

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

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup>  
October 2012 at 5.00pm. in the Council Chamber of Monaghan Town Council,  
Town Hall, No. 1 Dublin Street, Monaghan.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Cathaoirleach:** Cllr. Seamus Treanor

**Present:** Cllrs. Mary Carroll, Seán Conlon, Thomas Hagan, David Maxwell, Paul McGeown and Donal Sherry.

**In Attendance:** David Fallon, Acting County Manager, Gareth Mc Mahon, Town Engineer, Marie Deighan, Town Clerk and Sinéad McCann, Staff Officer.

**Presentation from the Board of Directors of the Garage Theatre, Monaghan.**

At the outset the Members passed a vote of sympathy to the family of the late Barry Malone, Co. Armagh who was tragically killed at the site of the new Monaghan Education Campus development at Knockaconny, Monaghan. A minutes silence was observed.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Seamus Treanor welcomed Eileen Costello, Administrator, Seán Conlon and Barry McSkeane to the meeting who gave a detailed presentation to the Members of the Town Council on the Garage Theatre. It was noted that the new Garage Theatre at Knockaconny is opening to the public in January 2013 and will include a 300 seat auditorium, 80 seat studio/rehearsal space, cinema facilities, conference facilities, café and bar facilities and an outdoor performance space. The Boards presentation included details regarding the history of the theatre, local companies who use the theatre, the economic impact of the arts in Monaghan, Monaghan Youth Theatre and its benefits and a list of the support from Local Authorities to Theatres around the country. In conclusion, the Board of Directors thanked the former County Manager, Declan Nelson and the present A/County Manager, David Fallon for their co-operation and support in making it possible to deliver a new theatre to Monaghan in a time of recession.

The Cathaoirleach and the Members thanked the Board of Directors for their detailed presentation.

Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha entered the meeting room.

Eileen Costello and Barry McSkeane left the meeting room.

**1. Confirmation of September Monthly Meeting held on 17/09/2012**

On the proposal of Cllr. Mary Carroll seconded by Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the September Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

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

Cllr. Seán Conlon congratulated all those involved in the recent organisation of the Taste of Monaghan Festival 2012 which was a tremendous success. It was also agreed to congratulate Peadar Morgan and the O'Neill Pipe Band, Clontibret on the occasion of their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and to thank them for their performance in Monaghan Town on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2012. The Members also acknowledged the International Pike Angling Competition which took place in the County over the weekend.

It was agreed to place Notice of Motion 18(a) adopted at the September Monthly Meeting of the Council on the Agenda for the November Monthly Meeting. This Motion refers to the invitation of recommendations from schools located on the Clones Road and the Gardaí with a view to improving on existing safety measures in the area.

It was noted that there has been no reply from the Courts Service regarding a call for the re-instatement of a Harp symbol over the Courthouse entrance.

On the proposal of Cllr Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha it was agreed to set up a consultative meeting with all stakeholders to discuss the issue of access to the Belgium Park Football Field and to optimize the use of public recreational facilities in the area. Cllr. Seán Conlon circulated photographs to the Members which he said illustrated the dangers that some children had exposed themselves to in accessing the pitch when it is closed. The Town Engineer stated the Town Foreman decides whether or not the pitch is locked to protect the quality of the playing surface. It was agreed that quotations be sought in advance of the meeting for the provision of:-

- an astro turf area in front of the goals
- purchase of temporary goals.

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

The Members noted Managers Orders numbered 144/12 – 149/12.

## **4. Correspondence**

The Members noted the following correspondence:-

- Acknowledgement letter dated 24<sup>th</sup> September 2012 from the Office of the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government regarding Property Tax.
- Acknowledgement letter dated 17<sup>th</sup> September 2012 from the Office of the Minister for Housing and Planning regarding private dwellings in disrepair.
- Letter dated 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2012 from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport regarding the National Car Test.
- Letter dated 24<sup>th</sup> September 2012 from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government regarding changes to the National Car Test (NCT).

- Monaghan and Castleblayney Walking and Cycling Strategies/Briefing Note for Town Council Meetings.
- Letter dated 4<sup>th</sup> October 2012 from Shirley Clerkin, Heritage Officer, Monaghan County Council informing the Members of the 400<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the Incorporation of the Borough of Monaghan which was signed and sealed by King James 1 on 26<sup>th</sup> March 1603. Cllr Seán Conlon conveyed thanks to the Heritage Officer for bringing this matter before the Town Council but stated that the Sinn Féin Party are reluctant to celebrate the event. On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by the Cathaoirleach, Cllr Seamus Treanor it was agreed to hold the Town Council meeting on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2013 to coincide with the event.
- Letter dated 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012 from Irish Public Bodies Insurance stating that Monaghan Town Council will receive a dividend payment amount of €26,736.44 in 2012. The Members thanked Irish Public Bodies for the payment. It was suggested that a canopy for the bandstand be purchased from the dividend payment received.
- Letter dated 18<sup>th</sup> September 2012 from Monaghan County Development Board regarding Positive Mental Health Week in Monaghan from 10<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> October 2012.
- Email dated 4<sup>th</sup> October 2012 from Monaghan County Council regarding an event been organized by the Monaghan County Development Board Peace III Partnership as part of the public consultation on European Territorial Co-operation 2014-2020 in the Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2012.
- Letter from the Mullaghmatt/Cortolvin Community Development Limited regarding the setting up of a Youth Café for the young people of the Mullaghmatt/Cortolvin areas. The Members welcomed this correspondence and it was agreed to enquire from the committee as to what support they require from the Town Council and to advise them to make an application for Peace III Partnership funding.
- Memo from the Manager of Monaghan Bus Depot acknowledging receipt of recent complaint received from the Town Council. The Members complimented Bus Éireann on the new expanded bus service between Monaghan and Cavan.
- Letter dated 11<sup>th</sup> October 2012 from the Irish Federation of Pike Angling Clubs thanking Monaghan Town Council for their generous sponsorship and the reception afforded them on their visit to Monaghan.
- Invitation from Monaghan Comhairle Na nÓg to the launch of their “It Could Happen To You”, Road Safety DVD, Online Club Directory and Mental Health Consultation” on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2012.
- Letter dated 10<sup>th</sup> October 2012 from the Road Safety Authority regarding changes to the National Car Test.
- Invitation dated 10<sup>th</sup> October 2012 from Comhairle Na nÓg inviting the Members to their National Showcase 2012 on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2012 in the Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin.

## **5. Planning Applications**

The Members noted Planning Applications numbered MT 12/16 – MT 12/18.

## **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 17<sup>th</sup> September 2012 in relation to a Famine Memorial for the town, clamping of vehicles in disabled parking bays, consideration of cost associated with proposed provision of Allotments at Killygoan and a Civic Reception for the Irish Pike Angling Club.

The Members noted a quotation for a concept proposal and tender drawings for a Famine Memorial and thanked the Town Engineer for progressing the matter. Cllr. Uí Mhurchadha called for the Memorial to be put in place by the time of the National Commemoration events next May.

The Members noted the Minutes of the Budget Sub-Committee meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2012 in relation to the Taste of Monaghan Festival, the introduction of a poop/scoop scheme (dogs) and a reduction in the annual maintenance charge for the Superloo.

## **8. Roads/Housing**

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

- High Street area – smell of sewage
- Fairview Crescent – blocked drains
- Water burst – Market Street
- Public lighting – Ballybay Road area.

Cllr. Donal Sherry complimented the Town Council Staff on the circulation of notices to all households calling on them not to supply waste materials for disposal in unauthorized Halloween bonfires.

## **9. Telecommunication Mast at Killygoan**

It was noted that the Council were notified in June 2012 of essential maintenance works to be carried out on the mast site at Killygoan. The works, which are only now taking place includes the strengthening of the concrete foundation at the site. It was agreed to ask the Secretary of the Killygoan Residents Association to erect a notice in the community centre when works are been carried out.

## **10. Mullagh matt Remedial Works Scheme**

Gareth Mc Mahon, Town Engineer stated that he attended a meeting recently in Government Offices in Ballina in relation to Phase 3 of the Mullagh matt Remedial Works Scheme and that Department officials have raised a number of issues. The Town Engineer stated that the Council are awaiting a letter from the Department on the outstanding issues.

#### **11. Progress on Windows/Doors – Killygoan Area**

Following a discussion it was agreed to remove this item from the Agenda.

#### **12. Report on Mixed Use Development at Rooskey**

Following a discussion, the A/County Manager, David Fallon stated that the developers of the Mixed Use Development are now reinstating the site at Rooskey to a carpark and have given a commitment that they will meet all costs including legal costs which may have arisen from the stalled development. David Fallon also stated that a new bond has replaced the original bond and some planning contributions paid by the developer are due to be refunded.

Cllr. Mary Carroll left the Council Chamber.

#### **Civic Reception for the Umbro Galway Cup Winners 2012**

A Civic Reception took place to honour the Cavan Monaghan Emerging Talent Team who won the Umbro Galway Cup 2012 (1999 Elite Competition). Certificates were presented to each of the young soccer players and an inscribed Cavan Crystal vase was presented to their Manager, Brian Finnegan. The Members and the A/County Manager paid tribute to the team and the management.

Cllr. Paul McGeown left the Council Chamber.

#### **13. Vacant Revenue Commissioners Office, Coolshannagh, Monaghan.**

The Members noted correspondence dated 4<sup>th</sup> October 2012 from Enterprise Ireland which states that they do not currently have a programme for funding Enterprise Centres. On the proposal of Cllr Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr David Maxwell it was agreed to adopt the following Motion “In the absence of a current programme for funding Enterprise Centres, that the relevant Departments, as per the Programme For Government, provide appropriate supports to Monaghan Town and County Council that will enable our Local Authorities in job creation/economic stimulus initiatives”. It was agreed to forward the above Motion to John Perry, TD, Minister for Small Business and to Richard Bruton, TD, Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation.

#### **14. Consideration of approval to Overdraft Accommodation to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013.**

On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha it was agreed to approve of Overdraft Accommodation in the sum of €1m to the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013.

### **15. Vacant Apartments at Drumbear Wood.**

Gareth Mc Mahon, Town Engineer stated that progress is slow on this matter as the developer who constructed the apartments is of the opinion that the apartments were built in accordance with the building regulations at the time. The Town Engineer stated that the Council have a Solicitor engaged. On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Thomas Hagan it was agreed to place the matter on the agenda for the January 2013 Council Meeting.

### **16. Consideration of Provision of Community Allotments at Killygoan, Monaghan.**

The Members noted a drawing of the Killygoan Allotment proposal together with a document prepared by the Monaghan Allotment Society setting out their structure and their proposals for an Allotment Scheme at Killygoan. The Members also noted that the Allotment Society have approximately €3,600 funding available to them. It was noted that no submissions/observations from Members of the public were received during the public consultation period in relation to the provision of community allotments at Killygoan. On the proposal of Cllr Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr David Maxwell it was agreed to proceed with the provision of allotments in the Killygoan area and to inform the Allotment Society that the Town Council will provide whatever help they can in relation to carrying out the work.

On the proposal of Cllr. Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr. David Maxwell it was agreed to capitalise €4,000 which had been earmarked in Budget 2012 for the “Dirty Old Towns” project and which did not materialise. It was noted that this funding could be used, if required for the work associated with the provision of the allotments at Killygoan.

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

- (a) “That we seek the Minister for Finance, Michael Noonan to initiate regulatory influence over AIB, instructing them to reverse the recent interest rate increase”.

Cllrs. Uí Mhurchadha, Conlon, Sherry, McGeown

On the proposal of Cllr Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr Donal Sherry it was agreed to adopt the above Notice of Motion. On the proposal of Cllr Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha it was also agreed to seek the Minister for Finance to immediately publish legislation enabling personal insolvency.

- (b) “In a further effort to resolve unfinished development issues at the Latlurcan Estates, Castleblayney Road that this Council invokes Section 14 of the Derelict Sites Act on the vacant building site adjacent the residential area”.

Cllrs. Uí Mhurchadha, Conlon, Sherry, McGeown

On the proposal of Cllr Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha it was agreed to adopt the above Notice of Motion.

- (c) “That this Council supports proposals for minimum penalties for assaults on emergency workers”.

Cllr Robbie Gallagher

As Cllr Robbie Gallagher was absent from the meeting it was agreed to defer the above Notice of Motion to the November Monthly Meeting.

- (d) “That this Council condemns cuts to home-help services which will impact the most vulnerable as the winter approaches”.

Cllr. Robbie Gallagher

As Cllr Robbie Gallagher was absent from the meeting it was agreed to defer the above Notice of Motion to the November Monthly Meeting.

## **18. Ceisteanna/Questions**

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

- (a) With the completion, several years ago, of the Serviced Land Initiative along the Old Armagh Road it was planned to decommission the pumping station located at Ashgrove Lawns. Has this process commenced and is there a timescale for completion?

*Yes, the process has commenced. Monaghan County Council have purchased a wayleave to decommission the pumping station.*

- (b) Further to a query previously forwarded to the Engineering Section, are there plans to repair/replace a damaged drain gully and road surfacing located at Latlurcan on the Castleblayney Road?

*The gully in the cul de sac on Dublin Road requires work by a specialist mastic crew. This work will be carried out in the coming weeks, the next time there is a mastic crew in town.*

**Cllr. Robbie Gallagher asked:-**

- (c) Can the Council give an update on the Hive of Knowledge sculpture and when it is likely to be installed in a permanent location in the town?

*The treatment and reassembly of the Hive of Knowledge has been completed and it is being monitored in a local yard to ensure that the treatment is successful and that no further work is required. If everything goes well installation will be possible in the very near future. It should be noted that the Courts Service have objected to the Hive of Knowledge being located on their property (newly paved section of the Square).*

- (d) Can the Council give an update on the situation regarding the area behind Cormeen Cabinets and the Ulster Canal which has received a number of unfavourable mentions in recent IBAL reports?

*The Engineer has inspected this area and not found the reputed site. IBAL have been asked to provide clarification regarding the location of this site, along with the photographic backup for same.*

(e) Is the Town Council satisfied with the supply of road salt for the winter period ahead?  
*Monaghan County Council has 3,500 tons of salt in stock, adequate for 44 Standard nights. This years salt allocation from the DOE has not yet been issued.*

**19. Resolutions from Other Local Authorities:**

(a) "That Monaghan County Council is opposed to the introduction of abortion in this country in the absence of a Referendum of the people approving such legislation".

Monaghan County Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

(b) "That the Members resolve, in keeping with the will of the Irish people as emphatically expressed in the referendum of 1983, to oppose any form of legalisation of abortion under any circumstances".

Castlebar Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

© "Regarding changes to the Medical Card Scheme whereby food for coeliacs can no longer be obtained on their medical cards – this Council calls for immediate reversal of this plan as it penalises vulnerable people".

Boyle Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

(d) "That Donegal County Council send this Motion to the Department of Social Protection and requests that the Department restore all Benefits withdrawn from our Elderly and Disabled, with all Widows and Elderly who live alone being granted an additional allowance in the region of 50% to compensate for their loss on the death of a partner and thus assisting them to avoid the poverty trap and seeks three areas of action by the Government namely:-

- (1) A halt in reduction to basic standards of living for people with disabilities who need social welfare support
- (2) To ensure funding for services needed by people with disabilities are sustained
- (3) To show leadership on the Implementation Plan for the National Disability Strategy".

Donegal County Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

(e) "That this Town Council write to the appropriate Government Department to start the process of allowing Irish passport holders that are living abroad the right to a vote in our National elections and that we seek support from other Councils for this motion".

Nenagh Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.



## **20. Conferences**

- (a) Conference of the Isles – “Transitions and Transformations in Housing” – Hilton Hotel, Belfast – 18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> October 2012 (approx. cost €340)
- (b) Tgr Seminars – “Reform of Local Government Part 11” – Bunratty Castle Hotel, Co. Clare – 19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> October 2012 – (approx. cost €700).
- © Respond! Jubilee 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference – “Better Being: Promoting Well-being within Communities” – Rochestown Park Hotel, Douglas, Co. Cork – 25<sup>th</sup> October 2012 – (approx. cost €650).
- (d) Association of Irish Festival Event’s Annual Conference 2012 – “Gathering for the Business of Fun” – Carlton Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe – 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> November 2012 – (approx. cost €700).
- (e) Association of Irish Regions Seminar – “Ireland’s Region for Business 2020” – Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny – 16<sup>th</sup> November 2012 – (approx. cost €530).
- (f) Tgr Seminars – “LEADER Funding and the Councillor” – Bunratty Castle Hotel, Co. Clare – 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> November 2012 – (approx. cost €690).

No attendance is to take place to the above Conferences.

The Members were circulated with a report complying with Section 142(5)(f) of the Local Government Act 2001 in relation to the following Conference:-  
AMAI Annual Conference, Ballinasloe – attended by Cllr. Seán Conlon.

## **21. Any Other Business**

It was agreed to write to the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government and to the Minister for Education and Skills calling on them to consider holding all elections/referenda on a Saturday.

On the proposal of Cllr. David Maxwell seconded by Cllr. Donal Sherry it was agreed to write to the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government calling on his Department to put a plan in place to allow a certain amount of unemployed people from the live register to man polling stations/work at the count in the forthcoming referendum on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

It was noted that the official launch of the Gathering is taking place on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2012 at 6.30pm in the Market House, Monaghan.

David Fallon, A/County Manager stated that the Cathaoirleach and the County Manager have received an invitation from the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government to attend the launch of “Putting People First, An Action Programme for Effective Local Government” on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2012 at 11.15am in Dublin Castle, Dublin.

Cllr. Seán Conlon circulated an invitation to the Members from the Monaghan Elim Church to attend the official opening of their new Church Complex on the Ballybay Road on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm.

Cllr. Seamus Treanor called for a letter to be sent to Aer Lingus and other commercial airlines calling on them to stop ripping off people who have to fly out of the country at short notice to deal with emergencies. Cllr. Donal Sherry seconded the proposal.

## **22. Sympathy/Congratulations**

A vote of congratulations was extended to the following:

- Willie Mc Kenna, former Council Member on his recent instalment as an Honorary Life Member of the Irish Canadian Society.
- Donegal Senior Football Team on winning the All Ireland Football Final
- Ballybay Pearse Bros. on winning the Senior County Championship.
- Doohamlet O'Neills on winning the Intermediate Football Championship.
- Castleblayney Faughs on winning the Minor Football Championship.
- Drumhowan Football Club on winning the Junior Football Final

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:

- The Murphy Family, Mullaghcroghery on the death of Pat Murphy
- The Hagan Family, Threemilehouse on the death of Vincent Hagan

This Concluded the Business of the Meeting.

Dated this the 19<sup>th</sup> day of November 2012

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