

Minutes of the Municipal District of Tuam meeting held
on 12TH November 2018

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM HELD AT TUAM
COUNCIL OFFICES, HIGH STREET, TUAM**

ON 12th November 2018, AT 2.30 P.M.

I LÁTHAIR:

BAILL:

Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe

Cllr. Tom McHugh

Cllr. Mary Hoade

Cllr. Karey McHugh

Cllr. Des Joyce

Cllr. Peter Keaveney

Cllr Pete Roche

Cllr. Donagh Killilea

OIFIGI:

Ms. Valerie Loughnane, Senior Planner, Planning & Environment & Emergency Services.

Ms. Rachel Lowe, Senior Executive Engineer, Tuam Municipal District.

Mr. John Coyle, Acting Executive Engineer, Tuam Municipal District

Mr. Jack Houlihan, Assistant Engineer, Tuam Municipal District.

Ms. Nuala Heffernan, Administrative Officer, Infrastructure & Operations Unit

Ms. Eibhlin Curran, Administrative Officer, Infrastructure & Operations Unit

APOLOGIES:

Cllr. Billy Connelly

Ms. Eileen Ruane, Director of Services Planning, Environment and Emergency Services

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Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Tuam held on Monday 15th October 2018 MDT14046

On the proposal of Cllr T McHugh and seconded by Cllr Killilea, the minutes of the meeting of the Municipal District of Tuam held on 15^h October 2018 were agreed and adopted.

Matters arising from the Minutes

Cllr. D. Joyce sought clarity with regard the implementation of the Speed Limit Review. N. Heffernan confirmed that the proposal had to go before the Plenary Council, which is expected to be done at the November meeting. It is expected that the signs and revised speed limits will be in place by March 2019.

Cllr. T. McHugh stated that Sylane was not included in the speed limit review and proposed that it would be included in the speed limit review, this was seconded by Cllr. K. McHugh.

Cllr. P. Roche queried why issues that warrant reporting e.g. safety measures are not made public. He queried if the Standing Orders for all Municipal Districts were the same and asked if Standing Orders could be revisited and sent to the Corporate Policy Group /Plenary Council for discussion.

Cllr. D. Killilea called for a review of the Standing Orders. He himself had served as Chairman of Tuam Municipal District on two separate occasions and never felt the need to exclude the press from reporting on deputations. He felt that each Municipal District should be taking control of their own meetings and proposed that all press be allowed to attend all deputations except in sensitive cases the press would be asked to leave.

Cllr. P. Roche, Cllr. S. Cunniffe, Cllr. K. McHugh and Cllr. M. Hoade also reiterated sentiment above and was in favour of examining the standing orders with a view to devolving additional functions from Plenary Council.

N. Heffernan informed the members that the same Standing Orders were applicable across all districts and any changes to same must go before the Corporate Policy Group first.

Cllr T. McHugh felt that there was a need to devolve more functions down to Municipal District level. Cllr. T. McHugh said he would raise the issue at the Corporate Policy Group Meeting.

Cllr. P. Keaveney wished N. Heffernan Administrative Officer well in her new role in the Housing Department after 18 years in the Roads and Transportation Unit. He commended her work and commitment to the public service and stated that she will be greatly missed from the Unit. The other members concurred with these sentiments.

Cllr. P. Keaveney, Cathaoirleach, welcomed E. Curran Administrative Officer to the Roads and Transportation unit. Cllr. P. Roche also welcomed Sean Kennedy Technician to the Tuam Municipal District.

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Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Tuam held on Wednesday 24th October 2018

MDT14047

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Hoade and seconded by Cllr. T. McHugh the minutes of the meeting of the Municipal District of Tuam held on 24^h October 2018 were agreed and adopted.

Matters arising from the Minutes

Cllr. K. McHugh raised the issue of Traffic Lights present on the section of road known as Twenty Minute Hill. This is a busy road and questioned the impact on traffic and how long they are expected to be in place as they are causing delays on the road.

J. Coyle informed the members that the traffic lights are programmed to change in less than two minutes and currently there is approximately a ten car build up at peak times. He will keep the matter under review. J. Coyle stated that the Town & Village Enhancement is still underway in Dunmore and this may contribute to the delay.

Cllr. D. Joyce asked how long will the traffic lights be in place. J. Coyle stated that to address to current issues with the stretch of road that acquisition of land either side of the road is required. Galway County Council are currently in discussion with the relevant land owners with regard same. Works will progress once the necessary ground has been acquired.

Cllr. T. McHugh commented that although there may be slight delays from the traffic lights, he believes traffic is moving quite smoothly. In respect of the Town & Village Enhancement in Dunmore village, he questioned was there a possibility of installing lights at Bridge Street. R. Lowe stated that the County Council is not planning on any lights on Bridge Street.

Cllr. P. Roche questioned where the additional signage for villages coming off the Motorway. TII had previously committed to providing limited signage, however it still hasn't been provided.

Cllr. M. Hoade also raised the issue of signage off the Motorway specifically for Claregalway which is denoted in Irish on the road signs. This has caused confusion for non-locals and tourists alike who are not familiar with Baile Chláir as being Claregalway. Cllr. M. Hoade proposed that the Municipal District issue correspondence to Minister for Transport, Shane Ross and Minister for Gaeltacht Affairs, Seán Kyne.

Cllr. K. McHugh reiterated Cllr. M. Hoade's comments, stating that signage sole purpose is to give direction and if the signage cannot be understood, ultimately its redundant. Road signage should be bilingual.

R. Lowe stated that she would follow up with TII with regard the additional signage mentioned. With respect to signage for Baile Chláir, it is a statutory requirement to have Gaeltacht area signage in Irish, it was not a decision made by the County Council. V. Loughnane confirmed it is a requirement of the Irish Languages Act and changes to it needs to be addressed by legislation.

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It was proposed by Cllr D. Killilea and seconded by Cllr. P Roche to write to tourism Minister Shane Ross and Minister of state for the Gaeltacht Sean Kyne requesting that a bilingual sign be put in place.

Municipal District of Tuam Cathaoirleach's Business

MDT14048

Cllr. P Keaveney read a letter from a resident who is encountering difficulties with antisocial behaviour by an adjoining HAP tenant. The resident felt that the Local Authority were defaulting by not implementing the tenancy conditions that were outlined in the Tenant Information Booklet.

Following a discussion on anti-social behaviour Cllr. D. Killilea, who is a member of the Housing SPC, stated that this issue was raised previously and that the Housing Liaison Officer (HLO) had clarified the process. When it's a Local Authority tenant, the HLO will speak with the tenant directly and if the issue is not addressed, it moves on to legal proceedings. HAP tenants are dealt with differently. Essentially the rent is stopped and there are huge procedural issues to address same via PRTB that takes a considerable amount of time. Cllr. D. Killilea stated that he had proposed that a penalty be imposed on social welfare payment being received by tenants. Legislation should be put in place to penalise individuals convicted of criminal offences. He also stated that when income has increased within the household that rent should increase also.

Cllr. S. Cunniffe raised concern with regard the vetting of tenants when selecting them. He stated that the Local Authority is prohibited due to legislation from checking references unlike private landlords. Garda vetting is the only check that is done on potential tenants. Unless there is a criminal offence or anti-social behaviour conviction recorded against the potential tenant, this is the only thing that will stop the potential tenant from being eligible to a Local Authority house.

Cllr. K. McHugh stated that there should be an opportunity to fine tenants involved in anti-social behaviour and that the income generated from same should be ringfenced for the estate involved.

Cllr. D. Killilea proposed that a letter should be sent to the Minister of Social Protection to create legislation where any persons convicted of criminal behaviours or anti-social behaviour, that their benefits reduced for a period. This was seconded by Cllr P. Roche.

Any Other Business

MDT14049

Cllr. K McHugh requested an update with regard the intended use of the old library building. There is a lot of activity on the street in which its situated and potential to rent. Secondly, what are the potential plans for the old fire station.

R. Lowe stated that the old fire station is not vacant, it is still being used by the Fire Service but in respect of the old library, she wasn't aware of what was intended for this building.

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She stated that it falls under the remit of Corporate Services and she can seek an update from the Director of Service, A. Farrell.

V. Loughnane stated that there is liaison with the planning department. It is a protected structure, there is movement on it from a planning point of view however, she is not aware of its intended use.

In response to a query raised by Cllr. P. Roche, R Lowe informed the members that the public lighting is in place at Rinkippen and recommended that a Community Involvement Scheme for the provision of footpaths as a way forward as the site is within the speed limit. The residents would need to apply and Councillors also have the option to allocate notice of motion monies towards the project. In relation to the flood relief measures for Feagh East, R. Lowe informed the members that materials are being purchased this year and additional funding will be sought to ensure that the scheme can be completed. The technical issues associated with the construction of an embankment at Ardskeaghmore are currently being reviewed.

In response to a query raised by Cllr. M. Hoade, the executive advised the members that a letter will issue in future to Delegations who attend Municipal District Meetings acknowledging their deputation.

N. Heffernan informed the members that additional funding is being provided for Local Improvement Schemes and it is anticipated that an additional 32/33 schemes will be forwarded to the Department for approval and the members would receive a copy of the submissions in due course.

R. Lowe informed the members that Road Maintenance Services were awarded the contract for drainage works on the Regional Roads.

Cllr. M. Hoade requested an update on the progress of works on the N84 between Headford and Shrulue. R. Lowe informed the members that a Community Involvement Scheme has been applied for Caherlistrane and forwarded to the Department for approval.

R. Lowe confirmed that the Council is seeking to amend the Traffic Management Plan in Tuam outside the Ivy Boutique on Dublin Road. It is proposed to remove double yellow lines and insert 4 no. pay and display 30 minutes parking spaces. The Draft Traffic Management Plan was approved in principle on the proposal by Cllr. D. Killilea and seconded by Cllr. P. Roche.

In response to Cllr. S. Cunniffe, R. Lowe confirmed that she would send an update to the members on Virgin Media works over Christmas. Cllr. S. Cunniffe stated if disruption to the town could be minimised at Christmas.

Cllr. D. Joyce congratulated the Corofin football team and Kilkerrin Clonberne ladies team on their recent success and wished them well in their upcoming games.

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Cllr. P. Roche expressed his condolences to the Hardiman Family on their recent bereavement.

Cllr. S. Cunniffe expressed dissatisfaction with the erection of the fencing and raised concerns that young people were climbing boundaries to continue to access the railway line and was concerned that injuries would result.

R. Lowe advised that the erection of palisade fencing across the railway line on the Galway Road formed part of the resurfacing contract and that it was a request of Irish Rail that the fencing be erected. R. Lowe advised that Galway County Council were still waiting to hear from Irish Rail in relation to setting back walls at the Railway Crossing on Vicar Street and she advised the members that she has been waiting for over a year to hear from Irish Rail. The Council wished to progress a footpath at this location but cannot do so without the consent of Irish Rail.

Date of Next Meeting:

Monday, 14th January 2019 at 2.30p.m.

CRÍOCHNAIGH AN CRUINIÚ ANSIN

Approved by:



Cllr. Peter Keaveney

Cathaoirleach

Municipal District of Tuam