

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

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup>  
January 2012 at 5.30p.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 Padraigín Uí Mhurchadha.

**In Attendance:** David Fallon, Acting County Manager, Jonathon Condell, Assistant Engineer, Marie Deighan, Town Clerk and Aisling Greenan, Clerical Officer.

**1. Confirmation of December Monthly Meeting held on 19/12/2011**

On the proposal of Cllr. Seamus Treanor seconded by Cllr Thomas Hagan it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the December Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2011.

**2. Confirmation of Annual Statutory Budget Meeting held on 19/12/2011**

On the proposal of Cllr. Mary Carroll seconded by Cllr Robbie Gallagher it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the Annual Statutory Budget Meeting held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2011.

**3. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Cllr. Robbie Gallagher enquired if any progress has been made with the making of a submission to the OPW outlining flooding problems in the town. Jonathon Condell, Assistant Engineer stated that a survey has been carried out at this stage and that the matter is progressing.

It was noted that a fee proposal has been received from the ESB for works to be carried out to an ESB pole in the Beech Hill College area.

It was noted that a road marking team will be undertaking works in the town when the weather conditions improve.

The Town Clerk confirmed that a letter has been issued to Dunnes Stores asking them to expedite the painting works to the exterior of their building.

**4. Manager's Orders**

The Members noted Manager's Orders numbered 213/11 – 216/11.

## **5. Correspondence**

The Members noted the following correspondence:-

- Letter dated 21<sup>st</sup> December 2011 from Leo Kinsella, Health Service Executive regarding the Minor Injury Unit at Monaghan Hospital. On the proposal of Cllr Mary Carroll seconded by Cllr Donal Sherry it was agreed to acknowledge receipt of the letter and to express the Members disappointment with the content of same.
- Email dated 5<sup>th</sup> January 2012 from Hilary Knight, Assistant to the Canadian Ambassador to Ireland confirming that the Ambassador, his wife and two guests from Newfoundland will be delighted to attend the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Monaghan Town on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2012. The Members welcomed this correspondence and noted that an event will also be taking place in Sliabh Beagh, Knockatallon on St. Patricks night. All Members are invited to attend.
- Acknowledgement letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> January 2012 from the Office of the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation regarding the vacated former Customs and Excise Building, Armagh Road, Monaghan. The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. David Maxwell confirmed that he has asked Phil Hogan TD, Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government to visit the premises on the day that he will be performing the official opening of the new Fire Station.
- Acknowledgement letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2012 from the Office of the Minister for Social Protection regarding Notices of Motion in relation to the Fuel Allowance and CE funding.
- Acknowledgement letter dated 30<sup>th</sup> December 2011 from the Office of the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government in connection with motor tax.
- IBAL Anti-Litter League 2011 Results. On the proposal of Cllr. David Maxwell seconded by Cllr. Seán Conlon it was agreed to send a copy of the report to the premises listed on the report. It was also agreed to congratulate Mc Donalds and Monaghan Shopping Centre on maintaining a Grade A mark in the League. The Members praised the outdoor staff on the work they carry out throughout the town in keeping it clean. On the proposal of Cllr. Robbie Gallagher seconded by Cllr. David Maxwell it was agreed to write to the National Roads Authority asking them to consider increasing signage on the National Roads as part of a campaign to increase litter awareness.
- Letters of support received from various Local Authorities in relation to Notices of Motions adopted at the Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2011 in relation to (a) fast tracking the Criminal Justice Community Service Bill 2011 and (b) calling on the Government to desist from introducing additional taxes.

## **6. Planning Applications**

The Members noted Planning Applications numbered MT 11/21 – MT 11/22.

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

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr David Maxwell stated that the next meeting of St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee will take place on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2012 at 6pm.

It was noted that the Part V111 Planning Application in respect of the construction of a new roadway, as part of the Phase 2 works for the N54-R188 Monaghan Town Link Road, linking the Cortolvin Road with the Cootehill Road has been withdrawn as the National Roads Authority have requested that a traffic audit be carried out in relation to the project. David Fallon, A/County Manager stated that as soon as the NRA's requirements are met the process will be recommenced.

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

The Members noted the Minutes of the Planning Sub-Committee Meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2012. As a number of the Members of the Planning Sub-Committee could not attend the meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2012 it was agreed to rearrange a meeting for Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2012 at 5pm in the Market House, Monaghan. It was noted that presentations by two Sculptors will take place on the proposal for the development of a Memorial in Monaghan town to commemorate the Famine. Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha was also invited to attend the meeting.

The Members agreed with the Planning Sub-Committee's recommendation not to proceed with the purchase of a plot of ground measuring 0.1164ha (0.287 acres) at Canal View, Monaghan from H. Boylan & Sons.

The Members agreed that the Town Engineer examine other proposals for an alternative access to the lands at Mullaghcroghery.

The Members agreed with the proposal to place a yellow box road marking in front of a dwellinghouse at New Terrace, Monaghan following representations made by a resident of the area.

## **9. Roads/Housing**

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

- Knockroe Glen/Mullaghmatt/Clones Road – Potholes
- Dublin Street – Manhole lids loose
- Ramps very sharp – entry to Harps carpark
- Belgium Park – ivy on wall – wall has collapsed.
- “No Drinking” signs to be replaced following the completion of works in The Diamond.
- Dog Fouling – Footpaths/streets
- Railings broken – Old Cross Square
- Public lighting required in Town Council yard at rear of offices
- Fencing damaged – Ballybay Road

- Pedestrian Crossing – Glen Road – this matter is being dealt with by the North Monaghan Road Area Engineer.
- Blocked gulleys – throughout town
- Traffic islands – improvement works required.

It was noted that the Town Council are awaiting their Road Grant allocation for 2012.

It was agreed to examine the introduction of bye-laws to prohibit skateboarding in The Diamond area. It was also agreed to examine the possibility of providing an alternative location for skateboarders.

It was noted that dangerous trees at Rope Walk will be removed in the near future.

Cllr. Robbie Gallagher paid tribute to Paddy McCabe, Shopkeeper, Pound Hill on his constant work in regularly clearing away litter in the vicinity of his shop and surrounding area.

#### **10. Telecommunication Mast at Killygoan**

The Members look forward to the removal of the Telecommunication Mast at Killygoan. It was noted that works have recently been carried out to the Mast without notification to the Town Council. Marie Deighan, Town Clerk undertook to check out the matter.

#### **11. Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme.**

It was agreed to invite Jan O’Sullivan, TD, Minister of State, Department of Environment, Community and Local Government with special responsibility for Housing and Planning to visit and see the good works which have been carried out to the Mullaghmatt Estate under the Remedial Works Scheme. It was also agreed to write to the local Oireachtas Members asking them to request Minister O’Sullivan to honour her predecessors undertaking to visit the estate.

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

Cllr. Seán Conlon expressed disappointment in which finishing works have been carried out to the Monument in Old Cross Square. Cllr. Conlon stated that the integrity of the structure which is the oldest piece of built heritage in the town should have been constructed of older salvaged material rather than new limestone. David Fallon, A/County Manager expressed the view that natural weathering will give conformity to the appearance of the Monument in time. Following a discussion and on the proposal of Cllr. Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr. Paul McGeown it was agreed to seek an opinion from the Heritage Council Section on the works. Cllr. Conlon called on having the Monument restored as close as possible to its original state.

The Members noted that the original steps at the front of the Courthouse and the harp symbol over the front door of the Courthouse are no longer in place following the refurbishment works to the building. On the proposal of Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha seconded by Cllr. David Maxwell it was agreed to write to the Courts Service, Monaghan enquiring about the present location of the original steps and harp symbol.

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

Cllr. Donal Sherry stated that there are still two houses outstanding in the Killygoan area where works to the windows/doors have not yet been resolved to the satisfaction of the tenants.

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

It was noted that no planning application has yet been lodged by the Developers for the reinstatement of the car park at Rooskey. Cllr. Seán Conlon stated that the Sinn Féin Party are in constant contact with the Developer regarding the unfinished site and reported that the developer would be lodging a planning application on the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

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

(a) “Monaghan Town Football Club is a progressive Junior Soccer Club. It caters for underage boys and girls, also currently boasting A and B Senior teams. The Club has a development committee, who are charged with fundraising for their own playing facilities. Last year, the Club raised €25,000 when they ran a “Take me Out” and this year they hope to replicate this success with “Blind Date”. Given the efforts of the fundraising committee and community buy in, the Club now call on Monaghan Town Council to identify suitable lands for lease or sale, which could then be developed and so that the Club could finally have a home to call their own”.

Cllr. Hagan

On the proposal of Cllr Thomas Hagan seconded by Cllr Paul McGeown it was agreed to adopt the above Notice of Motion.

(b) “In an effort to overcome the considerable delays in issuing of medical cards and subsequent distress to applicants, that this Council seeks from Minister of State, Roisin Shortall TD and the Department of Health a reinstatement of the localised medical health card administration process”.

Cllrs. Uí Mhurchadha, Conlon, Sherry, McGeown

On the proposal of Cllr Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr Seamus Treanor it was agreed to adopt the above Notice of Motion.

© “That this Council calls on the FG/Labour Government to reverse immediately the cuts in the Home Insulation Grants in the interests of homeowners and the retention of jobs in the construction industry”.

Cllr. Gallagher

On the proposal of Cllr Robbie Gallagher seconded by Cllr Thomas Hagan it was agreed to adopt the above Notice of Motion and to circulate it to all Local Authorities.

## **16. Ceisteanna/Questions**

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

(a) In the context of water quality and compliance towards the lowered lead parametric value of 10ug/l which will be effective from 2013, is this Local Authority satisfied that public mains water quality has been assessed for lead compliance by way of monitoring and surveys as per the EPA Drinking Water Advice Note No. 1 and that the lowered requirements will be met?

*The EPA Advice Note No. 1 advises: Water Service Authorities (a) to carry out a historical review of past DW results and (b) to carry out a Lead Survey.*

*(a) Water Services carried out an historical review of past results in October 2008. Certain audit samples had lead analysed as a matter of course when carrying out other metal analysis, but was not reported as this parameter was not required to be reported. This review showed up potential problems in Smithboro, Glaslough and Monaghan. A supply with lead concentrations >10 micrograms/litre requires further assessment, i.e. carry out a Lead Survey.*

*(b) Water Services since this review have commenced and completed lead surveys in Glaslough, Monaghan and Smithboro. Of these Smithboro is completed. A program to complete surveys of the remaining towns and villages throughout the county will be developed in 2012.*

*However from our work with the Water Conservation Project and the capture/recording of our mains infrastructure Monaghan County Council does not have any known Lead distribution mains in use in the public water supply (there are known lead service pipes in certain areas, e.g. Belgium Park, Monaghan).*

### **Notification of Public**

*A public information notice was placed in the Northern Standard newspaper on the 30<sup>th</sup> October 2008 to inform the public on the issue of lead water pipes.*

### **Cllr Robbie Gallagher asked:**

(b) What is the update position in relation to the proposed works arising out of the recent accessibility audit carried out on the streets of Monaghan town?

*A Contractor is on site presently carrying out works including dropping kerbs and laying tactile paving at road crossings; removing obstacles from the footpath at disabled bays; where possible given local conditions, dropping kerbs along the length of disabled bays; provide pedestrian crossings at North Road and at Hospital entrance at High Street. The disabled bays are installed and are awaiting power from ESB. The tactile paving element is complete also and the contractor is now commencing work on the disabled bays.*

© Would the Council outline the unfinished estates that will be exempt from the newly introduced €100 Household Charge?

*The legislation provides that an owner of residential property which is situated in an unfinished estate, within the meaning contained in the Local Government (Household Charges) Act 2011 on the liability date (1<sup>st</sup> January) is entitled to a waiver from payment of the Household Charge in respect of that property for that year. Such persons must complete the declaration to claim the waiver. See list of unfinished estates attached.*

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

- (a) “That this Council, in the wake of recent commentary regarding the relationship between local elected representatives and our new communities, expresses its revulsion at any racist remarks or actions; that this Council re-commits itself to the inclusive representation of all residents within this local authority; and that a copy of this motion be circulated to all local authorities in Ireland”.

South Dublin County Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

### **18. Conferences**

(a) TGR Seminars – Training Workshops for Councillors – “The Rise of the Creative Individual – Master Strategies for Top Professional Achievement in 2012” – Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise – 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2012 – (approx. cost €630)

(b) TJK Conferences Ltd – Local Government Seminar for Councillors – Patrick Punch Hotel, Limerick – 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> January 2012 – (approx cost €660)

© Drogheda Borough Council Symposium hosted by the John Boyle O’Reilly Society of Ireland – “From the Earth a Cry” – Westcourt Hotel, Drogheda – 29<sup>th</sup> January 2012 – (approx. cost €185)

(d) Celtic Conferences – “Understanding EU Funding and Functions” – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Cork – 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> January 2012 – (approx. cost €880).

(e) Smart Marketing Ltd – Professional Development Conference for Councillors – “The Role of the Council in encouraging and supporting the development of Enterprise through Tourism and Sport” – The Abbey Court Hotel, Nenagh – 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> January 2012 – (approx. cost €630).

(f) Energy Action Conference 2012 – “Health Impacts on the Fuel Poor” – Dublin Castle – 6<sup>th</sup> February 2012 – (approx. cost €195).

(g) Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland Spring Seminar 2012 – “Local Government – Renewal and Development” – Kilmore Hotel, Cavan – 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> February 2012 – (approx. cost €370).

It was agreed that Cllrs David Maxwell, Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha and Donal Sherry attend the above Conference. It was agreed that if any Member wishes to attend the Conference that they should contact the Town Clerk who will make the necessary booking.

(h) Mid-West Regional Authority 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference 2012 – “Economic Development in the Regions: The Way Forward” – Falls Hotel, Ennistymon – 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> February 2012 – (approx. cost €670).

(i) TGR Seminars Training Workshop for Councillors – “80/20 Leadership – Helping busy Councillors become effective leaders” – Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport – 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> February 2012 – (approx. cost €650).

(j) Waterford County Council – “Supports and Developments in Mental Health Care” – Park Hotel, Dungarvan – 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> February 2012 – (approx. cost €780).

(k) Colmcille Heritage Trust 23<sup>rd</sup> Winter School – “ Can the Tourism Industry Lead Economic Recovery in Ireland” – The Colmcille Heritage Centre, Gartan. Letterkenny – 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> February 2012 – (approx. cost €50).

On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Mary Carroll it was agreed that Cllr Robbie Gallagher attend Conference (k).

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

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:- Nuclear Free Local Authorities All Ireland Forum Seminar - Wexford – attended by Cllr David Maxwell.

## **19. Any Other Business**

On the proposal of Cllr Thomas Hagan seconded by Cllr Robbie Gallagher it was agreed that Monaghan County Council extend an invitation to all ex-firemen to attend the official opening of the new Fire Station Headquarters at Annahagh.

It was agreed to hold the March Monthly Meeting of the Town Council on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2012.

The Members of the Council praised the success which the Christmas lighting and free parking initiative had on the town over the Christmas period. It was noted that the town was very busy over the festive period and that there was a good atmosphere in the town. The Members thanked everyone who shopped locally and hoped that the traders benefited from the trade. The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. David Maxwell congratulated the Council on putting the funding into the Christmas lighting scheme every year in order to improve the town.



The Members condemned the recent vandalism carried out to the St. Davnets Hospital Church.

## **20. Sympathy/Congratulations**

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:-

- Town Council Staff member, Donna Toal on the death of her uncle, Seamus Connolly, Annyalla.
- Eileen Conlon, Rakeeragh on the death of her uncle, Pat Macklin, Blackrock, Co. Louth and formerly Crosshue, Monaghan.

A vote of congratulations was extended to the following:-

- Chloe and Stacey Cagney on their achievement in a major Line Dancing Competition held recently in America. Congratulations was also extended to their tutor, Kathleen Kavanagh of the Shuffling Boots Line Dancing Club.
- All involved in the organisation of a recent charity football match which was held at the Monaghan Harps venue over the Christmas period. It was noted that the proceeds of the event went to local charities.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Dated this the 20<sup>th</sup> day of February 2012

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