

COMHAIRLE BAILE MHUINEACHÁIN
MONAGHAN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 15th July 2013 at 5.00pm.in the Council Chamber of Monaghan Town Council, Town Hall, No. 1 Dublin Street, Monaghan.

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Paul McGeown

Present: Cllrs Mary Carroll, Thomas Hagan, David Maxwell, Donal Sherry, Seamus Treanor and Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha.

In Attendance: David Fallon, County Manager, Dermot Deeney, Town Engineer, Marie Deighan, Town Clerk and Aisling Greenan, Clerical Officer.

An apology for inability to attend was received from Cllr. Seán Conlon. Cllr. Robbie Gallagher also sent his apology for his inability to attend the meeting and conveyed his thanks to the Members of the Council for the kindness shown to him at the time of his sister's death.

1. Confirmation of Adjourned June Monthly Meeting held on 24th June 2013

On the proposal of Cllr. Donal Sherry seconded by Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the adjourned June Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 24th June 2013.

2. Confirmation of Adjourned Annual General Meeting held on 24th June 2013

On the proposal of Cllr Thomas Hagan seconded by Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the Adjourned Annual General Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 24th June 2013.

3. Confirmation of Adjourned Meeting held in Committee on 24th June 2013

On the proposal of Cllr Seamus Treanor seconded by Cllr Thomas Hagan it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the Adjourned Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held in Committee on Monday 24th June 2013.

4. Confirmation of Meeting held on 17th June 2013

On the proposal of Cllr Mary Carroll seconded by Cllr Seamus Treanor it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th June 2013.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes

It was agreed to arrange a Planning Sub-Committee Meeting in relation to the Famine Memorial.

It was requested that a survey of manholes be carried out throughout the town.

The Members noted that the Council will provide a free water connection to the Monaghan Allotment Society for their project at Killygoan.

Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha enquired if two no. lanterns could replace the two public lights in Belgian Square housing estate. It was agreed to obtain a quotation for the replacement of same.

It was noted that no decision has yet been made by the Department on the application regarding the Milltown Sewage Scheme.

The Town Engineer reported that an inspection has been carried out on a wall at St. Louis Convent and that extensive works are required. An assessment of the wall is now required.

6. Manager's Orders

The Members noted Manager's Orders numbered 85/13 – 110/13.

David Fallon, County Manager stated that 13 no. tenders were opened this morning in the County Council for the carrying out of works associated with the Ulster Canal Greenway Project which has been approved for Monaghan Town.

7. Correspondence

The Members noted the following correspondence:-

- Acknowledgement letter dated 1st July 2013 from the Office of the Minister for Social and Family Affairs regarding recent decrease in rent supplement in County Monaghan.
- Acknowledgement letter dated 24th June 2013 from the Department of Justice and Equality regarding the length of sentencing for those who flee the scene of fatal motor accidents.
- Acknowledgement letter dated 8th July 2013 from the Department of Justice and Equality regarding the maximum and minimum prison sentences for persons leaving the scene of fatal road traffic collisions.
- Circular letter LG03/13 from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government in relation to Representational Payment for Councillors – Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Act 2013.
- Letter dated July 2013 from the Department of Social Protection regarding the upcoming changes to the state pension (transition). The Members expressed disappointment with the contents of the letter.
- Letter dated 11th July 2013 from the Office of the Minister for Education and Skills in the relation to the employment of Special Needs Assistants in schools.
- Acknowledgement letter dated 10th July 2013 from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport regarding an introduction of a maximum 10 year sentence and a minimum 5 year sentence for any person involved in a fatal motor accident who leaves the scene of the accident.

- The National Litter Pollution Monitoring System Litter Monitoring Body System Results Report for Monaghan Town Council dated May 2013. Cllr. Mary Carroll noted that 49% of food related litter detected in the town came from chewing gum. The Members appealed to the public not to litter. The report showed that Monaghan Town Council was one of the most active authorities in the Country in carrying out the litter surveys and the Members acknowledged this.
- Letter of request received on 24th June 2013 from the organizers of the Monaghan 10 miler which will take place on 18th August 2013. It was agreed to contribute €100 to the event.
- Expression of Interest Form for Events in Public Spaces received from Local Musicians who propose to perform at the area in front of the Courthouse, Monaghan on Saturday 7th September 2013 from 3pm to 9pm. The Members also noted Minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday 3rd July 2013 with the organizers of the event. There was no objection to the request.
- Letter of thanks dated 14th June 2013 from Fr. Seán Clerkin, Treasurer of the Monaghan Immigrant Support Group thanking the Members for their grant of €400.
- Letter dated 10th July 2013 from Tommy Hughes, Dublin Street setting out his appeal for the temporary retention of an unauthorized commercial banner erected by him on his premises. The County Manager stated that a course of enforcement action is being taken at present against Mr. Hughes.

8. Planning Applications

The Members noted Planning Applications numbered M.T. 13/13 – M.T. 13/16.

9. Business submitted by An Cathaoirleach

No business was submitted by An Cathaoirleach.

10. Consideration of Reports of Committees

There were no reports of committees.

David Fallon, County Manager informed the Members that he has authorized the final financial contribution payment of €100,000 towards the construction of the Garage Theatre.

11. Roads/Housing

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

- Dog Fouling signage required
- Works to road at Devin Reilly Tce (included in Road Grant Programme)
- Road at Monaghan Creamery, Coolshannagh – bad condition (to be referred to Area Engineer)
- Illegal dumping - Pound Hill/Mall Road

- Ramp – Belgium Park – very sharp
- Dog Litter bins required throughout Rossmore Park (to be referred to Coillte)
- Overgrown hedges - opposite new VEC Schools, Knockaconny
- Bin in vicinity of “Hive of Knowledge” Monument (Church Square) to be relocated
- Loading bay sign damaged – Park Street
- Ballybay Road – patching works required.
- Works to back lane – Dr. McKenna Terrace
- Consideration of provision of bus parking in Lower Courthouse Car Park

12. Telecommunication Mast at Killygoan

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

13. Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme

The Members noted that the Tender Assessment Report was received from the Housing Agency on the 9th July 2013 and that it has been forwarded to the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government for approval. The Members also noted that once this approval has been obtained, Monaghan Town Council will proceed with the process of appointing the preferred Tenderer.

14. Report on Mixed Use Development at Rooskey

The Members noted that work is nearing completion on the site of the Mixed Use Development. Cllr. David Maxwell referred to concerns raised by First Monaghan Church regarding the provision of a wall and associated accommodation works which were promised to take place in connection with the restoration of the car park.

15. Report on Vacant Apartments at Drumbear

It was noted that a contractor has commenced repair work to one of the vacant apartments at Drumbear Wood and when this work is complete the apartment will be tested to ensure that the works comply with the Building Regulations before the remaining apartments are repaired.

16. “In preparation for the annual public outdoor performance of local young Musicians that coincides with the Harvest Time Blues Festival that the issue of a temporary closure of Mill Street to facilitate this performance is added as an item for discussion on the July 2013 agenda”. This Motion was adopted at the September 2012 Monthly Meeting.

It was noted that this item was dealt with under correspondence.

17. Consideration of continuing to designate the site at Church Square North - opposite Courthouse as a Casual Trading area

The Members noted an extract from the Minutes of a Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on 16th July 2012 in relation to the Casual Trading Area at Church Square North – opposite Courthouse. On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Mary Carroll it was agreed to continue to designate the site at Church Square North – opposite Courthouse as a Casual Trading Area and to review the matter at the July 2014 Meeting.

18. An t-Ullghort Housing Estate

It was noted that no submissions/observations were received in relation to the public consultation held regarding the taking in charge of An t-Ullghort Housing Estate, Kilnacloy, Monaghan. On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Donal Sherry it was agreed to take in Charge An t-Ullghort Housing Estate, Kilnacloy, Monaghan under Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000-2006 and in accordance with drawing no. 04/407/06 dated 30th August 2004. On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Donal Sherry it was agreed to declare the road to be a public road under Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.

19. Up-date on Monaghan Town Country and Western Music Festival

The Members noted Minutes of a Meeting held on Tuesday 25th June 2013 in relation to the up-coming Country & Western Music Festival. The Members wished the Committee every success with the festival. Cllr. Mary Carroll requested the Committee to consider additional camping facilities for the weekend. The Members acknowledged the erecting of bunting by the Town Council staff and noted that there was no objections received to the Road Closure public notice.

20. Notice of Motion

- (a) “That this Council calls on the Minister for Finance, Michael Noonan T.D., to scrap the vat charged (vat rate 23%) on fees charged by the Personal Insolvency Practitioner”.

Cllr. Gallagher

It was agreed to defer this Motion until the September Monthly Meeting of the Town Council as Cllr Gallagher was absent from the meeting.

21. Resolutions from Other Local Authorities

- (a) “That this Council calls on the Government to implement the National Epilepsy Care Programme in full, in particular the critically needed Epilepsy Monitoring Units as a matter of urgency”.

Dundalk Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

- (b) “That this Town Council calls for the expedition of the passage through Dáil Eireann of the Poor Relief Ireland (Amendment) Bill 2013, in an effort to boost commerce and regeneration. That this call is made upon the Ministers for Finance, for Public Expenditure and Reform, for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation and for Environment, Community and Local Government and should this motion be passed, that a copy thereof be forwarded to the above mentioned”.

Dundalk Town Council

It was agreed to mark the above Resolution read.

- © The Members noted a Resolution from Kerry County Council in relation to the Higher Education Grant Scheme 2013. Cllr. David Maxwell stated that a new group has been set up to engage in an examination of the SUSI system and that Cllr. Matt Carthy has been appointed as a delegate from the Cavan/Monaghan Education and Training Board to this group who are working to get the system running better. It was agreed to await the outcome of the Working Group before making a decision on the Resolution.

22. Conferences

- (a) Tgr Seminars – “Councillor Seminar and Professional Development Day – How to access funding for community programmes relevant to Councillors” – Bunratty Castle Hotel, Co. Clare – 26th – 27th July 2013 – (approx. cost €560).
- (b) The Westport Conference – Seminar on Media and the Councillor: “Social Media and Traditional Media” – Westport Country Lodge Hotel, Westport – 26th – 28th July 2013 – (approx. cost €650)
- (c) Celtic Conferences – “Future is Food” – Seminar on Employment Opportunities in Artisan Foods – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery – 26th – 28th July 2013 – (approx. cost €870)
- (d) Police Service of Northern Ireland – “Partnerships in Safety: Building Safe and Just Societies”- Titanic Belfast – 31st July – 1st August 2013 – (approx. cost €630)
- (e) 22nd William Carleton Society Summer School – Monaghan and Clogher – see details attached.
- (f) Ace Training- “Benefits of Jobs Creation Tax Entitlements Seminar – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford – 16th – 18th August 2013 – (approx. cost €400)
- (g) Celtic Conferences – “Public Presentation and PR Management Seminar” – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery – 23rd – 25th August 2013 – (approx. cost €870)
- (h) Westport Conference – “Westport Greenway, Sustainable Transport Experience” – Westport Country Lodge Hotel, Westport – 30th August – 1st September 2013 – (approx. cost €650)
- (i) Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland 101 Annual Conference – Inchydoney Lodge Hotel, Clonakilty – 12th – 14th September 2013 – (approx. cost €950)

- (j) Omagh District Council – The 12th Benedict Kiely Literary Weekend – “All the Way to Bantry Bay.. and other journeys” – Strule Arts Centre, Omagh – 13th – 15th September 2013 – (approx. cost €380)

It was agreed that the delegates to the AMAI – Cllr David Maxwell and Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha attend Conference (i). It was also agreed that if any Member wishes to attend the AMAI Conference that they submit their name to the Town Clerk.

23. Any Other Business

It was agreed to re-schedule the Monaghan Town Joint Policing Committee Meeting from Monday 29th July 2013 to Monday 30th September 2013.

24. Sympathy/Congratulations

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:-

- The family of the late Mick Farrell, Old Armagh Road
- Cllr Matt Carthy on the death of his grandmother, Susan Carthy, Strokestown, Co. Roscommon.

A vote of congratulations was extended to the following:-

- Cllr Seán Conlon on been elected Mayor of Monaghan County Council
- The U14 Harps Team on wining the All Ireland Féile Competition
- The Monaghan Ladies Football Team who won the Ulster Senior Football Championship Final (4 in a row)

The Members wished the Monaghan Minor and Senior Football Teams the best of luck in the Ulster Football Finals.

This Concluded the Business of the Meeting.

Dated this the 16th day of September 2013

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

