

Comhairle Baile Mhuineacháin Monaghan Town Council

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 15th February 2010 at 3.00pm in the Council Chamber of Monaghan Town Council, Town Hall, 1 Dublin Street, Monaghan.

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Seán Conlon

Present: Cllrs. Mary Carroll, Robbie Gallagher, Thomas Hagan, Paul McGeown, Donal Sherry, Seamus Treanor and Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha.

In Attendance: Declan Nelson, County Manager, Gareth Mc Mahon, Town Engineer, Marie Deighan, Town Clerk and Sinéad Mc Cann, Staff Officer.

Presentation by National Building Agency on Phase 3 of the Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Seán Conlon welcomed Rory MacFlynn, Project Architect, National Building Agency to the meeting. Mr MacFlynn presented details of Phase 3 of the Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme to the Members which includes a proposed nine new build infill units consisting of 6 two bed/one storey houses and 3 three bed/two storey houses. Following a discussion it was agreed that a site visit to the Mullaghmatt estate take place on Wednesday 3rd March 2010 at 2pm to examine the potential impact of the additional accommodation and the Cathaoirleach requested that the area in question be pegged off to indicate where the proposed additional dwellings would be located and how they would impact on the area. It was further agreed to discuss the matter in more detail at the March Monthly Meeting of the Town Council.

Urgent Business

Cllr. Seamus Treanor submitted the following Notice of Motion to be dealt with under Article 7 of Standing Orders (Urgent Business):-

“I totally condemn Bank of Scotland (Ireland) for their withdrawal from the Irish Financial Sector and the loss of jobs in the local area due to the closure of the Halifax Bank in this Town”

On the proposal of Cllr. Seamus Treanor seconded by Cllr. Thomas Hagan it was unanimously agreed to support the above Notice of Motion.

It was noted that Cllr. Treanor had a second motion before the Meeting but he agreed to table it as a Notice of Motion on the agenda for the March Monthly Meeting of the Town Council.

1. Confirmation of January Monthly Meeting held on 18th January 2010.

On the proposal of Cllr Mary Carroll seconded by Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the January Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 18th January 2010.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Cllr Mary Carroll requested that a letter be issued to Monaghan County Council expressing disappointment at the significantly reduced funding granted by the County Council to An Coiste Gaeilge for 2010.

Cllr. David Maxwell entered the Council Chamber.

The Town Engineer confirmed that the contractor carrying out works to dwellings in Killygoan will be back on site in the near future to complete the said works.

Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha reiterated her call to have an explanatory plaque displayed and elevated in a prominent location on the Monument when it is relocated in Old Cross Square.

It was noted that the Part VIII Planning Application for the proposed new roadway, as part of the phase 2 works for the N54-R188 Monaghan Town Link Road, linking the Cortolvin Road with the Cootehill road will be re-lodged in the coming weeks.

It was noted that Local Authority tenants and the Local Authority itself are ineligible for grants under the SEI Home Energy Savings Scheme. It was agreed to request a supply of the “Keep Well and Warm” Booklet from Sustainable Energy Ireland for display in the Town Council Offices.

3. Manager’s Orders

The Members noted Manager’s Orders numbered 292/09 – 26/10.

On the proposal of the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr. David Maxwell it was agreed that a letter be issued to Monaghan County Council requesting them to consider the following:- “That development contributions levied by Monaghan County Council from construction projects on the Town Council boundary be used for development purposes in the town area”. It was noted that a sub-committee of Monaghan County Council has been formed to oversee the disbursement of development contributions.

Declan Nelson, County Manager informed the Members that the Finance Bill 2010 ensures that a Public Body must register and charge VAT with effect from the 1st July 2010 for the supply of goods and services. It was agreed that the Budget Sub-Committee meet to discuss the matter further when the Revenue Commissioners report is received.

4. Correspondence

The Members noted the following correspondence:-

- Letter dated 26th January 2010 received from M.P. Clancy, Superintendent, An Garda Síochána regarding poor television reception experienced by householders in Monaghan town. The Members expressed disappointment with the contents of the letter and noted that people are still experiencing poor television receptions despite having installed a filter mechanism at a substantial cost.
- Letter dated 26th January 2010 from the Office of the Minister for Social and Family Affairs regarding the National Fuel Scheme.
- Letter dated 1st February 2010 from David Mc Geough, Manager, Monaghan Training Workshop, Health Service Executive thanking the Members for their acknowledgement of the Christmas Drama production performed by the Monaghan Training Workshop.
- Letter dated 26th January 2010 from Mary Harney, T.D., Minister for Health and Children regarding Doctor on Call service.

- Letter dated 27th January 2010 from the Office of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government regarding the Non-Principal Private Residence Charge.
- Letter dated 15th January 2010 from the co-ordinators of the Monaghan Garda Youth Diversion Project thanking the Members for their support in relation to the Monaghan Community Challenge Cup. It was noted that this event was a huge success.
- Letter dated 11th February 2010 from the North East Doctor on Call service. On the proposal of Cllr. Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr. Paul McGeown it was agreed to write to all local General Practitioners asking them to consider coming together collectively to establish a Doctor-on-Call Service in the St. Davnets Complex to enable the local community to avail of a locally based service.
- Acknowledgement dated 11th February 2010 from the Office of the Minister for Housing and Local Services.

The Members noted correspondence dated the 22nd December 2009 issued to the Developer of the Monaghan Mixed Use Development. The County Manager informed the Members that he had met recently with the Developer and that they are proposing to submit a revised planning application which will reflect the current market situation and which will entail a switch from apartment based development to more commercial uses. It was noted that works were carried out to the site recently to strengthen the piling.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Seán Conlon informed the Members that they are invited to attend a Re-Dedication of the Chapel of Rest and Surrounding Graveyard at Coolshannagh, Monaghan on Saturday 6th March 2010 at 3.00p.m.

Declan Nelson, County Manager informed the Members that he had met recently with the St. Louis Nuns who have now confirmed that they have taken the decision to close the Nursing Home for elderly nuns in the town on the 25th March 2010. The County Manager also stated that the St. Louis Order have made a decision not to upgrade the facility as they did not wish to put the elderly residents of the home through the inconvenience and hassle which the works would entail.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Seán Conlon invited the Members to view the Monaghan Town St. Patrick's Day Parade from the reviewing stand that will be positioned in The Diamond, Monaghan on the 17th March 2010 at 3.00p.m.

Cllr. Seán Conlon stated that the Irish Blood Transfusion Service Mobile Unit will be located in Church Square from 16th February 2010 – 19th February 2010 inclusive.

Declan Nelson, County Manager stated that the revenue from Pay Parking income at the end of January 2010 was significantly down on January 2009 which in turn was down on that of the previous year.

Cllr. Uí Mhurchadha stated that she had been disappointed to read that Monaghan County Council had abandoned their democratic right to protest in relation to Monaghan General Hospital when Ministers visited the County. Cllr. Maxwell stated that the policy taken by Monaghan County Council some time ago had not been working and since refraining from the protests Monaghan County Council have been successful in securing meetings with Ministers.

5. Business submitted by An Cathaoirleach

No business was submitted by An Cathaoirleach.

6. Planning Applications

Planning Application numbered 10/01 was noted by the Members.

7. Consideration of Reports of Committees:

The Members noted the following reports of committees:-

- (a) Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Leisure Complex Committee held on 15th September 2009
- (b) Minutes of Meeting held on 18th January 2010 in relation to a presentation by The National Building Agency on Landscape Proposals for The Diamond area.
- © Minutes of Meeting held on 25th January 2010 in the Market House, Monaghan.

8. Roads/Housing

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

- Illegal dumping – Mullaghmatt area
- Traffic Islands unlit – Castleblayney Road/St. Macartans Road
- Public light out of order at Traffic lights.

The Members welcomed the installation of public lighting at Tullyherim and called on Monaghan County Council to continue the provision of public lighting in this area.

The Town Engineer informed the Members that a draft of the proposed signage to indicate the location of businesses at the rear of Dublin Street had been brought to all of the said businesses concerned and was currently in manufacture.

It was noted that grass-cutting in the Town Council area usually begins in March of each year.

9. Telecommunication Mast at Killygoan

The Members look forward to the removal of the Telecommunication Mast at Killygoan.

10. Mullaghmatt Remedial Scheme

On the proposal of the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr. Donal Sherry it was agreed to amend No. 9 of the Minutes of the January Monthly Meeting dated the 18th January 2010 to read as follows:-

“That provision for painting of all dwellings in the Mullaghmatt Housing Estate be undertaken in the Remedial Scheme to bring the houses in line with the remainder of the housing estate and thus providing uniformity to the entire estate. Declan Nelson, County Manager gave a commitment to seek to resolve the issue.

Following a discussion and on the proposal of Cllr. David Maxwell seconded by Cllr. Mary Carroll it was agreed to place the matter on the agenda for the February Monthly Meeting and to have all documentation in relation to the subject made available at the Meeting in order to arrive at a resolution on the matter.”

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the correspondence issued to Members dating back to March 2006. Declan Nelson, County Manager stated that Department rules prevent the Local Authority from spending monies from Internal Capital Receipts on private dwellings.

11. Consideration of Schedule of Uncollected Rates as at 31st December 2009 as per Article 40(a) of the Local Government (Financial Procedure and Audit) Regulations 2002

The Members noted the following details of the Schedule of Uncollected Rates as at the 31st December 2009:

Rate Warrant for 2009	€3,438,344
Paid in 2009	€2,404,626
Arrears at 31 st December 2009	€1,033,718

Analysis of Uncollected Rates at 31st December 2009

Businesses closed all year or part of year	€477,202
Businesses closed all year due to renovations	€ 4,754
Businesses (non-profitable, e.g. Citizens Information Centre)	€ 54,938
Rate Accounts with Solicitor	€ 68,323
Uncollected Rates at 31/12/2009	*€428,501 (carried forward to 2010) €1,033,718

* €106,353 was paid in January 2010 in respect of 2009.

12. Consideration of Approval to Overdraft Accommodation to 30th June 2010

On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Paul McGeown it was agreed to approve of overdraft accommodation in the sum of €1m to 30th June 2010.

13. Notices of Motion:-

- (a) “That this Council calls on the Government to make it compulsory for all new-build local authority/government/educational facilities to make maximum use of green technologies for the harvesting of rainwater and the generation of power”.

Cllrs. Carroll, Hagan, Maxwell

On the proposal of Cllr Mary Carroll seconded by Cllr Thomas Hagan it was agreed to adopt the above Notice of Motion.

- (b) “That this Council calls on the Government to provide incentive funding/grant aid to educational institutions for the purpose of installing rainwater harvesting systems”.

Cllrs. Carroll, Hagan, Maxwell

On the proposal of Cllr Mary Carroll seconded by Cllr David Maxwell it was agreed to adopt the above Notice of Motion.

14. Questions

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

- (a) Has a presentation been made to the Department of Environment regarding the installation of central heating in the remaining 14 Local Authority Houses in Mullaghmat?

The NBA were instructed on the 19th January to carry out the necessary survey work and costing for a report to the Department. This work is ongoing.

(b) In the context of tourism, why was Monaghan not represented with a stand at the World Holiday Fair in the RDS Dublin and in Belfast in January 2010?

Monaghan was represented at the World Holiday Fair for a number of years, however, the trade believes the expenditure was not justified. Most bookings/enquires are now via the internet. Local hotels not interested. A report from Dympna Condra, Tourism and Marketing Executive Officer of Monaghan County Council was also noted by the Members.

(c) Is there a mechanism whereby the Council can intervene where privately owned vacant houses are deteriorating externally thereby lowering the tone of the area?

The Council has powers under the Derelict Sites legislation to deal with properties which are injurious to health or to the amenities of the neighbourhood by reason of their neglected condition or by reason of the deposit or collection thereon of debris, rubbish or insanitary material.

15. Resolutions from other Local Authorities:-

(a) “That Killarney Town Council calls on Minister for Enterprise and Employment to ensure the retention of the minimum wage”

Killarney Town Council

On the proposal of Cllr Donal Sherry seconded by Cllr Mary Carroll it was agreed to adopt the above Resolution.

(b) “That the Members of Castlebar Town Council call on the Government to indict for the act of treason the Politicians and Bankers who were grossly responsible for the undermining of the economy over the past ten years”

Castlebar Town Council

It was agreed to mark the above Resolution read.

16. Conferences

(a) Atlantic Corridor Science Conference – “How can educators inspire students to engage with science, technology, engineering and maths?” - Tullamore Court Hotel, Co. Offaly – 25th February 2010 – (approx. cost €450)

(b) Rattoo Heritage Society 18th Annual Kerry Environmental Recognition Conference – Manor West Hotel and Leisure Club, Tralee, Co. Kerry – 4th – 7th March 2010 – (approx. cost €1050)

© Bray and District Chamber/Bray Town Council National Conference – “Our Towns – a 20:20 Vision” – Mermaid, Co. Wicklow Arts Centre, Bray, Co. Wicklow – 5th and 6th March 2010 – (approx. cost €470)

(d) Clonakilty Tourism Conference – “Driving Local Sustainable Tourism in a stagnant Global Economy” – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork – 12th – 14th March 2010 – (approx cost €880).

No attendance is to take place to the above Conferences.

The Members were circulated with details of the 21st Colmcille Winter School Conference to be held in Letterkenny from 26th - 28th February 2010. On the proposal of Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha seconded by Cllr Paul McGeown it was agreed that the Cathaoirleach, Cllr Seán Conlon attend the Conference.

17. Any other Business

It was agreed to hold a Committee Meeting on Tuesday 16th February 2010 at 3.00pm to organise the planning of the conferring of Civic Honours on the Chilean Ambassador to Ireland, Her Excellency, Cecelia Mc Kenna. A committee in the names of Cllrs Gallagher, Treanor, Hagan, Uí Mhurchadha and the Cathaoirleach, Cllr Seán Conlon were nominated to attend.

It was noted that no planning application has yet been received by Monaghan County Council from Aldi in respect of establishing a premises at the Monaghan Retail Park.

On the proposal of Cllr Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr Thomas Hagan it was agreed to place the proposed works to be funded under the Gateways and Hubs ERDF Grant Scheme on the agenda for future meetings of the Town Council.

18. Sympathy/Congratulations

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:

- Brian Mc Carron, Monaghan County Council staff member on the death of his uncle, Eddie Mc Carron.
- The family of the late Pat Lappin, 17 Tully.
- The Smyth family, Dunsinaire on the death of Kathleen Smyth

A Vote of congratulations was extended to the following:

- The Monaghan Vocational Football Team on their success in the Ulster Bank Vocational Schools U-18 competition.
- Monaghan Ladies Senior Team on topping the National Football League Table in Division 1

This Concluded the Business of the Meeting.

Dated this the 15th day of March 2010

Cathaoirleach