

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

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup>  
December 2011 at 6.00p.m. in the Council Chamber of Monaghan Town Council,  
Town Hall, No. 1 Dublin Street, Monaghan.

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**Cathaoirleach:** Cllr. David Maxwell

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

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

**1. Confirmation of November Monthly Meeting held on 21/11/2011**

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

**2. Confirmation of Special Meeting held in committee on 8/12/2011.**

On the proposal of Cllr. Thomas Hagan seconded by Cllr Seamus Treanor it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held in committee on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2011.

**3. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

On the proposal of Cllr. Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr. Paul McGeown it was agreed to invite His Excellency Loyola Hearn, Canadian Ambassador to Ireland to attend the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Monaghan on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2012.

The Members congratulated the Irish Deaf Society on their "Signs of Life" Photography exhibition which was held in Monaghan County Museum on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2011.

Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha expressed disappointment that no reply has been received from the Information Communication Section of RTE giving an explanation for the lack of coverage given by them to the National Famine Commemoration held recently in Clones.

The Members welcomed the installation of outdoor gym equipment at Peters Lake and noted that there is no evidence of the equipment being abused.

It was noted that illegal dumping is continuing to take place at Mullaghmat. Gareth Mc Mahon, Town Engineer stated that the Receivers appointed in this case have assured him that they will have the area cleaned up. It was agreed to erect mobile cameras in this area.

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

The Members noted Manager's Orders numbered 190/11 – 212/11 and welcomed the awarding of the contract for the removal of dangerous trees along Rope Walk.

#### **5. Correspondence**

The Members noted the following correspondence:

- Letter dated 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2011 from the Department of Finance regarding Budget 2012.
- Letter dated 29<sup>th</sup> November 2011 from Monaghan United Football Club thanking the Members of the Town Council for the Civic Reception to mark their promotion to the Premier Division of the FAI Airtricity League.
- Letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> December 2011 from Fáilte Ireland regarding a Tourism Industry Briefing to be held in the Sheraton Hotel, Athlone on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2012. On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha it was agreed that Cllr Seán Conlon attend the briefing. It was also agreed to forward the correspondence to the Monaghan Chamber of Commerce.
- Letter dated 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2011 from RTE in response to the Town Council Members disappointment and anger at the allegation broadcast about Fr. Kevin Reynolds in a Prime Time Investigates Programme last May.
- Letter dated 30<sup>th</sup> November 2011 from the Department of Health regarding services at the Minor Injury Unit and the Medical Assessment Unit at Monaghan Hospital. The Members expressed disappointment with the contents of the letter. Cllr. Paul McGeown expressed disappointment at the recent closure of the admissions unit at St. Davnets Psychiatric Hospital in the town.
- Acknowledgement dated 9<sup>th</sup> December 2011 from Seán Conlon TD regarding a proposed VAT increase.
- Letter received on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2011 from the Office of the Attorney General regarding Statute Law Revision Bill 2011.
- Email dated 12<sup>th</sup> December 2011 from the Office of Public Works regarding a Strategic Environmental Public Assessment for the Arterial Drainage Maintenance and High Risk Channel Designation Programme 2011-2015. It was noted that areas in Monaghan Town are prone to regular flooding and it was agreed to make a submission to the OPW before the closing date of the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2012 outlining the areas where drainage is a problem in the Monaghan town area.

**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 Monaghan Leisure Complex Committee meeting held on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

The Members noted the Minutes of the Budget Sub-Committee meeting held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2011.

**8. Roads/Housing**

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

- Yellow Box at Pound Hill junction requires facelift
- Railings required on Pound Hill
- Surface in The Diamond area - very slippery in frosty weather
- Gullies blocked in the town area
- Traffic islands on Clones Road – Unlit/untidy
- ESB Pole – Beech Hill area – requires repair.

The Town Engineer agreed to speak with the Town Foreman regarding a review of the priority based system which is in place regarding the salting of roads in the town area.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. David Maxwell praised the Executive on the recent publication of a Winter Ready Information Leaflet which has been circulated to all Local Authority tenants.

**9. Telecommunication Mast at Killygoan**

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

**10. Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme**

The Town Engineer stated that he has received a cost plan submission for Phase 3 of the Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme which will be amended and forwarded to the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government for their approval.

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

Gareth McMahon, Town Engineer stated that the Monument is been re-erected in

Old Cross Square at present and the Members noted that an application of an extension of time has been applied for to the BMW so that the Alleyway off Dublin Street can be incorporated into the scheme.

**12. Progress on Windows/Doors – Killygoan Area**

The Town Engineer stated that the Tenders for the replacement of front doors in 38 dwellings in Ard Glas, Killygoan has been examined and that he is in the process of consulting with the lowest tenderer regarding details of insurance, programme of works etc. It was noted that remedial works is on-going to the windows in dwellings in Killygoan.

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

David Fallon, Acting County Manager stated that the Town Council expect a planning application from the Developers by mid January 2012. It was noted that works are underway to refill the site of the proposed Monaghan Mixed Use Development and the developers have been requested to cease this work immediately in the absence of necessary planning approval and the finalization of the Variation Agreement of the Project Agreement between Monaghan Town Council and themselves.

**14. Up–date on Consideration of Declaration of Public Road under Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.**

The Town Engineer informed the Members that he intends to meet the local businesses/residents in the area who rely on a right of way through the alleyway off Dublin Street.

**15. Consideration of Statutory Audit Report of Monaghan Town Council for Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010.**

The Members noted the Statutory Audit Report of Monaghan Town Council for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010. The Members stated that they would like to see the proposed Monaghan Mixed Use Development restored to a car park as soon as possible. The Members requested a copy of the register of lands when completed. Cllr. Seamus Treanor complimented the tenants of Local Authority housing in the town on a 92% rate of rent collection in 2010.

**16. Consideration of A/County Manager’s Report dated 24<sup>th</sup> November 2011 in accordance with Part V111 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended for permission to provide an extension and additional facilities within the existing Machinery Yard at Tirkeenan, Monaghan.**

The Members noted the A/County Manager’s Report dated the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2011 in accordance with Part V111 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended for permission to carry out an extension and additional facilities within the existing Machinery Yard at Tirkeenan, Monaghan. The principal features of the proposed development are as follows:-

- Extension of the existing Machinery Yard Shed to provide garage facility for

- mechanical duties
- Additional office space
- Additional parking provision for large plant and small vehicles
  
- Silo Storage for loose materials
- Compound facility for specialized plant.

On the proposal of Cllr Paul McGeown seconded by Cllr Mary Carroll it was unanimously agreed to proceed with the development as recommended in the A/County Manager's Report.

## **17. Notices of Motion.**

(a) "That this Council deplores the withdrawal by this Government of the 6 week winter fuel allowance for those who most need it".

Cllrs. Uí Mhurchadha, Conlon, Sherry, McGeown

On the proposal of Cllr Donal Sherry seconded by Cllr Paul McGeown it was agreed to adopt the above Notice of Motion and to circulate it to all Local Authorities.

(b) "That this Council condemns the proposed cuts in funding for CE Scheme participants".

Cllrs. Uí Mhurchadha, Conlon, Sherry, McGeown

On the proposal of Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchada seconded by Cllr Donal Sherry it was agreed to adopt the above Notice of Motion and to circulate it to all Local Authorities.

© "In an effort to reverse the continuing rise in unemployment and emigration especially of our young people, that this Council seek a meeting with Ministers John Perry and Richard Bruton to outline the opportunity that exists at the vacated former Customs and Excise building, Armagh Road in creating a business enterprise centre".

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. The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. David Maxwell undertook to do his best to get Phil Hogan, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government to visit the former Enterprise building when he is on his next visit to the town.

(d) "That this Council, in the interests of Members of the public who are finding it difficult to make ends meet at this time, would support and promote a move to accept payments by direct debit spread over 12 months for motor tax."

Cllr. Robbie Gallagher

It was agreed to amend the above Motion to read as follows:-

"That this Council, in the interest of Members of the public who are finding it difficult to make ends meet at this time, would support and promote a move to accept payments by direct debit spread over 12 months for motor tax with no additional cost to the fixed annual fee".

On the proposal of Cllr Robbie Gallagher seconded by Cllr Seán Conlon it was agreed to adopt the amended Notice of Motion and to circulate it to all Local Authorities.

### **18. Ceisteanna/Questions**

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

(a) Can the Council Planning Section regulate on the dimensions and locations of signage erected by auctioneers in the town area?

*The size, number and the duration for which a sign can be erected, in respect of the sale or letting of any structure or land, is restricted to the parameters as set out in Schedule 2, Part 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). Any sign which exceed the limits set out in this part of the Regulations would require planning permission.*

Cllr. Seán Conlon called for an assessment to be carried out by the Planning Section on the current signage erected by Auctioneers around the town to determine if the signage fits within the Planning and Development Regulations.

(b) Can the Planning Section outline the details of the schedule of works agreed by the developer at the Latlorcan Estates, Castleblayney Road that will result in overdue elements of remediation/completion?

*A Schedule of works required to complete the development at Latlorcan was agreed between the developer and the Planning Section of the Council. This schedule related to a number of matters which included the completion and repair of water services, roads, landscaping (hard and soft) and the provision of open space.*

*On Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2011 the Planning Section became aware of press reports indicating that the developer, Latlorcan Developments, had gone into administration. On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2011 the Council wrote to the relevant financial institution seeking to draw down the insurance bonds relating to this development. The Council are currently awaiting a response to this correspondence.*

**Cllr Robbie Gallagher asked:**

© Will the Council, in the interests of both pedestrian and motorist's safety take measures to ensure that vehicles can no longer exit Mc Nally's Car park via the pedestrian exit beside the bring banks as cars have been noted exiting here onto the pedestrian crossing?

*Bollards will be erected to ensure no vehicles can exit along this pedestrian route.*

(d) How many Council houses have had their insulation upgraded, i.e. walls and attic and how many more remain to be done and the time scale for same?

*All housing stock with the exception of the remedial scheme houses have received attic insulation upgrades. A programme of cavity insulation installation is ongoing. The current phase of works will see all OPD's and vulnerable houses insulated this year. All outstanding houses will receive pumped cavity insulation in 2012.*

## **19. Resolutions from other Local Authorities:-**

(a) “I call on the Irish Government to introduce legislation that no politician serving or retired, who are drawing a salary from any source, should be entitled to a pension from the State until such time as they are fully retired”.

Muinebheag Town Council

It was agreed to mark the above Resolution read.

(b) “In advance of the publication of the Government’s Budget, this Council calls for the restoration of the 200 Special Needs Assistants that were cut in the last budget”.

Donegal County Council

It was agreed to mark the above Resolution read.

© “That this Council calls on the Government to support all local communities especially rural ones, by ensuring that all Garda Stations are kept open and improved where possible”.

Bandon Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

(d) “Bandon Town Council calls on the Minister for Communications to establish a scheme for the elderly in relation to the new digital Public Service Television Services to make the free-to-air cost free”.

Bandon Town Council

It was agreed to mark the above Resolution read.

(e) “That Carrick on Suir Town Council would write to Dr. James O Reilly, Minister of Health requesting the lifting of the ban on recruitments of front line staff in the health services as a matter of urgency and request all Councils to do likewise”.

Carrick on Suir Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

(f) “That Carrick on Suir Town Council would write to Minister Phil Hogan, Department of Environment, Community and Local Government to consider change of Government Policy to allow option to buy social rented houses for families under Capital Loan and Subsidy Scheme (CLSS). Under the current CLSS scheme housing associations such as RESPOND have no right to sell to tenants just as tenants have no right to buy their homes”.

Carrick on Suir Town Council

It was agreed to mark the above Resolution read.

## **20. Any Other Business**

It was agreed to send a letter to Dunnes Stores requesting them to expedite the painting works to be undertaken to the front of their building.

Cllr. Donal Sherry referred to a charge that is to be introduced by a private refuse collection operator with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012 which will see the operator doing away with the current tag system and introducing a €30 charge. Cllr. Sherry was informed that the County Council or Town Council do not provide a bin collection service in the County.

The Members welcomed the new Fire Station and Headquarters at Annahagh and congratulated all involved. The A/County Manager stated that he would arrange a tour of the facility for the Members.

The Members were circulated with Reports complying with Section 142(5)(f) of the Local Government Act 2001 in relation to the following Conferences:-

- Douglas Hyde Conference 2011 – attended by Cllr. Robbie Gallagher
- LAMA Autumn Seminar 2011 – attended by Cllr. Robbie Gallagher
- AMAI Annual Conference – attended by Cllr. Robbie Gallagher

## **21. Sympathy/Congratulations**

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:-

- The Mc Cooey Family, Old Cross Square on the death of Owen Mc Cooey.
- Town Council staff members John and Philip Mc Kenna on the death of their uncle, Philip McKenna, Dublin.

A vote of congratulations was extended to the following:

- Ryan Sheridan on receiving the Personality of the Year at the Monaghan Rehab People of the Year Awards 2011.
- Michael Thompson, Killygoan on receiving an outstanding Bravery Award at the Monaghan Rehab People of the Year Awards 2011.
- Kathleen O' Hanlon and Donal Kenny on receiving Voluntary Hero Awards at the Monaghan Rehab People of the Year Awards 2011.
- The Monaghan Rehab Training Workshop who performed their Christmas Funtime Show at the Garage Theatre recently.
- Universal Graphics, Monaghan on acquiring a prestigious Contract recently
- Monaghan Youth Theatre who have been shortlisted to attend a youth event in Trinity College, Dublin.
- All involved in the organisation of the recent Monaghan Senior Citizens Party.

Cllr. David Maxwell thanked the Members for their work and co-operation during the first six months of his term as Cathaoirleach and wished everyone a Happy Christmas and Peaceful and Prosperous New Year.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Dated this the 16<sup>th</sup> day of January 2012

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



## **Cathairleach**