

COMHAIRLE BAILE MHUINEACHÁIN

MONAGHAN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Tuesday 15th April 2014 at 5.00pm in the Council Chamber of Monaghan Town Council, Town Hall, No. 1 Dublin Street, Monaghan.

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Paul McGeown

Present: Cllrs. Mary Carroll, Seán Conlon, Robbie Gallagher, Thomas Hagan, David Maxwell, Donal Sherry, Seamus Treanor and Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha.

In Attendance: Paul Clifford, Director of Services, Dermot Deeney, Town Engineer, Marie Deighan, Town Clerk and Aisling Greenan, Clerical Officer.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Paul McGeown welcomed Mr. William Merriman, Area Operations Manager and Mr. Paul Gallen, Operations Performance Manager representing the National Ambulance Service to the meeting.

At the outset Mr. Merriman stated that the Ambulance Service has gone through a lot of changes in recent years arising from HIQA Standards they had to implement to improve the quality of service to the public. There are still many challenges for management and many actions have been taken to benefit the patient, i.e. training/upskilling of paramedic staff which allows the service to provide advance acute care to patients before transporting them.

Mr. Merriman pointed out that difficulties had arisen in the North East Area because of a high level of absenteeism among ambulance service personnel which has been as high as 14/15% but was now reduced to a level of between 6-9% which is still in excess of the 3.5% national average. The Members expressed concern regarding these statistics and acknowledged the stressful work ambulance personnel do but believed that there should be rostering in place to meet the level of absenteeism.

A question and answer session followed:-

(a) Reasons for delay in ambulances attending emergencies?

The Members were informed that the National Ambulance Service have limited resources and that when a call is received in the call centre in Dublin the dedicated call takers/managers/dispatchers determine the priority of each call received and the nearest available resource is sent to that call.

(b) Why are ambulances no longer stationed in Monaghan?

Mr. Merriman stated that ambulances are still stationed in Monaghan and that there is no intention of taking away or removing the service.

(c) What has become of the Responder Vehicle?

Mr. Merriman stated that the responder vehicle had been in place during the reconfiguration of Monaghan Hospital but the responder vehicle was not getting the activity required to keep up the staffs training levels and therefore two new responder vehicles have been introduced (based in Trim and Ardee) and these vehicles can be sent to Monaghan depending on where the resource is required.

Cllr. Robbie Gallagher expressed a view that there is a fear among people in the North Monaghan area that in the event of a heart attack or an emergency situation and because of the reduced level of services at Monaghan General Hospital that it would be preferable if the responder vehicle was still located in Monaghan.

- (d) For County Monaghan, what percentage of response times, from request of ambulance to arrival to patient, meet within the HIQA recommended time frame of eight minutes for cardiac and life threatening cases?

Mr. Merriman stated that he did not have the statistics in relation to this question and there is no breakdown of information in this regard on a county by county basis but he would make the information they had available to the Council in the near future.

- (e) In relation to staffing levels of the ambulance service covering the Monaghan area, please provide a breakdown from the past three years of recruitment of first responders, i.e. those attending to the location of a call out. What plans are in place to increase this number?

Mr. Gallen pointed out that recruitment takes place nationally and staff are allocated to areas where numbers fell. Mr. Merriman stated that staffing levels in Monaghan station have not reduced and that there are 16 rostered positions supported by a relief service.

- (f) Provide the number from the past three years of emergency vehicles acquired/decommissioned within the fleet covering the Monaghan area, distinguishing between emergency ambulance and intermediate care vehicles. What plans are in place to increase this number?

Mr. Merriman stated that all new vehicles are purchased nationally and there is funding for 35 new emergency ambulances nationally in 2014 and the North Leinster Area will receive 12 of these vehicles. The replacement of vehicles are determined by age and use. The Members noted that intermediate care vehicles started up last year and cover the type of work ambulances used to do in the past, e.g. hospital transfers. The Members noted that these vehicles had doubled compared to what was there last year.

- (g) Considering that along the mostly isolated and rural border corridor from Donegal to Louth, including North Monaghan, that hospital sites such as Newry, Craigavon and Altnagelvin are within a shorter distance and travel time from hospitals south of the border, are arrangements of mutual co-operation in place whereby ambulances can transport emergency, critical care patients to the nearest hospital, regardless of jurisdiction?

Mr. Gallen stated that in the Donegal area there is a mutual understanding with Altnagelvin hospital in critical cases but that in the Monaghan area there is no such arrangement. It was noted that the ambulance service could not bring a patient to a hospital outside the jurisdiction without contacting the hospital first and that hospital agreeing to the request. However in a critical situation ambulance crews are advised to bring the patient to the nearest hospital.

- (h) For the purpose of reassuring emergency callers seeking an ambulance, is it common practice to notify the caller as to what length of time it will take for the ambulance to arrive on location?

Mr. Merriman stated that best practice would not be to give the estimated time of arrival of an ambulance as the ambulance could be diverted to a more serious call and this would lead to giving the member of the public who called an expectation that would not happen. Mr. Merriman was of the opinion that the introduction of postal codes will greatly prevent delays in the future.

- (i) What assurances can the Ambulance Services give to the people of County Monaghan that response times to ambulance call-outs will not in the future replicate recent situations where drivers got lost and arrival to patient was approximately three hours after the emergency call was made?

Mr. Merriman stated that a three hour delay is not acceptable to the ambulance service but that delays can occur because of various circumstances. Mr. Merriman stated that they have put in place specialised call takers and that they are learning from their mistakes and put practices in place to ensure that mistakes will not happen again.

Mr. Merriman stated that the ambulance service would be happy to meet any family who had a poor experience with the ambulance service.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Paul McGeown thanked Mr. Merriman and Mr. Gallen for attending the Meeting and the gentlemen in turn thanked the Members of the Council for the opportunity to explain things from the ambulance services point of view.

Mr. Merriman and Mr. Gallen left the meeting room.

On the proposal of Cllr. Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha it was agreed to extend a vote of sympathy to Cllr. Donal Sherry on the death of his brother Frank Sherry, London. It was noted that Mr. Sherry had been residing in London since 1959 and sympathy was also extended to the deceased's three daughters.

A vote of sympathy was extended to Marcella Carey, former staff member of Monaghan Town Council on the death of her mother, Gertrude McQuaid, Monaghan and to the Macklin Family, Cortolvin View on the death of Mrs. Carmel Macklin, wife of the late Francis Macklin, a former Chairman and long serving Fine Gael Member of Monaghan Town Council.

Paul Clifford, Director of Services was associated with the votes of sympathy

A minutes silence was observed and the meeting was adjourned for a short time as a mark of respect.

1. Confirmation of March Monthly Meeting held on 18th March 2014

On the proposal of Cllr. David Maxwell seconded by Cllr. Donal Sherry it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the March Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Tuesday 18th March 2014.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

It was noted that the Area Engineer is considering the matter of traffic calming measures on the Castleblayney Road into Monaghan Town.

In relation to a proposed Environmental Improvement Scheme for Dublin Street, Paul Clifford, Director of Services stated that all land owners in the area have been spoken to and that the next step is to carry out surveys and get plans done.

Cllr. Donal Sherry welcomed the new directional signage for pedestrian access in the walkway off Dublin Street.

Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha was informed that no response has yet been received from the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government in relation to his non-attendance at the last Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland Seminar.

In relation to a request to close an alleyway in the Mullaghmatt housing estate it was noted that the Council have spoken to the residents regarding the matter. It was also noted that the emergency services and Gardaí have been asked for their observations on the closure of same.

Cllr. Seán Conlon referred to the problem caused by the parking of vehicles on an alleyway off the Mall Road area.

It was noted that the parking spaces of local residents in Rooskey Vale are continued to be abused by those using the Greenway Walk area.

3. Manager's Orders

The Members noted Manager's Orders numbered 26/14 – 49/14. It was noted that the Council will be carrying out routine road works shortly which will include an overlay of Dawson Street

4. Correspondence

The Members noted the following correspondence:

- Letter dated 8th April 2014 from the Department of Finance regarding a resolution passed at a recent meeting of Monaghan Town Council regarding IBRC (in Special Liquidation). On the proposal of Cllr. Seamus Treanor seconded by Cllr. Robbie Gallagher it was agreed to write to Minister Noonan asking him for details of the protections that will be extended to mortgage holders in arrears.
- Acknowledgement letter dated 7th April 2014 from the Office of the Minister for Social Protection regarding rental limits for County Monaghan.
- Acknowledgement letter dated 8th April 2014 from the Department of Health concerning Monaghan Hospital.
- Acknowledgement letter dated 31st March 2014 from the Department of Finance regarding a Notice of Motion calling on a temporary moratorium on State owned bodies re-employing those already in receipt of public sector pensions in respect of previous State employment.
- Letter dated 26th March 2014 from RTE in relation to SAORVIEW coverage in Monaghan Town. Cllr. Seamus Treanor stated that TV reception problems are also being experienced in Tyholland, Glaslough, Emyvale and Mullan Mills where the SAORVIEW reception is very poor. Cllr. Robbie Gallagher also expressed the view that a lot of older people had been left confused by the switch over to digital television and thought that there should have been a better public information campaign at the time of the switch over.
- Acknowledgement letter dated 27th March 2014 from An Garda Síochána regarding issues raised at the March Monthly Meeting of the Town Council regarding cyclists on footpaths and congregation of youths on footpaths causing disruptive behaviour.
- Letter dated 27th March 2014 from the Mayor of the Municipality of Chepelare presenting a proposal for twinning of Monaghan and Chepelare. Cllr. Seán Conlon proposed that the Town Council consider twinning with Mechelen in Belgium from where World War 1 refugees had travelled in 1914 to find temporary accommodation in what is now known as the Belgian Square and Belgium Park areas of Monaghan Town. It was also noted that one of the schools in Monaghan Town is currently involved in a project along with a school in Mechelen. The Members of the Council congratulated and complimented the residents of Belgian Square on all of the activities they have planned for their centenary celebrations in 2014. It was agreed to refer both requests to the Members of the Monaghan Municipal District for further exploration.

- Letter dated 4th April 2014 from Monaghan County Council regarding sewer extensions at Milltown and Scotstown Road. The Members welcomed funding in the sum of €135,000 for a sewerage extension at Milltown and expressed disappointment that the sewerage extension needed for the Scotstown Road was not yet in place. Cllr. Seán Conlon referred to a survey carried out by Monaghan Urban District Council in January 2001 which referred to the need for sewerage extensions to a number of locations in the town. Paul Clifford, Director of Services stated that the sewer had been extended in accordance with the said survey from the Dublin Road to O' Neills Farm and the Service Land Initiative was also put in place. Cllr. Robbie Gallagher called on Irish Water to be sensitive to the Milltown residents when it came for them to pay the connection fee to be connected to the sewerage scheme.
- Letter dated 31st March 2014 from Irish Public Bodies Insurance in relation to their Annual General Meeting to be held on Friday 25th April 2014.
- E-mail dated 10th April 2014 from the IT Section of Monaghan County Council in relation to a request from Monaghan Town Council to provide free wi-fi in the centre of Monaghan town.
- Letter dated 26th March 2014 from An Taisce in relation to the IBAL Anti-Litter League 2014. It was agreed to notify all supermarkets in the town that they may be the subject of monitoring under the Anti-Litter League.
- Letter dated 8th April 2014 from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government in relation to a request for government funding for a footbridge in Monaghan Town.

5. Planning Applications

The Members noted Planning Applications numbered MT14/30005 – MT14/30007.

Cllr. Seán Conlon referred to planning applications received from Latlurcan Developments Ltd at the Latlurcan private housing development on the Castleblayney Road and called for the said works to be expedited. Paul Clifford, Director of Services stated that dealing with issues regarding unfinished housing developments was a very slow process and agreed that some of the works required at the estate could be carried out immediately.

6. Business Submitted by An Cathaoirleach

No business was submitted by An Cathaoirleach.

7. Consideration of Reports of Committees:-

The Members approved the Minutes of a Planning Sub-Committee meeting held on Friday 4th April 2014. It was agreed to hold the final meeting of Monaghan Town Council at 6pm on Tuesday 27th May 2014 and that all past Members of the Council will be invited to attend.

The Members agreed to consider a proposal for bus parking in the near future.

On the proposal of Cllr. David Maxwell seconded by Cllr. Donal Sherry it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of a Budget Sub-Committee Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Friday 4th April 2014. The following Community Grants were approved for payment:-

Name of Community Group	Amount €
Milltown Residents Association	250
Killygoan Residents Association	1000
Woodlands Residents Association	150
Cluain Lorcáin Residents Committee	250
Corran Residents Association	150
Coolshannagh Walk Residents Association	250
Mullaghduin Residents Group	150
Kilnacloy/St. Patricks Terrace Residents Association	500
Mullaghmatt Cortolvin Community Development Ltd	900
Beechgrove Lawns Residents Association	750
Tully Residents Association	400
Latlorcan Residents Association	700
Clover Hill Residents Association	150
Monaghan Community Allotments Ltd	350
Shuffling Boots Line Dancing Club	250
Monaghan Training Workshop	400
Monaghan Community Brass Band	700
Monaghan Town Community Games	600
Monaghan Harps GAA Club	900
Fergal O'Hanlon GFC	800
Monaghan United Football Club	900
Monaghan Town Football Club	650
An Cumann Gaelach	600
Monaghan Lithuanian Community	250
St. Macartans Snooker Club	150
Ardaghey Games Committee	150
Blackwater 10K Run/Walk	100
Monaghan Special Olympics	300
Monaghan Town Runners	100
Baile Mhuineacháin CCE	150
Monaghan GYDP Foroige	150
Monaghan SPCA	300
Monaghan Cricket Club	100
Men's Shed, Monaghan	150
Solas Drop-in Centre	100
Total	13,750

Cllr. Mary Carroll stated that she attended a meeting of Coiste Gaeilge and reported as follows:-
 Thug Comhl. Ní Chearbhaill tuairisc ar cruinniú den Choiste Gaeilge ar an 15ú Aibreán.
 Bhí tuairisc ar imeachtaí Seachtain na Gaeilge 2014. Níl aon sonraí nua faoi Oifigeach Gaeilge.
 Beidh an Comhairle Chontae ag lorg cead ón Roinn chun oifigeach nua a cheapadh. Níl said an-dóchasach mar gheall ar an lánchosc.

Tá brú ón gCoimisinéir Teanga Dréachtscéim nua (nó an dara Scéim) a chur i bhfeidhm, ach gan Oifigeach Gaeilge is deacair é sin a dhéanamh. Bhí crannchur le haghaidh Scoláireachtaí Gaeltachta. Bhí 145 iarrthóirí ar 36 ionad.

Cllr. Carroll gave a report on a meeting of Choiste Gaeilge on April 15th. There was a report on the events of Seachtain na Gaeilge 2014. No news on an Oifigeach Gaeilge. The Co. Council will seek sanction from the Department to appoint one. They are not very optimistic because of the embargo. There is pressure from the Irish Language Commissioner to prepare a second Draft Irish Language Scheme but without an Oifigeach Gaeilge this is difficult. There was a lottery for the Gaeltacht Scholarships. There were 145 applicants for 26 places.

8. Roads/Housing

A number of matters were noted for the attention of the Town Engineer:

- Killygoan Playpark equipment – tenders been finalized at present
- Turning lane required at junction of McClearys shop
- Numbering scheme for Mullaghmatt Estate
- Illegal dumping - Mullaghmatt – Kellys area
- Dog bins required in large housing estates
- Dr. McKenna Tce - back lane in poor condition
- Pathway in Killyconnigan – kerb broken, moss, etc
- Manhole cover sinking – Flacks garage area
- Roundabout at Coolshannagh – very dangerous
- Bring bank required for the disposal of plastic bottles
- Road markings required at roundabout – Park Street
- Blind spot – Broad road
- Ball playing on gables of dwellings – Mullaghmatt estate
- Motor bike/quad on Greenway

Cllr. Seán Conlon stated that once people are awarded a dwelling under the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) they are removed from the Council's housing waiting list and was of the view that people should be advised from the outset that this is the situation. Cllr. Robbie Gallagher supported Cllr. Conlon in this regard and it was agreed to write to the Minister for Housing and Planning on the matter. Paul Clifford, Director of Services stated that an applicant housed under the RAS Scheme may apply for a transfer.

It was agreed to serve a Dangerous Structure Notice on the owner of a dangerous burnt-out dwelling at Mullaghmatt.

9. Telecommunication Mast at Killygoan

The Members look forward to the removal of the telecommunication mast at Killygoan.

10. Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme

The Members noted the following report in relation to the Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme:- Monaghan Town Council has received approval from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government to appoint Zilic Developments Ltd. to carry out the works to Phase 3 of the Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme.

The Council has issued the Letter of Acceptance to Zilic Developments Ltd. and is now awaiting formal confirmation from the contractor regarding the start date for the works. It is envisaged that works will commence shortly.

11. Report on Vacant Apartments at Drumbear

It was noted that work has now been completed on the vacant apartments at Drumbear.

12. Consideration of approval of Section 183 Notice under the Local Government Act 2001 – Lands at Mullaghmatt, Monaghan.

On the proposal of Cllr. David Maxwell seconded by Cllr. Paul McGeown it was agreed to approve a Section 183 Notice under the Local Government Act 2001 in relation to lands at Mullaghmatt and as per notice dated 4th April 2014.

13. Ceisteanna/Questions

Cllrs. Conlon, Uí Mhurchadha, Sherry and McGeown asked:

(a) Over the past 12 months, what has been the average Saturday daily revenue generated through pay parking?

Saturday income cannot be isolated from the weekly amounts lodged. The annual income in 2013 amounted to €565,937.

€565,937/293 = €1,931.52 per day

(365 days in year – 52(Sundays) – 12(Christmas days free parking) – 8(Bank holidays) – 293.

(b) When does the 10 year loan facility that was required for the implementation of pay parking expire?

The €750,000 loan for pay parking was drawn down on the 20th December 2004 . The Town Council redeemed the pay parking loan on the 31st March 2014.

(c) With the exception of the loan repayment costs, what are the total running costs, wages, upkeep of machines, the cost of pay parking on an annual basis?

The total running costs of pay parking in 2013 with the exception of the loan repayment amounted to €309,600. This figure includes wages/salaries, leasing of car parks, upkeep of pay parking machines, collection/lodgement of monies, pay parking office systems, stationery/advertising, solicitors costs, miscellaneous.

(d) Over the past three financial years, what has been the total revenue, itemised by year, generated through the payment of parking fines and penalties accruing from pay parking violation tickets paid to the Town Council?

2011 – Traffic Fines Income €72,905

2012 – Traffic Fines Income €89,159

2013 – Traffic Fines Income €71,270

(e) Over the past three financial years, what loan repayments and associated fees, itemised by year, have been repaid off the loan taken to implement pay parking in 2004?

2011 Principal €80,913.75 + Interest €5,206.25 = €86,120

2012 Principal €83,953.42 + Interest €2,166.58 = €86,120

2013 Principal €85,196.20 + Interest €923.80 = €86,120

Cllr. Seán Conlon proposed that the Town Council introduce a suspension of payparking from 12 noon each Saturday from the 1st May 2014 until the Christmas period and that the Council invite expressions of interest from people willing to provide musical entertainment and other attractions at the bandstand area in The Diamond. This was seconded by Cllr. Donal Sherry.

Cllr. Mary Carroll stated that she was not in favour of the proposal of suspending pay parking and was of the view that it would be more beneficial to do a survey of local businesses in the town to ascertain what their least busy day is and to make that day the one where parking charges could be alleviated. Cllr. David Maxwell seconded Cllr. Mary Carroll's proposal.

Paul Clifford, Director of Services stated that the cost of the proposal over 30 weeks would be in the region of approximately €30,000 and that as the members had adopted a statutory budget for 2014 they would have to find where this money would come from and state how the shortfall in income would be made up which will either be through reduction in expenditure or an increase in income from other sources. Cllr. Robbie Gallagher stated that Cllr. Conlon's proposal should be examined in the context of the budget and Cllr. Thomas Hagan stated that Monaghan Town has the lowest rate of payparking charges in the country.

Following a discussion a vote was taken on Cllr. Conlon's proposal which resulted as follows:-

In favor of the proposal:- Cllrs. Conlon, McGeown, Sherry, Uí Mhurchadha (4)

Against the proposal:- Cllrs. Carroll, Gallagher, Hagan, Maxwell, Treanor (5)

The Motion was declared lost.

A vote was taken on Cllr. Carroll's proposal which resulted as follows:-

In favor of the proposal – Cllrs. Carroll, Conlon, Gallagher, Hagan, McGeown, Maxwell, Sherry, Treanor, Uí Mhurchadha (9)

Against the proposal – (0)

The Motion was declared carried.

14. Resolutions from Other Local Authorities

- (a) "That this Council calls on the Minister of State for Public Reform and the Office of Public Works to make available to people living in areas which suffer from flooding a grant which would allow them to put proper Floodgate Systems in place".

Ballina Town Council

It was agreed to mark the above Resolution read.

- (b) "That this Council calls for the immediate cessation of the unnecessary addition of fluoride to public water in Ireland".

Kinsale Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution and on the proposal of Cllr. Seamus Treanor seconded by Cllr. Robbie Gallagher it was agreed to write to the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government on the issue of fluoridation of the public water supply.

- (c) "That Drogheda Borough Council extends its support and congratulations to the group Former Local Authority Members Éire (FLAME) which has held its first press conference aimed at highlighting the groups bid to successfully obtain a Judicial Review of aspects of the Local Government Reform Act 2014. The group is attempting to mobilize momentum among former local authority members and indeed sitting members at a state wide level. All of this loss is occurring with a view to overturning the abolition of Town and Borough Councils as laid out in provisions of the Local Government Reform Act 2014".

Drogheda Borough Council

It was agreed to mark the above Resolution read.

15. Conferences :-

- (a) Ace Training – “Chambers of Commerce Building Business” – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork - 18th- 20th April 2014 (approx. Cost €880)
- (b) Samson Training Breakfast Morning - – “Industry Training and Development Ireland 2014” – Gibson Hotel, Dublin – 24th April 2014 - (approx. cost €170).
- (c) Ennis Men’s Shed Conference – “Mental and Physical Well-being of Men” – West County Hotel, Ennis, Co. Clare – 25th – 26th April 2014 – (approx. cost €550).
- (d) Ace Training – “Know your Rights: 2014 Social Welfare, Health and Taxation” - Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork - 25th - 27th April 2014 – (approx. cost €880).
- (e) Donegal County Council 5th Annual Laurentic Conference – “Technology, a People and the Ocean” – Inishowen Gateway Hotel, Buncrana – 2nd May 2014 – (approx. cost €345).
- (f) Ace Training - “Retirement Entitlements and Taxation Benefits for Councillors” – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford – 2nd – 4th May 2014 – (approx. cost €370).
- (g) Superior Training – “Reformed Local Government and the Councillor” – Millrace Hotel, Bunclody – 9th – 10th May 2014 – (approx. cost €530).
- (h) Ace Training – “Waste Management Legislation – Responsibilities of Local Authorities disposing and recycling electrical and electronic equipment” – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery – 9th- 11th May 2014 (approx. cost €880).
- (i) Centre for Regeneration and Development – “Rural Revitalization” – University College, Dublin – 21st May 2014 – (approx. Cost €440).

No attendance is to take place at the above Conferences.

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2001, Section 142(5)(f), the Members were circulated with reports on proceedings in relation to attendance at the following conferences:-

- Disability Federation of Ireland Citizen engagement – Local Authorities - attended by Cllr. Seán Conlon.
- A Guide to EU Education Programmes – attended by Cllr. Mary Carroll.

16. Any Other Business

On the proposal of Cllr. Robbie Gallagher seconded by Cllr. Seán Conlon it was agreed to hold a Civic Reception for the 2nd Monaghan Scout Group, Monaghan Town to mark their 70th anniversary.

In relation to the new television rights deal reached between the GAA and SKY Sports, Cllr. Donal Sherry stated that the matter should be kept under close review and monitored.

On the proposal of Cllr. Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr. Donal Sherry it was agreed to write to the Minister for Defence, Alan Shatter TD asking him to re-assess the current retirement requirement for personnel serving in the Defence Forces and conveying the Councils’ support for PDFORRA’s request for an extension of the upper age limit of service to 50 years of age.

The Members noted correspondence from the Mullaghmatt/Cortolvin Residents Association seeking approval from the Monaghan Town Joint Policing Committee for additional CCTV in a number of additional locations in Mullaghmatt, Oriel Way and Oriel Road areas. It was noted that the Members of the JPC who were in attendance at the public meeting gave approval to the additional cameras. On the proposal of Cllr. Donal Sherry seconded by Cllr. Mary Carroll it was agreed that public notice be given inviting submissions on the proposal.

Cllr. Seamus Treanor praised the actions of two men who apprehended a robber in the Roslea area recently.

The Members referred to issues raised at the recent Monaghan Town Joint Policing Public Meeting recently and expressed hope that the Gardaí will act in stamping out drink related anti-social behaviour in areas of the town.

17. Sympathy/Congratulations

A vote of congratulations was extended to Ailish McEntee on obtaining the GAA Presidents Award for her outstanding service to the Association.

Congratulations was also extended to Monaghan United Ladies on the success of the staging of a recent cross border tournament.

Best wishes were extended to the Monaghan Harps Ladies who have organised a fund raising walk/run to take place on the new Monaghan Greenway.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Dated this the 19th day of May 2014

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

