

COMHAIRLE BAILE MHUINEACHÁIN
MONAGHAN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 16th April 2012 at 5.00p.m. in the Council Chamber of Monaghan Town Council, Town Hall, No. 1 Dublin Street, Monaghan.

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. David Maxwell

Present: Cllrs Mary Carroll, Seán Conlon, Robbie Gallagher, Thomas Hagan, Paul McGeown, Donal Sherry and Seamus Treanor.

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

An apology for inability to attend was received from Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha.

At the outset the Members sent good wishes to Cllr. Uí Mhurchadha and to Cllr. Sheila Mc Kenna, Monaghan County Council who is ill at present.

1. Confirmation of March Monthly Meeting held on 20/03/2012

On the proposal of Cllr. Paul McGeown seconded by Cllr Robbie Gallagher it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the March Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 20th March 2012.

2. Confirmation of Meeting held on 23/03/2012

On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Donal Sherry it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd March 2012 with Phil Hogan, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government regarding the former Revenue Commissioners Premises at Coolshannagh, Monaghan.

3. Confirmation of Meeting held in Committee on 27/03/2012

On the proposal of Cllr Seamus Treanor seconded by Cllr Robbie Gallagher it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the Meeting held in Committee on the 27th March 2012 regarding the Draft Development Plan for Monaghan Town 2013 – 2019.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

The Members welcomed the erection of signage indicating the location of hotels in Monaghan Town.

The Town Engineer confirmed that work will take place in the near future to the handrails on the Pound Hill.

The Members welcomed the recent clean-up of illegal dumping at Mullaghmatt/Cortolvin.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr David Maxwell confirmed that a Civic Reception for the Canadian Ambassador to Ireland, Loyola Hearn will take place on Wednesday evening next 25th April 2012 at 6.00p.m. in the Town Council Chamber.

The Town Engineer stated that remedial works will be carried out to loose brick work on the footpath on the North Road.

Cllr. Seán Conlon stated that he did not attend the LAMA Conference on the 13th/14th April 2012 as a Town Council delegate.

It was agreed to seek an update on the Town Council's application for inclusion in the 2nd series of the Television Programme "Dirty Old Towns".

5. Manager's Orders

The Members noted Manager's Orders numbered 44/12 – 58/12.

6. Correspondence

The Members noted the following correspondence:-

- Letter dated 30th March 2012 from the Office of the Minister of State, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine regarding the possible sale of Coillte. The Members expressed the view that the €5.00 charge been levied by Coillte for vehicles entering Rossmore Park is excessive. On the proposal of Cllr Donal Sherry seconded by Cllr Seán Conlon it was agreed to call on Coillte to have the fee overturned. It was also agreed to send a reminder letter to Coillte seeking the extent of plantation which took place around the country in the years 2009, 2010, 2011 and the projection figures for 2012.
- Acknowledgement letter dated 3rd April 2012 from Phil Hogan, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government in connection with levying rates on commercial properties.
- Acknowledgment letter dated 26th March 2012 from Phil Hogan, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government in connection with the household charge.
- Acknowledgement letter dated 29th March 2012 from the Office of the Minister for Social Protection regarding a backlog in the processing of Family Income Supplement applications.
- Letter dated 2nd April 2012 from the Embassy of Belgium thanking the Members for their message of sympathy for the families of the Sierre bus accident
- Email dated 21st March 2012 from Coillte confirming that the potholes at the entrance to Rossmore Forest Park have been repaired and the rubbish has been removed.

- Email dated 20th March 2012 from the Chief Executive of the East Border Region stating that Monaghan Town Council's application for funding under the INTERREG IVA Programme was not successful. The Members voiced disappointment with the outcome of the application. Cllr. Donal Sherry requested a copy of the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on the 15th February 2012 in relation to the application. It was noted that Dympna Condra, Tourism and Marketing Executive, Monaghan County Council will be attending a feedback surgery day on Wednesday 18th April 2012 for unsuccessful applicants. The Members asked that Ms. Condra express the Members disappointment at the feedback day.
- Letter dated 30th March 2012 from Frank Mc Enaney, Chairman of Monaghan Chamber of Commerce authorizing Féile Oriel to drawdown €7,000 of the Chambers allocation of funding for events/promotions during 2012. The Members noted the financial accounts for 2011 for Féile Oriel. It was agreed to meet with a delegation from the Chamber of Commerce on Monday 23rd April 2012 at 5.30pm in the Council Chamber.
- Letters from Monaghan County Council dated 13th March 2012, Monaghan County Enterprise Board dated 3rd April 2012 and Enterprise Ireland dated 7th March 2012 in relation to the Revenue Commissioners premises at Coolshannagh, Monaghan. It was agreed to send a letter to Phil Hogan, TD, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government thanking the Minister for meeting with the Members of the Council on Friday 23rd March 2012 following the official opening of the new Fire Station Headquarters at Annahagh, Monaghan. It was agreed to enquire from him if he had any update from Ministers Hayes and Perry regarding the proposal to convert the former Revenue Commissioners premises into affordable work space. On the proposal of Cllr Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr David Maxwell it was agreed to seek a meeting with representatives from Monaghan County Development Fund to progress the matter. It was also agreed to send a letter to John McEnteggart, CEO, Monaghan County Enterprise Board thanking him for his offer of funding to assist the project. The Town Clerk was requested to send the correspondence received from the various agencies to Ministers Hayes and Perry.
- Letter dated 12th April 2012 from the Garage Theatre seeking a drawdown of 50% of the allocated grant. It was agreed to request the most recent Audited Accounts of the Theatre and to circulate them to each Member of the Council.
- Letter received on the 16th April 2012 from the Killygoan Tidy Towns Committee requesting the Council to consider the hole in the ground as a lake or means of storing water or as a biodiversity project. It was noted that planning permission has now been granted to the Developer for the re-instatement of the car park and the Members marked the correspondence received read.
- Acknowledgement letter dated 10th April 2012 from An Garda Síochána regarding anti-social behaviour at Canal Walk/Mall Road areas.
- Letter dated 15th March 2012 from Chambers Ireland regarding the Chambers Ireland's Excellence in Local Government Awards 2012.

7. Planning Applications

The Members noted Planning Applications numbered 12/4 – 12/6.

8. Business Submitted by An Cathaoirleach

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. David Maxwell proposed that a wall plaque listing the holders of the Chair of Monaghan Town Council be erected in the Town Council Chamber. The Members agreed with the proposal and noted that the Town Council is approaching the 175th Anniversary of the Council.

9. Consideration of Reports of Committees:-

The Members noted the Minutes of the Planning Sub-Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 20th March 2012.

It was agreed to change the date for the JPC meeting which is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 8th May 2012 to Wednesday 9th May 2012. It was agreed to place the following items on the agenda for the JPC meeting:-

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Parks and Open Spaces Draft Bye-Laws 2012

10. Roads/Housing.

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

- Drains blocked – Killygoan
- Dip in road – Market Road/Heaton’s Corner
- Finger post sign in the vicinity of Courthouse – loose condition
- Killyconnigan footpaths require repair
- Manhole lids – Dublin Road/Westenra Tce
- Gully loose at entrance to Old Park Court Housing Estate
- Graffiti on Slides – Killygoan playpark
- Entrance to Knockroe Glen – works to be carried out

Cllr Seán Conlon referred to a mechanical boom which had been put in place at Peter’s Lake. Gareth Mc Mahon, Town Engineer explained that there had been a minor oil leak coming down a drain and that this was the reason the mechanical mechanism was put in place. It was noted that the leakage has now ceased. Cllr Conlon called for advance measures to be put in place to prevent the problem happening again. David Fallon, Acting County Manager stated that it is very hard to put preventative measures in place but if the public let the Council know of any problems there would be a quick response to their concerns.

Cllr Carroll referred to the increasing number of cyclists in the town and suggested that the Town Council consider the possibility of putting up signage asking motorists to respect cyclists or to slow down for them.

David Fallon, A/County Manager in reply to a question from Cllr Robbie Gallagher stated that the best estimate for the rate of household charge collection in the county is about 50%.

It was agreed that a letter be written to the owners of a building on the North road asking them to address it's condition as it has deteriorated and is an eyesore in the town.

The Members praised the recent tree planting which has taken place throughout the town.

It was agreed to invite representatives from the Monaghan Allotment Society to the next meeting of the Town Council to advance proposals for allotments in the Killygoan/Mullaghmatt areas. It was noted that the Town Engineer is awaiting a detailed survey of the lands at Mullaghcroghery in relation to identifying an alternative access to the lands.

11. Telecommunication Mast at Killygoan

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

12. Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme

It was agreed to send a reminder letter to Jan O' Sullivan, TD Minister of State at the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government with special responsibility for Housing and Planning asking her to expedite her visit to Monaghan to view the Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme

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

It was noted that works on the above project have now been completed. The Members complimented Town Engineer, Gareth Mc Mahon and his staff and the Town Clerk, Marie Deighan and her staff on the finished product and acknowledged the contribution of former County Manager, Declan Nelson. It was noted that all visitors to the town have remarked on how well Monaghan Town is now looking. It was agreed to take this item off the Agenda.

14. Progress on Windows/Doors – Killygoan area.

Cllr Donal Sherry stated that there are still two houses outstanding in the estate where works to the doors have not yet been resolved to the satisfaction of the tenants. The Members noted correspondence dated 3rd April 2012 from the Clerk of Works, Monaghan County Council stating that he inspected the works carried out to the doors and could not find any fault with the draught strips, thresholds or letter plates that were fitted and was of the opinion that the doors are fit for purpose.

David Fallon, A/County Manager stated that professional people had now looked at the situation and acknowledged Cllr Sherry's representations but was satisfied that the doors are fit for purpose. It was agreed that the Cathaoirleach, Cllr David Maxwell and the Town Engineer would visit the houses in question.

15. Report on Mixed Use Development

It was noted that a planning application has been granted on the 5th April 2012 to DPT Mixed Use Development Ltd to re-instate the original ground levels, to create new car parking area consisting of 239 car parking spaces, public lighting, trolley bays, parking meters, bring bank facilities incorporating receptacles for the collection of recyclable materials and all associated signage and ancillary site works at Rooskey, Monaghan.

16. Consideration of Approval to Dispose of Freehold Interest.

On the proposal of Cllr Donal Sherry seconded by Cllr David Maxwell it was agreed to approve to dispose of the Freehold Interest in 42 Woodview, Killygoan, Monaghan in accordance with notice dated 28th March 2012 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

17. Litter Management Plan 2010-2012 – Progress Report 2011

The Members noted the Monaghan Local Authorities Litter Management Plan 2010-2011- Progress Report 2011. The A/County Manager, David Fallon stated that the Monaghan Local Authorities spent €846,500 on street cleansing programmes in 2011.

The Members referred to illegal dumping taking place at an entry in the Dublin Street area. The Town Engineer undertook to follow up the matter.

Cllr Thomas Hagan referred to the amount of broken glass that was on the street on Easter Monday. It was agreed that the Town Council write to taxi and hackney operators in the town asking them not to let anyone into their vehicles who was carrying a bottle or a glass.

Cllr Paul McGeown left the Council Chamber.

18. Consideration of Draft Bye-Laws 2012 in relation to the Control and Regulation of the Use of Parks, Open Spaces, Playing Pitches and Recreational Grounds

On the proposal of Cllr Robbie Gallagher seconded by Cllr Seamus Treanor it was agreed to put out to public consultation the Monaghan Town Council Parks and Open Spaces Draft Bye-Laws 2012. It was also agreed to send a copy of the Draft Bye-Laws to the HSE for their information.

19. Notice of Motion:-

- (a) “That this Council write to Minister Leo Varadkar and Bus Eireann requesting funding to upgrade and modernise their bus depot on the North Road”.

Cllr. Treanor

On the proposal of Cllr Seamus Treanor seconded by Cllr David Maxwell it was agreed to support the above Notice of Motion.

20. Questions:-

Cllr Seamus Treanor asked:-

- (a) Has a decision been taken by both Town and County Council not to inform Councillors the names of housing recipients?

Monaghan Town Council do and will continue to inform Councillors the name of housing recipients.

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

- (b) There were unusually high levels of litter evident throughout the town on the recent bank holiday Easter Monday, has the Council litter retrieval service been discontinued on bank holidays?

In light of the reduced budget for street cleaning in 2012 Monaghan Town Council has reduced the number of sweeps carried out on a bank holiday weekend from three to two. Weekend sweeps are carried out by 4 men with the road sweeper, between the hours of 5.30am and 10.30am typically.

Cllr. Conlon suggested that on Bank Holiday weekends that litter sweeps be carried out on a Sunday/Monday morning instead of a Saturday/Sunday morning. The Town Engineer stated that he would consult with the relevant staff members on the matter.

21. Resolutions from Other Local Authorities:-

- (a) “That this Council calls on the Minister for Education to rescind his decision to reduce the provision of Guidance Counselling in second level schools”.

Ballinasloe Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

- (b) “That this Council calls on the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, to cap the wage structure of any broadcaster receiving a subvention from the Television licence fee at €2000,000”.

Ballina Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

© “That Carrick on Suir Town Council would write to the Minister for Health, Dr. James Reilly, the Minister for Justice, Alan Shatter and An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny asking that they investigate the practice of the Health Information and Quality Assurance Board (HIQA) to stop the admission of new patients to some existing nursing homes following inspection, as nursing homes cannot fulfil some requirements/recommendations of HIQA if they are starved of funds. Those affected are mostly the long established smaller rural nursing homes”.

Carrick on Suir Town Council

It was agreed to mark the above Resolution read.

22. Conferences

- (a) Nuclear Free Local Authorities All Ireland Forum Seminar – Dundalk Town Hall Council Chamber – 20th April 2012 – (approx. cost €80)
- (b) Listowel Conference 2012 – “The Economic Potential of Arts and Cultural Tourism” – St. Johns Theatre & Arts Centre, Listowel – 26th- 27th April 2012 – (approx. cost €90).
- © SuperValu Tidy Towns National Conference 2012 – “Celebrating 21 Years working with Local Communities” – Malton Hotel, Killarney – 21st- 22nd April 2012 – (approx. cost €760)
- (d) Irish Council for Social Housing Border Regional Meeting – Cavan Crystal Hotel – 3rd May 2012 – (approx. cost €70).
- (e) Killarney Town Council/Staffanstop, Sweden 2012 Mayors Conference of European City Against Drugs (ECAD) – Malton Hotel, Killarney – 9th – 11th May 2012 – (approx. cost €86).
- (f) Association of County and City Councils Annual Conference – Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny – 10th – 11th May 2012 – (approx. cost €60).

On the proposal of Cllr Donal Sherry seconded by Cllr David Maxwell it was agreed that Cllr Seán Conlon attend Conference (f).

- (g) Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation Workshop – “A Decade of Commemoration – Managing our History” – Fairways Hotel, Dundalk – 11th – 13th May 2012 – (approx. cost €195)
- (h) Celtic Conferences – “Community Tourism – Driving Local Sustainable Tourism in a stagnant Global Economy” – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork – 11th – 13th May 2012 – (approx. cost €660)
- (i) TGR Seminars – “A Guide to Getting the Right Work Done” – Kilmurry Lodge Hotel, Limerick – 18th – 20th May 2012 – (approx. cost €770)

23. Any Other Business

It was agreed that the Budget Sub-Committee meet to clarify pay parking on Public/Bank holidays.

It was agreed to send a letter to Bridget Clarke, General Manager of the HSE Cavan/Monaghan Group enquiring as to why staff at Monaghan hospital are not allowed to perform blood pressure tests on patients.

24. Sympathy/Congratulations

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:-

- The Cooney family, 28 Dr Mc Kenna Tce, Monaghan on the death of Mrs Sarah Cooney.
- Monaghan County Council staff member, Deirdre Mc Quaid on the death of her father Brian Maguire, Clones.

A vote of congratulations was extended to the following:-

- Monaghan Rugby Club on winning the Gordon West Cup against Strabane at Raven Hill on Saturday last.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Dated this the 15th day of May 2012

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach