

Municipal District of Tuam – 14TH May 2020

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM HELD AT THE MUNICIPAL OFFICES, TUAM, CO. GALWAY ON 14TH MAY 2020, AT 11.00A.M.

CATHAOIRLEACH:	Cllr. Mary Hoade
I LÁTHAIR FREISIN	Cllr. Colm Keaveney, Cllr. Donagh Killilea, Cllr. Andrew Reddington, Cllr. Peter Roche, Cllr. Joseph Sheridan, Cllr. Karey McHugh Farag
AS LÁTHAIR	-
BAILL OIFIGIGH:	Ms. Eileen Ruane, Director of Service, Mr Damien Mitchell Senior Engineer, Ms Fiona Holland, Senior Engineer, Mr. John Coyle, Acting Senior Executive Engineer, Mr Tom Regan, Executive Engineer, Mr Paul Connolly, Executive Engineer, Ms. Mary Dunne, A.S.O, Ms. Eibhlin Curran, Meetings Administrator.

MDT200008

Item no. 1 Confirmation of Minutes of meeting of Municipal District of Tuam on 21st February 2020

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. C. Keaveney and **SECONDED** by Cllr. D. Killilea, the minutes of the meeting held on 21st February 2020 were **AGREED**.

Matters arising from the Minutes:

Cllr. D. Killilea enquired if a reply was received from Irish Water on the proposed Sludge Hub in Tuam. Ms. Curran confirmed that she was not aware of any response. Cllr. Killilea stated that this was very disingenuous of Irish Water not to have replied.

In response to Cllr. Killilea query with regard Roads Programme 2020, D. Mitchell, stated that preparatory works have started, and commencement of Roads Programme intended for the following week. Contractors have been procured and the Council are now waiting to have the contracts signed up. Due to Covid19, the Roadworks Programme has been delayed nine weeks countrywide. The same volume of works will have to be carried out in a shorter time frame and for this reason the Roads Department are trying to get contractors working as soon as possible as there will be pressure on contractors later in the year to get works done within the time limits required. There has been no indication of a change in funding .

Cllr. Killilea requested that where roadworks may have to be carried out at unsocial hours that communities would be informed in advance.

Cllr. Karey McHugh Farag, referred to landscaping works to be carried out at Gilmartin road, she requested these works would be given priority as they were originally held up due to bad weather and are now delayed due to Covid 19 restrictions.

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Mr. Mitchell stated that this is a housing matter. These works were not considered an essential service during the initial weeks of the Covid19 restrictions, but he expects that works will be given priority after 18th May.

MDT200009

Item no. 2 – Director’s Update on Council Services due to Covid19

Ms. E. Ruane thanked the staff for arranging the Council Chamber to accommodate the meeting. She asked the members to refrain from moving around the building and requested that business be carried out on the phone or by email. She updated the members on the current position relating to Council Services. She referred to the Business Continuity plan put in place to enable the continuity of essential services and outlined the range of measures put in place to assist staff to work safely. She referred to the Community Response Forum established recently to respond to the needs of the vulnerable in the Community. The forum is chaired by the Chief Executive of the Local Authority and membership included the H.S.E, An Post, Community welfare service, Garda Síochána, Civil Defence and other groups. She complimented the fantastic work of the Community Response Team led by the Rural and Community Development department who manage calls seven days a week to assist the most vulnerable in our community and acknowledged the enormous contribution made by the Executive and Engineering staff during the last two months.

MDT200010

Item no. 3 – Propose date for the Municipal District of Tuam Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The proposed date for the Annual General Meeting for the Municipal District Meeting of Tuam was set for 25th June 2020 at 11:00 am and agreed by members.

MDT200011

Item no. 4 – Municipal District of Tuam Cathaoirleach’s Business

Cllr. Hoade enquired if it was possible for the Environment Section could provide skips to Communities who wish to engage in clean-ups at present as there are a lot of young people home due to the Covid19 restrictions. In response, Mr. P. Connolly confirmed that the National Spring Clean clean-up has been suspended due to Covid19 restrictions until 8th July 2020.

MDT200012

Item no. 5 – Municipal District of Tuam Director’s Business

None

MDT200013

Item no. 6 – A.O.B

Cllr. Reddington requested if Galway County Council going forward would give consideration to arranging a visitation service to older and isolated members of the public. He acknowledged the great work done by Council staff over the last number of weeks and thanked the engineers who were available on the phone.

Cllr. Reddington raised the issue of CCTV being made available at bottle banks in Headford where illegal dumping is a problem and where voluntary groups are providing clean-ups at present. In

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response, Ms. E. Ruane stated that the Council are awaiting a report from the Data Protection Commission in relation to prosecutions relating to illegal dumping .

Cllr. Karey McHugh queried whether there is anything the Council could do in relation to vehicles illegally parked/abandoned in housing estates. In reply, Ms. E. Ruane D.O.S requested Cllr. Karey McHugh Farag contact her after the meeting with details as the Council are continuing enforcement during this period

Cllr. Keaveney concurred with the comments of the other Elected members and thanked all the Council staff for all work done over the last number of weeks. He raised the issue of the illegal dumping at the bring banks at the Palace grounds site and stated that CCTV is not the only answer to illegal dumping at the site, as choosing a site at a location that is more open and where illegal dumping could be controlled could also be an option. He suggested that the banks should be removed from the swimming pool site because of its proximity to an amenity area.

Cllr. Killilea stated that there was a an increase from 500 tonne to 800 tonne of glass per month being deposited at Bring Banks for recycling in County Galway since the Covid19 restrictions were introduced and while the majority of people dispose of recyclables properly, the Palace Grounds site was too convenient for people who decide to leave rubbish there. He agreed with Cllr. Keaveney that the banks should be removed from the Swimming Pool site in Tuam to a location preferably where street cameras are located.

Mr. J. Coyle informed the members that the Community Wardens are checking the banks every few days and liaising with the environment section where problems arise. Ms. Ann Dolan, Environment Department, has examined 12 sites where illegal dumping is taking place and it is hoped to have audio equipment installed over the next few weeks.

Cllr. Keaveney raised the subject of Broadband services and stated that it is incumbent on Galway County Council to ensure that proper broadband infrastructure is in place as it is critical for the sustainability of the rural economy particularly now when due to social distancing and transport issues many people working on the frontline are dependent on these services.

Mr. D. Mitchell, stated that he will request N. Madden, Broadband officer to attend the Municipal District meeting to provide an update on the situation relating to broadband service in the County. He stated that Virgin Media have provided broadband services in Tuam.

In reply to Cllr. P. Roche on the current position in relation to applicants who have applied for planning permission, Ms. E. Ruane advised that applicants decisions have issued on applications taken in prior to 21/2/20 as inspections were done. Site inspections are currently restricted on other applications until 23/5/2020. In relation to other grant applications such as disability grants/essential repair grants and others where house visits may be necessary, she will seek an update from the Director of Services, M. Owens on the current situation .

Cllr. Roche referred to a situation relating to illegal dumping which occurred two years ago where a microchip from a CCTV system was taken but there were no developments in respect of the information on it. He stated that the Council cannot continue with the ambiguity relating to what information can or cannot be used. Ms Ruane stated that a reply on this matter from the Data Commissioner is expected next week .

In reply to his query on access to graveyards Ms. E. Ruane advised that graveyards are open across the country and social distancing is being monitored by the Community Wardens.

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Cllr. Sheridan stated that there are a restricted number of grave spaces left in Dunmore Graveyard and the Council would need to address the shortage on graveyards. Also requested an update respect to flooding issues that was raised in previous meetings and Community Involvement Schemes.

In reply to Cllr. Sheridan's queries, Mr Coyle stated that the Community Involvement Schemes will be carried out as part of the Roads Programme and in relation to the issue of flooding, he will be preparing a report on all areas where flooding occurred in the Municipal District and seeking funding for drainage schemes.

Cllr. Keaveney voiced his concerns regarding lots of overgrowth at flooding locations and said this will cause problems later in the year unless someone takes responsibility.

In response to Cllr. Roche request to appoint an Illegal Dumping Co-ordinator, Ms. E. Ruane stated that Galway County Council were successful in getting increased grant funding and that the Waste Enforcement Staff has been increased by four people and the area is co-ordinated by Ms. Ann Dolan Environment Department.

Cllr. Roche proposed that a vote of sympathy be passed to Cllr. Declan Geraghty on the death of his mother Anne (Nancy) Geraghty R.I.P. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. D. Killilea.

Cllr. Killilea asked if a member of the Housing Department could be invited to the next Tuam Municipal District Meeting to update the members on housing matters in Tuam Municipal District. He referred to a recent development where Galway City Council had purchased property in the County Council area for social housing and stated that he would like to know in advance if the City Council had plans to purchase property for this use in the Tuam Municipal District area.

Cllr. Killilea queried if the standing orders could be amended to allow meetings to be held online and queried if Tuam Town Hall could be considered as a location for holding meetings to accommodate physical distancing. He thanked the staff of the County Council and community organisations for their tremendous work over the last number of weeks. He included the outdoor staff in Tuam who put their own health at risk to help others.

Ms. E. Ruane concurred with Cllr. Hoade's comment that based on legal advice received, statutory decisions cannot be taken remotely but a submission could be made at national level.

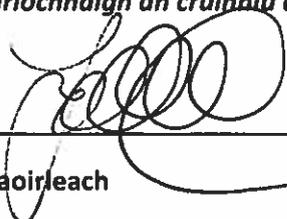
Cllr. Hoade thanked Celine Delaney and her team for their work in making the Council Chamber safe.

Date of next meeting

Next meeting will be held on **Thursday 25th June 2020** at 11.00 in the morning for the AGM, with a Municipal District meeting directly afterwards.

Chríochnaigh an cruinniú ansin @ 12:10

Approved by:



Cathaoirleach

Date: 25/04/2020