

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

Minutes of Adjourned Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2013 at 6.00pm. 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, 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 Sinead Mc Cann, Staff Officer.

An apology for inability to attend was received from Cllr. Robbie Gallagher.

**To Consider the Draft General Development Contributions Scheme 2013-2019**

The Members welcomed Adrian Hughes, Senior Planner and Toirleach Gourley, Senior Executive Planner, Monaghan County Council to the meeting. The Members noted the County Manager's Report dated June 2013 on submissions received in respect of the Draft General Development Contributions Scheme 2013-2019. It was noted that public notice of the Draft Scheme was published in the local newspaper and on-line and that copies of the Scheme were available in the offices of the County and Town Councils and Branch Libraries. The Members noted that three submissions were received by Monaghan County Council and one submission was received by the Town Council prior to the deadline for submissions. Following examination of the County Manager's Report it was proposed by Cllr Seán Conlon, seconded by Cllr Seamus Treanor and agreed to adopt the General Development Contributions Scheme for the period 2013 – 2019. It was noted that the Scheme will come into operation on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013.

18. **Consideration of County Manager's Report dated 12<sup>th</sup> June 2013 in relation to proposed development under Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended to carry out the following works:-**  
**Development of the Ulster Canal Greenway – Phase 1 Scheme for approximately 3.4km in length. The proposed development works are to be located adjacent to the towpath of the Ulster Canal (with Sections alongside the R189, Rooskey Vale, Old Cross Square, Canal Street, Glen Road, St. Louis Convent Grounds, Canal View Area, Oriel Way, Tom Young's Wood and Killyconnigan Housing Area). The proposed development works are to be located at Tirkeenan, extending to Tully, Mullaghcroghery and Killyconnigan.**

The Members welcomed Jonathon Condell, Assistant Engineer, Monaghan Town Council to the meeting.

The Members noted the Report dated 12<sup>th</sup> June 2013 in relation to the proposed development under Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations in relation to the Development of the Ulster Canal Greenway - Phase 1 Scheme for approximately 3.4km in length. Jonathan Condell, Assistant Engineer, Monaghan Town Council informed the Members that 2 no. submissions were received to the Part 8 Development. It was noted that the entire project has been subject to a Stage 1 Road Safety Audit which was part of the overall initial design for the Greenway and that the project is subject to a Stage 2 Road Safety Audit for the detailed design. The Members noted that the provision of pallidan fencing for a length of 915 metres along the route where the Greenway is in proximity to residential dwellings will ensure the amenity of residents in the vicinity of the proposed project is protected where practicable. It was also noted that the design of the Greenway has been designed so as to incorporate street lighting throughout with CCTV provision at 2 no. separate locations so as to effectively manage any potential issues of anti-social behaviour. Cllr Seán Conlon acknowledged the work undertaken by the staff in relation to the scheme. On the proposal of Cllr. Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr. Seamus Treanor it was agreed to approve the County Manager's Report dated 12<sup>th</sup> June 2013 in relation to the proposed development under Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended to carry out works for the development of the Ulster Canal Greenway – Phase 1 Scheme for approximately 3.4km in length.

Adrian Hughes, Toirleach Gourley and Jonathan Condell left the Council Chamber.

**1. Confirmation of May Monthly Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

On the proposal of Cllr Mary Carroll seconded by Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the May Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2013.

**2. Confirmation of Meeting held in Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

On the proposal of Cllr Thomas Hagan seconded by Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held in Committee on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2013.

**3. Confirmation of Meeting held in Committee on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

On the proposal of Cllr Seamus Treanor seconded by Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held in Committee on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2013.

**4. Confirmation of Special Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

On the proposal of Cllr Mary Carroll seconded by Cllr Seamus Treanor it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2013.

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

It was noted that no response has been received from the Local Returning officer seeking an exact percentage breakdown of students, retired people and unemployed who were afforded the opportunity to work at the polling stations at the Children's Referendum in November 2012. The Town Clerk was requested to follow up on this matter.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Paul McGeown thanked everyone who sympathized with him and his family on the recent death of his mother.

David Fallon, County Manager thanked the Members for their vote of sympathy on the recent death of his aunt, Kathleen Kavanagh.

Cllr. Seamus Treanor stated that he has carried out numerous spot checks on the Skateboard Park at Mullaghmat and has always found the Park to be very clean and well maintained.

## **6. Manager's Orders**

The Members noted Manager's Orders Numbered 72/13 – 84/13.

## **7. Correspondence**

The Members noted the following correspondence:-

- Letter dated May 2013 from the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation regarding the establishment of an Enterprise Centre at the vacant Revenue Commissioners building at Tullyherim, Monaghan.
- Letter dated 31<sup>st</sup> May 2013 from the Office of the Minister for Housing and Planning regarding a Motion passed by the Members requesting emergency funding to purchase/lease housing due to the large number of families on the housing list in the Monaghan Town/North Monaghan area.
- Letter dated 28<sup>th</sup> May 2013 from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport regarding a call by the Members for maximum and minimum prison sentences for persons leaving the scene of fatal road traffic collisions. Cllr. Seamus Treanor expressed disappointment with the Minister's reply and proposed that a letter be issued to the Minister for Justice highlighting the disappointment. This was seconded by Cllr. David Maxwell and agreed.
- Letter dated 29<sup>th</sup> May 2013 from the Department of Social Protection regarding job seeker's payments to retained Firefighters. Cllr. Seamus Treanor stated that he hoped the necessary legislation would be put in place very soon.
- Letter dated 24<sup>th</sup> May 2013 from the Office of the Minister for Housing and Planning regarding the Remedial Works Scheme at Mullaghmat, Monaghan.
- Acknowledgement letter dated 31<sup>st</sup> May 2013 from the Office of the Taoiseach regarding a call by the Members for a thorough inquiry into the collapse of the banks in Ireland

- Acknowledgement letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> June 2013 from the Department of Finance regarding a call by the Members for a thorough inquiry into the collapse of the banks in Ireland.
- Acknowledgement letter dated 30<sup>th</sup> May 2013 from the Department of Justice and Equality regarding a call by the Members for the assessment of applicants wishing to enter the State to ensure that they do not have a criminal record.
- Acknowledgement letter dated 30<sup>th</sup> May 2013 from the Office of the Minister for Social and Family Affairs regarding pension changes.
- Acknowledgement letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> June 2013 from the Office of the Minister for Social Protection regarding job seeker payments to part-time Firemen.
- Email dated 4<sup>th</sup> June 2013 from the Rehab Group thanking the Members for nominating Donal Walsh for the 2013 People of the Year Awards.
- Emails dated 28<sup>th</sup> May 2013 and 6<sup>th</sup> June 2013 from Dr Matthew Potter, Historian, Limerick informing the Members of work that he would be in a position to undertake in relation to the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Monaghan's first charter.
- Letter dated 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2013 from Kerry County Council regarding the cost associated in administering the Coroner's function V's reduction in funding available for Housing Grant Schemes 2013. The Members supported the correspondence.
- Letter dated 24<sup>th</sup> May 2013 from the Council's legal advisor regarding the introduction of a Bye-Law to prohibit street collections/begging in Mill Street, Monaghan Town. On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Mary Carroll it was agreed to amend the Parks and Open Spaces Bye-Laws to include "no street collections/begging in Mill Street". The County Manager stated that legal clarification will be obtained on the bye-law proposal.
- Invitation dated 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2013 from the Mayor of Miramichi inviting the Mayor and or other representatives from the Town Council to visit Miramichi from 18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> July 2013. On the proposal of Cllr Seán Conlon seconded by the Cathaoirleach, Cllr Paul McGeown it was agreed that Cllr David Maxwell represent the Town Council in Miramichi.
- Application from Richard Mc Kenna, Casual Trader to work during the duration of the Country Music Festival. The Members agreed to support this application.
- Email dated 11<sup>th</sup> June 2013 from Nial O' Connor, Environmental Awareness Officer, Monaghan County Council in relation to the recycling of plastic bottles. Cllr. Donal Sherry expressed disappointment with this correspondence.
- Acknowledgement card from the family of the late Patsy Mc Dermott, Corlea, Dunraymond. Monaghan thanking the Members most sincerely for their kind expression of sympathy in their recent sad bereavement.

The Members noted correspondence circulated regarding an up-date on the Country and Western Music Festival planned for Monaghan Town in July 2013. The Members noted the following:-

- Cost associated with all temporary traffic signs for diversions, closures and temporary car parking

- Outdoor staff overtime – setting up and manning road closure barriers, checking diversion signs, setting out and removing outdoor benches and seating, additional street cleaning, emptying of Town Council litter bins, etc.
- Letter dated 18<sup>th</sup> June 2013 from the Festival Committee seeking the use of the Town Council Car park as a depot for the Dublin Street Traders during the road closures. The Members had no objection to this request. Cllr Donal Sherry requested the use of the car park facilities at Monaghan County Council Offices on the Glen Road to facilitate parking during the festival. The County Manager had no objection to this request and asked the Festival Committee to liaise with the Caretaker of the building.
- Cutting down and modifying the bandstand railings. The Members had no objection to this request.
- The hiring of two no. temporary portacabin toilet units.
- Closure of three no. casual trading bays at rear of Courthouse from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July – 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2013 to facilitate Cullen’s Amusements. The Members had no objection to this request but noted that the Casual Trader will have to be facilitated elsewhere in the car park.
- The Members noted details of the road closures and a copy of a letter from St. Patrick’s Church, Monaghan in relation to the Festival and the road closures.

Cllr. Donal Sherry referred to correspondence received by him from a trader in Dublin Street in relation to the erection of a banner to promote his business. The Members supported this correspondence and requested that the banner be left in place until the lower courthouse car park is restored. The County Manager stated that the executive of the Town Council are awaiting a report from the Planning Section on the unauthorized banner.

It was agreed that the Planning Sub-Committee consider a procedure for the erection of banners, etc in the town so that business people can promote/advertise their businesses.

## **8. Planning Applications**

The Members noted Planning Applications numbered M.T. 13/11 – M.T. 13/12.

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

No business was submitted by An Cathaoirleach.

## **10. Consideration of Reports of Committees**

The Members noted the Minutes of the Budget Sub-Committee Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on the 21<sup>st</sup> May 2013 in relation to the opening of Tenders for the Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme, Phase 3.

The Members also noted the Minutes of the Budget Sub-Committee Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2013 in relation to the opening of a Tender for the Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme, Phase 3.

It was agreed to amend the wording of a Motion recommended by the Budget Sub-Committee to read as follows:-

“That the Minister would look at EU Directive Regulation 56, Sub-Section 7 of the European Communities Regulations 2007.

To insert a clause that any company that gone into receivership or liquidation cannot tender for public contracts for a period of 5 years under a new company name when that new company is relying on technical or professional abilities of the old company”.

The Members supported this Motion and agreed to circulate it to all Local Authorities.

Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha stated that she attended the Social, Cultural, Voluntary and Community Strategic Policy Committee meeting of Monaghan County Council and complimented all those involved on the work that is ongoing throughout the County.

Cllr. Mary Carroll thanked the Members for affording her the opportunity to travel recently to Prince Edward Island and remarked on the hospitality received by the Monaghan delegation during their stay. Cllr. Carroll stated that she will circulate a report on the visit to the Members at the July Monthly Meeting.

## **11. Roads/Housing**

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

- Park Road – Dog fouling
- Convent Wall – Cracked/bad condition
- Dublin Street – Footpath requires repair
- Mill Street – Handrail to be repaired
- Manhole covers throughout town – loose/noisy
- Clones Road – Dip in road at traffic Island (has been referred to Area Engineer)
- Grass Area at Killyconnigan to be cut
- Ballybay Road (Centre of roadway) – needs repair (to be referred to Area Engineer)
- Park Street – loading bay sign

The Members welcomed the ongoing works to the Knockroe Glen Housing Estate.

It was noted that Monaghan County Council are having ongoing discussions with Coillte in relation to the barrier in place at the entrance to Rossmore Forest Park. It was agreed to seek an up-date from the County Council on the matter.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Paul McGeown called on people who use Belgium Park Football Field at out of hours time to put their litter in the bins provided and to keep the field clean.

Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha complimented Francis Coogan, New Terrace on work he carries out in his area of town and congratulated the Tidy Towns Committee on the work they undertake throughout the town.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Paul McGeown called on members of the public not to damage/vandalise plants/trees and to respect the works which are carried out to enhance the town.

Cllr. Donal Sherry called on the Planning Sub-Committee to examine the possibility of introducing a two-hour daily suspension of the pay parking in the town to encourage shoppers to the town. The County Manager stated that Monaghan Town has one of the cheapest pay parking systems in the country.

It was noted that an application for a water connection is being made at present to Monaghan County Council for a connection to the Allotment Site at Killygoan.

Following a discussion on the recent decrease in Rent Supplement and on the proposal of Cllr. Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr. Donal Sherry it was agreed to forward the following Motion to Minister Joan Burton:-

“We convey our objections to Minister Joan Burton in the decision by her Department regarding the recent decrease in Rent Supplement in County Monaghan by up to 20% in some cases. As the recent CSO statistics have indicated, County Monaghan suffers highly from low income levels, being one of the lowest in the State. We ask Minister Burton from what source has her office derived the information stating rents have been reducing as this certainly is not the case. We make the appeal that the rent supplement allowance is reinstated to previous levels”.

The Town Engineer stated that the Executive are awaiting quotations for the carrying out of improvement works to the back lane at Dr. McKenna Terrace, Monaghan.

Cllr Seán Conlon left the Council Chamber.

## **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 the report on Phase 3 of the Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme which stated that the Tender assessment report was previously due to be issued by the Housing Agency by 10<sup>th</sup> June 2013 and that the Council has had to seek legal advice on a procurement process which has in turn delayed the issuing of the report. The Members noted that the Housing Agency is currently seeking clarification of the lowest priced Tender and that subject to receipt of the required information and a satisfactory review by the Housing Agency it is hoped that the Tender assessment report will be available by 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013.

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

It was noted that works should be complete on the site of the Mixed Use Development at Rooskey by August 2013. Cllr. Seamus Treanor suggested that the car park be used for future festivals in the town and called for the proper requirements to be installed at this stage, i.e. provision of electricity, water connections, etc.

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

The Town Engineer informed the Members that a Contractor has been appointed to carry out works to one of the vacant apartments at Drumbear. It was noted that it is intended to have the apartment tested before the remaining apartments are repaired.

**16. Consideration of Annual Financial Statement for Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012**

The Members noted a copy of the Annual Financial Statement for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012. It was noted that the deficit on the Revenue Account has increased by €117,677 to €380,944.

**17. Consideration of approval of Over-expenditure for Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012.**

The Members noted details of the over-expenditure of Monaghan Town Council for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012 together with details of the transfers to/from Reserves and Inter-capital transfers. On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Seamus Treanor it was agreed to approve of the over-expenditure for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012.

**19. Notices of Motion:-**

(a) “That this Council write to the Minister for Finance, Michael Noonan to rescind his decision to force the Post Office to cut their interest rates to small savers at the behest of the main banks and building societies”.

Cllr. Treanor

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

(b) “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 July Monthly Meeting of the Town Council as Cllr Gallagher was absent from the meeting.



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

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

(a) Regarding a recent proposal by the Sinn Féin Members where we sought the Council Executive to engage with financial institutions for the purpose of land acquisition by the Council, the Members were informed in March that an offer to buy residual lands has been made and a response is awaited. Have negotiations advanced and has there been any response from the financial institution?

*The Council remain in ongoing dialogue with the financial institution in respect of this matter and await a response to its offer.*

### **Cllr Treanor asked:-**

(b) What is the position regarding the Milltown sewage scheme and the application to have the Mullaghdund/Woodlands estates and the Scotstown/Clones Road and also part of the Dublin Road who have been waiting for 60 years to be connected to the main town system?

*Water Services have already applied to the Department for funding for the Milltown sewage scheme and were refused. They have since re-applied and are awaiting a reply. Water Services are in the process of considering several design options to connect the Woodlands estate. The Mullaghdund and Scotstown/Clones Road areas are included in these considerations and a decision has not yet been reached on the optimum design. The sewer mains already extend out the Dublin Road past the Corlat roundabout.*

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

(c) How many people are currently on the town council housing list? What is the make up of the list? How many houses have been allocated in 2012?

*The current housing list, as extracted from the Monaghan Town Council database, as at the 31<sup>st</sup> May indicates that there are 367 persons seeking housing in the Monaghan Town Council area.*

*The breakdown of the waiting list by bedroom size are as follows:-*

*Persons who qualify for a 1 bed property – 132*

*Persons who qualify for a 2 bed property – 140*

*Persons who qualify for a 3 bed property – 72*

*Persons who qualify for a 4 bed property – 10*

*Transfers from existing Local Authority Accommodation (13 no)*

*Persons who qualify for a 1 bed property – 1*

*Persons who qualify for a 2 bed property – 6*

*Persons who qualify for a 3 bed property – 5*

*Persons who qualify for a 4 bed property – 1*

*The number of applicants who qualify for consideration on the Monaghan Town Council waiting list but who are currently also on other Monaghan Local Authority lists:-*

*Carrickmacross – 1*

*Castleblayney – 7*

*Clones – 4*

*Monaghan County – 44*

*15 houses were allocated in 2012*

(d) In relation to the ongoing works at Knockroe Glen how are they progressing and when are same expected to be completed?

*Nama funded works are programmed to be complete on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June, however this may over-run slightly. Water Services Section are presently re-directing sewers and the majority of the work should be completed by week ending Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June.*

(e) Can the Council clarify the relevant dates in relation to the NPPR (2<sup>nd</sup> home tax) and confirm if 2013 will be the last year that this tax will be levied?

*Collection of the Non Principal Private Residence Charge (NPPR) for 2013 commenced on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013. The 2013 charge is based upon the ownership and status of the property on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013. The NPPR charge for 2013 must be paid on or before the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013 to avoid late payment fees. The last year for which the NPPR applies is 2013. Non Principal Private Residences are subject to both the NPPR charge and the Local Property Tax in 2013. From 2014 onwards, they are subject to the Local Property Tax only.*

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

(a) “That Tralee Town Council would write to the Minister for Transport and the Minister for the Environment asking them to adopt the European form of Taxation, as the present system is causing confusion for the Showman’s Guild and Gardaí as well, and as Birds Amusements have been part of the Festival down through the years it is our duty to help out where possible”.

Tralee Town Council

It was agreed to mark the above Resolution read.

## **22. Conferences**

- (a) Synge Summer School – Avondale House, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow – 27<sup>th</sup> June – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013 – (approx. cost €840).
- (b) Celtic Conferences – “European Movement Ireland” – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery – 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013 – (approx. cost €880)
- (c) Ace Training – “Drug and Alcohol Abuse for Local Authorities” – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford – 12<sup>th</sup>- 14<sup>th</sup> July 2013 – (approx. cost €470)
- (d) The 26<sup>th</sup> John Hewitt International Summer School – “Living Among Strangers” – Marketplace Theatre and Arts Centre, Armagh – 22<sup>nd</sup> July – 26<sup>th</sup> July 2013 – (approx. cost €545)

No attendance is to take place to the above Conferences. It was noted that details of the Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland Conference in September will be coming before the Members at the July Monthly Meeting.

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

Cllr. Seamus Treanor referred to a decision by the Minister for Education to reduce support hours to children with special educational needs and proposed that a letter be issued to the Minister asking him to reverse his decision. This was agreed to by the Members and it was also agreed to circulate the proposal to all other Local Authorities.

### **24. Sympathy/Congratulations**

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:-

- The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Paul McGeown on the death of his mother, Mrs Eileen McGeown, Armagh
- Cllr. Robbie Gallagher on the death of his sister, Mary Gallagher, Co. Donegal
- David Fallon, County Manager on the death of his aunt, Kathleen Kavanagh.

A vote of congratulations was extended to the following:-

- Sam Moffett and James O' Reilly on winning the Donegal International Rally.
- Stephen and Suzanne Wright and Gary Mc Phillips and Paul Sheridan on their victories in the Donegal International Rally
- Cllr. Thomas Hagan on being appointed a Peace Commissioner

The Members wished the Monaghan Senior and Minor Football Teams good luck in their games against Cavan in the Ulster Championship Semi-finals.

This concluded the business of the Meeting

Dated this the 15th day of July 2013

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cathaoirleach**

