal with a motion from Councillor Bree. It was

Proposed by the Councillor D. Bree

Seconded by Councillor G. O'Boyle

AND AGREED

“Noting that a total of €1,040,000 grant aid (€800,000 from the Sports Capital Programme and €240,000 from RAPID funding) was provided to the Sisters of Mercy, Sligo for the provision of a gym and sports hall in the Mercy College; and noting that the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport entered into a Deed of Covenant with the Sisters of Mercy which requires that the facility be kept in sports use until 2023; this meeting requests the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport to take the necessary steps to ensure that his Department adheres to the Deed of Covenant and that his Department requests the Minister for Education to provide any additional educational resources required by the College”.

**23. ANY OTHER BUSINESS
CONTINUED:**

On resumption of the meeting, Councillors Healy and Casserly expressed their congratulations to Nicole Lenehan on winning the U18 World Championship in Irish dancing recently.

Councillor O'Boyle expressed his sympathy to the Harte family on the tragic loss in a house fire of Sonny and Sean Harte.

The Mayor Councillor Casserly invited those present to attend a reception for the Kempten students which was taking place in City Hall at 12.00pm.

The business of the meeting ended at 11.30am

Signed:

_____ **Date:** _____
Mayor

_____ **Date:** _____
Meetings Administrator