

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF THE TUAM AREA COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE ON Thursday 24th September 2009

I LATHAIR:

Baill: Cllr. T. McHugh, Chairman.
Cllr. T. Walsh, Cllr. M Connolly, Cllr. S. Canney, Cllr. M. Hoade, Cllr. P. Roche, Cllr. C. Keaveney.

Oifigigh: Mr. M. Dolly, Senior Engineer, Mr. J. Flesk, Executive Engineer, Ms. M. Cunningham, Staff Officer. Ms. N. Faherty, Clerical Officer.

1. Minutes of Meeting of the 19th of March 2009

The minutes of the meeting of the 19th of March 2009 were proposed by Cllr. Keaveney and seconded by Cllr. Roche.

2. Minutes of Meeting of the 23rd of June 2009

The minutes of the last meeting of the 23rd of June 2009 were proposed by Cllr. Hoade and seconded by Cllr. Keaveney.

3. Specific Improvement Road Grant Requirements for 2010

Mr. Dolly detailed the requirements of the specific improvements road grant for 2010. The grant must not exceed €2.745 million and this is to be divided with €1.647 million for the East of the County and €1.098 million to be allocated to the West of the County. Mr. Dolly told the Members that the purpose of the meeting was to decide which roads to put forward from the Tuam Electoral Area for the scheme.

Mr. Dolly advised the Members that the Department would look most favorably on those schemes that had been started, on those schemes where land required was already in Council ownership and schemes that could be finished in the current year.

Cllr. Hoade enquired as to why the Headford to Neale works did not go ahead. Mr. Dolly replied that this was due to a revised budget from the Department that did not include funding for this job.

Cllr. Connolly stated that the road from Horseleap Cross to O'Boyle's in Laught was in a very dangerous condition. The Members expressed concern that both the Esker to Glenamaddy road and the Castlehackett road posed serious safety concerns.

The Members proposed that the allocation for the Tuam Area be divided as follows:

- €100,000 for Castlehackett Road
- €100,000 for Esker to Glenamaddy Road
- €287,000 for Kilbannon Road

Mr. Dolly advised the Members the proposals for the Castlehackett road and the Esker to Glenamaddy road may not be accepted by the Department. Mr. Dolly stated however that the necessary justifications would be provided to the Department in the application for the grants as proposed by the Members.

4. Election of Chairperson

The Members thanked Cllr. McHugh for his contribution as Chairman for the last five years. Cllr. Walsh proposed Cllr. Keaveney as Chairman and this was seconded by Cllr. Roche. Cllr. Canney proposed Cllr. Connolly as Vice-Chairman and this was seconded by Cllr. Keaveney.

5. Any Other Business

Cllr. Connolly enquired as to why not all submissions made were included in the Draft Speed Limit Bye-Laws presented to the full Council at the last meeting. Mr. Dolly replied that some submissions referred to National Roads and were not approved by the NRA and thus could not be included in the Bye-Laws. Cllr. Keaveney stated that he considered the report inadequate as it did not explain why submissions were not considered. Cllr. Connolly requested whether the issue could be revisited. Mr. Dolly stated that the draft was currently on public display and that submissions could still be made at this point, any submissions received in relation to National Roads would have to be referred to the NRA.

Cllr. Canney stated that there was a meeting on the 30th of September of all Tuam Area and Town Councillors and the Tuam Chamber of Commerce to discuss the Western Rail Corridor. Cllr. Connolly stated that the purpose of the meeting was to ensure that the Western Rail Corridor remains part of Government policy and to ensure that funding is not cut. The Members all agreed that the Western Rail Corridor was important for Tuam.

Cllr. Hoade enquired as to when the change in electoral boundaries would take place. Mr. Dolly said that a report was being prepared for the Council and the changes should happen at the end of the year.

Cllr. Connolly expressed concern over Tuam Swimming Pool and the possibility that a new service provider could not maintain the standards currently being achieved. Cllr. Keaveney stated that the design of the building meant that energy costs were very high and that it was going to be difficult for any service provider to maintain the standards, given that the budget was going to be cut by €150,000.

Cllr. McHugh stated that up this point the service provided in Tuam swimming pool had been excellent and should problems arise that there would have to be a Council official in place to deal with such problems. The members agreed that a meeting should be arranged with the Director of Services, Mr. Kelly to discuss their concerns.

Cllr. Walsh requested that all Members support a request for the Council to fund Glenamaddy Theatre Group who would be holding the All Ireland Theatre Festival in 2010. Cllr. Keaveney stated that the Members would support this.

Chríochnaigh an cruinniú ansin