

COMHAIRLE BAILE MHUINEACHÁIN
MONAGHAN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 17th December 2012 at 4.30p.m.in the Council Chamber of Monaghan Town Council, Town Hall, No. 1 Dublin Street, Monaghan.

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Seamus Treanor

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

In Attendance: David Fallon, Acting County Manager, Dermot Deeney, Town Engineer, Jonathan Condell, Assistant Engineer, Marie Deighan, Town Clerk and Mary Hughes, Staff Officer.

At the outset the Members welcomed Dermot Deeney who takes over the post of Town Engineer from Gareth Mc Mahon. The Members noted that Mr. Deeney will have Town Council and Machinery Yard responsibilities. David Fallon, Acting County Manager stated that the Mullaghmat Remedial Scheme will be managed in the future by the Housing Section of Monaghan County Council and that Kevin Mc Nally, Senior Executive Engineer has been assigned to the Scheme and will be giving monthly updates on the scheme to the Members.

The Members also welcomed Northern Sound Journalist, Matthew Mc Mahon to his first meeting of the Town Council.

The Members extended good wishes to Miriam McMahan, Housing Officer on her transfer to the Housing Section of Monaghan County Council.

The Members welcomed Cllr. Thomas Hagan and wished him well following his recent illness.

Agree an Extension of the Duration of Monaghan Town Council Development Contributions Scheme until 30th June 2013

The Members welcomed Toirleach Gourley, Senior Executive Planner, Monaghan County Council to the meeting who explained that the current Development Contribution Scheme is effective from 31st December 2008 to the 31st December 2012. Toirleach Gourley asked the Members to extend the lifetime of the scheme as it is more appropriate to wait until the Development Plan is adopted and to allow for more discussion on the matter. On the proposal of Cllr Seán Conlon seconded by Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha it was agreed to extend the duration of the Monaghan Town Council Development Contribution Scheme until 30th June 2013.

Toirleach Gourley left the Council Chamber.

1. Confirmation of November Monthly Meeting held on 19/11/12.

On the proposal of Cllr. Paul McGeown seconded by Cllr Donal Sherry it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the November Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 19th November 2012.

2. Matters arising from the Minutes

Marie Deighan, Town Clerk stated that no response has been received from the National Roads Authority regarding a provision for people who use the area of the Monaghan Bye-Pass for leisure walking.

It was noted that a planning application has been lodged for the provision of allotments at Killygoan.

Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha stated that she would follow the matter up with the Court Service at National level regarding her efforts to have a Harp emblem restored to the front of Monaghan Court House.

It was noted that there is no reply as yet from the Returning Officer to the Council's request for information on how many unemployed persons had received work at polling stations during the recent referendum. It was agreed to follow the matter up with the relevant department.

It was noted that Ms. Bridget Clarke, General Manager, Cavan Monaghan Hospital Group is unable to attend the December Monthly Meeting due to other urgent commitments.

3. Manager's Orders.

The Members noted Manager's Orders numbered 167/12 – 182/12.

4. Correspondence

The Members noted the following correspondence:-

- Letter dated 3rd December 2012 from the Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality in relation to the right to light. The Members expressed disappointment with the reply as it was the intention of the Town Council motion that legislation be introduced to curtail the height of trees. On the proposal of Cllr Robbie Gallagher seconded by Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha it was agreed to write to the Minister again on the motion.
- Acknowledgement letter dated 28th November 2012 from the Office of the Minister for Social and Family Affairs regarding home help services.
- Acknowledgement letter dated 4th December 2012 from the Office of the Minister for Social and Family Affairs regarding job seeker payments to part-time Firemen.
- Acknowledgement letter dated 11th December 2012 from the Office of the Minister for Housing and Planning in relation to the repair of private dwellings.

- Letter dated 6th December 2012 from the Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality in relation to the introduction of minimum jail terms for assaults on emergency workers.
- Acknowledgement letter dated 29th November 2012 from the Office of the Minister for Education and Skills regarding Student Grant Schemes.
- Letter dated 6th December 2012 from the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee inviting submissions no later than 25th January 2013.
- Letter dated 10th October 2012 from the CEO of the Roads Safety Authority regarding National Car Testing.
- Letter dated 3rd December 2012 from Down District Council regarding the future of Paediatric Cardiac Services in Northern Ireland. On the proposal of Cllr. Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr. Mary Carroll it was agreed to endorse the sentiments of the letter received from Down District Council. On the proposal of Cllr. Robbie Gallagher seconded by Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha it was agreed to write to James Reilly T.D., Minister for Health requesting that his Department enter into discussions with Edwin Poots, Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Belfast with a view to outsharing health services for the entire country.
- Acknowledgement card from the family of the late Alice Greenan, Crosshue, Monaghan thanking the Members most sincerely for their kind expression of sympathy in their recent sad bereavement.

5. Planning Applications

The Members noted Planning Application numbered M.T.12/21 – M.T. 12/22.

6. Business Submitted by An Cathaoirleach

No business was submitted by An Cathaoirleach.

7. Consideration of Reports of Committees

The Members noted the Minutes of the Planning Sub-Committee Meeting held on 19th November 2012 in relation to applications for the use of Belgium Park Football Field for the Winter Season 2012/2013.

8. Roads/Housing

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

- North Road Footpath – Loose brick
- Mall Road – Dip in road
- Mullaghmatt – Public lighting to be repaired
- Entrance to Clover Hill Housing Estate – water burst
- Killyconnigan - Footpaths need repair/slippery
- Glaslough Street Car Park – confusion re right-of-way for motorists
- Entrance to Killyconnigan (Armstrongs) – directional sign has been removed.
- Heaton's Corner – traffic congestion – to be discussed with Area Engineer
- Yellow Box road markings to be replaced at Old Cross Square/entrance to Pound Hill.

- Glaslough Street – relocation of loading bay
- Park Street – additional disabled parking bay required to facilitate those attending St. Josephs Church.

The Town Clerk informed the Members that an emergency number for members of the public would be made available on the answering machine in the Town Council offices and will also be displayed on the front of the building over the Christmas period.

Cllr. Donal Sherry called for maximum access to Dublin Street once the site of the Mixed Use Development is restored as a car park.

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 a report from Kevin Mc Nally, Senior Executive Engineer in relation to an update on the Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme Phase III which stated as follows:-

It is the intention to have the Part 8 Planning Application lodged before Christmas. The Housing Agency have advised that the Tender Drawings are 90% complete and it is hoped to work on completion of works requirements documentation early in 2013.

11. Report on Mixed Use Development at Rooskey

David Fallon, A/County Manager stated that the restoration of the site of the Mixed Use Development is proceeding. It was noted that works on the project “stop/start” to allow for settlement of the material on site.

12. Consideration of approval to dispose of Freehold Interest

On the proposal of Cllr Donal Sherry seconded by Cllr David Maxwell it was agreed to approve to dispose of the Freehold Interest in 44 Fairview Crescent, Killygoan, Monaghan in accordance with notice dated 27th November 2012 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

13. Update on Greenway Project, Monaghan Town.

Jonathan Condell, Assistant Engineer informed the Members that €471,000 has been allocated to the development of a Greenway Project in the town and that the Council have appointed a Consultant who will deliver a presentation on the project at the January 2013 meeting.

14. Update on Hive of Knowledge

The Members noted correspondence and photo images of the proposed location for the Hive of Knowledge sculpture which was produced by participants during the Blacksmiths Festival in the town. It was noted that the artist is arranging to put a new coating of chemical substance on the structure which should be installed by early May 2013.

15. Notices of Motion:-

- (a) “Go gcuirfidh Comhairle Chontae Muineacháin comharthaí bóithre gaeilge ag Campas nua an Choiste Gairm Oideachais”
“That Monaghan County Council erect road signs in Irish at the new VEC Educational Campus”.

Cllrs. Uí Mhurchadha, Conlon, Sherry, McGeown

Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha proposed the Motion and Cllr Paul McGeown seconded the Motion. The Members of the Town Council appointed to the VEC agreed to bring the matter up at the next VEC Meeting.

- (b) “That this Council calls on Minister Joan Burton and the Department of Social Protection to reverse the recent 22% cut in the Respite Care Grant”.

Cllrs. Conlon, Uí Mhurchadha, Sherry, McGeown

Cllr. Seán Conlon amended the 22% to 19% and this was agreed. On the proposal of Cllr Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha it was agreed to adopt the above Notice of Motion.

- (c) “That this Council condemns cuts to home-help services which will impact the most vulnerable as the winter approaches”.

Cllr. Gallagher

On the proposal of Cllr Robbie Gallagher seconded by Cllr Seamus Treanor it was agreed to adopt the above Notice of Motion.

- (d) “That this Council condemns the cuts to carers and child benefit in the budget and the unfair affect that they will have on the vulnerable in society and seeks their immediate reversal”.

Cllr. Gallagher

On the proposal of Cllr Robbie Gallagher seconded by Cllr Seán Conlon it was agreed to adopt the above Notice of Motion.

16. Ceisteanna/Questions

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

- (a) Will the Council Engineers consult with the Water Services Section in an effort to determine the source of an apparent water mains leak near the entrance at Drumbear Wood, Cootehill Road?

The Town Engineer consulted with the Water Services Section and they are not aware of any leaks in the area. Average flows were checked and no increase in flow has been noted, however they will investigate further and revert with findings. The apparent leak referred to, appears to be blocked land drainage from the embankment. This is an estate management company issue which would have to be rectified before the estate could be considered for taking in charge.

- (b) In an effort to enhance road safety on the Cootehill Road in the vicinity of the Corran and Drumbear Lodge can the installation of traffic calming measures be considered?

This is a regional road under the remit of the County Council. Traffic calming measure can be considered in conjunction with the Roads Section. An application for a safety improvement grant scheme on a non-national road would have to be submitted before September 2013 for inclusion in the 2014 allocation.

Cllr. Robbie Gallagher asked:-

- (c) In relation to the proposed site location map for Mullaghmatt Estate, to aid the Emergency Services, when is the Council going to erect same?
Monaghan Town Council will erect directional signage similar to that of Beechgrove Lawns within Mullaghmatt. These signs will direct visitors upon entering the estate and avoid confusion especially for emergency vehicles. This work will be procured and signs erected early in 2013.

- (d) What is the Council Policy in relation to the salting of footpaths around the town/estates?

Salting of footpaths occurs during working hours and is prioritized with the resources available in the following order:-

- Schools
- O.P.D.'s
- Diamond and Courthouse areas
- Steps to Connolly Park/Killygoan
- Remainder of the town
- Housing Estates

Two crews consisting of 2 men and a hand spreader carry out the works. A tractor and mechanical spreader salt the town roads not included in the County Council salting programme.

- (e) With regard to Latlurcan housing estate what works have commenced so far and what is the schedule for the remaining works?

Works to date on Latlurcan Estate:-

Public Lighting has been repaired and all lamps replaced by Airtricity. Pothole repair on the basecourse by Contractor.

Future work planned

Planning Section has met with the Bank on Tuesday 11th December who is the controlling interest in the site. The Bank have appointed an Engineer who is due to meet with the Planning Section to develop a Site Resolution Plan for this Site. This plan will be finalised by end of January 2013, this will include timeframes for completing the estate.

17. Resolutions from Other Local Authorities:-

- (a) “That this Council supports the need for Local Government Reform, but believes that the steps proposed by the Minister for the Environment are too extreme and will take democracy away from people”.

Killarney Town Council

It was agreed to adopt the above Resolution.

- (b) “That having regard to the fact that 90% of all chicken product used in restaurants and take-aways is imported, Monaghan County Council writes to the Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Simon Coveney T.D., requesting that legislation be introduced to ensure that all restaurants and take-aways must display, at the point of sale, details of the country of origin of their chicken product”.

Monaghan County Council

It was agreed to adopt the above Resolution

- (c) “That this Council writes to the Minister for Health calling on him to reverse the heartless cuts to Home Help and Home Care packages”.

Bandon Town Council

It was agreed to adopt the above Resolution.

- (d) “That this Council completely rejects the decision of the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Phil Hogan, T.D., to abolish all Town Councils. This Council is of the very firm view that abolishing the unit of Local Government closest to the people and indeed the most efficient unit of Local Government (Town Councils) certainly does not contribute in any way to bringing “Local Government” closer to the people. It is further proposed that the motion be circulated to all Local Authorities, T.D.’s, Senators in this State, to the AMAI and the Minister for Local Government for their consideration”.

Ballinalsoe Town Council

It was agreed to adopt the above Resolution.

- (e) “That Kerry County Council calls on the Government to amend the relevant legislation concerning Local Area Plans so that the review period would be extended to 10 year cycles as distinct to the current review period”.

Kerry County Council

It was agreed to mark the above Resolution read.

- (f) “Naas Town Council calls on the Minister for Finance to remove the 23% VAT rate on digital school books in the forthcoming budget”.

Naas Town Council

It was agreed to adopt the above Resolution.

- (g) “That this Council call on the Minister for Finance to put some measures in place in the 2013 Budget that will be delivered in early December to help the people in our community who are finding it extremely difficult to pay their mortgage”.

Donegal County Council

It was agreed to adopt the above Resolution.

- (h) “That this Council discuss and agree a response to the Government’s decision to shut down County Enterprise Boards in every County at a time when there’s never been more need for a locally based response to the job crisis in every County”.

Donegal County Council

It was agreed to mark the above Resolution read.

- (i) “That this Council requests the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine and his Department to subsidise the cost associated with the price of registration of ponies, horses and donkeys”.

Donegal County Council

It was agreed to mark the above Resolution read.

18. Conferences:-

- (a) Ace Training – “Budget Seminar 2013 – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth – 11th – 13th January 2013 – (approx cost €370).
(b) Clare Tourist Council/Clare County Council National Tourism Conference – “Tourism in Recessionary Times”- Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare – 17th - 19th January 2013 – (approx. cost €800).

On the proposal of Cllr Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr David Maxwell it was agreed that Cllr Donal Sherry be provisionally booked into Conference (b).

19. Any Other Business

Cllr. David Maxwell stated that a caller to the local radio station during the week had been critical of the cost of staging the event associated with the switching on of the Christmas lights in the town and had alleged that a member of the Town Council had been paid for transporting the music acts to and from the airport. The Members stated that it was an attack on the integrity of the elected members. Cllr. Paul McGeown informed the Members that the event took five months to plan with five people meeting twice a week. He stated that he did not receive any payment for his contribution to any such events and that he did this work for the young people of the town. Following a discussion and on the proposal of Cllr. Paul McGeown seconded by Cllr. Thomas Hagan it was agreed that the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Seamus Treanor would respond to the Radio Programme in defence of the Members and in relation to the comments made.

20. Sympathy/Congratulations

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:-

- Gregory and Olga Mc Kenna, 2 Woodlands on the death of Dr. Muireann O' Sullivan.
- The Mc Crudden family, 8 Fairview Drive, Killygoan on the death of Amanda Mc Crudden.
- The Macklin Family, Latlurcan House on the death of Celestine Macklin.
- The Croarkin Family, 11 Mullaghmatt on the death of Jim Croarkin.
- The O'Sé Family, Kerry on the death of Páidi O Sé, former County Kerry footballer.

A vote of congratulations was extended to the Donaghmoyne Ladies Senior Football Team on winning their third All Ireland Club Title.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Dated this the 21st day of January 2013

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach