

**Minutes of Meeting of Environment, Climate Action and Agriculture Strategic Policy
Committee held in via zoom on Wednesday, 11 November 2020.**

Members Present:

Councillor Justin Warnock (Chairperson)
Councillor Paddy Farrell
Councillor Sean McGowan
John Brennan
Eddie Mitchell

Officials Present:

Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance, Finance, Water, Environment, Climate Action and
Emergency Services
Sinead NiThiarnain, Staff Officer
Christina Bohan, Assistant Staff Officer
Francis Gaffney, A/Senior Engineer
Brendan McKenna, Senior Executive Engineer

Apologies:

**1 To note Minutes of Meeting of Environmental, Climate Action & Agriculture
Strategic Policy Committee of 15th July, 2020**

The Minutes of Meeting of Environment, Climate Action and Agriculture Strategic Policy
Committee held on 15th July, 2020 were approved on the proposal of Councillor Paddy
Farrell and seconded by John Brennan

2 Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

3 Presentation on Water Quality

The Members received a presentation from Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance, Water,
Environment, Climate Action and Emergency Services and Brendan McKenna, Senior
Executive Engineer on the EPA Water Quality in Ireland 2013 – 2018. A discussion
took place regarding the different factors which affect the status of the quality of
water in various locations in the county. Councillor Sean McGowan enquired
regarding the water quality status of Lough Rinn. Brendan McKenna, Senior Executive
Engineer outlined the various pressures in that area which could affect the water
quality but stated that at present, LAWPRO are compiling a report in order to identify
the problems so that improvements to the quality of water in Lough Rinn can be
achieved. The treatment plant at Lough Rinn has been upgraded which will hopefully
contribute to water quality improvement of Lough Rinn.

Councillor Justin Warnock enquired regarding the factors which account for the
deterioration of the water quality status of the Glenaniff River. Brendan McKenna,
Senior Executive Engineer stated that forestry or sheep dipping activity could be
contributing factors.

4 Update on Water Services

Francis Gaffney, Acting Senior Engineer presented a report on Water Services – Capital Works Programme. A discussion took place regarding the difficulties posed to householders in various parts of the county who wish to set up a Group Sewerage Scheme as large financial sums are required by Irish Water. Francis Gaffney, Acting Senior Engineer stated that householders should be advised to pursue their plans group sewerage schemes as the financial issues may be resolved in the future. Councillor Paddy Farrell enquired regarding sewerage service at Hartley, Carrick on Shannon. Francis Gaffney, Acting Senior Engineer explained that the Irish Water Framework setting out contractor prices are excessive, but that Group Sewerage Schemes should still continue to pursue their plans. Brendan McKenna, Senior Executive Engineer stated that under the EPA NIP DWWTS, many householders in the Hartley area have been issued with Advisory Notices to upgrade their septic tanks.

Councillor Sean McGowan welcomed the Funding which has been secured for the Gortfadda section of the R202 and stated that hopefully the continuous leakage problems on that stretch of road will now be alleviated.

5 Any Other Business

▪ Shass Landslide

The members were circulated with a progress report dated 28th July 2020 regarding Shass Mountain Landslide. Francis Gaffney, Acting Senior Engineer stated that a working group has been set up and that meetings are ongoing with various issues to be resolved.

Councillor Justin Warnock thanked the great work by the Council and paid compliments to the staff on the excellent way that the emergency was dealt with and the speed of how normality was restored to that area.

A discussion took place regarding the possible causes of the land slide. Eddie Mitchell stated that he was on a Steering Group representing landowners in that area who had a lot of concerns in that regard. He enquired as to what would have caused the landslide. Francis Gaffney, Acting Senior Engineer replied that climate change could be a contributing factor after the prolonged dry spell followed by intense rainfall. Eddie Mitchell stated that the IFA were concerned that the land could be left as a polluted site and that the IFA will need the engagement of the Councillors to help resolve all the concerns involved.

The Executive stated that Leitrim County Council does not have the capacity to deal with all the problems caused by the landslide and that the best outcome will be at a multi-agency level so that all issues can be dealt with at a national level. The members were informed by the Executive that a working group has been established to ensure the best outcome for everyone.

- **Next SPC Meeting**

The next meeting of the SPC will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, 8th December at 3.30 p.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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SIGNED: _____
Councillor Justin Warnock
Chairperson

SIGNED: _____
Sinead NiThiarnain
Environment Section
Environment, Climate Action
and Agriculture Strategic
Policy Committee

DATE: Tuesday, 8 December 2020