

# COMHAIRLE BAILE MHUINEACHÁIN

## MONAGHAN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2011 at 5pm in the Council Chamber of Monaghan Town Council, Town Hall, No. 1 Dublin Street, Monaghan.

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**Cathaoirleach:** Cllr. Robbie Gallagher

**Present:** Cllrs. Mary Carroll, Seán Conlon, Thomas Hagan, David Maxwell, Paul McGeown, Donal Sherry, Seamus Treanor and Padraigín Uí Mhurchadha.

**In Attendance:** David Fallon, Acting County Manager, Gareth McMahon, Town Engineer, Marie Deighan, Town Clerk and Donna Toal, Clerical Officer.

### **Attendance of Delegation from the Mullaghmatt/Cortolvin Residents Committee to raise the Residents views on the Remedial Works Scheme at Mullaghmatt.**

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Robbie Gallagher, on behalf of the Members of the Council welcomed the delegation of Malachy Toal, Benny Treanor and Catherine Linham to the meeting.

Malachy Toal, on behalf of the Residents of Mullaghmatt thanked the Members for supporting Phase 1 and 2 of the Remedial Works Scheme which has brought about major changes in the Mullaghmatt estate, has given people back their self-esteem and pride in their area and has helped alleviate anti-social behaviour in some parts of the estate. Malachy Toal asked the following questions on behalf of the Residents:-

- (a) Has an application for Phase 3 being submitted to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and is there any feedback on it?
- (b) Would Monaghan Town Council be prepared to work in partnership with the Residents Committee in seeking a meeting with local T.D.'s to obtain support for securing funding for Phase 3.
- © Are the Council taking any action with regard to Tenancy Agreements in relation to the problem of anti-social behaviour in the estate?

David Fallon, A/County Manager stated that there was the possibility of obtaining €1.5m from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government which would have to be matched by Town Council's Internal Capital Receipts in the sum of €0.5m for Phase 3 of the Remedial Works Scheme. It was noted that €2m would involve work to 30-35 dwellings in the estate. The delegation noted that the Council have yet to receive full approval of the funding from the Department and then the tendering process would begin.

The Acting County Manager stated that in relation to anti-social behaviour the Council's Tenant Liaison Officer and housing officials follow up all complaints of anti-social behaviour and hold meetings with people who have complaints. The delegation noted from the Members that the Council are willing to work in partnership with the Residents Association and would be willing to include them as part of the delegation to meet with the local T.D.'s. The delegation remarked on the efforts put in by the residents of Mullaghmatt to improve the estate and stated that there are good families and children living in the estate. It was noted that the CCTV scheme will soon become operational in the estate and Malachy Toal stated that other Residents Associations are looking at the success of the Family Resource Centre in Mullaghmatt/Cortolvin.

Malachy Toal informed the Members that the former shop premises in the Cortolvin area is being used regularly for drinking/illegal dumping. It was agreed to write to the owners of the property to ask them to secure and make safe the building. The Members thanked the delegation for attending the meeting and assured them of their support for the Scheme. The delegation of Malachy Toal, Benny Treanor and Catherine Linham left the Council Chamber.

Cllr. David Maxwell proposed and it was agreed to invite Mr. Willie Penrose, T.D. Minister for Housing and Planning to visit the Mullaghmatt Estate so that he can be shown the good works which has been carried out under the Remedial Scheme. It was also agreed to inform the local T.D.'s of the Council's invitation. It was approved that a small delegation from the Mullaghmatt Residents Association accompany the Town Council Members to the meeting with Minister Penrose.

On the proposal of Cllr. David Maxwell seconded by Cllr. Robbie Gallagher it was agreed to condemn the murder of PSNI Constable Ronan Kerr, Omagh, Co. Tyrone in a car bomb attack in Omagh on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2011. A vote of sympathy was passed by the Members and the A/County Manager. A minutes silence was observed and the business of the meeting was briefly adjourned as a mark of respect.

**1. Confirmation of March Monthly Meeting held on 21/03/2011**

On the proposal of Cllr. Donal Sherry seconded by Cllr. David Maxwell it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the March Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2011.

**2. Confirmation of Special Meeting held in committee on 28/03/2011**

On the proposal of Cllr. Thomas Hagan seconded by Cllr. David Maxwell it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held in committee on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2011 regarding a request for funding from the Féile Oriel Festival Committee.

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

Gareth McMahon, Town Engineer undertook to get a resolution to a problem which took place over the Christmas period regarding a water burst which occurred in a vacant Town Council dwelling and damaged an adjoining private dwelling.

Cllr. Donal Sherry complimented the Town Council staff on the seating provided in the Play Park at Killygoan.

On the proposal of Cllr. Robbie Gallagher seconded by Cllr. David Maxwell it was agreed to include the North East Gazette Newspaper for use in accordance with the Local Government Planning and Development Regulations 2001.

### **4. Manager's Orders**

The Members noted Managers Orders numbered 45/11 – 54/11.

### **5. Correspondence**

The Members noted the following correspondence:-

- Letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> April 2011 from Heather Humphreys, TD regarding the Mullaghmat Remedial Works Scheme.
- Letter dated 29<sup>th</sup> March 2011 from the Office of the Minister for Health & Children regarding Monaghan General Hospital.
- Email from The Department of Health acknowledging Deputy Humphreys request to secure a meeting with the Minister to discuss the situation at Monaghan General Hospital.
- Letter dated 28<sup>th</sup> March 2011 from the Office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs concerning a Notice of Motion adopted by the Members of the Council at the February Monthly Meeting regarding voting by Irish Citizens abroad in Irish Elections.
- Letter dated 30<sup>th</sup> March 2011 from the Office of the Taoiseach regarding voting.
- Letter dated 25<sup>th</sup> March 2011 from the Office of the Taoiseach regarding Notice of Motion adopted by the Members of the Council at the March Monthly Meeting concerning the preservation of the Irish language.
- Letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> April 2011 from the Ambassador of Japan to Ireland thanking the Members for their support for the people of Japan following the recent earthquake and tsunami.
- Email dated 24<sup>th</sup> March 2011 from the Office of the Canadian Embassy in Dublin thanking the Members for their kind invitation to attend the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Monaghan next year.
- Email dated 12<sup>th</sup> April 2011 from Toirleach Gourley, Senior Executive Planner, Monaghan County Council regarding Monaghan Courthouse and Public Lighting in Belgium Square.

- Acknowledgement dated 11<sup>th</sup> April 2011 from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government to Deputy Heather Humphreys T.D. regarding Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme.
- Report dated 7<sup>th</sup> April 2011 from Shirley Clerkin, Heritage Officer, Monaghan County Council regarding Monaghan Courthouse. On the proposal of Cllr. Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr. Mary Carroll it was agreed to write to the Built Heritage Section of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to seek their views on the matter as recommended by Ms. Clerkin in her report.
- Acknowledgement dated 15<sup>th</sup> April 2011 from Seán Conlon TD regarding Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme.
- Acknowledgement dated 15<sup>th</sup> April 2011 from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government regarding the Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme.
- Letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> April 2011 from the Council's Solicitor regarding Casual Trading. On the proposal of Cllr Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha it was agreed to amend the Monaghan Town Council Casual Trading (Fees) Bye-Laws made under the Casual Trading Act 1995 as follows:-  
 Fee for each trading place - €200 per diem or part thereof. The daily fee shall authorize trading until 3.30am on the following morning or €2000 per annum (reduced from €2400 per annum).  
 A discussion took place regarding alternative sites for casual trading areas in the town. It was agreed that the Town Engineer examine alternative locations and present them at the next Town Council Meeting.

## **6. Planning Applications**

The Members noted Planning Applications numbered MT11/3– MT11/4

## **7. Business Submitted by An Cathaoirleach**

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Robbie Gallagher called on the Members of the Council to support the appeal made by Margaret Urwin, Spokesperson for “Justice for the Forgotten” calling on the British Government to open up the files and make available the documentation concerning the 1974 Bombings in Monaghan and Dublin. Cllr. Gallagher also proposed that a letter be sent to the British Embassy in this regard. This was seconded by Cllr. Mary Carroll.

The Cathaoirleach congratulated the organizers of the Monaghan Stages Rally on their successful event last weekend and complimented the organizers on the business which the Rally took to the town and the way it benefited the local economy.

The Members noted that the Annual Blackwater 10k Walk/Run Fun event will take place in Rossmore Park on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May and wished the organizers of the event every success.

## **8. Consideration of Reports of Committees**

The Members noted the Minutes of a Budget Sub-Committee meeting held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2011. The Cathaoirleach informed the Members that a Budget Sub-Committee Meeting of the Council was held prior to the April Monthly Meeting to finalise the allocation of monies under the Community Grants Scheme. On the proposal of Cllr. Donal Sherry seconded by Cllr. Mary Carroll it was agreed to approve of the payment of the following grants for 2011 under the Community Grant Scheme:-

<b>Name of Organisation</b>	<b>Grants to be paid</b>
Milltown Residents Association	€250
Killygoan Residents Association	€1000
Glencove Manor Residents Association (50)	€250
Mullaghdund Residents Group 1 -15 (15)	€150
Kilnacloy/St. Patrick's Tce Residents Association (115)	€500
Mullaghmatt/Cortolvin Community Development Ltd	€900
Beechgrove Lawns Residents Association (80)	€750
Tully Residents Association (82)	€400
Cathedral Walk Residents Association (46)	€250
Latlorcan Residents Association (85)	€700
Monaghan Allotment Society	€350
Shuffling Boots Line Dancing Club	€250
2 <sup>nd</sup> Monaghan Scout Group	€700
Monaghan Community Brass Band	€700
Monaghan Town Community Games	€700
Monaghan Harps GAA Club	€1000
Fergal O'Hanlon G.F.C	€900
Monaghan United Football Club	€1000
Monaghan Summer League	€700
Monaghan Town Football Club	€700
Lithuanian Community of Monaghan	€350
Youth Work Ireland, Dawson Street	€250
An Cumann Gaelach	€700
Foroige Big Brother Big Sister Programme	€400
Corran Residents Association (11)	€150
Montfort Residents Association (47)	€350
MSPCA	€500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€14,900</b>

On the proposal of Cllr. David Maxwell seconded by Cllr. Thomas Hagan it was agreed to contribute €5000 to the Féile Oriel Festival Committee at the request of Monaghan Chamber of Commerce. The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Robbie Gallagher invited the Members to the Official Launch of the Féile Oriel Festival on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2011 at 6.30pm in the Market House, Monaghan.

## 9. Roads/Housing

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

- Potholes – Mullaghmatt/Killyconnigan/Back lanes Killygoan
- Bombing Memorial, Church Square – Lighting to be repaired
- Railings on Pound Hill to be replaced
- Signage required for Monaghan General Hospital
- Lighting required – Killyvane (County Council)
- Skateboarding in The Diamond area

In relation to the Mixed Use Development at Rooskey, David Fallon, A/County Manager stated that the Developers are liaising with the Planning Section of Monaghan County Council regarding a planning application for a change of use of the site.

David Fallon stated that a number of questions have been put to the Developers and that the Council are awaiting a response.

The Town Engineer stated that discussions are ongoing with the Boards of Management and School Principals regarding the regulation of parking on Park Road in front of the St. Louis Primary Schools to make the area safe for school going children.

The Members referred to anti-social behaviour taking place in the Canal Park area where the walk area is being used for public drinking and illegal dumping. The Members noted two reports prepared by Council Housing Officials on complaints received regarding incidents of anti-social behaviour in the Drumbear Wood and Cluain Lorcan Housing Estates. The A/County Manager assured the Members that the Council monitor all complaints received regarding anti-social behaviour.

The Members referred to correspondence sent to them earlier in the month from the Residents of a housing estate on the Castleblayney Road expressing concerns over the dangerous condition of a wall in front of the estate. It was noted that this is a private estate. Following a discussion, David Fallon, A/County Manager agreed to liaise with the Developer of the estate to see if the matter can be resolved. Cllr. Seán Conlon referred to a new scheme recently announced by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to deal with health and safety issues arising from unfinished housing estates.

The Members noted that the trees recently planted in the Courthouse Car Park will provide attractive landscaping to the area.

**10. Telecommunication Mast at Killygoan**

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

**11. Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme**

The Members noted that this matter has been dealt with earlier in the meeting.

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

The Members noted that the contract for the supply and installation of play equipment at two locations in Monaghan Town have been advertised on the e-tenders website and that the closing date for receipt of tenders is 12 noon on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2011. The Members noted that the Oral Hearing for the CPO in Old Cross Square has been confirmed by An Bord Pleanala and the entire project is due for completion by the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011. The Members welcomed the installation of the new railings in Old Cross Square.

It was noted that the Old Cross Square Sundial Monument will be relocated in front of Clerkins property in Old Cross Square and that an information plate will be erected at the Monument.

**13. Progress on Windows/Doors – Killygoan area**

The Members noted that works to the windows/doors in Killygoan is progressing and is nearing completion.

**14. Consideration of proposal to purchase land at Canal View, Monaghan**

The Members agreed to proceed with the proposal to purchase of a plot of ground measuring 0.1164 ha (0.287 acres) valued at €15,000 located at Canal View, Clones Road, Monaghan from H. Boylan & Sons to facilitate proper access to the proposed site for the allotments (Elliot's Lands).

**15. Consideration of proposal to sell Site at Annahagh, Monaghan to Monaghan County Council for Civil Defence Headquarters**

The Members noted correspondence dated 5<sup>th</sup> April 2011 from Monaghan County Council which stated that a site, valued at €40,000 has been identified for a new Civil Defence Headquarters on O'Neill's Farm, Annahagh, Monaghan which is in the ownership of Monaghan Town Council. On the proposal of Cllr. David Maxwell seconded by Cllr. Seán Conlon it was agreed that Monaghan Town Council explore the possibility of acquiring the Monaghan County Council Machinery Yard in return for providing the County Council with a site at O'Neill's Farm for the provision of a new Civil Defence Headquarters.

**16. Consideration of approval to Dispose of Freehold Interest in Council Dwelling**

On the proposal of Cllr. Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr. David Maxwell it was agreed to dispose of the Freehold Interest in No. 4 Fairview Drive, Killygoan, Monaghan in accordance with the terms of Section 183 Notice of the Local Government Act 2001 dated 16<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

**17. Notices of Motion:-**

- (a) “Go ndéanfadh an Chomhairle seo smaoinemh ar Timpeallán a chur ag gabhal an Bhóthair do Thí Damhnata – Cluain Eois agus Muineachán.”  
“That this Council consider the installation of a roundabout at the junction of Tydavnet – Clones and Monaghan roads”.

Cllrs Conlon, Uí Mhurchadha, Sherry, McGeown.

On the proposal of Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha seconded by Cllr. Paul McGeown it was agreed to adopt the above Notice of Motion and to liaise with the Road Design Section of Monaghan County Council to carry out an indepth analysis in relation to the problem of traffic safety in the area.

- (b) “In an effort to stimulate economic development by way of facilitating job creation initiatives, that Monaghan Town Council engage with the relevant local and national agencies with a view to establishing an Enterprise Centre on the site of the former Revenue Commissioners building on the Armagh Road”.

Cllrs. Conlon, Uí Mhurchadha, Sherry, McGeown

On the proposal of Cllr. Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr. Donal Sherry it was agreed to adopt the above Notice of Motion. It was agreed to send the correspondence to Brian Hayes, TD, Minister of State at the Departments of Public Expenditure and Reform, and Finance (with special responsibility for Public Service Reform and the OPW) and to John Perry, TD, Minister of State at the Department of Enterprise, Jobs and Innovation (with special responsibility for Small Business).

- (c) “That this Council calls on the Minister for Environment, Phil Hogan TD, to address as a matter of urgency the crippling cost of rates on commercial properties”.

Cllr. Robbie Gallagher

On the proposal of Cllr. Robbie Gallagher seconded by Cllr. David Maxwell it was agreed to adopt the above Notice of Motion and to circulate it to all Local Authorities in the country.



- (d) “That this Council would undertake to erect information display signs, at each end of the Monaghan Town By-Pass, indicating the three hotels in Monaghan town namely, Four Seasons, Hillgrove and Westenra”.

Cllr. Robbie Gallagher

On the proposal of Cllr. Robbie Gallagher seconded by Cllr. Mary Carroll it was agreed to adopt the above Notice of Motion.

### **18. Ceist/Question**

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

- (a) In the interest of pedestrian safety can repair works be undertaken to fencing that has subsided along the Canal Park located near the Texaco station?

*This matter will be dealt with in the coming weeks.*

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

- (a) “Leixlip Town Council request Kildare County Council to include in their conditions of planning that all houses, apartments, hotels, beds and breakfasts, public and private buildings are required to install Carbon Monoxide alarms in all buildings old and new as mandatory, carbon monoxide is a silent killer, it has no smell or taste. This is urgent and needs to be included in all permissions of planning. I would request Leixlip Town Council to ask other Councils to support this Motion and that a copy be sent to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government for inclusion in the Grant Scheme for the elderly and people with disabilities.”

Leixlip Town Council

On the proposal of Cllr. Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr. Mary Carroll it was agreed to support the above Resolution.

- (b) “Thurles Town Council adopts a resolution expressing our revulsion at the callous and cowardly murder of Ronan Kerr, a young Catholic Police Officer from Omagh, Co.Tyrone on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2011. The growing tendency by a very misguided minority towards reigniting terrorist activity on this island must be confronted by every means possible to ensure that other families do not have to live with total devastation which has been inflicted on Constable Kerr’s mother and family. Mrs. Kerr’s courageous and dignified comments in the immediate aftermath of such a horrific incident should act as an inspiration to all right minded people in this country.”

Thurles Town Council

The Members agreed to support the above Resolution.

- (c) “That this Town Council supports the retention of Co-ordinators in Primary Schools.”

Kilkee Town Council

The Members agreed to support the above Resolution.

## **20. Conferences**

- (a) IPI National Planning Conference 2011 – “Innovation in Practice – Reshaping Irish Planning” – Radisson Blu Hotel, Galway City – 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> May 2011 – (approx. cost €1030)
- (b) Mayday Conference – Westcourt Hotel, Drogheda – 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> May 2011 – (approx. cost €375)
- (c) TGR Seminars – Professional Development for Councillors – “A Guide to Getting the Right Work Done” – Kilmurry Lodge Hotel, Castletroy, Limerick – 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2011 – (approx. cost €675)
- (d) IPA Conference for Local Authority Elected Members – “The current challenges facing Local Authorities in delivering effective customer service with ever-decreasing resources” – Theatre Royal, Waterford – 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> May 2011 (approx. cost €750)

On the proposal of Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha seconded by Cllr. Paul McGeown it was agreed that Cllr. Seán Conlon attend Conference (d).

## **21. Any Other Business**

Gareth McMahon stated that there are grants available from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland under the Greener Homes Scheme to provide assistance to homeowners to improve homes using roof insulation.

## **22. Sympathy/Congratulations**

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:

- The Murray Family, Tullyherim on the death of John Murray
- Rose Donnelly, Dr. McKenna Tce, on the death of her brother Colm O’ Reilly
- Cllr. Noel Keelan, Monaghan County Council on the death of his mother Bridget
- Martin O’Brien, CEO, Monaghan VEC on the death of his mother
- The Phillips family, Mullaghduon on the death of Jean Phillips

A vote of congratulations was extended to the following:

- Fergal McMahon, Tandrageebrack and Kevin Loughran, Dunsinaire on being selected to play for the Republic of Ireland Under 16 Team against Belgium at Turner’s cross last week.
- Monaghan United Football Team who have been unbeaten in the League to-date
- Monaghan Town Football Club on reaching the Ulster Cup Football Final
- U-15 St. Macartans Football Team on their fine performances in the Brock Cup Competition.

This concluded the business of the meeting.  
Dated this the 16<sup>th</sup> Day of May 2011

