

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Ceantar Bardasach Bhaile Locha Riach *Municipal District of LOUGHREA*

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held at County Hall, 11th May 2020 @ 12 noon

LATHAIR:

Cathaoirleach

Cllr. P Hynes

Baill:

Cllr's. G. Donohue, S. Curley, PJ Murphy,
J. Byrne, M. Kinane, I. Canning, J. McClearn,
G. Finnerty, M Maher.

Oifigigh:

Mr J. Cullen, Director of Services;
Mr. G. Haugh, Senior Executive Engineer;
Mr. E. Gallagher, Senior Executive Engineer;
Mr F. McGillicuddy, Executive Engineer;
Mr. B. Sheehy, A/Executive Engineer;
Ms. A. Quinn, Meetings Administrator;
Ms P. McHugo, Assistant Staff Officer.

Confirmation of the Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held on 9th March 2020 **LMD 20015**

The Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held on 9th March 2020 were proposed by Cllr McClearn, seconded by Cllr Donohue and agreed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

Mr Cullen advised the members that due to the Covid 19 crisis, a review of all work practices and revised policies were being carried out by the Council to ensure that all staff were safe in their place of work. The Municipal Meetings for Loughrea would be held in County Hall to ensure adherence to social distancing. Cllr Maher thanked the staff in the Loughrea MD for all the work carried out throughout Lockdown to enable the public to walk safely.

To fix date, time and venue for the Annual Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea **LMD 20016**

It was proposed by Cllr McClearn, seconded by Cllr Maher and agreed to hold the Annual Meeting of the Loughrea MD and the Monthly Meeting of the Loughrea MD on Monday 8th June 2020 in County Hall at 11 am.

Flooding Update

LMD 20017

Mr Gallagher updated the meeting as follows:-

South Galway Gort Lowlands FRS – the production of the Feasibility Report for the scheme has being delayed until August. The latest delay on the project has been caused by issues relating to Climate Change. Applying the latest Climate Change factor to the synthetically produced rainfall generated for the project is giving extremely high and it is felt unreasonable results. The project team are progressing this issue.

When this issue has been resolved, the following stages will be completed in advance of producing the Feasibility Report: options assessment, channel and structure sizing, finalisation of flood risk maps, environmental inputs and completion the Cost Benefit Analysis.

The members expressed deep frustration that the production of the report was now not going to happen until August. They said that the local community is very concerned about delays and it is hard for them to take a further delay for whatever reason.

Mr Gallagher said that the officials understood the concerns of the members and the local community and assured the members that the objective was to have a report that everyone can stand over at the end of the process. He said that to assist with understanding the issue he would forward a memo giving further clarification to the Climate Change issue to the members.

Dunkellin – the OPW are expecting to be back on site on Monday 18th May in line with the governments Covid 19 guidelines. The completion of all in stream works during the period permitted by fisheries will be a priority. Works on the Aggard stream will also recommence before addressing landowner accommodation works throughout the scheme.

Kinvara – following discussions with the OPW, GCC is to submit a new application for the Individual Property Protection scheme in Kinvara. The OPW have again highlighted that this is the first of this type of scheme that they have assessed and it will take some time to consider the application.

Minor Works Programme – Mr Gallagher provided the members with a list of all schemes completed under the MWP by GCC from its inception in 2009 up to 2019. A total of 55 schemes were completed in that time, with funding from the OPW totalling €2.42 million. These lists will now be circulated to the area offices who will be asked to review all previous works and identify if maintenance investment is required. A submission will be made to the OPW based on the feedback from the area offices.

A second list of current schemes was also circulated to members, detailing their current status. Several of these schemes were discussed further.

Directors Business

LMD 20018

Mr Cullen stated that it was proposed to commence the Road Works Programme in the coming weeks. In response to Cllr Hynes, Mr Cullen stated that an allocation in excess of

€800,000 for Community Involvement Schemes was received. Following an update from the Department, 2020 - 2021 Local Improvement Scheme application forms would be required to be amended and would issue to all members in due course. Responding to Cllr Mahers query regarding lack of funding in the Council due to the housing rent and rates freeze, Mr Cullen stated that the Council are proceeding with the planned works on the basis of grants already allocated. It is too early to say how the effects of the Covid Crisis will impact on overall funding. In response to Cllr Kinane's concerns regarding staff, Mr Cullen stated that there would be rebalancing of staff due to the extended boundary in Loughrea MD. Mr Haugh confirmed for Cllr McClearn that confirmation of CIS allocation would issue in the coming days.

Cathaoirleach's Business

LMD 20019

Responding to Cllr Canning, Mr Cullen stated that he would raise the matter regarding WEEE collection with the Environment Section. He also stated for Cllr Maher that a Municipal Recycling site in Loughrea would be a considerable cost for which there is no provision in the current Budgets. Responding to Cllr Kinane, Mr Cullen stated that GCC have to comply with data protection regulations and certain criteria has to be met with regard to CCTV at the Clarenbridge Bottle Banks. He also confirmed that work at Clarenbridge Burial Ground is due to start in the coming weeks.

Mr Haugh confirmed that work on the footpaths at Maree would be undertaken as soon as possible once the current restrictions had been lifted. He also confirmed for Cllr Curley that the issue of flooding at Earlspeak, Loughrea had been reviewed and would not meet the criteria to qualify for support under the OPW minor works scheme. Cllr Canning thanked Mr Haugh and Mr Sheehy for the progression of works related to improved wheelchair accessibility and the installation of dropped kerbs at uncontrolled crossing points in Portumna.

Cllr Hynes thanked the staff of GCC for all their work during the Covid Lockdown and wished all to stay safe in these uncertain times.

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on Monday 8th June 2020 at 11 am in County Hall.

CHRIOGHNAIGH AN CHRUINNIU ANSIN

CLLR PAT HYNES
CATHAOIRLEACH, LOUGHREA MD

