

Comhairle Baile Mhuineacháin
Monaghan Town Council

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 19th April 2010 at 3.00pm in the Council Chamber of Monaghan Town Council, Town Hall, 1 Dublin Street, Monaghan.

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Seán Conlon

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

In Attendance: Declan Nelson, County Manager, Gareth Mc Mahon, Town Engineer, Marie Deighan, Town Clerk and Mary Mc Coy, Clerical Officer.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Seán Conlon welcomed Gary Keenan, as an observer to the meeting. The Members agreed to permit photographs to be taken during the course of the meeting by Philip Fitzpatrick, Photographer.

1. Confirmation of March Monthly Meeting held on 15th March 2010.

On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Paul McGeown it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the March Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 15th March 2010.

2. Confirmation of Meeting held in committee on 15th March 2010

On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Thomas Hagan it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the Meeting held in committee on Monday 15th March 2010 regarding the Garage Theatre.

Cllr Robbie Gallagher entered the meeting room.

3. Confirmation of Special Meeting held on 12th April 2010

On the proposal of Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha seconded by Cllr Thomas Hagan it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 12th April 2010.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Seán Conlon praised those involved in a recent clean-up operation of Peter's Lake in the town.

It was noted that the Conferring of Civic Honours on Her Excellency, Cecilia MacKenna, Ambassador of Chile to Ireland has been re-scheduled to take place on Friday 7th May 2010. It was agreed to hold the Ceremony at 4.30pm in the Market House, Monaghan.

Declan Nelson, County Manager stated that work has commenced on identifying Derelict Sites in the town and that a member of Monaghan County Council's Planning staff has been appointed to carry out the work.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Seán Conlon thanked everyone involved in the organisation and running of the St. Patrick's Day Parade in the town. It was noted that the Parade was a very successful event.

Cllr. Seamus Treanor expressed opposition to the decision taken by eight of the Members at a meeting held in committee on the 15th March 2010 in relation to the payment of €30,000 from the proceeds from the Non-Principal Private Residents Charge to the Garage Theatre in respect of a shortfall in funding which the Theatre will incur in 2010. Cllr. Treanor called for the €30,000 to be made up by the Theatre Administrator through a 16% reduction in operating costs and objected to the allocation being made by the Council in view of the current economic climate and when the Council's own revenue and grant aid had been significantly reduced.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Seán Conlon pointed out that it had been agreed unanimously by the Members of the Council that the discussion on the Garage Theatre funding be held in committee. Cllr. Maxwell informed Cllr. Treanor that the Garage Theatre is a full time theatre and had approx. 10,000 patrons in 2009. Cllr. Maxwell also stated that it is available to local amateur drama companies, drama schools, workshops, etc and had generated over 400 bed nights for the town in 2009. It was noted that the estimated expenditure of the Garage Theatre in 2010 is €188,243 and the estimated income is €159,000. The Members present, apart from Cllr. Treanor supported the allocation of the funding to the Theatre.

5. Manager's Orders

The Members noted Managers Orders numbered 51/10 – 83/10.

On the proposal of Cllr Robbie Gallagher seconded by Cllr Seán Conlon it was agreed to write to Brian Lenihan, TD, Minister for Finance asking him to re-examine the basis on which rates are levied by Local Authorities on commercial properties throughout the country. It was noted that there are a number of businesses lying idle/boarded up due to the current economic climate. The Members stated that measures are needed to help the trading sector and pointed out that if rates were reduced, even as only on a temporary basis it could encourage people to go into business. It was also agreed to circulate the proposal to all Local Authorities in the Country.

The Members welcomed the appointment of Temporary General Operatives for the summer season.

Cllr. Mary Carroll entered the Meeting Room.

6. Correspondence

The Members noted the following correspondence:

- Letter dated 7th April 2010 from the Office of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government regarding Notices of Motions adopted by the Members of Monaghan Town Council.
- Letter dated 26th March 2010 from Arlene Fitzsimons, Operations Manager, North East Doctor on Call Ltd. On the proposal of Cllr Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr Robbie Gallagher it was agreed to write to the Irish College of General Practitioners seeking their advice and guidance on the ethical issues surrounding the Doctor on Call out-of-hours availability for areas remote and distant to the locations where the service has been established.
- Letter dated 24th March 2010 from Seán Ó Raghallaigh, Carrickmacross regarding promotion of the Irish language at Council Meetings.
- Acknowledgment dated 11th March 2010 from the Office of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

- Acknowledgment dated 22nd March 2010 from the Office of the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources.
- Letter dated 19th March 2010 from Nicole Mousset, St. Avertin, France.
- Circular letter LG2/2010 dated 11th February 2010 from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government regarding Local Government Act 2001 (Section 142) Regulations 2010.
- Letter dated 8th April 2010 from Tom Ryan, Director of the Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland.

7. Business submitted by An Cathaoirleach

No business was submitted by An Cathaoirleach.

8. Planning Applications

Planning applications numbered M.T. 10/06 – M.T. 10/08 were noted by the Members.

9. Consideration of Reports of Committees:-

The Members noted the Minutes of the Budget Sub-Committee meeting held on Monday 22nd March 2010. On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Paul McGeown it was agreed that Community Grants be paid to the following organisations as recommended by the Budget Sub-Committee:-

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| • Milltown Residents Association | €500 |
| • Killygoan Residents Association | €2000 |
| • Oakridge Residents Association | €250 |
| • Manor Wood Residents Association | €800 |
| • Glencove Manor Residents Association | €500 |
| • Mullaghdun Residents Group 1-15 | €250 |
| • Kilnacloy/St. Patrick's Tce Residents Association | €1000 |
| • Mullaghatt/Cortolvin Community Development Ltd | €800 |
| • Beechgrove Lawns Residents Association | €500 |
| • Tully Residents Association | €800 |
| • Cathedral Walk Residents Association | €500 |
| • Latlorcan Court Residents Association | €500 |
| • Latlorcan Glen Residents Association | €500 |
| • Shuffling Boots Line Dancing Club | €450 |
| • 2nd Monaghan Scout Group | €300 |
| • Monaghan Community Brass Band | €500 |
| • Monaghan Town Community Games | €500 |
| • Rossmore Coarse Angling Club | €1000 |
| • Monaghan Harps GAA Club | €200 |
| • Feargal O'Hanlon GFC | €200 |
| • Monaghan United Football Club | €200 |
| • Monaghan Summer League | €200 |
| • Monaghan Town Football Club | €200 |
| • Lithuanian Community of Monaghan | €800 |
| • An Cumann Gaelach | €300 |
| • Clogher Historical Society | €500 |
| • MSPCA | €1000 |

• Latlorcan Close Residents Association	€500
• European Tang Soo Do	€500
• St Patrick's Accommodation Centre Youth Group	€500
• Youth Work Ireland, Dawson Street	€500
• Youth Work Ireland, Monaghan(strategy for underage drinking)	€500
• Monaghan Allotment Society	€500
TOTAL	€29,250

It was agreed to refer the following Applicants to the Monaghan County Council Community Development Fund:-

- Castleblayney Parent & Toddler Group
- North Monaghan Social Services
- South Monaghan Allotment Society
- Cassandra Hand Centre, Clones

It was also agreed to refer the application from the Monaghan Orange Hall Organisation to the Monaghan County Council's Conservation Grant Scheme.

Gareth Mc Mahon, Town Engineer undertook to enquire from the Church Authorities of the Ballyalbany Presbyterian Church if lands could be made available for a play park which would accommodate the residents of Coolshannagh Walk and the areas surrounding Ballyalbany.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Seán Conlon requested the Budget Sub-Committee to consider building an incentive into future Community Grant Schemes to encourage local groups to engage in the clean-up and environmental works in their area. Cllr Conlon suggested that a 10% bonus be considered in the 2011 allocations and that applicants be asked to outline the measures they propose to help with clean-up measures in their areas.

Consideration of Renewing Car Park Lease with Monaghan Harps GFC

On the proposal of Cllr Robbie Gallagher seconded by Cllr Seamus Treanor it was agreed that Monaghan Town Council renew their agreement with Monaghan Harps GFC to rent the car park at Rooskey for another five years at a cost of €5,000 per annum.

Coiste Gaeilge Meeting

Cllr Mary Carroll reported bilingually to the Members on a Coiste Gaeilge Committee meeting which she attended recently. Cllr Carroll reported that the Committee intend to organise Irish Courses for Members and Staff of the Council and that details will be circulated in the near future.

10. Roads/Housing

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

- Potholes in various areas of the town – Hospital Hill, Glencove Manor.
- Killyconnigan/Blackwater Vale Roads need repair
- Illegal dumping – Belgian Park area.

Cllr Robbie Gallagher congratulated the Transition Year Students from Coláiste Oiriail on the painting of a Mural on the hoarding around the Courthouse.

Cllr McGeown acknowledged the erection of a directional sign for businesses located at the rear of Dublin Street.

Gareth McMahon, Town Engineer stated that the purchase of a CCTV Camera for an entry off Dublin Street would cost in the region of €10,000. The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Seán Conlon stated that the Gardaí at the recent Joint Policing Committee Meeting gave an undertaking to monitor the area in relation to anti-social behaviour.

It was agreed to invite a representative from Airtricity to a meeting of the Town Council to discuss repairs, etc.

Cllr. Paul McGeown raised the problem of littering (cans, broken bottles, etc) by those using Belgium Park Football Field without permission from the Council and which results in an inconvenience to the paying customer of the facility. It was noted that the gates to the field are left open to facilitate those who may want to walk around the pitch. Following a discussion it was agreed to do a leaflet drop to every house in the area pointing out how important it is to keep the field open for residents of the area and asking locals to contact the Gardaí if they see anyone abusing the facility. It was also agreed to include the Town Council's contact details on the leaflet to enable people seek verification of whether those using the pitch had permission to do so or not. It was also agreed to issue a letter to the Residents Association in the area to see if anyone would be interested in taking on a semi-caretaker role of the facility.

Declan Nelson, County Manager stated that a meeting has been arranged with the developer of the Mixed Use Development on the 26th April and that the developer is looking at alternative commercial uses for the site. The County Manager stated that a bond is in place for the project and that a substantial amount of money has already been spent on the project by the developer.

11. Telecommunication Mast at Killygoan

The Members look forward to the removal of the Telecommunication Mast at Killygoan. The Members were informed by the Town Clerk that they would be given one weeks notice in future in relation to works to be carried out to the mast at Killygoan. It was also agreed to seek an up-to-date inventory of the equipment which is currently on the Telecommunication Mast.

12. Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme

It was noted that work continues to take place on the Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme Phase 2.

13. Consideration of Statutory Audit Report for year ended 31st December 2008

On the proposal of Cllr Paul McGeown seconded by Cllr David Maxwell it was agreed to adopt the Statutory Audit Report of Monaghan Town Council for the year ended 31st December 2008.

14. Gateways and Hubs ERDF Grant Scheme – Works at the Diamond/Dublin Street/Old Cross Square and Provision of Recreational Facilities.

It was noted that a family fun day is taking place on 5th June 2010 at Teach Na nDaoine Family Resource Centre and the Town Engineer was requested to investigate if play facilities could be put in place at the Mullaghmatt Skateboard Park for smaller children before this date.

It was agreed to hold a Budget Sub-Committee Meeting of the Town Council on Monday the 26th April 2010 to open the tenders for The Diamond/Dublin Street/Old Cross Square Regeneration Project. It was also noted that advance works relating to the scheme will be carried out later this week.

15. Notices of Motion

- (a) “That this Council calls upon the Taoiseach and the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform to restore funding to Justice for the Forgotten, the main organisation in this jurisdiction representing victims, survivors and bereaved of the conflict, including those killed, injured and bereaved by the Monaghan and Dublin bombings of May 1974; that such funding is essential to allow Justice for the Forgotten to continue its work to establish truth and justice; and that this motion, on adoption, will be communicated by letter to both the Taoiseach and the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform”.

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.

- (b) “Now that the Court Service is engaged in major reconstruction of Monaghan Courthouse that this Council calls on the Court Service to replace the current emblem over the main entrance with the appropriate emblem, which is the harp, which should obtain throughout the State”.

Cllrs. Uí Mhurchadha, Conlon, Sherry, McGeown

Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha proposed the Motion and Cllr Seán Conlon seconded the Motion.

Cllr Seamus Treanor stated that he was opposed to the Motion. Cllr Gallagher stated that he had reservations about the wording of the Motion as the Town Council didn't own the building and the building is a protected structure. Cllr Uí Mhurchadha stated that the existing emblem could be taken down intact and put on display in the County Museum. Following a discussion a role call vote was taken which resulted as follows:

In Favour of the Motion:- Cllrs. Conlon, McGeown, Sherry and Uí Mhurchadha (4)

Against the Motion: Cllrs. Carroll, Gallagher, Hagan, Maxwell and Treanor (5)

The Motion was declared lost.

- © “That this Council call on An Post to reinstate the letter box at Dunnes Stores in Dawson Street which was removed 18 months ago to the inconvenience of many residents in the area”.

Cllrs. Uí Mhurchadha, Conlon, Sherry, McGeown

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

- (d) “That the grant awarded to the Garage Theatre (in committee) of €30,000 be rescinded”

Cllr. Treanor

In accordance with Standing Order No. 11.1 the above Notice of Motion was ruled invalid.

- (e) “To write to the HSE as to why the facilities at our two hospitals are not being used for the Swine Flue injections”.

Cllr. Treanor

Cllr. Treanor withdrew Motion (e) as he stated he had already received an answer from the HSE.

Cllr. Hagan submitted a Notice of Motion to the Cathaoirleach in relation to “Head Shops”. The Notice of Motion was ruled invalid in accordance with Standing Order no. 9.1. It was agreed to circulate a copy of Monaghan Town Council’s Standing Orders to each Member of the Council.

16. Questions

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

- (a) Will this Council erect the appropriate signage in Mullaghmatt housing estate indicating the house numbers in each row as there is an ongoing concern with emergency services finding the correct address?

It is envisaged within the remedial scheme process that a renaming and renumbering process should be carried out to breakdown the homogenous nature of the estate and to provide greater definition to the smaller areas within the estate. This process to be carried out in consultation with the residents and Monaghan Town Council. A timeframe for this process has not yet been established.

- (b) Has there been any progress with the NBA or the Department of Environment with regard to the installation of central heating in the last 14 Local Authority Houses in Mullaghmatt still without it?

The NBA are in the process of compiling costings for this work. It is anticipated that a report will issue to the Department in the coming weeks.

Gareth McMahon stated that the costings have now been received and the application will be forwarded to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government for their consideration.

- © Will this Council carry out the necessary remedial works, i.e. underpinning, etc on the walls of the St. Patrick’s Tce steps before repainting take place?

There is some evidence of degradation of the base of the wall in isolated locations. This will be made good at the time of painting.

- (d) When could the Council paint the black cast iron fence on the North Road opposite Mc Clearys shop?

Monaghan Town Council will be carrying out external painting in a number of areas of the town over the coming months. This location will be included in these works.

- (e) Has any process been made in relation to previous representations in relation to the proposed painting of the wall along the steps leading down to public roadway from St. Patricks Terrace?

Monaghan Town Council will be carrying out external painting in a number of areas of the town over the coming months. This location will be included in these works.

- (f) In relation to the serviced land initiative when will the Council be in contact with residents in the Latlurcan/Castleblayney road area in relation to the connection of these properties to the main sewer as previously indicated?

A sewer was provided by W.J. Dolan Construction to the rear of the houses in question to facilitate future connections to the town wastewater collection network. The sewer in question is incomplete at this time. Monaghan County Council are therefore not in a position to approve connections to same.

17. Resolutions from other Local Authorities:

- (a) “Balbriggan Town Council call on the Minister for Education not to cut back on the number of Special Needs Assistants in our schools”.

Balbriggan Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

- (b) “Bandon Town Council notes that (1) 233 out of 1548 registered unemployed at Bandon office last month were under 25, (2) the situation of those under 25 has worsened as a result of the cuts in their unemployment benefits brought in as part of Budget 2010 with these cuts forcing young unemployed to choose between poverty and emigration. Expresses its disappointment at the failure of the Government to bring forward and implement a strategy to tackle youth unemployment and to create jobs for the unemployed. Will bring together all relevant groups and agencies including FAS, Cork County VEC, local representatives of the IDA and Enterprise Ireland and UCC and CIT as well as representatives of young people and of the unemployed with the aim of identifying what actions can be taken under the aegis of the Council to tackle the crisis of unemployment amongst the under 25’s both through assisting in the creation of employment and by improving the employability of those currently out of work.”

Bandon Town Council

It was agreed to mark the above Resolution read.

- © “This Council calls on the Minister for Education and Science to immediately reverse the shocking decision to reduce the number of “SPECIAL NEEDS ASSISTANTS” providing an invaluable service to children in our Education System, and furthermore that this motion be forwarded to all other Local Authorities”.

Clonmel Borough Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution

- (d) “That Clonmel Borough Council request the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform to introduce legislation to ban or control the sale of dangerous substance from Head Shops throughout the 26 Counties. New Laws are urgently needed to cover the sale of dangerous substances from Head Shops”.

Clonmel Borough Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

- (e) “That Clonmel Borough Council request the Minister for Health and Children, Mary Harney, T.D., to reverse the HSE decision to centralise all Medical Card processing, to the PCRS Offices in Dublin. This proposed transfer will result in a total melt down of medical card processing and will restrict the number of medical cards issued”.

Clonmel Borough Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

- (f) “That the Members of Castlebar Town Council resolve to call on the Government to introduce legislation to prohibit Banks, Building Societies and other Mortgages from seeking additional monies from people whose property they repossess and sell off”.

Castlebar Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution

- (g) “That the Members of Castlebar Town Council call on the Minister for Environment to introduce as a matter of urgency a Tax and Rates Relief Urban Renewal Scheme in order to create employment”.

Castlebar Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

- (h) “That the Members of this Council call on the Members of Monaghan County Council to reverse their decision not to protest at the downgrading of Monaghan Hospital, when Government Ministers visit the County and we also ask the four other Town Councils in Monaghan to support this motion and join our County Council colleagues when the protests are held in the relevant towns”.

Clones Town Council

Following a discussion it was agreed that a vote be taken which resulted as follows:

In Favour of the Resolution – Cllrs Conlon, Hagan, McGeown, Sherry, Treanor, Uí Mhurchadha

(6)

Against the Resolution – Cllrs Carroll, Gallagher, Maxwell (3)

The Resolution was carried.

18. Conferences

(a) University of Ulster – “Looking to the future – Meeting the Challenges facing Northern Ireland Housing” – 20th April 2010 – Helm Housing, Lisburn Road, Belfast – (approx. cost €200)

(b) Housing Practitioners Conference 2010 – “Enabling Innovative Solutions – A New Regulatory Environment for Social Housing” – 27th – 28th April 2010 – Tullamore Court Hotel, Co. Offaly – (approx. cost €650)

© Dundalk Chamber – Business Investment District Scheme Conference – 11th May 2010 – Ballymascanlon Hotel, Dundalk – (approx. cost €200)

(d) Youghal Town Council – “Maximising the Tourism Potential of Heritage Towns” – 13th and 14th May 2010 – The Mall Arts Centre, Youghal, Co. Cork – (approx. cost €880).

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:-
LAMA Annual Conference, Sligo – attended by Cllr. Uí Mhurchadha.

19. Any Other Business

Cllr Thomas Hagan expressed concern regarding an incident in which an Alsatian dog had got loose and chased a child in the Glen Road area of the town.

Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha raised the issue of bullying in residential areas and called on parents to be vigilant in this matter. Cllr Mary Carroll stated that local schools are very proactive in relation to anti-bullying policies.

Cllr. Sherry referred to a recent incident in which an ambulance had went to the wrong house in the town and regretted that that this had happened again after highlighting the problem at a previous Town Council Meeting. It was agreed that a letter be issued to the HSE asking them to put in place a mechanism to ensure that such mistakes don't happen and to ask if the Town Council could do anything extra in relation to signposting, etc which may be of help to them in this regard.

20. Sympathy/Congratulations

A vote of congratulations was extended to the following:

- Monaghan Hurlers on winning Division 4
- Monaghan County Football team on retaining their status in Division 1
- Pat Joe Mc Connon on giving 40yrs service in his bus and courier business.
- Seán Smith on his service to Monaghan Community Brass Band.

The organisers of the Féile Oriel Festival to be held in the town on the Bank Holiday Weekend in May were congratulated and wished every success in their venture.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Dated this the 17th day of May 2010

Cathaoirleach