



**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE MARCH MEETING OF NENAGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE CHAMBER, NENAGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT AT 10.00 AM ON 15<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2018**

- Present** Cllr's John Carroll, Fiona Bonfield, Ger Darcy, Joe Hannigan, Hughie McGrath, Mattie Ryan, Seamus Morris and Michael O' Meara.
- Also Present** Mr. Marcus O' Connor, Director of Services; Ms. Rosemary Joyce, District Administrator; Mr. Peter Fee, A/Senior Executive Engineer and Ms. Aven Melia, A/Assistant Staff Officer.
- Ms. C. Curley, Director of Services, Mr. D. Purcell, A/Senior Executive Officer and Ms. M. Maher, Senior Staff Officer, Housing Section
- Apologies** Cllr. Phyll Bugler
- Item 1. Minutes of February Meeting** It was proposed by Cllr. F. Bonfield, seconded by Cllr. S. Morris and resolved that the minutes of the February meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 be adopted.
- Cllr. S. Morris referred to a matter he raised at the February meeting regarding the University of Limerick hospital and asked if a letter had been sent to the Chief Fire Officer. He said he himself had contacted the Fire Emergency Services to ascertain if an assessment of the emergency unit had been carried out. He said they acknowledged the problem and said they are managing it. He said that he doesn't understand how they are managing it and added that he has major concerns if a fire breaks out. He said that as a result of the current situation in the hospital, people are not presenting themselves as early as they should.
- Cllr. J. Carroll concurred with Cllr. S. Morris. He said the current situation is a terrible indictment on all of us and said that he raised this matter at a H.S.E. meeting and confirmed that he will continue to raise this matter at future meetings.
- Cllr. G. Darcy said that facilities in Nenagh and Ennis need to be fully utilised. He said with the long weekend approaching, it is disappointing that patients cannot be admitted to Nenagh, even though when they go to Limerick they usually end up coming back to Nenagh in a couple of days anyway, in particular the elderly.
- Cllr. H. McGrath supported previous speakers. He referred to a comment made by Minister Harris recently that mobile wards/prefabs would be made available adjacent to hospitals. He said that Limerick



hospital certainly does not need this adding that the hospitals and staff that are already there in Ennis and Nenagh should be used.

Cllr. M. Ryan supported previous comments and he too said that Nenagh, Ennis and St. John's need to be utilised.

Cllr. M. O' Meara supported previous speakers. He said that some Irish people have a poor attitude towards health, especially men. He wondered if an incentive could be introduced by the Government to give €50 back to patients if they attend a doctor each year. He feels that if people went to a doctor more often it could prove beneficial. Ms. R. Joyce confirmed that a letter was sent to the Chief Fire Officer and we are awaiting a response.

**Item 2.  
Minutes of  
Special Meeting**

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Ryan, seconded by Cllr. J. Hannigan and resolved that the minutes of Special Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 be adopted.

**Item 3.  
Action Plan**

The Action Plan from the February meeting was noted.

**Item 4.  
Briefing from  
Housing**

Ms. C. Curley, Mr. D. Purcell and Ms. M. Maher attended from the Housing Section and their report was circulated to members. Ms. C. Curley gave an update on Housing Construction Projects, Housing Allocations, Capital Assistance Scheme, House Purchases 2018, RAS, Leasing and HAP. She advised that there are 731 approved applicants on the housing list in the Nenagh District and there are 27 vacant houses made up of 4 in progress, 11 being assessed/gone to tender, 6 major refurbishment and 6 demountable.

Cllr. M. O' Meara welcomed the progress report and in particular the 7 houses leased in Borrisokane adding that it is a win-win situation and he would like to see more of this.

Cllr. H. McGrath referred to 17 houses at Borrisokane with stage 2 approval and wondered what the timeframe was for getting the houses on the ground. He referred to the masterplan for Stereame and said he was anxious to see what is being proposed in terms of housing, adding that there is a shortage of housing in Nenagh. He highlighted a problem being experienced by a person who has applied for a disabled person's grant but the new bathroom cannot connect to the existing sewerage system and this in turn is adding a further €5,000 onto works. He wondered if this additional cost could be allowed as part of the grant. Referring to houses at Cormack Drive he asked for clarification regarding this project. He also asked for an update on No. 1 Silver Street.

Cllr. G. Darcy welcomed the additional leased properties in Borrisokane



adding that it is badly needed for the town. Referring to demountables, he said that once vacated and left unoccupied for a considerable amount of time they fall into disrepair.

Cllr. S. Morris expressed concern at the condition of houses taken under the HAP programme and asked that inspections of these be stepped up prior to appointment of tenant. He asked that the Council look at sorting out the issues around the Military Barracks.

Cllr. M. Ryan wondered what the position is regarding the new Affordable Mortgage Scheme announced under Rebuilding Ireland Programme.

Cllr. F. Bonfield asked if the National Planning Framework will affect housing going forward. Referring to Mulcair View, she asked that contact be made with residents during this project.

Cllr. J. Hannigan asked if there is much take up on the Buy and Renew scheme. He complimented all involved regarding the leased houses in Borrisokane.

Cllr. M. O' Meara expressed concern regarding the length of time it takes to get an occupational therapist report. He is led to believe that inspections are not being carried out until there is a couple in the same area. He asked for an update on the Tenant Purchase Scheme.

All members thanked Ms. Curley for her work in the Housing Section and wished her well in her new role with responsibility for Corporate and Human Resources.

Ms. C. Curley thanked members for their kind words and thanked them for all their work regarding the approval process and processing of Part 8 developments.

The following responses were given to some of the queries raised:-

- Borrisokane stage 2 approval - it takes 59 weeks from the start to going on site and they are half way there. It is anticipated that Part 8 will be in May, tender process in July with a view to getting on site by year end.
- Stereame - Housing are working with Planning and the District. The need for housing in Nenagh is recognised and they are looking at all possibilities.
- Disabled Persons Grant - Ms. C. Curley advised she had not encountered this problem and that Cllr. H. McGrath's case would be an exception rather than the norm. She agreed to check same however there is no discretion to change the maximum



grant.

- Inspections - Tipperary County Council has got approval to recruit a Clerk of Works and a Clerical Officer to carry out inspections. There is a period of eight months to inspect properties.
- Military Barracks - this is too complex for Housing to progress in isolation and it requires interaction between the District, Planning and other bodies.
- Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan – this is an attractive option. Interest rates are very low and are fixed. It must be approved by the Credit Bureau and if approved the applicant knows the financial figure they are committed to.

Cllr. G. Darcy asked if loans were available to current tenants. Ms. C. Curley advised that they were however it would depend on income. The Tenant Purchase Scheme would be another option for tenant to consider.

Cllr. J. Hannigan wondered if someone who had not the repayment capacity maybe 5 years ago could now apply. Ms. C. Curley advised that the Credit Bureaux do a good examination and it may be the case that they recommend someone would wait and improve their record in the meantime. She said that applications are looked at on a case by case basis.

In regard to the National Planning Framework, Ms. C. Curley advised that she could see no reason why there would be any impact on building or on the social housing programme.

In response to query raised regarding Demountables, Mr. D. Purcell said that the Council does not have any storage facilities for them and therefore many of them would remain on site. The Council would also look at selling them off in some cases.

On the Buy and Renew scheme Ms. C. Curley advised that vacant homes have been identified as part of the Vacant Homes Action Plan and she hopes this will help. She advised that a thorough media campaign was done regarding this scheme.

In relation to the Tenant Purchase Scheme, Ms. C. Curley advised that 177 applications have been received of which 58 are approved, 3 sales completed and 14 are currently with Solicitor.

Mr. D. Purcell advised that tender documents are currently being prepared for No. 1 Silver Street, Nenagh.



**Item 5.  
Schedule of  
Municipal Works**

Ms. R. Joyce went through details of the Draft Schedule of Municipal District Works Programme for 2018.

It was proposed by Cllr. F. Bonfield and seconded by Cllr. G. Darcy and resolved that "in accordance with Section 103 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended by Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

- a) The Draft Schedule of Municipal District Works (SMDW) for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 as presented , without amendment be and is hereby adopted and
- b) Where relevant, that any subsequent changes to the Schedule necessitated by either an inability to proceed with certain works or by emergency repairs elsewhere may be implemented subject to notification to the members as soon as may be and that the works so deferred may be considered for inclusion in the Schedule for the next financial year"

Cllr. J. Hannigan referred to the CIS scheme and asked when costings will be finalised as this will have implications on their tertiary allocation. He also asked when would members be looking at the 3 year road works programme adding that there are other roads such as Luska that need attention.

Cllr. M. Ryan queried whether additional funding would be forthcoming as a result of the recent storms.

Cllr. G. Darcy wondered if works to footpath at Oxpark included drainage.

Mr. P. Fee advised that in relation to the CIS, the deadline to have them inspected and costed is 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2018 and following on from this they will be incorporated into the county's overall submission. Mr. M. O' Connor added that the decision lies with the Department.

In regard to the 3 year programme, Mr. P. Fee advised that this will be looked at in Quarter 3 or 4 of 2018. Mr. M. O' Connor said that to date there is no indication of a timeframe from the Department. Cllr. J. Carroll said that early preparation might help the public.

In response to Cllr. M. Ryan's query, Mr. M. O' Connor advised that he does expect to get an extra allocation however this would only be towards clean up costs. Cllr. J. Carroll wondered if there was a rough cost available. Mr. M. O' Connor advised that the costs associated with Storm Ophelia was approx €400,000 for the county however this figure does not include the extent of long term damage.



Cllr. F. Bonfield welcomed the supplementary allocation of €2m by IPB for badly damaged/high risk footpaths, whereby it is hoped that works will take place this summer.

In regard to the recent storms, all members paid tribute to Council Executive, Staff, Civil Defence, Fire Service and the entire community for all their efforts.

Cllr. J. Hannigan asked that the costs associated with patching units be looked at, adding that it is a considerable cost against the roads budget. Mr. M. O' Connor said that a patching machine is an expensive machine to buy. However he said that this does get good coverage and it is the most efficient way of doing repairs. He said that if the budget allowed, the Council would much rather do a more permanent repair job but unfortunately this is not the case.

It was agreed to adjourn the meeting for 10 minutes on the proposal of Cllr. M. Ryan, seconded by Cllr. J. Carroll.

**Item 6.  
Update on  
Projects**

➤ **Newport Town Park**

Preparation of the Part 8 documentation is currently in progress. Arrangements are underway to deal with the invasive species (Giant Hogweed). A specialist contractor will be appointed for this purpose. These arrangements need to be in place in order to finalise the Part 8 documents. In addition the arrangements for controlling run-off from the site during construction need to be factored into the design drawings.

Cllr. F. Bonfield wondered what the timeframe is associated with this. Ms. R. Joyce advised that quotations are being sought regarding treatment of invasive species, it is hoped to have these quotations in the coming weeks.

➤ **Gills Garden**

Works are progressing well in Gill's Garden with approx 25% of works complete. The vegetation has been removed and walls have been cleaned, the opening for two entrances and one window are now formed and sample of finish capping is now completed.

Cllr. H. McGrath welcomed this update. He referred to the palisade fencing erected a number of years ago and wondered if this could be replaced with a more decorative railing. He wondered if the garden will be available for this summer. Mr. O' Connor replied and said that it will not be available for the summer. It would be the end of the year at least before works are completed. In regard to the fencing he agreed it was unsightly but added that security should be to the fore if replacing the fence.



- **Community CCTV Scheme**  
Works on the CCTV system at Birdhill/Burgess and Cooleen are substantially completed. Handover of the system in relation to Birdhill & Cooleen will take place within the next two weeks.
- **Nenagh Traffic Management Plan**  
Next stage will involve demolition of buildings and design of car park at Emmet Place. Cllr. H. McGrath wondered when will properties be demolished and asked in the meantime that the hoarding be inspected regularly. Mr. O' Connor advised that the next stage is to procure a consultant in relation to the demolition and design of carpark. This will then move onto Part 8 during the summer. He advised that the Town Foreman carries out regular inspections of the hoarding.
- **Bord Gais Project.**  
Reinstatement of road pavements is taking place at Thurles Road and Ormond Street.
- **New Shannon Crossing at Ballina/Killaloe**  
Arbitration hearings are continuing.
- **Latteragh**  
Approval is being sought from the Department to proceed to CPO.
- **Borrisokane**  
Tender documentation is now finalised and will be sent to the TII today. It is anticipated that this will go to tender within a month. Cllr. J. Hannigan welcomed this update. He asked the Executive to consider creating a carpark at the top of the town. Cllr's O' Meara and Darcy supported Cllr. J. Hannigan. Mr. M. O' Connor replied and said he does not believe there is current need for a carpark. Cllr. M. O' Meara asked that the Council try to progress the R489 Birr to Portumna road and look for funding.
- **Knockalton**  
Works regarding removal of trees has commenced. It is anticipated that the contractor will be on site in 6 to 8 weeks. Cllr. H. McGrath welcomed this news.
- **Carrigahorrig**  
No further update.



- **Nenagh Tourist Office**  
Discussions are ongoing with the Planning Section regarding works required for the Tourist Office. Cllr. J. Hannigan said that this is much needed and welcomed the launch of the Blueway the previous Tuesday.
- **Garden of Remembrance, Cloughjordan**  
Similar to last month due to poor weather conditions it has not been possible to progress snags or planting.
- **Nenagh 2020**  
Awaiting feedback from the County Librarian in relation to the Treaty. A meeting will be arranged shortly – currently trying to agree date for same.
- **OHSAS Nenagh MD**  
Nenagh MD has successfully achieved OHSAS accreditation in relation to Health & Safety for the administration functions, the management of the buildings facility, the traffic warden operations and the tour guide facility at Nenagh Castle. Mr. M. O' Connor said that this is a great achievement and that Nenagh MD is the first Municipal District in the county to achieve this accreditation. He said great credit is due to all involved.

Members were advised that the closing date for grant applications for Contributions to Clubs and Local Organisations and Contributions to Residents Associations for Estate Enhancement was the following day. Blank application forms have been circulated to Members by email.

Ms. R. Joyce wished to remind the business sector of the Early Payment Scheme for payment of commercial rates whereby some savings can be achieved. Further details are available from Revenue Section and on the website.

**Item 7.  
Engineer's  
Checklist**

The Engineer's Checklist was circulated to the members.

Cllr. J. Hannigan referred to the R493 and asked for additional funding to tackle the pinch points on this road. Mr. M. O' Connor said that there are issues on a lot of regional roads and that the Executive will look at proposals for improvements to regional roads.

Cllr. M. O' Meara referred to a speed monitoring survey carried out in Ballingarry and Riverstown villages. He welcomed that the Council will engage with TII with a view to progressing a traffic calming solution however he is disappointed that Riverstown is not included.





Cllr. H. McGrath reminded the Engineers that the yellow box still needs to be reinstated at entrance to Kenyon Street Carpark and at Norbury Lane. He wondered if the Council could look at an area called "Jacobs Well" just inside the industrial estate on Dublin Road, he believes this is in public ownership and thinks it might be worth looking at as a restoration project. Mr. P. Fee agreed to look at this with Cllr. H. McGrath.

Cllr. J. Hannigan referred to Grange and said that there is a poor sightline when approaching this junction from Puckane especially for tractor drivers. He wondered if viewing points of the lake could be made available on the R493. He feels that speed indicators signs would be of huge benefit in Puckane village.

Cllr. G. Darcy asked that the Congor/Cloughkeating road be looked at. He wondered if there is any update on the drainage problem outside Ardcroney church. He also said that ponding is taking place at four entrances on the Nenagh side of Ardcroney village. He asked that repair works be carried out to the Killowney road that link Lisgarode/Mount Pleasant.

Cllr. M. O' Meara asked that large red signs be erected at Walshpark Cross especially coming from Cloghan. He asked that contact be made with Mr. Brendan Flynn regarding footpath at Carrigahorrig.

Cllr. H. McGrath said that Dirty Lane, after Southill is gone into disrepair and wondered if a plan of works could be done for this. He also asked that the lane at Norwood turning off N7 for Grenanstown be looked at.

Cllr. J. Hannigan said that the gully is blocked at Terryglass church.

Cllr. J. Carroll said that there is subsidence on L5149 at Plunkett Street.

Cllr. M. Ryan said that the surface is very poor in Kilcommon village.

Mr. P. Fee said that in relation to Grange, the TII has a standard design for junctions similar to this and that he does not think they take tractors into consideration, he said he is not optimistic for progress. In response to Cllr. G. Darcy's query regarding flooding at Ardcroney church he advised that works are identified to deal with this problem. In regard to Speed Indicator sign in Puckane, he advised that unless there is clear evidence that there is a significant problem with traffic speeds this sign is not warranted.



**Item 8.** It was agreed to have these meetings on the day of the April meeting of  
**Agree dates for** Nenagh Municipal District and to commence at 9.30 a.m.  
**Drainage**  
**Committee**

**Meetings**

**Item 9.** None

**Notices of**

**Motion**

**Item 10.** Noted

**Delegated**

**Employee Orders**

**Item 11.** Correspondence from Ms. Mairead Kirby, Principal, Kilruane N.S. dated  
**Correspondence** 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2018 regarding Dell Vex Robotics Challenge was noted.

**Item 12.** **Votes of Sympathy were passed to the following:-**

**Votes of**

**Sympathy/**

**Congratulations**

- Mr. Jim Casey on the death of Mrs. Maura Kennedy, R.I.P.
- Mrs. Nora Hogan on the death of Mr. Michael Hogan, R.I.P.
- Mr. & Mrs. Ryan on the death of Mr. Cillian Ryan, R.I.P

**Votes of Congratulations – None**

**Item 13.**

**AOB**

Cllr. J. Carroll referred to abandoned boats in the Marina in Garrykennedy and requested the Council to follow up on same.

Cllr. J. Carroll wished to compliment all those involved and taking part in St. Patrick Day events.

Cllr. H. McGrath referred to new charges being introduced in the Recycling Centre and wondered are the charges for both waste material and recycling material. Ms. R. Joyce advised that she would check same with the Environment Section and ask them to circulate details.

**This concluded the business of the meeting, a true copy of which we hereby certify:-**

Signed:   
Cllr. John Carroll  
Cathaoirleach

Date: 19.4.2018

Signed:   
Ms. Rosemary Joyce  
District Administrator

Date: 19.4.2018