

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF SLIGO
HELD ON MONDAY 21ST MAY 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 (Mayor)
- Councillor Seamus Kilgannon
- Councillor Chris MacManus
- Councillor Sinéad Maguire
- Councillor Gino O'Boyle

APOLOGIES:

- Councillor Thomas Healy
- Councillor Tom MacSharry
- Councillor Rosaleen O'Grady

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

- Mr. Ciarán Hayes, Chief Executive
- Ms. Dorothy Clarke, Director of Services
- Mr. Tom Kilfeather, Director of Services
- Ms. Marie Whelan, Head of Finance
- Mr. Joe Murphy, Senior Executive Officer
- Ms. Emer Concannon, Senior Engineer
- Mr. Brían Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer
- Mr. Gary Salter, Senior Executive Engineer
- Ms. Caroline Conmy, IS Project Leader
- Mr. Seán Martin, A/Senior Architect
- Mr. Frank Moylan, Senior Planner
- Mr. Stephen Ward, A/Senior Executive Planner
- Ms. Leonora McConville, Executive Planner
- Ms. Martina Casey, A/Administrative Officer
- Ms. Clodagh Quinn, Staff Officer

MAYOR:

The Mayor, Councillor Hubert Keaney presided and welcomed all to the meeting.

**1. MINUTES OF MEETING OF
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF SLIGO
HELD ON 26TH MARCH 2018:**

**Proposed by Councillor S. Kilgannon
Seconded by Councillor G. O'Boyle**

AND AGREED

“To confirm the minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Sligo held on 26th March 2018.”

2. MATTERS ARISING:

Councillor Chris MacManus queried whether businesses in the vicinity of the riverbank were contacted regarding the litter problem in the area. In response, Director of Services, Mr. Tom Kilfeather stated he would revert to Councillor MacManus on the issue.

Councillor Declan Bree sought an update regarding a commencement date for the O'Connell Street improvement works. Director of Services, Mr. Tom Kilfeather informed the meeting that proposals for works are currently being revised due to the development of a public realm plan for the city area but informed Councillor Bree that a meeting with the

O'Connell Street traders has been arranged for 31st May 2018. News of the meeting was welcomed by Councillor Bree.

3. PRESENTATION BY BUILDING DESIGN PARTNERSHIP ON THE PUBLIC REALM PLAN FOR SLIGO CITY:

To facilitate the travel arrangements of Building Design Partnership, it was agreed that the Item be deferred until a later point in the meeting.

4. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT 2018 SCC PARKING PLACES BYE-LAWS, 2018 SCC BUS & COACH PARK BYE-LAWS & 2018 SCC CAR PARKING BYE-LAWS:

Ms. Marie Whelan, Head of Finance, introduced the Item and took the Members through the proposed changes to the bye-laws, parking charges and pay and display areas along with other amendments which had been previously circulated. Ms. Whelan advised the meeting that a contract for new parking meter machines is expected to be signed in June and in future, parking charges will be able to be paid by many other options.

Ms. Whelan then handed the Item over to Mr. Brian Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer who discussed the issue of parking management in the city area. Mr. Flynn explained that 69% of the parking spaces in the city are managed by the public sector with the remaining 31% by the private sector and with the aid of a presentation, indicated to Members the number of parking spaces (3,217) which are located within 500 metres of the Lady Erin statue, the centre point of the city. Mr. Flynn also informed the meeting that in the near future it is intended to consider the installation of a barrier system at Connaughton Road car-park before going on to outline the improvements proposed for Wine Street car-park.

The Members thanked Ms. Whelan and Mr. Flynn for their reports and in particular, welcomed the proposed increase in the number of disabled parking bays in the city area. In reply to specific queries from Members, Ms. Whelan and Mr. Flynn reported as follows:

- The period for receipt of submissions on the draft bye-laws will run from 25th June to 9th July – both dates inclusive. A report on any submissions received will be brought before Members at the July meeting of Sligo Municipal District.
- New bye-laws envisaged to be introduced by Autumn 2018.
- Contracts for new parking meter machines to be signed shortly with the implementation phase to be completed within 12 -14 weeks.
- Traffic wardens apply a common sense approach to a grace period following the lapse of a parking ticket.
- Fines for parking in disabled parking bays are set nationally and traffic wardens adopt a “zero tolerance” policy for abuse of said bays.
- The app being developed to facilitate the payment of parking charges will be made as easy as possible for all users.

Councillor Declan Bree then queried whether spaces in the vicinity of the Garda Station had been earmarked by Garda personnel. Mr. Brian

Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer stated that as well as the provision of additional parking for official Garda vehicles, set-down areas have been provided for the Mercy primary school and the adjacent crèche as well as provision for a Bus Éireann bus-stop. Mr. Tom Kilfeather, Director of Services assured Councillor Bree that the area would be kept under review.

As the Chief Executive had to leave at this point to attend another engagement, he informed Councillor Seamus Kilgannon that in relation to Item No. 9 on the Agenda, a meeting had been arranged with Irish Rail on 24th May 2018 to discuss the car-parking issue at Sligo Rail Station.

**5. ENGAGEMENT WITH BUS
ÉIREANN RE: INCLUSION OF
DAILY MAUGHERABOY ROUTE:**

**Proposed by Councillor S. Maguire
Seconded by Councillor S. Kilgannon**

AND AGREED

“Further to my previous motion that this Council will engage with Bus Éireann with a view to having the old route through Maugheraboy added to the daily schedule morning and evening to facilitate the large number of residents of that area”.

Mr. Brían Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer, reported that the Roads Dept. are liaising with the National Transport Authority (NTA) regarding proposals for the upgrading of existing bus stops within the urban area and the inclusion of the Maugheraboy area can be discussed with them at the next meeting (date to be arranged). In the meantime, Mr. Flynn stated that the Roads Dept. will write to the NTA to inform them that the matter has been raised by Members.

Following a suggestion from Councillor Kilgannon to include the Rathedmond area, Mr. Flynn agreed to raise this with the NTA also.

**6. RE-PAVEMENT OF CAR-PARK
AREA AT CULLEENAMORE
BEACH:**

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

AND AGREED

“The Council will undertake work at Culleenamore beach to repave the carpark area which has been badly damaged in recent storms and is in disrepair”.

Mr. Brían Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer, stated that the Council will undertake necessary repairs to the roadway leading to the beach. However, as the area used for parking falls within the Ballisodare Special Area of Conservation (SAC), the Council are not permitted to undertake any works within the area without the prior approval of the National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS).

In response to a query from Councillor Maguire regarding what works could be undertaken without application to the NPWS, Mr. Flynn undertook to engage with them but stated that the area was never constructed as a car-park and warned that approval to carry out any works will be difficult to achieve due to the proximity to the SAC.

7. SURVEY AT JUNCTION OF CLEVERAGH ROAD AND PEARSE ROAD:

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

AND AGREED

“The engineering department will conduct a survey to establish whether traffic lights or a roundabout should be installed at the junction of Cleveragh Road and Pearse Road given the increase in traffic on the route and the tailbacks that occur there each morning”.

Mr. Brían Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer, reported that the junction was assessed towards the latter part of 2016 and at that time, it was considered to be functioning adequately as the build up of traffic was infrequent and time delays were minimal. However, Mr. Flynn promised that a further review will be undertaken over the coming months subject to resources.

As the consultants from Building Design Partnership had arrived at the meeting, Item No. 3 was taken at this point.

3. PRESENTATION BY BUILDING DESIGN PARTNERSHIP ON THE PUBLIC REALM PLAN FOR SLIGO CITY:

Ms. Dorothy Clarke, Director of Services introduced the Building Design Partnership (BDP) consultants to the Members and gave a background to the project explaining that one of the objectives of the Sligo County Development Plan 2017-2023 is the implementation of a Public Realm Strategy to enhance Sligo city centre and its public image to attract investment etc.

Ms. Clarke then handed the Item over to Mr. Mehron Kirk (BDP) who outlined in detail the Public Realm Action Plan which was circulated to Members. The Plan detailed proposals for different areas of the city centre including O’Connell Street, Rockwood Parade, Market Cross, Quay Street, Stephen Street and the Cultural Plaza. It also outlined the methodology of the Action Plan and the value attributed to same, along with emerging actions and next steps.

The Members thanked Mr. Kirk for his presentation and welcomed the projects contained therein. The Mayor then opened the floor to questions.

In reply to a specific query regarding the pedestrianisation of O’Connell Street, Mr. Kirk stated that in his opinion the street should be trafficked but the street design should be flexible enough to allow for pedestrianisation in future if required.

In conclusion, A/Senior Planner, Mr. Frank Moylan advised the meeting that when the Plan is complete it will come back to the Municipal District Members for consideration but adoption of the Plan will be in conjunction with the adoption of the Sligo & Environs Local Area Plan.

8. PROVISION OF RECYCLING FACILITIES IN CLIFFONEY:

**Proposed by Councillor M. Casserly
Seconded by Councillor G. O’Boyle**

AND AGREED

"That the Environment Section of Sligo County Council explore the

possibility of having recycling facilities located in the village of Cliffoney”.

On behalf of Mr. Brían Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. Tom Kilfeather, Director of Services reported that bottle bank facilities located close to Cliffoney village include Grange and Ballinrillick, however investigation of a bottle bank site in Cliffoney will be explored towards the end of 2018. If agreement is reached on a location by the Area Office and the local community, every effort will be made by the Council to include the cost of installation in the budget for 2019.

**9. REQUEST FOR PROGRESS
REPORT ON MEETINGS WITH
IRISH RAIL RE: CAR PARKING AT
SLIGO RAIL STATION:**

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

AND AGREED

“To ask Sligo County Council for a progress report on meetings with Irish Rail on the much needed car parking at Sligo rail station”.

Councillor Seamus Kilgannon welcomed the aforementioned meeting arranged by the Chief Executive with Irish Rail to discuss the matter.

**10. IMPROVEMENT WORKS TO
SPEED RAMPS AT
RATHEDMOND:**

**Proposed by Councillor S. Kilgannon
Seconded by Councillor G. O’Boyle**

AND AGREED

“To request the Roads Department of Sligo County Council to carry out improvement works to the speed ramps at Rathedmond so that they comply with today’s regulations for speed ramps”.

Mr. Brían Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer, stated that the Roads Dept. will shortly commence the process of reviewing all speed ramps, speed cushions and vertical deflections throughout the urban area with a view to preparing a schedule of repair/replacement of ramps as deemed necessary. The ramps at Rathedmond will be included as part of the survey and upgrade/repair works will be prioritised on the basis of safety and traffic volumes.

**11. TRAFFIC CALMING ON
REGIONAL ROAD 286 ALONG
CALRY/ST. JOSEPH’S
COMMUNITY PARK:**

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

AND AGREED

“To request Sligo County Council, in the interest of road safety, to install traffic calming on Regional Road 286 along Calry/St. Joseph’s Community Park”.

Mr. Brían Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer, stated that it is proposed to refer the matter to the Council’s Road Design Dept. for consideration under the Low Cost Safety Scheme proposals for 2018.

**12. UPDATE ON PILOT SCHEME
IN CRANMORE DRIVE, PLACE &
VILLAS:**

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

AND AGREED

“To ask for an update on the pilot scheme in Cranmore Drive, Place and Villas specifically in regards to when substantive works will begin in both Council and private owned houses”.

On behalf of Mr. Míceál McGinty, Senior Executive Architect, Mr. Seán Martin, A/Senior Architect reported as follows:

Tenders to procure suitably qualified consultants have been advertised with responses due back on 25th May 2018 with works envisaged to commence on site in January 2019 (extensive surveys to be carried out to each individual house in the pilot area will commence in August 2018).

To ensure the pilot project is delivered in a meaningful and cost-effective manner, the decanting of tenants is reliant upon the delivery of the Voids programme 2017 which is currently under review with the Department for approval.

It is planned to have an information day on 31st May 2018 in the Abbeyquarter Community Centre to update the community on progress regarding the planned new Centre, Devins Drive improvements and the steps to be taken with regard access to homes in the area for the aforementioned surveys to be carried out.

13. TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AT JUNCTION OF MAUGHERABOY ESTATE ONTO MAUGHERABOY ROAD:

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

AND AGREED

“To ask for a report on what, if any, proposals there are to address the continued issues of traffic management at the junction of Maugheraboy Estate onto the Maugheraboy Road”.

Mr. Brían Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer, advised the meeting that significant works were carried out at this junction circa 2011. The works included the provision of a controlled pedestrian crossing and the erection of pedestrian barriers along the footpaths adjacent to the junction. Mr. Flynn stated that with the exception of some very minor works to eliminate parking on green areas at the entrance to Maugheraboy Estate, there are no further proposals for this junction presently and any proposals for junction alterations are only likely to be brought about in the context of future developments in the area.

14. UPDATE ON TAKING IN CHARGE OF DORRINS STRAND, STRANDHILL:

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

AND AGREED

“To ask for an update on the taking in charge of Dorrins Strand, Strandhill considering that this Council sought tenders in June ’17 to carry out repairs to the roads and services, with a view to recommend the taking in charge of the estate at the end of 2017”.

On behalf of Director of Services, Ms. Dorothy Clarke, Senior Planner,

Mr. Frank Moylan reported that the only outstanding issue remaining is the infiltration of storm water/surface water into the foul sewer network which the Council are currently investigating and when rectified, will be able to commence the process of taking in charge. Mr. Moylan added that due to the rainfall overnight, Council personnel should be on site in a number of days to deal with the issue.

**15. SAFETY PROPOSALS FOR
ROGER EAMES
ROAD/STRANDHILL ROAD/FIRST
SEA ROAD JUNCTION:**

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

AND AGREED

"To ask the Chief Executive to provide a report indicating the Council's proposals to improve safety at the Roger Eames Road/Strandhill Road/First Sea Road junction".

Mr. Brian Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer, informed the meeting that the junction of Roger Eames Road and the Strandhill Road is being reviewed in conjunction with the ongoing design of the Western Distributor Road.

In reply to a query regarding a timescale, Mr. Flynn undertook to provide same at the next meeting.

**16. DEVELOPMENT OF
FAIRGREEN RECREATIONAL
PARK:**

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

AND AGREED

"To ask the Chief Executive when it is expected that the next phase of the development of the Fairgreen Recreational Park will commence, particularly with regard to the provision of pedestrian and cycle ways within the park; and to ask if there has been any indication if funding under the Sports Capital Programme or other sources will be made available for the project".

Mr. Brian Flynn advised that notification of the Sport Capital Grant for 2019 is awaited and it is the Council's intention to once again submit an application for funding under the Scheme in respect of the Fairgreen Recreational Park to enable the Council to progress further elements of the development.

**17. PROGRESS REPORT ON
REFURBISHMENT AND LEASING
OF GATE LODGE AT DOORLY
PARK:**

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

AND AGREED

"That a progress report be provided in regard to the refurbishment and leasing of the Gate Lodge at Doorly Park for tourism and community purposes".

On behalf of Mr. Bartley Gavin, A/Director of Services, Mr. Seán Martin, A/Senior Architect updated the meeting as follows:

In 2017 funding in the amount of €30,000 was secured from the Dept. of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht under the Structures at Risk Fund

which was primarily for works on the roof structure. An application in 2018 for further funding under this category was not successful.

In March 2018, the Council made an application to the Dept. of Housing, Planning & Local Govt. under the Cranmore Regeneration Programme for additional funding for the project and €25,000 was approved on 30th April 2018. Further funding has been confirmed by Sligo Tourist Development Association (STDA) from Fáilte Ireland in the amount of €70,000.

A schedule of works is now being completed to address the refurbishment of the lodge together with the provision of an extension to house new toilet facilities. The works are subject to a Part 8 planning process which is currently in the public notice phase with the closing date for submissions being 25th May 2018. The Chief Executive's Report is due before Members for consideration at the June Council meeting.

Mr. Martin further advised that at the February meeting of the Council, it was resolved to provide a lease to STDA who are the applicant to Fáilte Ireland and the Council are currently awaiting the return of said signed lease. It is envisaged that the Council will be a co-signatory to any offer of funding from Fáilte Ireland.

In conclusion, Mr. Martin stated that tender documentation is progressing in relation to the provision of the pontoon which will be located opposite the Gate Lodge and STDA are procuring that documentation.

**18. REPEALING OF THE 8TH
AMENDMENT:**

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

AND AGREED

"Sligo Municipal Council supports repealing the 8th amendment".

A discussion followed with some Members questioning the appropriateness of the inclusion of the issue on the Agenda. Councillor O'Boyle then requested a vote be taken which resulted as follows:

FOR: Councillor Bree, Councillor Maguire, Councillor MacManus and Councillor O'Boyle (4)

AGAINST: Councillor Kilgannon (1)

ABSTAINED: Councillor Casserly and Councillor Keaney (2)

The Mayor deemed the motion carried.

**19. RAT EPIDEMIC IN LOCAL
ESTATES AND DERELICT HOUSES:**

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

AND AGREED

"Can Sligo County Council do anything about the rat epidemic in local estates and derelict houses?"

On behalf of Mr. Brian Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer, Director of Services, Mr. Tom Kilfeather reported that complaints received from

the public regarding rodent problems in estates and derelict houses are referred to Environmental Health but added that if the problem is linked in any way to storage of domestic waste, the Council's Waste Enforcement Officers can investigate further to ensure compliance of households with waste legislation.

In reply to a query from Councillor O'Boyle regarding any measures that can be taken in relation to specific houses, Mr. Kilfeather advised that if details of specific addresses are provided, the Council will follow up with the HSE on same.

**20. IMPROVEMENT OF SAFETY
AT SLIPWAY ONTO SECOND
BEACH AT ROSSES POINT:**

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

AND AGREED

"That Sligo County Council address the issue of improving safety at the slipway onto the second beach at Rosses Point. There is a steep drop on to the beach itself. This can be hazardous for parents with children in buggies and indeed for older people and those with physical disabilities".

Mr. Brían Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer, informed the meeting that the area will be inspected over the coming weeks to establish the extent of works required in order to address safety concerns around accessing the second beach and a funding source will then have to be identified for any works required.

At this point, Mr. Brían Flynn clarified that the notification of the Sport Capital Grant referred to under Item No. 16 should refer to 2018 and not 2019 as previously stated.

**21. UPDATE ON APPOINTMENT
OF OUTDOOR STAFF:**

**Proposed by Councillor M. Casserly
Seconded by Councillor G. O'Boyle**

AND AGREED

"To receive an update on the appointment of new outdoor staff in the area".

On behalf of Mr. Brían Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer, Director of Services, Mr. Tom Kilfeather, Director of Services, reported that a panel has been formed from which the filling of General Operative vacancies over a 2 year period is intended. He went on to explain that the Council has received sanctions from the Dept. which allowed the permanent filling of 12 no. positions which represent the shortfall in current outdoor staff numbers versus the position pertaining at 31st December 2016. (It is the view of the Council that staff numbers as at this date represent the minimum staffing complement required to deliver services).

Mr. Kilfeather advised that contracts have been offered in respect of the 12 no. approved positions with the first 6 no. candidates commencing employment on 16th May 2018 and the remaining 6 no. to

be in place by 12th June 2018.

In conclusion, Mr. Kilfeather added that it is envisaged that the 12 no. additional staff will be divided equally among the 2 no. Municipal Districts.

22. CORRESPONDENCE:

Noted.

23. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

The issue of traveller representatives resigning from the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee was raised by Members who expressed their disappointment at the move and appealed to the Executive and representatives to reach agreement on the matter.

The Members agreed a vote of sympathy should be sent to the family of the late Bishop Christopher Jones who passed away in recent days.

The business of the meeting concluded at 12.55 p.m.

Signed:

Mayor

Date: _____

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____