

**COMHAIRLE BAILE MHUINEACHÁIN**  
**MONAGHAN TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2014 at 5.00pm.in the Council Chamber of Monaghan Town Council, Town Hall, No. 1 Dublin Street, Monaghan.

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**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 Eimear McMahon, Clerical Officer.

At the outset the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Paul McGeown welcomed the Members to the first Town Council Meeting of 2014 and wished all present a Happy New Year.

Paul Clifford, Director of Services was welcomed by the Members as the new Town Manager for the Town Council. The Members stated that it is important that the town has leadership going forward in order to spearhead the development of the town. On the proposal of Cllr. Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha it was agreed that the abolition of the Town Council's be marked in an appropriate manner and suggested that a sub-committee be formed consisting of the County Manager, Town Managers and the Cathaoirleach of each of the County's Town Councils to bring forward ideas over the next few months in order to mark the tremendous work undertaken by the Town Councils.

**1. Confirmation of December Monthly Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2013**

On the proposal of Cllr. Donal Sherry seconded by Cllr Mary Carroll it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the December Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2013.

**2. Confirmation of Annual Statutory Budget Meeting held on 16/12/2013**

On the proposal of Cllr Seamus Treanor seconded by Cllr David Maxwell it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the Annual Statutory Budget Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2013.

**3. Confirmation of Adjourned Annual Statutory Budget Meeting held on 18/12/2013**

On the proposal of Cllr Mary Carroll seconded by Cllr David Maxwell it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the Adjourned Annual Statutory Budget Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2013.

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

Cllr Seán Conlon referred to the recent disclosure of top-ups and bonus payments from public donations paid to executives in the Central Remedial Clinic and proposed that the Council “calls on the Board of the Central Remedial Clinic and Chairman Hamilton Goulding to return all funding originally raised for the purpose of patient care and welfare by public fundraising that was used for pension and gratuity payment top-ups required to make up the pension package for former CEO, Paul Kiely. This was seconded by Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha and agreed.

Cllr. Seán Conlon referred to recent controversial comments in relation to the Dublin/Monaghan bombings made in a recent television interview by Minister Ian Paisley. Cllr. Conlon proposed that Monaghan Town Council “endorses the efforts of the Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement regarding their recent meeting with the Justice for the Forgotten Group and endorses their request to An Taoiseach and An Tánaiste that funding is restored to their support group and more robust efforts are made in engaging the British Government for the handover of security related documents in relation to the Dublin/Monaghan Bombings as referred in the extensive research of the McEntee Report 2007”. This was seconded by Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha and agreed.

The Members complimented the Monaghan Training Workshop members on a very successful and enjoyable performance staged recently by them in the Garage Theatre.

Cllr. Donal Sherry stated that a delegation from the Dublin Street traders will be seeking a meeting in the near future with the Members to discuss how pedestrian access to Dublin Street can be improved. It was noted that the pedestrian gate at the rear of the Town Council office is open 24 hours a day and it is envisaged that the barrier to the Town Council offices will remain in place.

Cllr. Donal Sherry referred to a request from the Monaghan Allotment Society for a longer term lease in relation to the Council land which they currently occupy at Tirkeenan. Paul Clifford, Director of Services recommended that the Society be granted an annual licence and pointed out that if the Council offer a lease of over 4 years and 6 months they were offering the group statutory rights to the land and they would be entitled to a new lease after that period. Cllr. Robbie Gallagher stated that every member wishes to facilitate the group and proposed that the Council seek legal advice on the options available to the Council. This was seconded by Cllr. Thomas Hagan and agreed.

Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha referred to the poor condition and appearance of the Monaghan County Council Machinery Yard and it was agreed to bring the matter to the attention of the Director of Services for Roads, Monaghan County Council.

Mr. Eugene Cummins, County Manager entered the Council Chamber. The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Paul McGeown formally welcomed the newly appointed County Manager, Eugene Cummins to the Council Chamber of Monaghan Town Council. The County Manager introduced himself to the Members and Staff of the Town Council and stated that the works carried out in the town in recent years are a credit to the Members and their predecessors. Mr. Cummins stated that there will be a new way of doing business from the second half of this year in that Town Councils will be abolished, 3 no. Municipal Districts will be established in the County, the role of County Manager will go and the role of the elected member will become a much greater one. It was noted that the Municipal Districts will have a Director of Service/Head of Finance in charge of them and that the three Municipal Districts will have the same status and the same number of elected members. The County Manager stated that he looks forward to working with the Members and the Staff of the Council. The County Manager left the Council Chamber.

## **5. Manager's Orders**

The Members noted Manager's Orders numbered 175/13 – 182/13 and 01/14.

## **6. Correspondence**

The Members noted the following correspondence:-

- Acknowledgement letter dated 30<sup>th</sup> December 2013 from the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government in connection with the correspondence relating to additional protocol to the European Charter of local self government on the right to participate in the affairs of a Local Authority.
- Acknowledgement letter dated 30<sup>th</sup> December 2013 from the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government in relation to the 2014 Budget.
- Acknowledgement letter dated 10<sup>th</sup> January 2014 from the Office of the Minister for Social Protection regarding the Telephone Allowance.
- Letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> January 2014 from the Justice for the Forgotten in relation to a Motion passed by the Members of Monaghan Town Council at the December Monthly Meeting.
- Letter dated 10<sup>th</sup> January 2014 from the Health Service Executive in relation to the Ambulance Service in the North Monaghan area. On the proposal of Cllr Thomas Hagan seconded by Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha it was agreed to invite a representative from the HSE Ambulance Service to the next meeting of the Town Council.
- Overall results of the IBAL Anti-Litter League which showed that Monaghan Town received 34<sup>th</sup> position out of 42 towns surveyed and was deemed "Clean to European Norms".
- Letter of thanks dated 9<sup>th</sup> January 2014 from the Manager of MISE for the contribution of €400 from the Town Council towards their recent production.

The Town Clerk informed the Members that a second section of the Greenway Project from the Horseshoe Bridge to the Threemilehouse Road is now complete and will be open to the public by the end of this week.

Dermot Deeney, Town Engineer stated that CCTV cameras could be erected on the Greenway so that prosecutions could be taken against those responsible for littering.

#### **7. Planning Applications**

The Members noted Planning Applications numbered M.T. 13/26 – M.T. 13/28.

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

No business was submitted by An Cathaoirleach.

#### **9. Consideration of Reports of Committees:-**

The Members noted Minutes of a Special Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2013 in relation to the Draft Budget 2014.

The Members noted Minutes of the Budget Sub-Committee Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2013 in relation to the Draft Budget 2014.

#### **10. Roads/Housing:-**

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

- Flooding on Rooskey Road/Glen Road
- Public lighting out of order in various areas of the town.
- Speed ramps on Mall Road to be re-centered.
- Gullies to be checked at entrance to Coolshannagh Road
- Manhole cover lids – loose/noisy

The Town Clerk informed the Members that the Council was unsuccessful in their application for funding to the Department of Children and Youth Affairs for a replacement of play equipment for the playground at Killygoan. It was noted that Tenders are been prepared this week for the replacement of playground equipment in this area and the total cost of the works will be approximately €50,000. The Members noted that €10,000 has been allocated from the Community and Enterprise section of Monaghan County Council and the Town Clerk sought approval from the Members to fund the remaining balance from Capital Income – €12,000 from provision of playgrounds and the remainder from Capital Contributions in the Community, Recreation and Amenity Programme. This was approved by Cllr. Seán Conlon and seconded by Cllr. David Maxwell.

#### **11. Telecommunication Mast at Killygoan**

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

**12. Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme**

The Members noted that Monaghan Town Council has not yet awarded the Contract for Mullaghmatt Phase 3. The Contractor has not fulfilled all the requirements of the Letter of Intent. Subsequent to the Council seeking legal advice he has been afforded to the 4<sup>th</sup> of February to do so. It was noted that in the event that the preferred Contractor does not comply with all the conditions of the Letter of Intent the Council will seek legal advice as to how to progress the project. The Members expressed disappointment with the contents of the report and Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha proposed that a special meeting of the Council be called if any further important information is received before the February Monthly Meeting of the Town Council. This was seconded by Cllr. David Maxwell.

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

The Members welcomed the opening of the Lower Courthouse Car Park and expressed the view that the availability of all car parks brought a lot of business into the town over the Christmas shopping period. It was agreed to bring a report before the Budget Sub-Committee on the level of usage of car parks in the town. The Members requested that this item be removed from the agenda.

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

It was noted that work began today to refurbish the remaining three vacant apartments at Drumbear Wood, Cootehill Road, Monaghan. The Town Engineer reported that the works should be complete by March 2014.

**15. Consideration of the Monaghan Local Authorities Draft Litter Management Plan 2013 – 2016.**

The Members noted the Monaghan Local Authorities Draft Litter Management Plan 2013-2016. On the proposal of Cllr Mary Carroll seconded by Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha it was agreed to adopt the Monaghan Local Authorities Draft Litter Management Plan 2013-2016 as presented.

**16. Consideration of Statutory Audit Report of Monaghan Town Council for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012**

The Members noted the Statutory Audit Report of Monaghan Town Council for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012. It was noted that point no. 6.1 (outstanding amounts due in respect of housing development) refers to a housing development in the Diamond, Monaghan. Paul Clifford, Director of Services stated that the apartments in the development were sold in August 2013 and that the Council has negotiated a repayment schedule with the purchaser. In relation to 6.3 of the report (Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2002 (Social and Affordable Housing) the Members noted that this refers to a development on the Pound Hill, Monaghan. Paul Clifford, Director of Services stated that the outstanding Part V monies are being pursued with the Receiver.

**17. Consideration of proposed Amendments to Parking Control (Pay Parking) Bye-Laws and Car Park Bye-Laws**

The Members noted a copy of the following documentation:-

- Monaghan Town Council Parking Control (Pay Parking) Draft Bye-Laws 2014 (Amended)
- Monaghan Town Council Car Parks Draft Bye-Laws 2014 (Amended)
- Proposed alterations to Pay Parking Bye-Laws
- Copy of Drawing No. PP007 dated November 2013
- Copy of letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government.

It was noted that the draft Bye-Laws were put on public display for a period of one month and that details of the amendments were sent to the Gardaí, Monaghan County Council and the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government. On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Seamus Treanor it was agreed to adopt the Amendments to the Parking Control (Pay Parking) Bye-Laws and Car Parks Bye-Laws, as presented.

**18. Setting of Date for March and April Monthly Meetings**

As the date for the March Monthly Meeting falls on St. Patrick's Day it was agreed to hold the meeting on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

As the date for the April Monthly Meeting falls on Easter Monday it was agreed to hold the meeting on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

**19. Notices of Motion:-**

- (a) "That this Council condemns the deplorable cuts to the housing grants schemes for older people and the disabled, which were introduced this month with no prior notification. This is another attack on the elderly after recent cuts to their household benefit package in the December budget. We call on Minister Jan O'Sullivan to reverse these cuts immediately".

Cllrs. Uí Mhurchadha, Conlon, Sherry, McGeown

- (b) "That this Council calls on the Government to reverse the changes to the Housing Aid for the Elderly and Disabled scheme immediately".

Cllr. Gallagher

The Members agreed to deal with Motions (a) and (b) together as they both refer to cuts to the housing grants. Cllr Donal Sherry proposed Motion (a) and Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha seconded the Motion and requested that the Motion, if supported, be circulated to all other Local Authorities. Cllr. Robbie Gallagher proposed Motion (b) and Cllr. Seamus Treanor seconded the Motion. Cllr. David Maxwell and Cllr. Mary Carroll stated that they would be abstaining from voting on the Motions as they couldn't support calls for the complete reversal of the Minister's plans.

Following a discussion a vote was taken which resulted as follows:-  
In favour of the Motions:- Cllrs Conlon, Gallagher, Hagan, McGeown, Sherry, Treanor, Uí Mhurchadha (7)  
Against the Motions:- (0)  
Abstained from voting – Cllrs Carroll, Maxwell (2)  
The Motions were declared carried.

© “I want to propose that the Monaghan Town Sewerage be extended onto the Scotstown Road and to Milltown”.

Cllr. Hagan

The Motion was proposed by Cllr. Thomas Hagan and seconded by Cllr. Seamus Treanor. Paul Clifford, Director of Services stated that a contract had been agreed to provide a sewerage connection to the Woodlands area before the take over by Irish Water. The Members noted that there had been no grant aid for the Milltown project. It was agreed to send the Motion to Irish Water.

## **20. Ceisteanna/Questions:-**

### **Cllr. Gallagher asked:-**

(a) Has the Council any plans to repair or replace the wooden fence at the Clones Road entrance to Tom Young’s Wood, particularly as the amenity value and infrastructure of the area is being enhanced?

*It is the intention that the fencing at the Clones Road entrance to Tom Young’s Wood will join to the new fencing along the Greenway and repairs will be made where necessary as part of the Ulster Canal Greenway Works.*

(b) Could the Council investigate what action could be taken to prevent water pooling on the footpath at the exit from Dunnes Stores car park on the Broad Road?

*Footpath paving has been re-laid at the exit from Dunnes Stores main entrance onto Dawson Street (ramped entrance to shop)*

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

(c) In the interest of pedestrian safety, will footpath repair works be undertaken on a sink hole located near the Dawson Street entrance to the shopping centre. Also, are road works scheduled to repair the poor state of road surface on Dawson Street?

*Repair works has been undertaken to the footpath near the Dawson Street entrance to the shopping centre. Also, pipes are due to be laid along this section of Dawson Street in the coming months but the Area Engineer will arrange to have a short section of the road repaired shortly.*

- (d) In an effort at facilitating outdoor events being staged at the bandstand area of the Diamond, has any further consideration been given by Executive to previous requests that a temporary site specific canopy is purchased for this purpose?

*It was suggested in October 2012 that a canopy for the bandstand be purchased from the dividend received from Irish Public Bodies Insurances. However, at the meeting in November 2012 it was noted that a canopy would cost in the region of €15,000 to €20,000 and it was agreed to capitalize the dividend on other town events.*

## **21. Resolutions from other Local Authorities:-**

- (a) “This Town Council proposes that the relevant Derelict Sites Legislation be amended to facilitate an increase in the levy applied to properties included on the Derelict Site Register from 3% to 10%. Given the lower level of market values in recent years, the levy of 3% is not a sufficient deterrent to ensure properties do not become or remain in derelict condition, and a change in legislation is required to bring about the type of disincentive necessary to achieve the goal of removing or preventing dereliction”.

Passage West Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

- (b) “In relation to the fluoridation of the public water supply we call on Government to do one of the following, which are given in the order of priority (1) to desist from adding fluoride to the public water supply (2) to hold a referendum on the question within the next eighteen months (3) to submit the question to the Constitutional Convention for consideration”.

Killarney Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution

- (c) “That Bantry Town Council have decided to seek a plebiscite from the people of Bantry to give them a say, not given to them by Government, regarding the future of Bantry Town Council. We ask for the opinion of all Town Council’s and encourage them to consider seeking a similar plebiscite”.

Bantry Town Council

It was agreed to mark the above Resolution read.

## **22. Conferences**

- (a) Superior Training – “Media Skills for Councillors” – Clifden Station House Hotel, Clifden, Co. Galway – 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> January 2014 – (approx. cost €700)
- (b) Tgr Seminars - “How Councillors can access Grant Aid for Communities”- Bunratty Castle Hotel, Bunratty, Co. Clare- 24<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> January 2014 - (approx. cost €570)
- (c) Councillors Conferences – “Common Agriculture Policy, An overview of CAP Reform” – Bewleys Hotel, Newlands Cross, Naas Road, Dublin 22 – 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> January 2014 – (approx. cost €490)

- (d) Celtic Conferences – “Doing more with less – Managing time and productivity” – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Cork – 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> January 2014 – (approx. cost €880)
- (e) Ace Training – “Budget 2014 – A review of items confirmed and measures not yet announced” – Clonmel Park Hotel, Clonmel, Tipperary – 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2014 – (approx. cost €700)
- (f) The Chartered Institution of Wastes Management Conference – “Litter Management and Enforcement in Recessionary Times – Working Smarter with reduced resources” – Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly – 30<sup>th</sup> January 2014 – (approx. cost €430)
- (g) Waterford County Council Mental Health Conference – “Support and Developments in Mental Health Care”- Park Hotel, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford – 31<sup>st</sup> January – 1<sup>st</sup> February 2014 – (approx. cost €590)
- (h) Ace Training – “Good Governance of Community, Voluntary and Charitable Organisation in Ireland” – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth – 31<sup>st</sup> January - 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2014 – (approx. cost €370)
- (i) Celtic Conferences -“Changes to Construction Tendering for Local Authorities”- Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork - 31<sup>st</sup> January -2<sup>nd</sup> February 2014 – (approx. cost €880)
- (j) Ace Training- “Microsoft Excel Training Workshop for Councillors”- Park Hotel, Clonmel, Tipperary – 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> February 2014 – (approx. cost €700)
- (k) Ace Training – “Employment Opportunities in Artisan foods” – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork – 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> February 2014 – (approx. cost €880)
- (l) Ace Training – “Sporting and Community Planning” – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth – 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> February 2014 – (approx. cost €370)
- (m) Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland Spring Seminar 2014 – Great Northern Hotel, Bundoran – 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> February 2014 – (approx. cost €460)
- (n) Ace Training – “Waste Management Legislation – Responsibilities of Local Authorities in disposing and recycling electrical and electronic equipment” – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth – 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> February 2014 – (approx. cost €370)
- (o) Ace Training – “Local Authority Employment – Law, Practice and Procedure” – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork – 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> February 2014 – (approx. cost €880)

It was noted that the delegates to the AMAI, i.e. Cllrs Maxwell and Uí Mhurchadha will attend the AMAI Seminar. It was also agreed that if any other Member of the Town Council wishes to attend the Seminar that they submit their name to the Town Clerk for registration purposes.

### **23. Any Other Business**

Cllr Séan Conlon proposed that a letter be sent to Minister Alan Shatter T.D., Minister for Justice and Equality requesting that Monaghan Town Council calls for the immediate release of 79yr old Margaretta D’Arcy who suffers from Parkinson disease, for protesting against the use of Shannon Airport by U.S. Military Aircraft, through her constitutional and democratic right to peaceful protest. This was seconded by Cllr Thomas Hagan and agreed.

The Members were reminded by the Town Clerk of their obligation to submit the Local Elections Disclosure of Donations and Expenditure return by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2014.

**24. Sympathy/Congratulations**

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:-

- Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin and his wife Bríd on the death of Bernard Mc Ginn, Castleblayney and Aideen Morris, Castleblayney.
- The Mc Gloin Family, Gortakeegan on the death of Hugh Mc Gloin, former Garda Inspector. The Members paid tribute to the late Mr McGloin for his work with the Irish Wheelchair Association and Meals on Wheels.

Best wishes were extended to the Truagh and Emyvale Football Teams who are taking part this weekend in the next round of the AIB All Ireland Club Championships.

The Cathaoirleach commended all those who worked during the recent inclement weather.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Dated this the 17<sup>th</sup> day of February 2014

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