

**COMHAIRLE BAILE MHUINEACHAIN  
MONAGHAN TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2013 at 5.00pm. in the Council Chamber of Monaghan Town Council, Town Hall, 1 Dublin Street, Monaghan.

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Seamus Treanor

Present: Cllrs. Mary Carroll, Seán Conlon, Thomas Hagan, Paul McGeown, Donal Sherry and Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha.

In attendance: David Fallon, County Manager, Dermot Deeney, Town Engineer, Marie Deighan, Town Clerk and Donna Toal, Clerical Officer.

An apology for inability to attend was received from Cllr. Robbie Gallagher.

**To Agree the Draft Monaghan Local Authorities Development Contribution Scheme 2013-2019 for Public Consultation.**

The Members welcomed Adrian Hughes, Senior Planner and Toirleach Gourley, Senior Executive Planner, Monaghan County Council to the Meeting. It was noted that the Draft Monaghan Local Authorities Development Contribution Scheme 2013-2019 has been discussed in detail with the various political parties of the Council and includes a significant reduction for commercial and industrial development. On the proposal of Cllr. Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr. Thomas Hagan it was agreed to approve the draft scheme for public consultation. It was noted that a report will come before the Members following the public consultation process. Adrian Hughes and Toirleach Gourley left the Council Chamber.

**1. Confirmation of March Monthly Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

It was agreed to amend item no. 14 of the Minutes to read as follows:- “On the proposal of Cllr. David Maxwell seconded by Cllr. Thomas Hagan it was agreed to approve of the disposal of the Freehold Interest in No. 14 Woodview, Killygoan, Monaghan and No. 2 Highfield Close, Monaghan in accordance with Notices dated 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2013”.

On the proposal of Cllr. Mary Carroll seconded by Cllr. Donal Sherry it was agreed to adopt the amended Minutes of the March Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

Cllr. David Maxwell entered the Council Chamber.

## **2. Matters arising from the Minutes**

It was agreed to hold a Planning Sub-Committee Meeting on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2013 at 4.30pm. to discuss an application from Monaghan Cruisers to use the Town Council Car Park to show off their cars to other car enthusiasts. It was also agreed to invite the Gardaí to the meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr. Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr. David Maxwell it was agreed to progress the provision of Community Allotments at Killygoan to Monaghan Allotment Society. The County Manager stated that while a Lease is being finalised by the Council's Solicitor that a temporary tenancy will be given to the Society to allow them to commence works on the site.

It was noted that a mobile camera has been installed recently in the town to combat the practice of illegal dumping.

It was noted that the Town Council have not received any allocation this year for the purchase of dwellings. The Members expressed disappointment in this regard as the number of applicants waiting for housing is growing rapidly.

Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha was informed that there are no costings prepared yet for a Famine Memorial for the town. It was noted that consultations are underway at present with the various churches in the town area.

Dermot Deeney, Town Engineer referred to the broken railing on the Ballybay Road and stated that the problem would require extensive works and permission would be needed from a landowner in the area to address the matter.

## **3. Manager's Orders**

The Members noted Manager's Orders Numbered 46/13 – 55/13.

## **4. Correspondence**

The Members noted the following correspondence:-

- Acknowledgement letter dated the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2013 from the Office of the Minister for Housing and Planning in relation to the Mullaghmat Remedial Works Scheme.
- Letter dated the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2013 from the Superintendent of Monaghan Garda Station in relation to begging in Monaghan town. The Members cited instances of people collecting pensions at Monaghan Post Office being subjected to pressure by charitable collectors and suggested that the Parks & Open Spaces Bye-Laws be amended to include a provision stipulating that no begging take place in Mill Street. It was noted that this matter is on the agenda for the next Monaghan Town Joint Policing Committee Meeting.
- Letter dated the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2013 from An Taisce in relation to the IBAL Anti-Litter League 2013.

- Letter dated the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2013 from Chambers Ireland in relation to the Chambers Ireland's Excellence in Local Government Awards 2013. On the proposal of Cllr. Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr. Mary Carroll it was agreed to nominate the Garage Theatre under "Sustaining the Arts" Category of the Awards.
- Letter of thanks dated the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2013 from Special Olympics Ireland thanking the Members for the grant of €300 towards the Monaghan Special Olympics.
- Letter dated the 10<sup>th</sup> April 2013 from the Department of Social Protection regarding the means assessment for rent in relation to Local Authority tenants.
- Expression of Interest Forms for the Taste of Monaghan and Country and Western Festivals. The Members noted the applications in accordance with the Monaghan Town Festival and Event Protocol. On the proposal of Cllr. David Maxwell seconded by Cllr. Mary Carroll it was agreed that the requests from the Festival Committees for funding be referred to the Budget Sub-Committee of the Council for consideration.
- Letter dated the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2013 from Mrs. Elliott, Dungannon thanking the Members for the vote of sympathy on the death of her husband Robert Elliott.

#### **5. Planning Application**

The Members noted Planning Application number M.T. 13/7.

#### **6. Business submitted by An Cathaoirleach**

No business was submitted by An Cathaoirleach.

#### **7. Consideration of Reports of Committees**

There were no reports of Committees.

#### **8. Roads/Housing**

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

- Glen Road – road surface/footpath in need of repair
- Traffic Lights – North Road – ESB have been contacted and are investigating the problem
- Manhole Covers – Dublin Street – repairs scheduled to be carried out by Enet within the next 3 weeks.
- Manhole Covers inspection to be carried out throughout town.
- Potholes – Mill Street/High Street
- Beechgrove Lawns – illegal dumping of grass cuttings/household waste

The Members congratulated Monaghan Motor Club on the annual organisation of their forthcoming Rally in the town and stated that it is one of the busiest weekends for visitors in the County.

**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 that the closing date for receipt of tenders is the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2013 and that when the tenders are assessed by the Housing Agency a report will be submitted to the Department seeking approval to appoint the preferred tenderer.

**11. Report on Mixed Use Development at Rooskey**

It was noted that works are still progressing on the Mixed Use Development at Rooskey.

**12. Report on Vacant Apartments at Drumbear**

Dermot Deeney, Town Engineer stated that a Timber Design Consultant will be inspecting the vacant apartments at Drumbear Wood who will appraise the Council of what works are required.

**13. Consideration of approval to dispose of the Freehold Interest in Council dwelling**

On the proposal of Cllr. Donal Sherry seconded by Cllr. David Maxwell it was agreed to approve of the disposal of the Freehold Interest in No. 32 Devin Reilly Terrace, Monaghan in accordance with Notice dated the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

**14. Consideration of Schedule of Uncollected Rates as at the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012 as per Article 40(a) of the Local Government (Financial Procedures and Audit) Regulations 2002**

The Members noted the following report on the Schedule of Uncollected Rates 2012:-

Rate Warrant for 2012 (including Arrears)	€4,690,413
Paid in 2012	2,395,553
Arrears at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2012	2,294,860

## **Analysis of Uncollected Rates as 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012**

### **Write-offs**

Businesses closed all year or part of year	€ 655,212
Businesses (non-profitable)	98,253
Carried forward	
Rate accounts with Solicitor	287,343
Uncollected rates at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2012	*1,265,980
Credits at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2012	11,928
*€40,455 was paid in January 2013 in respect of 2012	
Collection Rate 2012 – 61%	
Collection Rate 2011 – 62%	

The Members expressed disappointment regarding the closure of Rossmore Furniture by McNally & Finlay, Dublin Road and called on the Government to introduce support measures to secure and create jobs in the area. On the proposal of Cllr. Seán Conlon it was agreed to send a letter to Brian Hayes TD, Minister of State for Public Service Reform and the OPW, Phil Hogan TD, Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, John Perry TD, Minister for Small Business and Richard Bruton TD, Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation asking them to give consideration to the establishment of an Enterprise Centre at the vacant Revenue Commissioners building in the Tullyherim area of the town in order to implement job creation measures for the Monaghan community.

### **15. Notice of Motion:-**

- (a) “That Monaghan Town Council write to Alan Shatter, Minister for Justice and Equality to request the State to appoint and fund a legal team to represent Martin and Michelle Finnegan, Tiravera, Glaslough, Co. Monaghan in their defence of a counterclaim of high court proceedings being brought by their former Solicitor. This Motion is necessary due to the inability of the Finnegan family to obtain legal representation against a Solicitor in Ireland”.

Cllr. Treanor

It was noted that Cllr. Seamus Treanor withdrew the above Notice of Motion on the 12<sup>th</sup> April 2013 and that the Members were notified accordingly.

### **16. Resolutions from Other Local Authorities:-**

- (a) “That Bandon Town Council calls on the Minister for the Environment and Local Government, Phil Hogan to immediately reinstate the footpath allocation to Local Authorities”.

Bandon Town Council

It was agreed to mark the above Resolution read.

- (b) “That this Council welcomes the reducing rates in Budget 2013 but also, in the interest of alleviating the continuing burden on struggling businesses, calls on the Minister for the Environment and Local Government to change the legislation with regard to commercial rates, allowing for a differential rating system to be implemented and further commits to write to other local Councils looking for support for this call”.

Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

It was agreed to mark the above Resolution read.

- © “That Shannon Town Council debate recommending to the Minister for Transport to enact legislation making the wearing of high visibility vests or belts/bands by pedestrians compulsory at times of darkness or low visibility in all areas”.

Shannon Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

- (d) “Shannon Town Council condemn the proposed planned saving of €721 million by the HSE and the reduction of staff by 4,000 in 2013 because of the impact these measures will have on frontline services”.

Shannon Town Council

It was agreed to mark the above Resolution read.

- (e) “Trim Town Council requests the Minister for Justice to apply particular licensing conditions that require “Cash for Gold”, “Cash for precious metals” or “Cash for any customer goods” shops or online traders to keep verifiable transaction records for inspection by Gardaí, Customs and other inspection departments”.

Trim Town Council

On the proposal of Cllr. Mary Carroll seconded by Cllr. Seán Conlon it was agreed to support the above Resolution.

- (f) “That Ballina Town Council calls on Ms. Joan Burton, Minister for Social Protection, following the increase in PRSI payments, to reinstate the dental services for medical card holders and PRSI workers to two free check-ups and reduced fillings costs as was previously prior to the last town increases in the Budgets”.

Ballina Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

- (g) “That this Council resolves to request the Minister for the Environment to amend the legislation in relation to private rented dwellings to enable the PRTB to publish on their website the landlord’s name, in the case of all rented accommodation, thus ensuring more transparency and thereby ensuring that landlords take more responsibility for the behaviour of their tenants”.

Castlebar Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

- (h) “That Buncrana Town Council write to the Minister for Health, Mr. James Reilly asking him to recognise Polio as a life long illness and to issue medical cards to the survivors of same”.

Buncrana Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

- (i) “That Wexford Borough Council call on the Minister for Health and the HSE to urgently channel extra funding into the Mental Health area, specifically to deal with suicide prevention”.

Wexford Borough Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

- (j) “The Members of Muinebheag Town Council call on Education Minister, Ruairi Quinn to restore responsibility for the administration of the Higher Education Grant Scheme to the Local Authorities”.

Muinebheag Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

- (k) “The Members of Muinebheag Town Council call on the Minister for Health, James Reilly and the Health Service Executive to maintain the vital Dublin-Waterford Hospital Bus Service”.

Muinebheag Town Council

It was agreed to mark the above Resolution read.

- (l) “We the Members of this Council call for the resignation of the Minister for Health, James Reilly. His tenure as Minister since the establishment of this Government has been one crisis after another and he should be replaced immediately”.

Ardee Town Council

Cllr. Seán Conlon proposed the Resolution and Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha seconded the Resolution. Cllr. David Maxwell stated that he would not be supporting the Resolution. A vote was taken which resulted as follows:-

In favour of the Resolution:- Cllr. Conlon, McGeown, Sherry, Uí Mhurchadha (4)

Against the Resolution:- Cllrs. Carroll, Hagan, Maxwell (3)

The Cathaoirleach declared the Resolution carried.

- (m) “That this Council calls on the Minister for Education, Ruairi Quinn to recognise the very special place the Waterford College of Further Education plays in deliverance and facilitating access to full scale 3<sup>rd</sup> level education and to reverse the education cuts that directly affect the Waterford College of Further Education who will lose 4 to 6 teachers under his proposal and as many as 120 students. This at a time when the City of Waterford is experiencing severe job losses and education is identified as a pathway to securing jobs”.

Waterford City Council

It was agreed to mark the above Resolution read.

- (n) “Considering the increasing number of vacant and derelict commercial properties in our towns and cities, this Town Council requests the Government to review the legislation on the rating of commercial premises”. In adopting the Motion, Members asked that the following statement be circulated with the Motion:- The Town Council believes that the size of rates on commercial properties is contributing largely to the dereliction of commercial properties in our towns and cities. The retail section has been encountering difficulties for the past number of years. Many businesses have struggled to survive but are now having to cease trading. It is feared that many of these business premises will remain derelict and empty for years. The large increase in on-line retailing is not assisting the situation. The cost of commercial rates is also having a negative effect on businesses trying to maintain employment. The Council believes that the current legislation on commercial rates does not meet the requirements of our towns and cities in 2013 and is requesting a review and reform of the legislation.

Passage West Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

17. **Conferences:-**

- (a) The Westport Conference – “Seminar on Media and the Councillor: Social Media and Traditional Media – Westport Country Lodge Hotel, Westport – 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> April 2013 - (approx. cost €640).
- (b) Tgr Seminars – “Local Property Tax – Logistics, Implications and Consequences for Irish Consumers” – Mullingar Park Hotel, Mullingar – 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> April 2013 - (approx. cost €510)
- © Bluestack Communications – Local Government Reform Conference – “Change for Better or Worse” - Avon Rí Lakeside Resort, Blessington, Co. Wicklow – 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> April 2013 – (approx. cost €510)
- (d) Irish Planning Institute National Planning Conference 2013 – “Achieving Competitiveness and Promoting Innovation – The Future Role of Planning” – Belfast City Hall – 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> April 2013 - (approx. cost €560)
- (e) Celtic Conferences – “Meeting Management – Principles and Best Practice” – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork – 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> April 2013 – (approx. cost €900)
- (f) Nuclear Free Local Authorities Ireland Spring Seminar – “Key energy issues affecting Ireland” – Fingal County Hall, Swords – 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2013 – (approx. cost €180)
- (g) Con Houlihan Seminar Committee – “Role of Local Authorities in Promoting Sport, Recreation and Literature” – River Island Hotel, Castleisland – 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> May 2013 – (approx. cost €630)
- (h) Ace Training – “Public Health Conference on HSE Tobacco Control Policy” – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford – 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> May 2013 - (approx. cost €300)
- (i) Tralee Town Council – St. Brendan International Conference – Tralee, Co. Kerry – 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> May 2013 – (approx. cost €910)

(j) Premier Consultancy – “Substance Awareness Seminar” – The Standing Stone Hotel, Ballinamore – 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> May 2013 – (approx. cost €350)

(k) Tgr Seminars – “How to access funding community programmes relevant to Councillors” – Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise – 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> May 2013 – (approx. cost €630)

No attendance is to take place to the above Conferences.

The Members noted a Report under Section 142(5)(f) of the Local Government Act 2001 in relation to the following Conference:-  
AMAI Conference, New Ross – attended by Cllr. Seán Conlon.

#### 18. **Any Other Business**

It was agreed that the Budget Sub-Committee consider a proposal to make a financial contribution to “Daffodil Day” from the proceeds of the pay parking meters which were mistakenly operating on Good Friday.

It was agreed to write to Joan Burton TD, Minister for Social Protection seeking a full explanation on a Notice of Motion sent to the Minister regarding difficulties experienced by part time firefighting personnel in obtaining Jobseekers allowance payments.

A discussion took place regarding the criticism of the amount of litter evident on the streets of the town over the Easter Bank Holiday weekend. Cllr. Mary Carroll expressed the view that responsibility for the problem lies with the public themselves who threw the litter around. Cllr. Donal Sherry called on the public to report any incidents which they see in relation to the illegal dumping of household waste in public litter bins. Cllr. Hagan referred to illegal dumping of domestic refuse in the Cortolvin Area. David Fallon, County Manager stated that it costs Monaghan Town Council up to €300k to keep the streets of the town clean on an annual basis and that it takes €1.2m to keep the County clean.

#### 19. **Sympathy/Congratulations**

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:-  
The Lynagh family, Newtownbutler Road, Clones on the death of Carmel Lynagh, formerly of Tully, Monaghan.

A vote of congratulations was extended to the following:-  
Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha on receiving a lifetime recognition award at the Le Chéile event at the Sinn Féin Árd Fheis in Castlebar recently.

On the proposal of Cllr. Donal Sherry seconded by Cllr. Seán Conlon it was agreed to wish the Monaghan County Senior Football Team the best of luck in their game against Meath in the Division 3 League Final.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Seamus Treanor presented a trophy to Darren Feely representing the Carrickroe Festival Committee who won the best Community Float in the St. Patricks Day Parade.

This concluded the business of the meeting

Dated this the 20<sup>th</sup> day of May 2013.

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Cathaoirleach