

# COMHAIRLE BHAILE MHUINEACHÁIN

## MONAGHAN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2013 at 5.00pm in the Council Chamber of Monaghan Town Council, Town Hall, No. 1 Dublin Street, Monaghan.

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**Cathaoirleach:** Cllr. Seamus Treanor

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

**In Attendance:** David Fallon, Acting County Manager, Dermot Deeney, Town Engineer, Marie Deighan, Town Clerk and Sinead McCann, Staff Officer.

At the outset, the Members welcomed Cllr. Thomas Hagan to the meeting who had been hospitalized recently.

### Consideration of Manager's Report on Submissions in respect of the Draft Development Plan Amendments and to make the Town Development Plan for Monaghan Town 2013 - 2019

The Members welcomed Adrian Hughes, Senior Planner, Monaghan County Council to the meeting and noted the Manager's Report dated the 18<sup>th</sup> February 2013 on submissions received in respect of the Draft Development Plan Amendments. The Members were also circulated with the Monaghan Town (Map MDP1) Amendments. The Members noted submissions from the following :-

- St Macartan's Diocesan Trust
- National Roads Authority
- Department of Education and Skills
- Inland Fisheries Ireland (Eastern River Basin District)
- Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government

Following consideration of the submissions and on the proposal of Cllr. Seamus Treanor seconded by Cllr. Thomas Hagan it was agreed to adopt the Monaghan County Development Plan (Incorporating the Development Plans for the Towns of Monaghan, Carrickmacross, Castleblayney, Clones and Ballybay) 2013 – 2019. Adrian Hughes thanked the Members for their input into the Development Plan process and it was noted that the Plan would come into effect in four weeks time.

Adrian Hughes left the Meeting Room.

#### **1. Confirmation of January Monthly Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2013**

On the proposal of Cllr. Mary Carroll seconded by Cllr. Robbie Gallagher it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the January Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2013.

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

Cllr. Mary Carroll confirmed that County Monaghan VEC will be adhering to all Regulations concerning bilingual and multilingual signs at the new Education Campus at Knockaconny.

It was noted that no response has yet been received from the Returning Officer regarding the number of unemployed people who were afforded the opportunity to work at the Polling Stations at the Children's Referendum in November 2012.

In relation to the relocation of a loading bay in Glaslough Street, Dermot Deeney, Town Engineer stated that the location could not be moved as it would be too close to other loading bays. It was noted that the Traffic Wardens have been instructed to ensure that the parking regulations with regard to the loading bays are enforced.

The Members queried if there would be a report in relation to the recent public consultation meeting held in the Market House in relation to the Monaghan Cycle Greenway project.

Cllr. David Maxwell entered the Meeting Room.

David Fallon, A/County Manager stated that he spoke to the Planners regarding tenants who wish to erect fencing in front of their houses in estates where there are large open spaces rather than enclosed gardens and informed the Members that it is advisable to have a standard fencing solution to which everyone would adhere to. The Town Clerk stated that anyone wishing to erect a fence should put their request in writing and they in turn would be furnished with the details of the relevant regulations.

It was noted that security fencing at the Latlurcan Housing Development on the Castleblayney Road has fallen down. The Members expressed concern regarding health and safety issues in this estate which need to be addressed. Cllr. Carroll stated that there seems to be a lack of co-operation from the banks when it comes to addressing problems in unfinished housing estates.

The Members, noting that there are over 300 applicants on the housing waiting list enquired if the Council could place an advertisement in the newspaper seeking expressions of interest for having unfinished housing estates completed (Knockroe Glen, Latlurcan, Forest Walk). David Fallon, Acting County Manager stated that if NAMA are involved in the estate then the Council must work through NAMA. It was agreed to seek a meeting with NAMA on the matter.

The Town Engineer informed the Members that it is not practical to do anything with the disabled bay (Blacks Chemist) as it is so close to the Mill Street Junction. It was noted that disabled badge holders can park free of charge in any parking bay.

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

The Members noted Managers Orders numbered 10/13 – 24/13.

#### **4. Correspondence**

The Members noted the following correspondence:-

- Letter dated 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2013 from the Department of Social Protection regarding the Respite Care Grant. The Members expressed concern regarding the future of St. Mary's Hospital, Castleblayney and noted that patients from Monaghan and surrounding areas are being sent to Cavan for nursing care. The Members called for Hospital beds in Monaghan Hospital to be made available to elderly patients and it was agreed to place this matter on the agenda for discussion with Bridget Clarke, HSE Manager at the March Monthly Meeting of the Town Council.
- Letter dated 6<sup>th</sup> February 2013 from the Office of the Minister for Housing and Planning regarding the Mullaghmat Remedial Works Scheme.
- Acknowledgment letter dated the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2013 from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government regarding the acquisition of the former Revenue Commissioners building in Monaghan Town.
- Acknowledgement letter dated 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2013 from the Office of the Minister for Housing and Planning in relation to the condition of local authority dwellings. Cllr. Donal Sherry stated that his proposal referred to the condition of homes of private individuals whose homes had gone into disrepair and to seek information on what powers the Council had in addressing such matters.
- Acknowledgement letter dated 25<sup>th</sup> January 2013 from the Office of the Minister for Housing and Planning regarding emergency funding to purchase housing. The Members expressed disappointment with the correspondence.
- Acknowledgement letter dated 24<sup>th</sup> January 2013 from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government regarding funding for group sewerage schemes.
- E-mail dated the 4<sup>th</sup> February 2013 from the Fort Augustus Irish Descendants Association extending an invitation to the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Seamus Treanor and the Members of the Town Council to attend their 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Irish Settlers Day celebrations which will take place from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> of May 2013 in Prince Edward Island. The Members stated that the relationship with Prince Edward Island is very important to Monaghan Town and it was noted that 768 bednights have been confirmed already for 2013. On the proposal of Cllr. Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha it was agreed that the Town Council be represented at the celebrations.
- Acknowledgement letter dated the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2013 from the Department of Finance in relation to the acquisition of the Former Revenue Commissioners Building in Monaghan Town.
- E-mail dated 17<sup>th</sup> January 2013 from Martin McMahon, The Phoenix Centre Carrickmacross Ltd. seeking a letter of support to secure grant aid.
- Letter of thanks from the Monaghan Training Workshop for grant aid of €400 towards their Christmas Play and activities.

#### **5. Planning Applications**

The Members noted Planning Applications numbered MT13/1 – MT13/4.

#### **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 Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2013 in relation to (a) proposed plans for a Famine Memorial for the Town (b) Farmers Market (c) Yellow box in Belgian Square and (d) Active Travel Towns.

The Members noted proposed drawings for a Famine Memorial and agreed to proceed with option number one (cut out cross) which will be approximately 9ft high and a surrounding wall orientation as shown on option number two. The Members also agreed on Kilkenny limestone with a brush hammered finish for the monument and a dark honed finish for the surrounding wall. It was agreed to ask Shirley Clerkin, Heritage Officer to advise on some relevant imagery/wording/statement that may be appropriate to the area for carving into the surrounding wall area of the proposed Famine Memorial. On the proposal of Cllr. David Maxwell seconded by Cllr. Thomas Hagan it was agreed to get a costing for the proposed work before proceeding to public consultation.

The Members noted the Minutes of the Budget Sub-Committee Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2013 in relation to (a) Opening of Tender for Monaghan Town Festive Lighting Display 2013 (b) Consideration of Community Grants 2013 (c) Putting in place procedures for drawdown of Funding for Festival Organizers (d) Consideration of deployment of Litter Wardens at additional times (e) Consideration of Financial Statement from Taste of Monaghan Festival organizers 2012 (f) Consideration of Financial Statement from Monaghan Tidy Towns Committee for 2012 (g) Consideration of quotations for an Astro turf area in front of goals and purchase of temporary goals for Belgium Park football field (h) Consideration of quotation for making good lettering on Bombing Memorial at Church Square.

On the proposal of Cllr. David Maxwell seconded by Cllr. Donal Sherry it was agreed to approve the Community Grants 2013.

The Members agreed with the recommendations of the Planning Sub-Committee and the Budget Sub-Committee in relation to all matters.

## **8. Roads / Housing**

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

- Skateboarding and cycling in the Diamond. It was agreed to replace the planters to their original position to try and combat skateboarding in this area.
- Aggressive begging in areas of the town. On the proposal of Cllr. David Maxwell seconded by Cllr. Donal Sherry it was agreed to explore the possibility of amending the Parks and Open Spaces Bye-Laws to incorporate no begging on Mill Street. David Fallon, A/County Manager was of the opinion that it would be illegal to do so as the Gardaí operate a permit system in relation to such collections. It was agreed to place the matter on the agenda for the next Joint Policing Committee.
- Sewer Covers – High Street

Cllr. Donal Sherry called for CCTV cameras to be installed at different areas to catch people who are illegally dumping.

It was noted that Carbon Monoxide Alarms will be fitted in all Local Authority dwellings this year.

The Members referred to a dangerous/derelict building on Mill Street/North Road.

**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 a public consultation meeting was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2013 in relation to phase three of the Scheme. An overview of the project and programme was given to those in attendance and it was noted that no major issues were raised by the attendees. It is envisaged that tender documents will be issued in early March 2013. On the proposal of Cllr. Robbie Gallagher seconded by Cllr. Seamus Treanor it was agreed to write to Jan O' Sullivan TD, Minister for Housing and Planning seeking funding to complete the entire remedial works scheme once and for all.

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

David Fallon, Acting County Manager stated that the revised date for completion of the Mixed Use Development at Rooskey is the 7<sup>th</sup> June 2013. The Members expressed disappointment with the delay in the completion of the works.

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

Dermot Deeney, Town Engineer stated that Consultants have inspected the vacant apartments and the Council are awaiting a report before proceeding with acoustic work on the apartments. It was agreed to place the matter on the agenda for the Town Council meetings.

**13. Consideration of approval of newspapers for use in accordance with Local Government Planning and Development Regulations 2001**

On the proposal of Cllr. David Maxwell seconded by Cllr. Robbie Gallagher it was agreed to approve of the following newspapers for use in accordance with the Local Government Planning and Development Regulations 2001:

**National Newspapers**

Irish Independent  
Irish Star  
Irish Times  
Evening Herald

**Local/Regional Newspapers**

Northern Standard  
Anglo Celt

**14. Consideration of Programme of Works to be carried out under the Road Grant 2013**

The Members noted the proposed programme of works to be carried out under the Road Grant for 2013:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Description of Works</u>	<u>Estimate Cost</u>
<b>Overlays</b>		
Milltown Road	Patch and Surface Dress	€24,000.00
Ard Gleann	Overlay	€15,000.00
Beechgrove Estate	Overlay	€15,000.00
Old Armagh Road	Overlay	€15,000.00
Bank of Ireland Slip Road	Overlay	€ 4,000.00
Plantation Road	Overlay	€18,000.00
Mall Road	Strengthening and Overlay	€ 5,000.00
Mullaghmatt	Overlay Sections	€ 9,000.00
Woodview	Overlay Cracked Concrete Slabs	€ 3,000.00
<b>Surface Patching</b>		
Mill Street	Surface Patching	€ 2,000.00
Hill Street/High Street	Surface Patching	€ 2,500.00
Killygoan	Surface Patching	€ 2,000.00
Beechhill Slip Road	Surface Patching	€ 2,000.00
Cortolvin Road	Surface Patching	€ 3,000.00
Killyconnigan Industrial Estate	Surface Patching	€ 1,000.00
Old Park Court	Surface Patching	€ 1,500.00
<b>Other Works</b>		
Rowantree Road	Footpath Extension	€ 4,500.00
St Marys School Entrance	Table Top Ramp & Congregation Area	€ 7,500.00
General Town	Disability Work along footpaths	€ 8,500.00
General Town	Refresh Line Markings	€10,000.00
Plantation Road	Overlay Footpath	€ 3,000.00
Park Road Island	Widen Island	€ 2,000.00
Mall Road	Installation of Speed Cushion	€ 1,000.00
Mullaghcroghery Estate	New Public Light	€ 2,800.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€161,300.00</b>
<b>Other Proposals</b>		
Mullaghmatt Parking Areas	Overlay	€ 8,000.00
Dr McKenna Terrace, Devin		
Reilly Terrace Back Lane	Public Lighting in the Backlane	€10,000.00

The Members noted details of the Road Grant of €161,300 for 2013 and that there has been a reduction on last year's grant by €33,700. The Members welcomed the programme of works and approved same.

The Town Engineer noted the following comments from the Members:

- Pothole – between town and Ballybay/Cootehill Junction
- Potholes – Cootehill Road and Dawson Street
- End of Mall Road Junction – difficulty in seeing traffic coming from the town area.
- Railing broken – steep incline – between Spar Shop and Ballybay/Cootehill Junction
- Back Lane Cathedral View/St. Macartans Terrace.
- Rear entrance – Belgian Square – Public Lighting.

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

- (a) “That this Council calls on the relevant Departments and agencies to consider how best to regulate the quantity, quality and labelling of plastic packaging materials used on smaller items for sale in Ireland”.

Cllrs. Carroll, Hagan, Maxwell

On the proposal of Cllr. Mary Carroll seconded by Cllr. Thomas Hagan it was agreed to amend the above Notice of Motion to read as follows:

“That this Council calls on the relevant Departments and agencies to consider how best to regulate the quantity, quality and labelling of packaging materials used on smaller items for sale in Ireland with a view to reducing the amount of packaging used”.

On the proposal of Cllr. Mary Carroll seconded by Cllr. Thomas Hagan it was agreed to adopt the above Notice of Motion and to forward it to the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Innovation and Repak Ltd. It was also agreed to circulate it to all other Local Authorities.

- (b) “That this Council contact NAMA as a matter of urgency and ask them to release funding to address the outstanding works that need to be carried out in the Knockroe Glen Housing Estate in the interest of Health and Safety for the people who reside there”.

Cllr. Gallagher

On the proposal of Cllr. Robbie Gallagher seconded by Cllr. Donal Sherry it was agreed to adopt the above Notice of Motion. It was also agreed to forward the Motion to Michael Noonan, TD, Minister for Finance to ask his office to expedite the matter.

## **16. Ceisteanna/Questions**

### **Cllrs. Uí Mhurchadha, Conlon, Sherry and McGeown asked:-**

- (a) What is the current allocation from the Department of Housing towards the resumption of works at the Mullaghmat Remedial Scheme? Has a date been established as to when Phase 3 will go to tender? Is there an approximate timescale as to when works will re-commence? What number of dwellings are being considered for remedial works in Phase 3 and what number still remain outstanding for remedial works after this phase to complete the entire estate?

*The “Scheme Budget Cost” for the Mullaghmat Remedial Works Scheme Phase 3 is €1,505,396 – this was approved by the Department mid last year. As shown on the draft project programme circulated at the last Council Meeting the project will go to tender in early March 2013 and the commencement in early July 2013. The programme presumes that single stage open procedure will be followed and is based on no major change in the scope of works, no extensions during the tender period, no challenges to the appointment of the recommended applicant contractor and no delays in obtaining timely response from applicant contractors and the funding authorities. It is also assumed that the site will be immediately available to the Contractor to commence operations upon issue of the Letter of Acceptance.*

*Phase 1 – 32 dwellings completed*

*Phase 2 – 67 dwellings completed (8 no. internally only)*

*Phase 3 – 21 dwellings included at outset but could be more depending on tender price.*

*(Phase 3 will include external work to 7 dwellings which have had the internal works substantially completed, see phase 2)*

*113 dwellings will be completed at the end of Phase 3  
74 dwellings still to receive work following Phase 3.*

- (b) Has the sewerage treatment plant at Ashgrove Lawns been decommissioned? If so, have the holding tanks and original equipment been removed and soil reinstated?

*The sewerage treatment plant at Ashgrove has been decommissioned and the sewerage is now connected to the mains. The tanks and equipment have not yet been removed but Water Services intend to utilize these at an alternative site. The site will then be reinstated.*

- (c) Has a contractor been appointed to dismantle the festive street lighting throughout the town?

*The tenders for the festive street lighting were opened on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February and are now being assessed before a contractor will be appointed for the 2013 and 2014 season. The lights from the 2012 season have already been removed and placed in storage.*

**Cllr. Robbie Gallagher asked:-**

- (d) In relation to Coolshannagh Walk Housing Estate can the Council explore providing Play facilities as a matter of urgency for the 40 or so children that reside there?

*Monaghan Town Council are not in ownership of any land in this vicinity to provide play facilities. Representations have already been made to adjacent landowners to acquire a suitable area for providing play facilities which were rejected.*

- (e) What is the current position in relation to the Latlurcan Glen/Court/Way Housing Estate and the ongoing negotiations with the Bank? And when can the residents expect same to be concluded?

*Following a conference call on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2013 (Planning, the Administrator and the lender/funder), Ulster Bank (the lender/funder) advised that they intended to deal with the outstanding issues, rather than surrender the associated bonds to the Local Authority. The Consulting Engineer appointed by Ulster Bank has prepared a Site Resolution Report that, excluding commercially sensitive information will be released to the Planning Authority as soon as possible for consideration. Said report and its assessment by the Administrator will be completed and forwarded to Ulster Bank within one month of the conference call, i.e 6<sup>th</sup> March 2013. It is hoped that Ulster Bank will approve funding on foot of same and commence works as soon as possible.*

- (f) In relation to the winter salt supply how many nights have the Council staff been engaged so far this winter and is the Council satisfied they have sufficient salt supplies for the remainder of the winter?

*Monaghan County Council has salted on 64 occasions during the 2012/2013 winter maintenance period (from October 2012 to present). Salt stocks are continuously monitored and additional salt is ordered as and when required.*

- (g) In light of the on going problems with the Sewage System in the Woodlands Housing Estate as expressed by Residents at their recent AGM, could the Council facilitate the residents with a direct connection to the Monaghan Town main sewer?

*The Water Services Section of Monaghan County Council will investigate different options for consideration to connect to the mains, should funding become available for this work.*

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

- (a) “The local elections scheduled for 2014 would be deferred for a year to allow for proper consultation regarding the proposed abolition of Town Councils”.

Carrick on Suir Town Council

It was agreed to mark the above Resolution read.

- (b) “Calling on the Minister for Health for the rolling out nationwide of Community Intervention Team”.

Nenagh Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

- (c) The Members noted a copy of a Resolution in relation to the RAPID Programme.

Clonmel Borough Council

It was agreed to mark the above Resolution read.

### **18. Conferences :-**

- (a) Celtic Conferences – “Public Health Seminar on HSE Tobacco Control Policy” – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Cork – 22<sup>nd</sup>- 24<sup>th</sup> February 2013 – (approx cost €880).

- (b) 24<sup>th</sup> Colmcille Winter School – “Will the Euro – The Single European Currency Survive?” – Colmcille Heritage Centre, Letterkenny – 22<sup>nd</sup>- 24<sup>th</sup> February 2013 – (approx. cost €570).

- (c) Mid West Regional Authority 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference – “Economic Recovery – Progress in the Regions” – Horse and Jockey, Co. Tipperary 28<sup>th</sup> February – 1<sup>st</sup> March 2013 – (approx. cost €550).

- (d) Association of County and City Councils Conference – Tower Hotel, Waterford – 7<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> March 2013 – (approx. cost €700).

- (e) Ace Training – “Local Authorities as drivers of Local Development” – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford – 8<sup>th</sup>- 10<sup>th</sup> March 2013 – (approx. cost €325).

- (f) Tgr Seminars – “Time and Priority Management for Councillors” – Bunratty Castle Hotel, Co. Clare – 8<sup>th</sup>- 10<sup>th</sup> March 2013 – (approx. cost €530).

- (g) Tgr Seminars – “Community and Local Development LEADER Funding and the Councillor” – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford – 15<sup>th</sup>- 17<sup>th</sup> March 2013 – (approx. cost €370).

- (h) Celtic Conferences – “Drug and Alcohol Abuse Seminar” – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery – 22<sup>nd</sup>- 24<sup>th</sup> March 2013 – (approx. cost €870).

- (i) LAMA Spring Seminar – Ashdown Park Hotel, Gorey – 5<sup>th</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> April 2013 – (approx. cost €700).

- (j) Dundalk Chamber of Commerce – Eures Cross Border Partnership Tourism Conference 2013 – “Sustainable Tourism – Practical ideas for your business” – Ballymascanlon House Hotel, Dundalk – 24<sup>th</sup> April 2013 – (approx. cost €80).

No attendance is to take place at the above Conferences.

### **19. Any Other Business**

Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha stated that she attended the Association of Municipal Authorities Conference in New Ross and that the Association are in the process of obtaining legal opinion as to what the legal position is in relation to the abolition of Town Councils. Cllr. Uí Mhurchadha called on the Government Party Representatives to lobby against the abolition. This was seconded by Cllr. David Maxwell.

### **20. Sympathy / Congratulations**

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:

- The McCarron Family, Old Cross Square on the death of Francis T. McCarron, former Member of Monaghan Town Council and Cathaoirleach of the Local Authority on six occasions.
- The Hughes Family, Glenview Heights, Killygoan on the death of Monica Hughes
- The Saunders Family, 35 Cathedral Walk on the death of Helen Saunders
- The Treanor Family, Milltown on the death of Adelaide (Ada) Treanor
- Town Council staff member Donna Toal the death of her uncle, Eugene Connolly, Carrickroe
- Matilda Elliott and family, Dungannon on the death of Robert Elliott
- The Rogers family, 4 Ashgrove Lawns on the death of Jimmy Rodgers.

A vote of congratulations was extended to the following:

- Martin O’Brien, Chief Executive Officer and County Monaghan VEC on the completion of the new VEC Education Campus and Garage Theatre at Knockaconny. The Members added that the Town Council could be proud of the financial contribution they have made to the Garage Theatre which forms part of the Campus.
- Martin McAviney, Ballybay on being elected Ulster Council GAA President
- John Connolly, Monaghan on being elected Ulster Council GAA PRO
- St. Macartans College, Monaghan on reaching the semi-final of the MacRory Cup
- David Drum and the Monaghan Gospel Choir on their new premises on the Glen Road.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Dated this the 26<sup>th</sup> day of March 2013.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Cathaoirleach**

