

**MINUTES OF MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ONLINE, ON MONDAY, 18TH
JANUARY, 2021, AT 2:00 p.m.**

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. R. Finn, was in the Chair.

The other Councillors present were: -

| | | | | |
|-------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| A. M. Reape | A. McDonnell | B. K. Gavin | B. Mulroy | C. Hyland |
| C. Burke | D. Ryan | D. Sheridan | G. Deere | G. Coyle |
| G. Murray | J. Munnely | J. Caulfield | J. O'Hara | J. O'Malley |
| M. Duffy | M. McLoughlin | M. Burke | M. Kilcoyne | M. Loftus |
| M. Smyth | N. Cruise | P. McNamara | P. Flynn | R. Finn |
| S. Weir | S. Carey | T. Connolly | J. Cribbin | P. O'Brien |

The Council Staff in attendance were: -

| | |
|--|--|
| Mr. P. Duggan, Chief Executive (Interim) | Mr. T. Gilligan, Dir. Of Finance |
| Mr. J. Condon, Dir. Of Services | Ms. C. McConnell, Dir. Of Services |
| Mr. S. Shevlin, a/Dir. Of Services | Mr. J. Magee, a/Dir. Of Services |
| Ms. S. Kilcullen, Meetings Administrator | Ms. E. Casey, a/Assistant Staff Officer |
| Mr. D. O'Toole, Head of Digital Transformation | Dr. Beatrice Heneghan, Head of IS |
| Mr. Martin Keating, Head of Environment | Mr. Iarla Moran, Head of Castlebar M.D. |
| Mr. David Mellet, CARO Regional Co-Ordinator | Ms. Sharon Cameron, Environmental Awareness Officer. |
| Ms. Laura Dixon, Climate Action Officer | Ms. Michelle Killeen, Business Analyst |
| Ms. Anne Claire McLoughlin, IS Tech. Support | Ms. Claire Murray, IS Tech. Support |
| Ms. Claire Rafferty, IS Tech. Support | |

Cllr. R. Finn welcomed everyone to Mayo County Council's first fully online meeting.

S. Kilcullen gave an overview of the protocols for remote meetings and reminded councillors of the protocols for declaring a conflict of interest during the council meeting.

Any member who has a pecuniary or other beneficial interest on any item before the members must disclose the nature of that interest and then withdraw fully from the meeting for as long as the matter is being discussed or considered. Similarly, any member who has a connected person who has a pecuniary or other beneficial interest on any items before the members must disclose the nature of that interest and then withdraw fully from the meeting for as long as the matter is being discussed or considered. A connected person means a brother, sister, parent or spouse of the person or a child of the person or of the spouse.

It was also noted that, as per the remote meetings protocol, a member declaring a disclosable interest must also leave a remote meeting advising the Cathaoirleach and members at the time of the departure and this will be recorded in the minutes. Their departure will be confirmed by the Meetings Administrator

Roll call was then carried out.

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RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

Proposed by: Cllr. R. Finn

Seconded by: Cllr. D. Ryan

Resolved: -

“That the sympathy of the Council be extended to the McDonnell Family of Toughnane, Bohola on the death of Jack McDonnell, father of Sharon Halloran, ASO, Accounts MCC.”

Proposed by: Cllr. R. Finn

Seconded by: Cllr. D. Ryan

Resolved: -

“That the sympathy of the Council be extended to the Heraty family of Nora Heraty, Carrarevaugh, Liscarney, Westport, mother of Mary Wrafter, AEC Officer, LEO.

Proposed by: Cllr. R. Finn

Seconded by: Cllr. D. Ryan

Resolved: -

“That the sympathy of the Council be extended to the Corcoran Family of River View, Crossmolina, on the death of David Corcoran, son of Eileen Corcoran, Staff Officer, Ballina MD and nephew of Mary Gordan, AO, Planning.”

Proposed by: Cllr. R. Finn

Seconded by: Cllr. D. Ryan

Resolved: -

“That the sympathy of the Council be extended to the Cummins Family of Thornhill, Lecanvey, Westport on the death of Michael Cummins.”

Proposed by: Cllr. R. Finn

Seconded by: Cllr. Al McDonnell

Resolved: -

“That the sympathy of the Council be extended to the McAndrew Family of Ballina Rd., Belmullet on the death of Bernie McAndrew.”

P. Duggan associated himself with the resolutions of sympathy above.

Proposed by: Cllr. G. Coyle

Seconded by: Cllr. S. Carey

Resolved: -

“That the sympathy of the Council be extended to the Conroy Family of Barrack St., Belmullet on the death of Paddy Conroy.”

Proposed by: Cllr. G. Coyle

Seconded by: Cllr. S. Carey

Resolved: -

“That the sympathy of the Council be extended to the Gaughan Family of Cross Boyd, Binghamstown, Belmullet, on the death of Peter Gaughan.”

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Proposed by: Cllr. C. Hyland

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Kilcoyne

Resolved: -

“That Mayo County Council hold a meeting on Monday 1st February 2021 to review the *Final Report of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes* published on 12th January 2021.”

P Duggan commented on current Covid emergency and re-emphasised the public health advise to stay at home unless absolutely necessary. This was re-iterated by Cllr. R. Finn who praised the front-line workers.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Sheridan

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Flynn

Resolved: -

“That Item 8 on the Agenda, the Presentation on Mayo County Council’s Information Systems (IS) Services, be deferred until the queries raised by Councillors on the workshop on 18th December were responded to.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Ryan

Seconded by: Cllr. G. Murray

Resolved: -

“That the Council write to the Minister for Health and the Taoiseach to highlight their concerns with regard to the roll out of the COVID-19 vaccines emphasising the need for transparency in the process.”

ITEM 1:

MIONTUAIRISCÍ DE CRUINNÍÚ COMHAIRLE CHONTAE MHAIGH EO A BHÍ AR SIÚL AR AN 14^Ú NOLLAIG 2020 A DEIMHNIÚ.
TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14TH DECEMBER 2020.

Mhol Comhairleoir: Cllr. M. Duffy

Chuid Comhairleoir: Cllr. M. McLoughlin leis

Ghlacu leis an tairiscint: -

“Go n-aontaiomar le Miontuairiscí de Cruinniú Comhairle Chontae Mhaigh Eo a bhí ar siúl ar an 14^ú Nollaig 2020 a deimhniú”.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Ryan

Seconded by: Cllr. A. McDonnell

Resolved: -

“That an update on Dereliction targets and the Housing Programme be included on the agenda of the meetings for 8th March 2021, 14th June 2021 and 13th September 2021.”

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ITEM 2:

LOCAL ELECTIONS (DISCLOSURE OF DONATIONS AND EXPENDITURE) ACT, 1999.

S. Kilcullen gave an overview of the requirements regarding the councillors' Disclosure of Donations obligations. Each person who in the preceding year, was a member of Mayo County Council is required under section 19E of the Local Election (Disclosure of Donation and Expenditure) Act, 1999, as amended, to furnish to the local authority, not later than 31st January, a donation statement indicating whether during the year the member received a donation the value of which exceeded €600.

ITEM 3:

ETHICS FRAMEWORK FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

Members were reminded by S. Kilcullen of their requirement of Part 15 of the Local Government Act 2001, in relation to Disclosure of Interest. Members and relevant employees must furnish an annual **declaration of interests by 26th February.**

Cllr. M. Duffy requested that these declarations be carried out electronically in the future. S. Kilcullen agreed to investigate the feasibility of this for 2022.

ITEM 4:

PRESENTATION FROM COLM O'DWYER, BUSINESS AREA UNIT LEADER, COILLTE.

Colm O'Dwyer, the Business Area Unit Leader of Coillte, gave a presentation on Coillte's operations in Mayo.

Several councillors commended Coillte for their many community woodland projects such as Brackloon Woods and Beleek Woods. A robust discussion ensued which raised the following issues:

- Reporting structure for damages to roads and infrastructure is not in place. Contact numbers for relevant staff are required.
- Extraction of timber is causing damage to roads in rural areas and is affecting many communities. Specific problem areas mentioned were:
 - Shanvallagh, Crossmolina
 - Moygownagh
 - Gortawalagh, Kilmeena
 - Glenisland
 - Ballycastle
 - Glenamaddy
 - Ballycroy
 - Windy Gap
 - Rosmuck, Foxford

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- Costs are being incurred by Mayo County Council to repair tarred roads that should be covered by Coillte.
- Trees are growing to heights that cause damage to telephone lines during storm season.
- Concerns over the lack of maintenance of forestries. Water runs off woodland onto roads creating potholes and dikes e.g. Moygownagh.
- Scenic locations are left looking unsightly after extractions, e.g. Delphi and Drummin.
- Reports of insect infestation and blockage of natural light into homes.
- Illegal dumping in forestry areas is also a problem.

Mr. O'Dwyer and Mr. Michael Donlon, Forestry Manager addressed several of the issues raised:

- Coillte are not permitted to make repairs to tarred roads. He gave a commitment that gravel roads would be repaired quickly when notified.
- They have designated routes in and out of excavation sites, hauliers are tracked by GPS. If they breach the routes, there is a penalty process in place.
- Contact details for relevant staff will be provided to Mayo County Council.
- They are unable to leave a band of trees where mass extractions have occurred as they would be a storm hazard.
- A plan has already been agreed for repairs to roads in Shanvallyagh and Kilmeena.

C. McConnell noted that bonds can only be imposed where planning permission is required. Planning permission is not required for most forestry works.

Cllr. Finn thanked the representatives from Coillte for attending the meeting.

ITEM 5

SPECIAL ELECTION TO CONFIRM MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL'S NOMINEE FOR THE NUIG GOVERNING AUTHORITY.

The term of office of the existing University Governing Authority will expire on 31st January. The process for appointment is set out in the University's Act 1997. Nominations were invited on 18th December and advertised in papers. One nomination was received by 8th January.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Ryan

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Caulfield

Resolved: -

"That Mayo County Council confirm Cllr. R. Finn as their nominee for the NUIG Governing Authority."

ITEM 6

TO NOTE 2021 NATIONAL ROADS ALLOCATIONS FROM TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE IRELAND AND TO CONSIDER ARRANGEMENTS FOR ROADWORKS SCHEME 2021.

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Proposed by: Cllr. J. Munnelly

Seconded by: Cllr. G. Deere

Resolved: -

“That the Council include

- a) Traffic-calming measures in housing estates, and
- b) improvement works on roads along the Wild Atlantic Way

in the roads programme for 2021.”

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Duffy

Seconded by: Cllr. N. Cruise

Resolved: -

“That the development of the N26 be included in the review of project Ireland 2040 before the deadline of 29th January 2021.”

T. Gilligan gave a brief overview on the grant allocations to LA for national roads.

ITEM 7

CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S MANAGEMENT REPORT

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Ryan

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Kilcoyne

Resolved: -

“That Management Update Report, as circulated, be noted.”

Proposed by: Cllr. R. Finn

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Duffy

Resolved: -

“That the Council add the Western Rail Corridor as an item on the agenda for February’s Council meeting.”

Cllr. M. Loftus commended the work of John Condon, Kevin Keegan, Seamus Murphy and Darragh Colleary in securing €1.5 million investment for a new Fire Station in Crossmolina.

Further questions raised in relation to velocity patchers, schedule for street sweepers, CRM and road improvements which were responded to by the CE and Directors of Services.

ITEM 8

PRESENTATION ON MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL’S INFORMATION SYSTEMS (IS) SERVICES.

Deferred.

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ITEM 9

TO NOTE MINUTES OF WESTPORT/BELMULLET MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD ON 30TH NOVEMBER 2020.

Proposed by: Cllr. G. Coyle

Seconded by: Cllr. C. Hyland

Resolved: -

“That the Minutes of Westport/Belmullet Municipal District Meeting held on 30th November 2020, be noted.”

ITEM 10

TO NOTE MINUTES OF BALLINA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD ON 18TH NOVEMBER 2020.

Proposed by: Cllr. S. Weir

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Munnelly

Resolved: -

“That the Minutes of Ballina Municipal District Meeting held on 18th November 2020, be noted.”

Proposed by: Cllr. Michael Kilcoyne

Seconded by: Cllr. Damien Ryan

Resolved: -

“That the Standing Orders be suspended to enable the meeting to continue beyond 5:30pm.”

NOTICES OF MOTION

Proposed by: Cllr. R. Finn / D. Ryan

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Caulfield

Resolved: -

“Calling on Mayo County Council to release funding for completion of works already paid for by applicants for planning permission to have the relevant works completed which have been part of the conditions of their applications especially where most of the infrastructure is already in place.”

Proposed by: Cllr. P. O’Brien

Seconded by: Cllr. D. Ryan

Resolved: -

“Calling on Mayo County Council to make available how much was paid in fines for dog fouling for 2020.”

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Environment Section's report in relation to dog fouling fines was discussed. Several councillors stressed the need for enforcement to be increased in this regard.

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Duffy

Seconded by: Cllr. C. Hyland

Resolved: -

"Calling on Mayo County Council to declare a climate emergency and commit to taking measures to address the climate crisis within County Mayo".

Following a lengthy discussion, a vote was taken which resulted as follows on the following amended motion

"Calling on Mayo County Council to declare a climate and biodiversity emergency and commit to taking measures to address the climate crisis within County Mayo".

| <u>For</u> | <u>Against</u> | <u>Absent</u> |
|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Cllr. C Burke | Cllr. S. Carey | Cllr. T. Connolly |
| Cllr. M. Burke | Cllr. J. Caulfield | Cllr. J. Cribbin |
| Cllr. G. Deere | Cllr. G. Coyle | Cllr. P. McNamara |
| Cllr. M. Duffy | Cllr. N. Cruise | Cllr. J. O'Malley |
| Cllr. P. Flynn | Cllr. R. Finn | Cllr. M. Smyth |
| Cllr. B.K. Gavin | Cllr. M. Loftus | |
| Cllr. C. Hyland | Cllr. M. McLoughlin | |
| Cllr. M. Kilcoyne | Cllr. P. O'Brien | |
| Cllr. A. McDonnell | Cllr. J. O'Hara | |
| Cllr. B. Mulroy | Cllr. A. M. Reape | |
| Cllr. J. Munnely | Cllr. D. Ryan | |
| Cllr. G. Murray | Cllr. S. Weir | |
| Cllr. D. Sheridan | | |
| <hr/> 13 | <hr/> 12 | <hr/> 5 |

As the vote resulted in 13 for and 12 against with 5 absent, the Motion was carried.

Remainder of the Notices of Motion were deferred to the next meeting on 8th February 2021.

Meeting concluded at 18:45.