

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF SLIGO
HELD ON MONDAY 26TH MARCH 2018 AT 10.00 A.M.
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, QUAY STREET, SLIGO**

COUNCILLORS PRESENT:

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

APOLOGIES:

- Councillor Sinead Maguire
- Councillor Rosaleen O'Grady

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

- Mr. Ciarán Hayes, Chief Executive
- Mr. Tom Kilfeather, Director of Services
- Mr. Joe Murphy, Senior Executive Officer
- Mr. Brian Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer
- Mr. Frank Moylan, Senior Planner
- Mr. Stephen Ward, A/Senior Executive Planner
- Ms. Mairead O'Hara, Executive Planner
- Ms. Clodagh Quinn, Staff Officer

MAYOR:

The Mayor, Councillor Hubert Keaney presided, welcomed all to the meeting and congratulated Councillor O'Boyle on his recent marriage and wished the couple well for the future.

**1. MINUTES OF MEETING OF
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF SLIGO
HELD ON 22ND JANUARY 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 22nd January 2018."

**2. MINUTES OF MEETING OF
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF SLIGO
HELD ON 19TH FEBRUARY 2018
TO APPROVE THE SCHEDULE OF
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WORKS
2018:**

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

AND AGREED

"To confirm the minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Sligo held on 19th February 2018 to approve the Schedule of Municipal District Works 2018 – including Roads, Transportation & Infrastructure".

3. MATTERS ARISING:

Councillor Declan Bree sought an update on the situation with the premises at 39 High Street. Mr. Brian Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer confirmed that the receiver had appointed a Conservation Specialist who had inspected the building and submitted a draft report on their findings to the receiver. Mr. Flynn stated that it was hoped the said report would be furnished to the Council within the next fortnight.

4. REPORT ON PRE-DRAFT SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED IN CONNECTION WITH THE PREPERATION OF THE DRAFT SLIGO CITY LOCAL AREA PLAN:

Mr. Stephen Ward, A/Senior Executive Planner took the Members through the report advising that a total of 62 no. submissions were received (8 no. after 30th January 2018). Mr. Ward stated that the main issues raised in the submissions related to (1) the Public Realm (2) the Docklands and (3) requests to re-zone lands for residential/mixed uses. Mr. Ward advised that the Draft Sligo City Local Area Plan will continue to be prepared taking into account the submissions received, the implications of the National Planning Framework, the emerging draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and other relevant plans and programmes that must be adhered to. The Draft Local Area Plan will be circulated to Members in advance of its publication which is estimated at summer 2018.

5. INSTALLATION OF SCHOOL WARNING SIGNS EITHER SIDE OF CLIFFONEY VILLAGE:

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

AND AGREED

“That Sligo County Council apply for funding to TII to install flashing school warning signs either side of Cliffoney village to provide a highly visible means of alerting motorists as to the presence of a school taking caution with their speed”.

Mr. Brían Flynn informed the meeting that a traffic survey will be undertaken through the village of Cliffoney in the coming months with the results determining the need for additional traffic calming measures such as school flashing lights, at which stage the matter will be referred to the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Regional Safety Inspector for consideration.

6. FUNDING FOR IMPROVEMENT WORKS TO FOOTPATHS AND ROAD MARKINGS IN GRANGE VILLAGE:

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

AND AGREED

“That Sligo County Council apply for funding for improvement works to footpaths and road markings in Grange village”.

Mr. Brían Flynn reported that the Roads Dept. will undertake a review of road markings in Grange village over the coming weeks and should there be a need for upgrading of markings, same will be referred to TII. With regard to the condition of footpaths, Mr. Flynn advised that an assessment will also be undertaken but stated that there is no dedicated funding stream available for improvements to same.

7. REVIEW OF RESTRICTION ON USE OF VERSATIS PAIN RELIEF PATCHES:

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

AND AGREED

“That Sligo Municipal Council calls on the Minister for Health, Deputy Simon Harris, to request the HSE to review the decision to restrict the use of Versatis pain relief patches to patients in chronic pain, outside

those experiencing post herpetic neuralgia and to revert to the pre-December status while this review is being undertaken”.

8. ILLEGAL DUMPING AT CONEY LANE, BALLISODARE & ADJACENT TO WOODLANDS ESTATE:

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

AND AGREED

“To call on Sligo County Council to address the ongoing concern with dumping on Coney Lane in Ballisodare and also illegal dumping at a field beside the Woodlands Estate and make funding available to clean it up”.

On behalf of Ms. Siobhán Gillen, A/Administrative Officer, Mr. Tom Kilfeather, Director of Services reported that additional signage was installed in the Coney Lane area of Ballisodare in recent weeks and monitoring of the area has been increased by the Litter Warden.

Mr. Kilfeather also advised that the Environment Section is aware of the illegal dumping issues on the land adjoining the Woodlands Estate and plans are being prepared for the removal of waste from the site. Mr. Kilfeather added that a significant amount of waste was removed from the site previously by the Sligo County Council Area Office in conjunction with the HSE who own the lands in question.

9. REPLACEMENT OF WALL WITH FENCING AT AVONDALE TO STOP ILLEGAL DUMPING:

**Proposed by Councillor G. O’Boyle
Seconded by Councillor T. Healy**

AND AGREED

“Can Sligo County Council knock down the wall at Avondale (across from Slieve Mor Drive) and replace it with fencing to help stop the illegal dumping going on?”

On behalf of Ms. Siobhán Gillen, A/Administrative Officer, Mr. Tom Kilfeather, Director of Services advised that the replacement of a wall with fencing would not solve the problem of illegal dumping in the area. However, Mr. Kilfeather assured Members that investigations will be carried out in the coming weeks to determine the best approach to alleviate the problem and in the meantime, he stated, monitoring of the area is being increased by the Litter Warden.

10. REPAIR OF PAVEMENTS IN ST. ANNE’S TERRACE:

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

AND AGREED

“Can Sligo County Council fix the pavements in St. Anne’s Terrace?”.

Mr. Brían Flynn stated that the footpaths in the vicinity of St. Anne’s Terrace will be inspected by the Area Engineer over the coming weeks but in anticipation of the release of the footpath condition app (being developed by the Roads Management Office in conjunction with Irish Public Bodies), it is not proposed to undertake any significant

repairs/replacement of footpaths within the urban area other than those which are deemed absolutely necessary from a safety perspective.

11. NUMBER OF REFUSALS OF HOUSING OFFERS IN 2017:

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

AND AGREED

"How many housing offers were refused in the year 2017 by housing applicants?"

Mr. Joe Murphy, Senior Executive Officer reported that 303 no. offers of accommodation were made during 2017 and of these, 152 no. were accepted and 151 no. were refused. 54 no. properties were offered two or more times during 2017.

In response to queries from Members, Mr. Murphy stated that there are a number of reasons which contribute to refusals and advised that if an applicant refuses two offers of accommodation, the applicant is removed from the housing list for a period of one year.

12. REQUEST TO PLACENAMES COMMITTEE RE: CAPTAIN HARRY BENSON:

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

AND AGREED

"To ask the Place Names Committee to give consideration to placing the name of IRA Captain Harry Benson of Sligo's 'Noble Six' on a street, estate, roadway or any other physical element deemed appropriate".

On behalf of Ms. Dorothy Clarke, Director of Services, Mr. Frank Moylan, Senior Planner, stated that Sligo County Council adopted a Placenames Policy in July 2015 with its implementation overseen by the Co. Sligo Placenames Committee. Mr. Moylan advised that the proposed motion will be considered at the next meeting of the Placenames Committee in April 2018 following which the recommendation can be considered by the Council at the next available monthly meeting.

13. LITTERING ALONG THE GARAVOGUE RIVER:

Proposed by Councillor C. MacManus
Seconded by Councillor H. Keane

AND AGREED

"To ask what agency has responsibility for river and riverbank clean-up on the Garavogue River. Further, if the Council is the responsible body, to ask for a report regarding illegal littering in the area, specifically along the river and riverbank section between Markievicz Bridge and Hyde Bridge".

On behalf of Siobhán Gillen, A/Administrative Officer, Mr. Tom Kilfeather reported as follows:

Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) is responsible for ensuring the protection and conservation of Ireland's fisheries resource, the fish and their

habitats in both inland waterways and out to a twelve mile limit from the coast. However, littering in the river is the responsibility of the Local Authority. The Area Office and Sligo Tidy Towns carry out regular clean-ups of the riverbank area but due to health and safety issues associated with access to the river and certain sections of the riverbank, a clean-up has not been carried out in some time. The riverbank section between Markievicz Bridge and Hyde Bridge has been highlighted to the Area Office as an area requiring attention.

Mr. Kilfeather went on to advise that registrations are currently open for National Spring Clean which every year sees huge volumes of litter and waste collected around the town including sections of the riverbank area.

Mr. Kilfeather further advised that Sligo County Council Area Office carried out a clean-up on March 16th removing a significant amount of rubbish and will continue to work with Sligo Tidy Towns on the issue.

Following a query from Members regarding engagement with business owners, Mr. Kilfeather undertook to ask the Council's Environmental Awareness Officer to liaise with business owners on the issue.

Councillors Casserly and Keaney acknowledged the work done by the Council and the Tidy Towns Committee in collecting rubbish in the town and its environs.

14. APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FOR RELOCATION OF BUS GARAGE AT LORD EDWARD STREET:

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

AND AGREED

"Sligo is identified as a Regional Centre for growth in the National Development Plan 2040, to prepare for that growth I call on Sligo County Council and Bus Éireann to apply for funding for the relocation of the bus garage at Lord Edward Street".

The Chief Executive, Mr. Ciarán Hayes informed the Members that he expects to meet with Bus Éireann at national level in the near future to discuss the matter.

15. PROPOSAL TO INVEST MONIES COLLECTED IN "SUGAR TAX" INTO A COMMUNITY FUND FOR SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE ETC:

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

AND AGREED

"One in ten children in Ireland are obese 10 times the rate in 1975. Sligo County Council calls on the Minister for Finance to invest the 30 million to be collected this year and 40 million in a full year from sugar tax in a special Community Fund that could be invested in sports infrastructure as well as promoting physical activity"

16. ADVERTISEMENT OF FREE PARKING ON SUNDAYS:

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

AND AGREED

“That ‘Free Parking on Sunday’ be advertised clearly at the entrance to every public car park also at the parking metres”.

Mr. Brían Flynn informed the meeting that the Council will assess existing parking signage in order to determine the most appropriate means of ensuring that ‘Free Sunday Parking’ is clearly conveyed to the public.

17. ENGAGEMENT WITH BUS ÉIREANN RE: MAUGHERABOY ROUTE:

As Councillor Maguire was not present at the meeting, this item was deferred.

18. WORKS AT CULLEENAMORE BEACH:

As Councillor Maguire was not present at the meeting, this item was deferred.

19. SURVEY RE: TRAFFIC SITUATION AT JUNCTION OF CLEVERAGH ROAD & PEARSE ROAD:

As Councillor Maguire was not present at the meeting, this item was deferred.

20. OPPOSITION TO AFFORESTATION LICENCE APPLICATION AT INNISFREE:

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

AND AGREED

“To call on Sligo County Council to make a submission to the Department of Agriculture Forest Services opposing the afforestation licence application (no. CN08717) at Innisfree as this is a major concern to the local community”.

On behalf of the Director of Services, Ms. Dorothy Clarke, Mr. Frank Moylan informed the meeting that Sligo County Council received a referral from the Forestry Service in relation to an application for pre-planting approval in respect of 5.91 ha at Killery. The area proposed to be planted is adjacent to a designated scenic route within an area of sensitive rural landscape and adjacent to the shores of Lough Gill which is a Special Area of Conservation. Mr. Moylan explained that Policy P-FOR-2 of the Sligo County Development Plan 2017-2023 discourages forestry development in such locations and stated that a response will be issued to the Forestry Service setting out the concerns of the Planning Authority regarding the proposed licence.

Councillor Thomas Healy thanked Mr. Moylan for his report and stated that the closing date for receipt of submissions is 31st March 2018.

21. UPDATE ON SURVEY ON OWENMORE AND UNSHIN RIVERS:

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

AND AGREED

“To call on Sligo County Council for an update report on the survey carried out by JBA Consulting on the Owenmore and Unshin rivers and when do Sligo County Council hope to make an application for funding?”.

Mr. Brian Flynn informed the meeting that the Council has received a draft report from JBA Consultants which is being reviewed and it is intended that the findings of the report will be presented to relevant stakeholders as early as possible.

Director of Services, Mr. Tom Kilfeather advised that the only funding available is that which is provided for in the Council's budget and discussed with stakeholders.

22. CALL ON THE GAA TO ENSURE MATCHES ARE AVAILABLE ON FREE TO AIR TELEVISION:

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

AND AGREED

"That Sligo County Council hereby calls on the Gaelic Athletic Association to ensure any matches broadcast on channels requiring subscription fees are also made available on free to air television in order to allow access for everyone in the country to view matches. This should be done in order to reflect that the GAA is a unique part of Irish culture which belongs to the Irish people and has been built by their efforts along with significant State investment from taxpayers money"

Councillor Seamus Kilgannon asked that notice of the passing of the motion be circulated to other Local Authorities which was agreed.

23. CALL ON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING RE: RENT INCREASES IN PRIVATE RENTAL SECTOR:

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

AND AGREED

"That in view of the ever intensifying housing crisis and the significant rent increases imposed by landlords in the private rental sector, this meeting calls on the Government and the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government to (a) immediately commit to a realistic investment programme in Council housing; (b) protect tenants in private rented accommodation from unfair rent increases and guarantee they cannot be unfairly evicted; (c) regulate and control increases by linking rents to the Consumer Price Index".

A discussion followed regarding rent increases and delivery of the social housing programme with the Chief Executive, Mr. Ciarán Hayes advising Members that Sligo County Council are looking at initiatives to increase housing supply in Sligo.

24. FOOTPATH UPGRADE AND REPAIR IN OAKFIELD PARK ESTATE:

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

AND AGREED

"That Sligo County Council engineering staff would assess the urgent need for footpath upgrade and repair in parts of Oakfield Park Estate in conjunction with the Residents Association".

Mr. Brian Flynn reported that the footpaths in the vicinity of Oakfield Park Estate will be inspected by the Area Engineer in the coming weeks

but advised that in anticipation of the release of the footpath condition app, it is not proposed to repair/replace any sections of footpath unless deemed absolutely necessary from a safety perspective.

25. SIGNAGE AT ROSSES POINT BEACH:

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

AND AGREED

“That Sligo County Council would engage immediately with the National Parks and Wildlife Services with a view to providing signage at Rosses Point beach to deter people from removing large/bulk quantities of sand and stones from the beach”.

On behalf of Ms. Siobhán Gillen, A/Administrative Officer, Director of Services, Mr. Tom Kilfeather reported that the National Parks and Wildlife Service have been notified of complaints received regarding the removal of sand and stone from the beach and they have been requested to provide signage in the area as soon as possible to deter people from continuing this activity.

26. CALL ON MINISTER FOR HEALTH TO ABOLISH CAR PARKING CHARGES FOR CANCER PATIENTS AT SLIGO GENERAL HOSPITAL:

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

AND AGREED

“That Sligo County Council in supporting the Irish Cancer Society, call on the Minister for Health to instruct the HSE to abolish any car parking charges for cancer patients at Sligo General Hospital and provide a free parking disc system for cancer patients that is already in operation at a number of hospitals in Ireland”.

27. ADDITIONAL SPEED LIMIT SIGNAGE ON SHORE ROAD, STRANDHILL:

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

AND AGREED

“To ask if the Roads Department intends to erect additional speed limit signage on the Shore Road, Strandhill”.

Mr. Brian Flynn advised the Members that locations for 2 no. additional speed limit repeater signs have been identified by the Area Engineer and poles will be erected over the coming days with additional signs in place by the end of the week.

Regarding other concerns raised by Members, Mr. Flynn stated that a survey will be undertaken to ascertain the necessity for further traffic calming measures at the location.

28. UPDATE ON O’CONNELL STREET WORKS:

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

AND AGREED

“That the meeting be provided with an up to date report 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 (d) the estimated total cost of the refurbishment project”.

Mr. Tom Kilfeather provided an update as follows:

The O’Connell Street project is currently at design stage. Separately, the Planning Dept. had engaged BDP consultants to examine the public realm of Sligo who produced a report containing recommendations in relation to the design and enhancement of O’Connell Street which were not envisaged at the beginning of the current design process. The consultants for the O’Connell Street enhancement project (O’Connor Sutton Cronin) are now examining these recommendations to see how they can be accommodated into the existing design which would contribute to a better overall enhancement project. These developments will however delay commencement of any construction works until late 2018 but it is hoped that late 2019 would remain an achievable date for completion.

Mr. Kilfeather added that Sligo County Council is committed to meeting with all business owners and explained that a date for a meeting will be issued when the revised design of the project has been progressed and a clear picture of the project can be presented.

Mr. Kilfeather concluded by stating that as the final design has not yet been completed, it is difficult to provide an estimated cost at this point.

Councillor Bree expressed his disappointment with the delay and added his hopes that revised proposals will be completed as soon as possible.
Noted.

29. CORRESPONDENCE:

30. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Councillor Declan Bree proposed a vote of sympathy to the wife and family of the late Thom Moore who passed away on St. Patrick’s Day. The vote was seconded by Councillor Seamus Kilgannon.

Councillor Marie Casserly congratulated all involved in the recently held Athletics Ireland event.

In relation to the record of Mayors of Sligo Borough which is displayed in the Mayor’s Parlour, City Hall, the point was raised that the Mayors of Sligo Municipal District are not included on said record. It was suggested that the matter may be discussed at a future meeting of the Procedures Committee.

The business of the meeting concluded at 11.50 a.m.

Signed:

Mayor

Date: _____

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____