

COMHAIRLE BAILE MHUINEACHÁIN
MONAGHAN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 17th February 2014 at 4.30pm 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 Janice Eardley Clerical Officer.

1. Confirmation of January Monthly Meeting held on 20th January 2014

On the proposal of Cllr. David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Seán Conlon it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the January Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 20th January 2014.

2. Matters arising from the Minutes

It was noted that defective manhole covers on North Road, Mill Street and Dublin Street will be repaired within the next few weeks.

It was agreed to hold a Planning Sub-Committee Meeting on Thursday 20th February 2014 at 2.00pm to discuss the granting of a licence/lease to Monaghan Allotment Society and to discuss their application for an extension to the Allotments at Tirkeenan.

On the proposal of Cllr Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr Donal Sherry it was agreed to arrange the serving of dereliction notices on properties in Dublin Street. It was also agreed to erect car park information signs in the Town Hall alleyway.

3. Manager's Orders

The Members noted Manager's Orders numbered 02/14 – 15/14.

4. Correspondence

The Members noted the following correspondence:-

- Letter dated 3rd February 2014 from the Office of the Minister for Housing and Planning in relation to the housing adaptation grants. It was agreed to write to the Housing Section of Monaghan County Council asking them to outline the changes that have been introduced in January 2014 under the scheme. It was also noted that the Members of Monaghan County Council are to meet with the Minister for Housing and Planning in the near future and that this item will be placed on the agenda for the meeting.
- Letter dated 5th February 2014 from the Department of Social Protection regarding Rent Supplement rent limits for Monaghan Town. The Members noted in the correspondence that the latest figures show that there are 396 rent supplement recipients in County Monaghan indicating that it is possible to secure accommodation within the rent limits. However, the number of rental properties available in Monaghan Town is significantly lower than the numbers available in the rest of the County and therefore impacts on the number of accommodation units available for rent supplement. On the proposal of Cllr Robbie Gallagher seconded by Cllr Donal Sherry it was agreed to ask the Minister for Social Protection to look at Monaghan town as a special case in relation to the rent supplement limits. It was also noted that this matter will be placed on the agenda for the Monaghan County Council meeting with the Minister for Housing and Planning.
- Acknowledgement letter dated 22nd January 2014 from the Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality in relation to the release of Ms Margaretta D'Arcy.
- Acknowledgement letter dated 23rd January 2014 from the Central Remedial Clinic.
- Email dated 30th January 2014 from the Council's solicitor setting out legal advice on the letting of land to the Monaghan Community Allotments Limited for Community Allotments at Tirkeenan.
- Letter dated 11th February 2014 from the Health Service Executive confirming that the National Ambulance Service will be delighted to have a representative attend the Town Council meeting to discuss the service. The Members noted that the representative will be attending the March Monthly Meeting of the Town Council.
- Letter dated 7th February 2014 from the Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board enclosing a list of Monaghan Companies employed during the construction of the Education Campus at Knockaconny, Monaghan.
- Details of Purple Flag Academy Ireland.
- Letter received on the 17th February 2014 from the Monaghan Garda Youth Diversion Project setting out their concerns regarding the abolishment of Town Councils and their fears that the funding allocated to them for their Annual Halloween Festivities may be affected. On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Seán Conlon it was agreed to inform the group that funding of €5,500 is in place for 2014.

- Letter dated 11th February 2014 from the County Monaghan Motor Club Ltd requesting permission for the use of Town Council Car Parks for the service area for their Annual Stages Rally on Sunday 27th April 2014. It was agreed to refer this correspondence to the Planning Sub-Committee of Monaghan Town Council.
- Details of e-Commerce Conference “Retail is e-Tail” to be held in the Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan on Wednesday 26th February 2014.

5. Planning Application

The Members noted Planning Application number M.T. 14-3001.

6. Business submitted by An Cathaoirleach

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Paul McGeown stated that plans are well underway for the St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Monaghan Town on Monday 17th March 2014 at 3pm.

7. Consideration of Reports of Committees:-

The Members noted Minutes of the Monaghan Leisure Complex Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 1st October 2013.

8. Roads/Housing

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

- Rainwater in Long Term Car Park, Glaslough (5/6 car parking spaces)
- Water running down footpath at Coolshannagh
- Glenview Drive/Old Cross Square gullies
- Killygoan/Connolly Park - Litter
- Table top crossing at Heaton’s – Road sunk
- Greenway – exposed verge

Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha appealed to dog owners not to let their pets run loose.

Dermot Deeney, Town Engineer reported that civil works have been carried out in order to repair public lighting which has been out of order in Mullaghmart. The Members noted that these works will be complete towards the end of this week.

Paul Clifford, Director of Services reported that no contracts have yet been signed for the purchase of lands at Latlurcan and the Members noted that Monaghan County Council are dealing with this matter.

On the proposal of Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha seconded by Cllr Robbie Gallagher it was agreed to examine the introduction of traffic calming measures on the Castleblayney Road into Monaghan town.

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 Phase 3:-

“Subsequent to receipt of legal advice, Monaghan Town Council has notified the Contractor that was previously identified as being the most economically advantageous tenderer that its tender is not compliant with the requirements of the Invitation to Tender. Monaghan Town Council has informed all tenderers of this decision. Subject to receipt of required information from the next placed tenderer and there being no legal challenges, it is the Council’s intention to award the Contract to the next placed tenderer.

It was agreed to explore the erection of signs in the Mullaghmatt Estate indicating the numbering/locations of dwellings within the Housing Estate.

11. Report on Vacant Apartments at Drumbear

Dermot Deeney, Town Engineer reported that good progress is been made on the vacant apartments at Drumbear.

12. Consideration of Programme of Works – 2014 Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations

The Members noted Appendix 3 – Individual Grant Allocations and Scheme Details for 2014 in relation to the recent Road Grants announced by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. The Members were circulated with the following proposals for Monaghan Town:-

Monaghan Town Council Road Grant Proposals 2014

<u>Location</u>	<u>Road No.</u>	<u>Description of Works</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
<u>Overlays</u>			
Old Armagh Road	LP1410	Overlay	€38,000.00
Mall Road	LP1412	Overlay at Junction+Road Strengthening	€20,000.00
Church Square	R867	Overlay	€15,000.00
Beechgrove Estate	LT14114	Overlay	€15,000.00
Rope Walk	LT55141	Overlay	€20,000.00
Glaslough St. Car Pk	LT14131	Overlay at Exit to North Road	€2,000.00
<u>Surface Patching</u>			
Beechhill Slip Road	LT14101	Pothole Repair	€2,000.00
Ballybay Road	R166	Pothole Repair	€1,000.00
Mullaghmatt	LT551332	Pothole Repair	€2,000.00
High Street	LP1632	Pothole Repair	€2,000.00
Killyconnigan	LT55135	Pothole Repair	€2,800.00
Old Park Court	LT55130	Pothole Repair	€1,000.00
Cootehill Road	R162	Pothole Repair	€2,500.00
Killygoan	LT14113	Pothole Repair	€2,000.00

Other Works

Devin Reilly			
Backlane Refurbishment	LP14113	Installation of Public lighting	€10,000.00
Mall Road Drainage	LP1412	Additional Gullys	€ 2,000.00
Mall Road Footpath	LP1412	Renewal of Footpath & new Footpath	€ 7,000.00
General Town		Disability Work along footpaths	€ 5,000.00
General Town		Refresh of Line Marking	€10,000.00
Mall Rd Traffic Calming	LP1412	Installation of Speed Cushion	€ 2,000.00
		Total	€161,300.00

The Members welcomed the proposals and agreed the works.

13. Notice of Motion:-

- (a) “That this Council erect a plaque to the memory of the late Dr. O’Gorman and the late Seamus Cadden on the new bicycle path at Tullyherim”.

Cllr. Hagan

It was noted that the request to erect a plaque on the new Greenway to the memory of the late Dr. O’Gorman and the late Seamus Cadden came before the Members at the September Monthly Meeting of the Town Council and the matter had been referred to the Planning Sub-Committee. It was agreed that the Planning Sub-Committee discuss the matter at their meeting to be held on Thursday 20th February.

14. Ceisteanna/Questions:-

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

- (a) Photographs enclosed highlight faulty drainage works in the vicinity of the entrance to Drumbear Wood. Will the Engineering Section undertake remedial measures to alleviate this situation?

The location referred to is within a private housing estate and the faulty drainage works is a matter for the estate management company. Monaghan Town Council has no plans to carry out remedial works in private housing estates.

- (b) High capacity broadband network Project Kelvin was introduced into Monaghan and surrounding areas in 2009 and provides for local and global commerce opportunities between the island of Ireland and the rest of the world. What is required for local businesses to avail of this service?

Connection to Kelvin is available in a number of ways depending on the product/bandwidth required. Companies may work directly with Hibernia Atlantic who manage the Kelvin Project. Companies can connect the MAN fibre in the towns which in turn may be backhauled via Kelvin. These connections would be made typically in conjunction with eNet. Smaller companies or individuals may use the services of some of the ISP’s that are currently connected to Kelvin, these include Net1 and Digiweb. The IT Section of Monaghan County Council have requested a meeting with Hibernia Atlantic to discuss the matter further and explore options.

- © In relation to the recent meeting between Planning Section officials and representatives of the Knockroe Glen Residents Association, are the issues raised by the residents resolvable within a specific timeframe and is a further meeting scheduled to update residents?

Five specific issues were raised by the residents relating to the installation of speed ramps, the extent of common areas in the estate, the transfer of common areas to the management company, access to the undeveloped portion of the estate and landscaping. Speed ramps were not specified in the original planning permission. The installation of speed ramps, if determined necessary, is dependent on local authority funding. However, as the estate has not been taken in charge, it is not possible to progress this. The extent of the common areas are set out in the plans accompanying the planning permission. Ownership of the common areas will be transferred to the local authority through the taking in charge process. The local authority is not in a position to advise the residents in relation to access to the undeveloped land as it is the ownership of NAMA. Given the nature of the first four issues raised by the residents, it is not possible to resolve them within a set time frame. The issue regarding landscaping will be further addressed in the spring when improved weather conditions prevail. No further follow-up meeting has been scheduled at this stage.

15. Resolution from other Local Authorities:-

- (a) “That Ballina Town Council calls on the Minister for Finance to revoke the solid fuel carbon tax due to the dependency of the vast majority of Irish families using this source of heating”.

Ballina Town Council

The Members supported the above Resolution.

15. Conferences

- (a) Superior Training – “Seanad Reform and the Councillors” – Millrace Hotel, Bunclody, Co. Wexford – 20th – 22nd February 2014 – (approx. cost €630)
- (b) Clare 25th Annual Tourism Conference – “Folklore – Heritage – Tourism” – Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare – 21st – 22nd February 2014 – (approx. cost €750)
- (c) 25th Colmcille Winter School Conference – “The Irish Economy – Post Bailout” – Colmcille Heritage Centre, Gartan, Letterkenny – 21st – 23rd February 2014 – (approx. cost €590)
- (d) Ace Training – “Local Government Law Update: 2014” – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford – 21st – 23rd February 2014 – (approx. cost €370)
- (e) Ace Training – “Domestic Water Charges – Preparation and Practicalities” – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork – 21st – 23rd February 2014 – (approx. cost €880)
- (f) BGSeminarz Ltd – “Wind Turbines, The Pros and Cons” – Gleeson’s Town House, Roscommon – 21st – 23rd February 2014 – (approx. cost €530)

- (g) TJK Conferences Ltd – “Genealogy: Tracing Your Ancestors and Family Tree Conference” – Scotts, Limerick – 21st – 23rd February 2014 – (approx. cost €530)
- (h) Association of Irish Regions Annual Conference 2014 – “Ireland’s Regions Looking to the Future” – Kilonan Castle, Co. Roscommon – 27th – 28th February 2014 – (approx. cost €395)
- (i) Training Seminar for Councillors – “Budgets and Financing of Local Authorities” – Talbot Hotel, Wexford – 28th February 2014 – 1st March 2014 – (approx. cost €590)
- (j) BGSeminarz Ltd – “Local Elections – The Process and the Count” – Killarney Court Hotel, Killarney – 28th February – 2nd March 2014 – (approx. cost €820)
- (k) Ace Training – “Managing Diversity in the Community” – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork - 28th February – 2nd March 2014 (approx. cost €880)
- (l) Ace Training – “A Guide to EU Education Programmes” – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth – 28th February – 2nd March 2014 – (approx. cost €370)
- (m) Training Seminar for Councillors – “Alternative Energy and Local Government” – Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare – 6th – 8th March 2014 – (approx. cost €690)
- (n) Tgr Seminars – “Poverty and Migration in Ireland today – Overview of contemporary facts and figures” – Bunratty Castle Hotel, Bunratty, Co. Clare – 7th – 8th March 2014 – (approx. cost €570)
- (o) Ace Training – “Charities, Regulation and Legislation” – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork – 7th – 9th March 2014 – (approx. cost €880)
- (p) Ace Training – “Dignity at Work – A Guide to Bullying and Harassment in the Workplace” – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford – 7th - 9th March 2014 – (approx. cost €370)
- (q) Superior Training – “Media Skills for Councillors” – Great Northern Hotel , Bundoran” – 11th – 12th March 2014 – (approx. cost €345)

On the proposal of Cllr Donal Sherry seconded by Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha it was agreed that Cllr Seán Conlon attend Conference (h)

On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Robbie Gallagher it was agreed that Cllr Mary Carroll attend Conference (l)

On the proposal of Cllr Mary Carroll seconded by Cllr Robbie Gallagher it was agreed that Cllr David Maxwell attend Conference (o).

17. Any Other Business

Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha proposed and Cllr Donal Sherry seconded that a letter be issued to the Government expressing the Council’s disappointment that no Member of the Government attended the last meeting of the Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland which took place recently in Bundoran.

On the proposal of Cllr Seamus Treanor seconded by Cllr Donal Sherry it was agreed to write to Joan Burton TD Minister for Social Protection expressing the Council's disappointment that people retiring at the age of 65yrs of age have to sign on at the dole office for one year in order to obtain the State Pension.

On the proposal of Cllr. Robbie Gallagher seconded by Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha it was agreed to call on Michael Noonan TD, Minister for Finance to seek legal protection from the Central Bank for the 13,500 IBRC Mortgage holders in relation to the proposed sale of the loan book to third parties. It was agreed to circulate the Motion to all other Local Authorities.

It was agreed to discuss the proposed Famine Memorial at the Planning Sub-Committee Meeting of the Town Council on Thursday 20th February.

18. Sympathy/Congratulations

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:-

- Brian Finnegan, Monaghan Town Council employee on the death of his mother, Mrs Teresa Finnegan, 30 Dr Mc Kenna Tce, Monaghan
- The Sisters of St. Louis on the death of Sr. Eileen Monks
- The family of the late Garda Hugh Roche who was stationed in Monaghan for a number of years.
- Josephine O' Hagan, former Administrator of Monaghan General Hospital on the death of her mother, Mrs. Philomena O' Hagan.

A vote of congratulations was extended to the following:-

- Truagh Gaels on winning the AIB All Ireland Club Intermediate Football Championship Final
- Pauric Coyle on winning the Juvenile Referee of the Year Award.
- The McNally Family, Tyholland who were crowned the third fittest family in the RTE Series "Ireland's Fittest Family".
- Tara Gilsean, Castleshane who is currently doing musical and singing performances in New York
- Garda Owen Connell, Monaghan on his transfer to St. Paul's Garda Medical Aid Society.
- Louise O'Keeffe, Cork who won her case at the European Court of Human Rights over childhood abuse.
- Dominic Kane, Traffic Warden with Monaghan Town Council on his recent retirement.
- Gaelscoil Ultain, Monaghan on their fine performance in the TG4 documentary "An Ceoldráma".

The Members commiserated with Emyvale Football Club who were narrowly defeated in the AIB All Ireland Club Championships.

The Members complimented the Monaghan Group who are helping flood-hit Limerick homeowners and noted that they are seeking storage unites in Monaghan town for furniture and electrical goods.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Dated this the 18th day of March 2014

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach