

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF SLIGO
HELD ON MONDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2018 AT 10.00 A.M.
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, QUAY STREET, SLIGO**

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Councillor Declan Bree
Councillor Marie Casserly
Councillor Hubert Keaney
Councillor Seamus Kilgannon
Councillor Chris MacManus
Councillor Gino O'Boyle
Councillor Rosaleen O'Grady (Mayor)

APOLOGIES: Councillor Sinéad Maguire

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE: Ms. Dorothy Clarke, Director of Services
Mr. Bartley Gavin, A/Director of Services
Mr. Tom Kilfeather, Director of Services
Ms. Marie Whelan, Head of Finance
Mr. Declan Noone, A/Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Clodagh Quinn, Staff Officer

MAYOR: The Mayor, Councillor Rosaleen O'Grady presided and welcomed all to the meeting.

It was agreed that Item Numbers 6, 11 & 18 be taken first to facilitate A/Director of Services, Mr. Bartley Gavin's attendance at another engagement.

**6. REPORT ON PROPERTIES IN
COUNCIL OWNERSHIP, RENTAL
DETAILS, ARREARS ETC.:**

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

AND AGREED

"That an up to date report be provided listing the properties in the ownership of the Council (other than local authority dwelling houses); the properties which are being rented/leased to third parties; details of the annual rental income on each of the said properties; and details of the arrears owing; if any; in respect of the said properties".

Details of (1) main list of properties (2) lands let for grazing and annual amounts and (3) lands leased, amounts and current standing of accounts were circulated to Members. Mr. Bartley Gavin, A/Director of Services cautioned Members that the details may not be completely comprehensive as although a great deal of assets have been added to an asset register (the basis of the report), there may still be some which have not been included such as recent roads CPOs etc.

**18. UPDATE ON PLAYGROUND
AREA IN CARTRON:**

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

"Can I receive an update for the Cartron Community Group regarding the playground area?"

Mr. Bartley Gavin, A/Director of Services advised that as the registered owner of the common area lands within Cartron estate is a dissolved company (Stapolin Investments (CI) Limited), the assets vest in the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform who may waive his interest in certain circumstances which is what is sought to be achieved. Mr. Gavin explained that the Chief State Solicitor's Office acts on the Minister's behalf and the approval of such a waiver involves extensive requirements. Preparation to fulfil such requirements is almost complete and papers will be re-submitted to the Chief State Solicitor's Office shortly. However, Mr. Gavin advised that it is difficult to predict whether additional information will be sought by the Office, the length of time it will take to receive a response and what the outcome is likely to be.

**11. TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT
LAYOUT AT MAUGHERABOY
ROAD/MAUGHERABOY ESTATE
JUNCTION**

**Proposed by Councillor C. MacManus
Seconded by Councillor R. O'Grady**

AND AGREED

"Welcoming the advancement to Stage 2 of the provision of 62 no. public housing units in the Maugheraboy area, can the Executive indicate if provision of suitable traffic management layout at the Maugheraboy Road/Maugheraboy Estate junction is part of the overall scheme; and further is the need for the provision of continuous access to a footpath from Beechlawn Court to the same junction now recognised?"

A/Director of Services, Mr. Bartley Gavin advised that the need for a traffic management layout of the junction will be assessed as part of the Part 8 planning process for the proposed development in consultation with the Council's Roads Department.

With regard to continuous access to a footpath, Mr. Gavin reported that this would necessitate the acquisition and demolition of an existing farm shed which is private property. It is not envisaged that works to this area will form part of the proposed housing development however the matter may be progressed following consideration by the Roads Department.

Councillor Chris MacManus welcomed the intended assessment of the aforementioned junction and asked that continuous access to a footpath be considered as there are residents in the area who are visually impaired.

**1. MINUTES OF MEETING OF
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF SLIGO
HELD ON 15th OCTOBER 2018:**

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

AND AGREED

"That the following amendment would be made to the Minutes of the Sligo Municipal District Meeting held on 15th October 2018 furnished to Members:

- (a) That 'Note 1' included with the report at Item No. 28 which read 'Previously Traffic Wardens decided on appeals, however since 2017 all appeals are dealt with by the Administrative Staff in Finance and are not dealt with by the Wardens – the admin staff would, where necessary, ask the Wardens for a report/comments on appeals/fines' be deleted as this was not verbally reported at the meeting.

On the correction of the above item, the Members then agreed

"To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Sligo held on 15th October 2018."

**2. MINUTES OF MEETING OF
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF SLIGO
HELD ON 12th NOVEMBER 2018:**

**Proposed by Councillor D. Bree
Seconded by Councillor C. MacManus**

AND AGREED

"That the Minutes of the Meeting of 12th November 2018 be deferred until the next Municipal District meeting".

3. MATTERS ARISING:

There were no further matters arising.

**4. 2019 INVESTMENT &
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS:**

As the Chief Executive was unable to attend the meeting, it was agreed that this Item be deferred to the January Ordinary Council meeting.

**5. PROPOSAL FOR SLIGO TO
BECOME A BREASTFEEDING
FRIENDLY CITY:**

This Item was deferred.

**7. CALL TO RINGFENCE REVENUE
FROM SUGAR SWEETENED
DRINK TAX:**

**Proposed by Councillor S. Kilgannon
Seconded by Councillor H. Keaney**

AND AGREED

"Sligo County Council calls on the Department of Finance to ring fence the revenue from the Sugar Sweetened Drink Tax to reinvest in children's health and health promotion activities".

**8. UPDATE ON UPGRADING OF
FOOTPATHS & ROADS AT
RATHEDMOND:**

**Proposed by Councillor S. Kilgannon
Seconded by Councillor R. O'Grady**

AND AGREED

“To request an update on upgrading of footpaths and roads at Rathedmond, Sligo”.

Mr. Declan Noone, A/Senior Executive Engineer informed Members that as previously advised, the Roads Dept. are awaiting the introduction of an IPB/RMO footpath condition app. Once the app is introduced, it is proposed that a full footpath condition survey will be undertaken within the urban area which will assist in identifying and quantifying the extent of remedial works required on footpaths and the location of same. Mr. Noone advised that in the interim, footpaths within Rathedmond Estate will be reviewed and should any defective sections be identified, these can be considered for repair in the context of the 2019 Roadworks Programme. Mr. Noone concluded by advising that there are no proposals for upgrading roads within Rathedmond Estate over and above routine maintenance works.

Councillor Seamus Kilgannon highlighted that one area which is in need of repair is the entrance to the Estate from the Finisklin side and asked if attention could be given to same.

9. UPDATE ON CARNEY BRIDGE RESTORATION PLAN:

**Proposed by Councillor S. Kilgannon
Seconded by Councillor H. Keane**

AND AGREED

“To request a report on the Carney Bridge Restoration Plan”.

Mr. Declan Noone, A/Senior Executive Engineer reported that the Roads Dept. are satisfied that the bridge is structurally sound however the upstream riverbank has been compromised somewhat over the years. In the longer term, it is considered that protection in the form of a retaining wall and/or gabion baskets will be provided along a portion of the upstream river bank adjacent to the L-3305 Drumcliffe to Carney road and subject to resources over the coming months, designs will be advanced for consultation purposes with the local Carney Bridge Restoration Group and agencies including Inland Fisheries Ireland. Mr. Noone advised that a preliminary cost estimate will be prepared and sources of funding explored but warned that given its proximity to the watercourse, there will be limitations to when works can be undertaken.

10. CALL ON TESCO MANAGEMENT TO ABIDE BY COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS ENTERED INTO WITH THE WORKERS TRADE UNION:

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

AND AGREED

“Noting that Tesco is refusing to abide by collective agreements made between the company and its workers through their representatives Mandate Trade Union;

And further noting that Tesco:
has refused to engage on workers’ pay and conditions of employment;
has victimised workers for protecting their working conditions;

has removed workers canteens and break facilities;
has refused their longest serving workers pay increases;
has refused to accept their workers right to be collectively represented by their trade union;

And recognising that the refusal by Tesco management to engage with the workers representatives can only be considered as a denial of the workers fundamental human rights;

And further noting that Tesco is one of Ireland's most profitable retailers generating more than €250 million in profits per year from the Irish business alone,

This Council calls on Tesco management to respect the right of their workers to trade union representation and we call on Tesco management to abide by all of the collective agreements they entered into with the workers trade union".

**12. CREDIT/DEBIT CARD FACILITY
ON NEW PARKING METERS:**

**Proposed by Councillor C. MacManus
Seconded by Councillor G. O'Boyle**

AND AGREED

"To ask as to how many of the new parking meters in the Borough area cannot currently accept payment by credit/debit card such as swipe and chip etc. and to ask is such an upgrade easily installed?"

Ms. Marie Whelan, Head of Finance, stated that out of the 60 no. new pay and display machines that were installed in October 2018, 34 no. have a facility for card payment with these machines situated in the public car-parks and at the busiest on-street parking areas. Ms. Whelan advised that 92% of annual parking revenue is generated at these 34 no. locations meaning that the vast majority of transactions are catered for by a card payment option.

She explained that due to the significant additional cost of machines with a card payment facility, at present these cannot be justified in locations which have lower transaction volumes. However, at any stage, equipment with the card facility can be relocated if warranted and individual machines can be upgraded if financially viable to do so. In addition, customers can avail of the Parking Tag payment option as well as payment by text, phone, online or via a Payzone outlet.

Ms. Whelan concluded by advising that the income for paid parking in November 2018 was €122,305 (an increase of 5% on the same period in 2017) with 6% of the revenue paid via card payment at machines and 2% via parking tag. The uptake of non-coin payments will be monitored regularly and should customer preferences change to predominantly non-coin payments, the remainder of the locations can be reviewed.

**13. UPDATE ON THE PROVISION
OF A CENTRAL LIBRARY IN SLIGO
CITY:**

**Proposed by Councillor C. MacManus
Seconded by Councillor G. O'Boyle**

AND AGREED

"To ask for an update on the provision of a Central Library in Sligo City".

Ms. Dorothy Clarke, Director of Services informed Members that the Council, in partnership with Sligo I.T. submitted a “Category B” application under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) for the Sligo Learning and Ideas Generation Centre. A state of the art Central Library for Sligo City is included in said application.

The application outlines a proposed timeline as follows should it be successful:

Phase 1 (2019) – generation of complete Capital Masterplan, Feasibility Study and Business Plan for the facility.

Phase 2 (2020-2022) – detailed project work including final design, planning, tendering process and construction.

Ms. Clarke advised that the application indicated that it is the intention that the library will be open to the public in April 2022. A decision on the application is due in the new year.

14. APPLICATION UNDER LOW COST ACCIDENT SCHEME 2019 – KNOCKBEG/COLLOONEY ROAD:

This Item was deferred.

15. REPORT ON ACTION TAKEN ON BALANCE OF TRAFFIC FINES ISSUED IN 2016 :

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

AND AGREED

"Noting that:

5,948 parking tickets were issued in 2016,
3,844 of these fines were paid,
0,591 of these were successfully appealed,
0,387 summonses were generated,

To ask the Chief Executive what action did the Council take in regard to the balance of 1,126 fines which were issued and further to ask how many of the 387 summonses which were generated were successfully prosecuted in the courts?”.

Ms. Marie Whelan, Head of Finance, explained the breakdown of 1,126 unpaid fines as follows:

Voided by Traffic Wardens due to errors etc	634
Non-Irish registration which were followed up by Euro Parking Collection	273

The remainder of 219 no. are fines that are not appealed but may contain errors regarding car registration etc and therefore do not allow the Vehicle Registration Unit (VRU) to return the owner details so they are unable to be pursued. Some are test tickets issued by the wardens or are fines issued with error registrations, locations etc and may be re-issued. These are picked up as part of a review by the admin staff of fines that have not been paid nor appealed and where no name and address has been received from the VRU and therefore they are unable to be pursued.

Regarding the 387 no. of summonses generated, Ms. Whelan advised as follows:

Paid to date	91
No. of summonses struck out by the Court	7
No. of summonses being pursued through substituted service as summonses served by registered post were returned/rejected	188
No. of summonses that have been fined in Court that are awaiting payment from the Courts Service	90
No. of summonses that were cancelled before Court	11

**16. PROVISION OF BUS SHELTER
IN VICINITY OF CLEVERAGH
INDUSTRIAL ESTATE & DOORLY
PARK:**

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

AND AGREED

“That Sligo County Council write to Bus Éireann requesting that a bus shelter be fitted close to Cleveragh Industrial Estate and Doorly Park”.

Mr. Declan Noone, A/Senior Executive Engineer informed the meeting that the provision of bus shelters falls within the remit of the National Transport Authority who at the present time are undertaking a review of bus stops and bus stop infrastructure on the S1 and S2 bus routes through Sligo. Mr. Noone advised that the Council will write to the Authority requesting that consideration be given to the provision of a bus shelter at this location.

**17. UPDATE REPORT ON
O’CONNELL STREET WORKS:**

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

AND AGREED

"That an up to date report be provided indicating (a) when consultations will commence with the O’Connell Street traders in respect of the refurbishment of the street (b) when work will commence on the project (c) when the refurbishment work is expected to be completed?”.

In reply to the queries posed, Director of Services, Mr. Tom Kilfeather reported as follows:

- (a) The consultation process has been ongoing throughout the design phase of the scheme. A meeting was held on 31st May 2018 in City Hall where the scheme was presented to business owners/occupiers of the street. Subsequently, monthly progress reports have issued to business owners detailing the status and stage of the scheme. Further meetings may be necessary to outline the phasing and programme for completion and such meetings will be scheduled in due course.
- (b) It is envisaged that the contract for the works will be signed in January 2019. The contractor is then obliged to submit a full programme of works for completion of the scheme.
- (c) The contract is scheduled to take 10 no. months.

19. CORRESPONDENCE:

Noted.

20. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Councillor Marie Casserly proposed a vote of congratulations to Mona McSharry on her recent achievements in swimming. The vote was seconded by Councillor Seamus Kilgannon.

The Mayor, Councillor Rosaleen O'Grady wished all present a happy and peaceful Christmas.

The business of the meeting concluded at 11 a.m.

Mayor

Date: _____

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____