

Comhairle Baile Mhuineacháin Monaghan Town Council

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 20th July 2009 at 5.00pm in the Council Chamber of Monaghan Town Council, Town Hall, 1 Dublin Street, Monaghan.

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Seán Conlon

Present: Cllrs. Mary Carroll, Robbie Gallagher, 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 Miriam Mc Mahon, Assistant Staff Officer.

Attendance of Representatives from the Psychiatric Nurses Association

At the outset the Cathaoirleach Cllr Seán Conlon welcomed Deputy Caoimhghín O Caoláin and Deputy Seymour Crawford to the Meeting. An apology for inability to attend was received from Deputy Margaret Conlon TD and Deputy Rory O' Hanlon TD.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Des Kavanagh, General Secretary, Psychiatric Nurses Association and invited him to give an overview on the impact of the cuts on the Mental Health Services. Helen Warman addressed the Members of the impact on Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Services and Ciaran Clerkin reported on the impact on the community teams in adult psychiatry.

The Members noted that the HSE have imposed cuts on travel and staff replacement which is a source of great concern to the Psychiatric Nurses Association and that members of the PNA have pointed out the impact these cuts present for patient care. It was also stated that the nurses have noted an absolute failure of HSE managers to notify service users and the general public of the nature and implications of these cuts.

On the proposal of Cllr Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr Robbie Gallagher it was agreed to send a letter to John Moloney TD, Minister of State at Department of Health and Children seeking a meeting with him regarding cut-backs to the Mental Health Services in the Monaghan and Cavan areas. It was also agreed to raise awareness of the situation with all Local Authorities in Monaghan and Cavan.

Correspondence dated the 15th July 2009 from Darragh Scully, Private Secretary to the Minister for Health and Children was noted concerning mental health services in the Monaghan area.

Deputies O Caoláin and Crawford thanked the Members of Monaghan Town Council for inviting them to the meeting and assured the PNA that they would do everything they could to help.

The Members thanked the representatives of the Psychiatric Nurses Association for attending the meeting and outlining the current situation in relation to the cut-backs to Mental Health Services in the area.

The Representatives from the PNA left the Council Chamber.

Deputies O' Caolain and Crawford were asked by the Members to remain in the Chamber to contribute to a discussion on the transfer of Medical Services from Monaghan General Hospital which is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 22nd July 2009.

Cllr. Maxwell stated that as a request for a meeting with Taoiseach Brian Cowen had been declined that Members of Monaghan County Council have planned to travel to Dublin to hand in a letter of protest to the Taoiseach. It was noted that a Book of Condolence will be available for signing outside the Hospital and that a public rally will take place on Wednesday evening. Deputies O' Caolain and Crawford commended the Town Council on their efforts they had taken throughout the campaign to try and preserve services. Deputies O' Caolain and Crawford left the Council Chamber.

It was agreed to deal with item No. 17 on the Agenda and the Members welcomed Adrian Hughes, Senior Planner, Dew Hurley, Senior Executive Planner and Toirleach Gourley, Senior Executive Planner, Monaghan County Council.

17 Consideration of County Manager's Report dated 10th July 2009 regarding proposed Variation (No 14) to re-zone lands from Industry and Employment Use and Higher Density Housing to Town Centre Use at Kilnacloy Monaghan.

The Members noted the County Managers report dated the 10th July 2009 in response to a proposed variation to the Monaghan County Development Plan 2007 –2013 which incorporates the Development Plan for Monaghan Town. The proposed Variation relates to the re-zoning of lands at Kilnacloy, Monaghan from Industry and Employment and Higher Density Uses to Town Centre Uses. It was noted that the reasons for the proposed Variation are as follows:-

1. To facilitate the expanding employment, retailing and administrative functions of Monaghan Town.
2. To facilitate the role and retail function of Monaghan Town as a hub and county town.
3. The site is located on the edge of the town centre in close proximity to existing retail development and would represent a logical extension of the town centre.

It was also noted that the proposed variation was advertised on 28th May 2009 and that six submissions were received. Toirleach Gourley, Planning Officer presented the report to the Members and assured them that any development of a retail nature would be rigorously examined to determine whether or not there would be capacity for more retail outlets in the town and whether such a proposal would have a detrimental effect on retail trade in the town centre. Following a lengthy discussion on the pros and cons of the proposed Variation it was agreed to adjourn the meeting to consider the matter. The meeting was resumed and the Cathaoirleach, Cllr Seán Conlon sought a proposal to proceed with the Variation of the Development Plan as recommended in the County Manager's report. There, been no proposal to approve the change of zoning, the Cathaoirleach deemed the process terminated.

Adrian Hughes, Drew Hurley and Toirleach Gourley left the Council Chamber.

1. Confirmation of First Statutory Annual General Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on 15th of June 2009.

On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Mary Carroll it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the First Statutory Annual General Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 15th June 2009.

2. Confirmation of June Monthly Meeting held on 15th June 2009

On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Thomas Hagan it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the June Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 15th June 2009.

3. Confirmation of Special Meeting held on 13th July 2009

On the proposal of Cllr Mary Carroll seconded by Cllr Robbie Gallagher it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 13th July 2009 in relation to the closure of acute medical services at Monaghan General Hospital.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

It was agreed to arrange a meeting of the Housing Sub-Committee in the near future and it was suggested that Local Authority Resident Associations be given an opportunity to meet with the Housing Committee once a year to have specific issues addressed.

Cllr Paul McGeown congratulated all involved with the organising of the FAI Annual Conference held in Monaghan Town recently which was a great success.

The Members welcomed the re-commencement of works at Monaghan Courthouse and noted that the works will be completed by July 2010.

It was noted that there are mixed reactions to the new Traffic arrangements put in place on a trial basis on the North Road. The Town Engineer stated that he is awaiting a formal response from the Gardaí on the matter. The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Seán Conlon asked the Engineer to liaise also with the Planning and Infrastructure Committee of the Monaghan Chamber of Commerce on the issue.

5. Manager's Orders

The Members noted Manager's Orders numbered 134/09 – 172/09 and wished those recently allocated dwellings in the new housing estate at Cluain Lorcáin many years of happiness in their new homes.

6. Correspondence

The Members noted the following correspondence:-

- Acknowledgement dated 24th June 2009 from the Office of the Taoiseach regarding a motion adopted by the Members of Monaghan Town Council concerning compensation for victims of institutional abuse.
- Acknowledgement dated 25th June 2009 from the Office of the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform regarding compensation for victims of institutional abuse.
- Letter dated 25th June 2009 from the Department of Health and Children regarding the cervical cancer vaccine. The Members expressed disappointment with the contents of the letter.
- Letter dated 29th June 2009 from the Department of Transport regarding a reduction in road grant funding.
- Letter dated 24th June 2009 from the Office of the Minister for Education and Science regarding Irish Summer Colleges.
- Letter dated 30th June 2009 from the Office of the Minister for Finance regarding Phase 2 of the Mullaghmat Remedial Work Scheme
- Acknowledgement dated 23rd June 2009 from the Office of the Minister for Health and Children concerning the provision of Mental Health Services in Monaghan.
- Letter dated 26th June 2009 from Brendan Smith TD, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food regarding Mental Health Services in Monaghan.

- Letter dated 29th June 2009 from Margaret Conlon, TD regarding the downgrading of Mental Health Services in the area.
- Letter dated 29th June 2009 from Dr. Rory O' Hanlon, TD regarding the downgrading of Mental Health Services in Cavan and Monaghan.
- Letter dated 24th June 2009 from the Office of the Minister for Defence regarding the use of the football pitch by Monaghan Town Football Club at the Monaghan Military Barracks. Cllr. McGeown stated that he was disappointed with the contents of the letter as there are a lack of football pitches for the young people in the town.
- Letter dated 3rd July 2009 from Dr. Rory O' Hanlon, TD in relation to the football field at Monaghan Military Barracks.
- Letter dated 24th June 2009 from Margaret Conlon, TD regarding the football pitch at Monaghan Military Barracks.
- Letter dated 30th June 2009 from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government regarding the proposed new Headquarters Fire Station in Monaghan Town. The Members welcomed this correspondence and Declan Nelson, County Manager stated that the scheme will be going to tender within the next few weeks.
- Letters of support from various Local Authorities regarding Notice of Motion circulated to all Local Authorities in connection with NCT testing .
- Letter of thanks dated 12th May 2009 from Peggy Mc Mahon, Secretary Monaghan Guild ICA thanking the Members for the contribution of €400 from the Community Grant Scheme.
- Letter dated 15th July 2009 from the Department of Finance regarding Fixed Rate Mortgages.
- Letter dated 15th July 2009 from the Department of Health and Children regarding Mental Health Services in the Monaghan area.
- Letter dated 16th July 2009 from Darragh Scully, Private Secretary to the Minister for Health and Children concerning Monaghan General Hospital.

7. Planning Applications

The Members noted Planning Applications numbered 09/18 – 09/21

8. Business submitted by An Cathaoirleach

No business was submitted by An Cathaoirleach

9. Consideration of Reports of Committees

The Members noted Minutes of the Budget Sub-Committee Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Thursday 16th July 2009 in relation to correspondence received from Monaghan Chamber requesting the Council to consider sponsoring the Local Community Diary on Northern Sound Radio. The Members agreed with the recommendation of the Budget Sub-Committee that the proposal is not best value for money and it was agreed to invite the Chamber Committee to meet with the Budget Sub-Committee in the near future to discuss and explore other avenues as to how the Town Council could support them. It was also agreed to invite Dympna Condra, Tourism Officer to the Meeting.

The Members noted Minutes of a Meeting held in committee on Thursday 16th July 2009 with Youth Organisations with a view to advancing the proposal of a Youth Café for Monaghan Town. The Members noted the recommendation for a Sub-Committee to meet once a month with all youth committees to explore the possibility of seeking short-term lease arrangements with interested parties for a Youth Café in the town.

The Members also noted that a Planning Sub-Committee Meeting was held earlier in the evening and the Members agreed with the recommendation of the Committee to give formal approval to a proposal from the fellow pupils of Michael Hughes at St. Macartan's College, Monaghan to erect a plaque at the play area at Killygoan in memory of Mr. Hughes who lost his life in a tragic drowning accident at Rossmore Park in February 2009.

10. Roads/Housing

Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha raised concerns regarding an increase in the number of robberies in all areas and the fear which this is causing among elderly residents. Cllr Uí Mhurchadha proposed and Cllr Paul McGeown seconded that a letter be issued to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government calling for the restoration of security measure grants for private dwellings, (ie: panic alarms, door locks, etc)

Cllr Thomas Hagan called for play facilities for younger children at the Oriel Way play park. Cllr Hagan also requested that improved security measures be put in place at the park facility. Gareth Mc Mahon, Town Engineer undertook to discuss the matter with the Management of the Family Resource Centre in Mullaghmatt.

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

- Potholes – Mullaghmatt
- Doors of dwellings in Killygoan to be examined
- Weeds – former Army Barracks, Knockaconny.
- Flower bed requested for green area at St. Patricks Terrace.

Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha congratulated Council Staff on the appearance of Peters Lake Park. The Council Staff were complemented on the recent road works and improved pedestrian safety measures undertaken on the Golden Road, Killygoan.

11. Pedestrian Safety

The Members agreed that as a number of pedestrian crossings have been installed during the year in Monaghan town that this item be now removed from the agenda.

12. Telecommunication Mast at Killygoan

The Members signed letters demanding that the antenna attached to the Telecommunication Mast at Killygoan be removed immediately.

13. Mullaghmatt Remedial Scheme

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Seán Conlon announced that Contracts have been signed for work on the next phase of the Mullaghmatt Remedial Scheme. It was noted that permission has not yet been received from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government regarding the utilisation of Town Councils internal capital receipts to fund the works required to private houses in the estate. It was agreed that the Council seek clarification of the exact source of funding utilised to do the remedial works in St. Finians Park in Drogheda. The Members acknowledged the work which former Councillors, Connolly and Toal did in highlighting the issue down through the years.

14. Consideration of Annual Financial Statement for year ended 31st December 2008

The Members noted the Annual Financial Statement for 2008 which showed expenditure and income on the revenue account amounting to €6,871,546 and €6,884,962 respectively. It was also noted that the deficit on the accounts increased by €187,740 from €89,188 at commencement of the year to €276,928 at year end. On the capital account expenditure in 2008 amounted to €5,706,988 and income amounted to €5,074,641 which resulted in a decrease of €632,344 in the credit balance on the account from €4,531,187 at the outset of the year to €3,898,843 at the close of the year. The Members sought clarification on the figures relating to development contributions and consultancy and professional fees.

Declan Nelson, County Manager stated that there will be negotiations with S.I.P.T.U. in relation to cutbacks in overtime and that there may be a re-organisation of weekend/early morning street sweeping in the town.

15. Consideration of over-expenditure for year ended 31st December 2008

It was noted that additional net expenditure occurred in the following programmes:-

Programme 2 - €69,742
Programme 5 - €103,709
Programme 8 - €29,061
Local Government Fund - €29,765

The item of over-expenditure was approved on the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Thomas Hagan. The Members noted the following transfers to/from Reserves:-

A total of (€201,157) was transferred to/from reserves to fund the following:-

Planned Maintenance	€19,897	From Reserves
Rooskey Access Road	(€30,000)	To Reserves
Broadband Communications	(€25,000)	To Reserves
Loan Repayments – Pay Parking	(€59,118)	To Reserves
Public Lighting	€5,000	From Reserves
Peter’s Lake Environmental Improvements	(€40,000)	To Reserves
Bomb Memorial	(€12,000)	To Reserves
Famine Memorial	(€25,000)	To Reserves
Provision of Play Grounds	(€10,000)	To Reserves
Machinery/Plant	(€45,000)	To Reserves
Headquarters for Outdoor Staff	(€60,000)	To Reserves
Loan Repayments – Leisure Complex	(€51,237)	To Reserves
Leisure Complex – Old Balance	(€10,000)	To Reserves
Office Accommodation	(€8,699)	To Reserves

INTER CAPITAL TRANSFERS:-

Capital Contributions – Public Lighting/Footpaths €39,079.43
Capital Contributions – Car Parking (Link Rd Glaslough St to North Road) €71,448.56

16. Consideration of Publication of Proposed Amendments of Parking Control (Pay Parking) Bye-Laws 2006 and Car Park Bye-Laws 2006

The Members noted Map Reference PP/004 and Schedule setting out the following Proposed Amendments to the Pay Parking Bye-laws 2006 and Car Park Bye-laws 2006:-

- North Road – Additional Disabled Space
Reason – Request from the Doctors Surgery along the North Road
- Glaslough Street Car Park – Rearrangement of Car Parking
Reason - The car parking spaces were rearranged after the construction of the Car Park Exit onto North Road opened. Additional Spaces were gained.
- High Street – Rearrangement of Parking Spaces + Additional Disabled Space
Reason – Reduction in car parking spaces due to realignment of the road after the renovation of Aviemore House
- North Road – Relocation of Loading Bay
Reason – To facilitate the new pedestrian crossing on the North Road
- Diamond Centre – Additional Public Spaces
Reason – Monaghan Town Council propose to lease this car park and regulate it with pay parking
- Church Square – Taxi Rank
Reason – To facilitate the Taxi operators within the Town
- Park Street – Additional Disabled Space
Reason – To further facilitate people with disabilities within the Town
- Courthouse Car Park – Additional Spaces
Reason – 2 extra spaces were achieved through the rearrangement of existing spaces
- Courthouse Car Park – 3 No. Casual Trading Spaces
Reason – To facilitate Casual Trading within the Town
- Old Cross Square – Additional Disabled Space
Reason – To further facilitate people with disabilities within the Town
- Temporary Car Park at Mc Nallys – Additional Long Term Spaces
Reason – 35 Additional long term spaces for those working within Monaghan Town to supplement the existing 325 long term spaces throughout the town
- Park Road – Additional double yellow lines and single yellow lines. Also extra car parking spaces will be lined out
Reason – To relieve car-parking congestion for the 2 No. Primary schools on Park Road. This has been done in consultation with the schools who were concerned about Road Safety. The car parking spaces are not to be included as pay parking spaces

On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Robbie Gallagher it was agreed to publish the proposed amendments to the Parking Control (Pay Parking) Bye-Laws 2006 and Car Park Bye-Laws 2006.

18 Considerations of approval to dispose of the Freehold Interest in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

On the proposal of Cllr Mary Carroll seconded by Cllr David Maxwell it was agreed to approve to dispose of the freehold interest in 63 Killyconnigan, Monaghan as per notice dated 2nd July 2009.

19 Appointment of Members to Monaghan Leisure Complex Committee

Cllr Mary Carroll was proposed by Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Thomas Hagan.

Cllr Paul McGeown was proposed by Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha seconded by Cllr Donal Sherry.

Cllr Seamus Treanor was proposed by Cllr Robbie Gallagher seconded by Cllr David Maxwell.

Cllr Robbie Gallagher was proposed by Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Seamus Treanor.

20 Nomination of Representative to Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd.

On the proposal of Cllr Mary Carroll seconded by Cllr Seán Conlon it was agreed that Cllr David Maxwell be nominated as the representative to Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd.

21. Notices of Motion:-

(a) “That Monaghan Town Council make immediate adjustments, if not already done so, to rents paid by tenants who have been impacted by the recently introduced Income Levy”

Cllrs. Sherry, Uí Mhurchadha, McGeown, Conlon

On the proposal of Cllr Donal Sherry seconded by Cllr Paul McGeown it was agreed to adopt the above Notice of Motion. It was also agreed to discuss the matter further at the next meeting of the Housing Sub-Committee.

(b) “This Council requests the County Registrar’s Office to carry out a review of allocation of electorate to Polling Stations in the Monaghan Urban Area. The purpose of this review would be to look at the feasibility of ensuring that, where possible, the Polling Station is that closest to where the voter lives rather than the current practice of allocating Polling Stations on the basis of alphabetical order”.

Cllrs. Carroll, Hagan, Maxwell

On the proposal of Cllr Mary Carroll seconded by Cllr David Maxwell it was agreed to adopt the above Notice of Motion. It was also agreed to issue a letter to the County Registrar’s office seeking to have regularised those voting locations in Monaghan Town that are not wheelchair accessible.

22. Questions

Cllrs. Sherry, Uí Mhurchadha, McGeown and Conlon will ask:

(a) As a result of Government cutbacks to this Council’s annual allocation of the Local Government Fund, what impact will occur on the 2009 Annual Budget agreed by this Council last December? From the original Government allocation to this Council of €1,224,191 as committed last December, by what amount has that figure been reduced?

In December 2008 the Local Government Finance Section notified Monaghan Town Council of a Local Government Fund of €1,224,191. In June 2009 Monaghan Town Council were notified that the Local Government Fund has been reduced by €39,397 (3.2%) to €1,184,794.

(b) What are the reasons for the ongoing delay in the implementation of the Monaghan Town Main Drainage Scheme Collection System?

The “Monaghan Town Collection Network” contract provides for the extension, replacement and upgrading of the sewer network in Monaghan and includes the construction of eight pumping stations with ancillary buildings and site works. The contract further provides for the construction of new foul/combined and surface water sewers, (circa 20km) and the refurbishment of existing sewers as well as the construction of new pumping stations and rising mains in the town centre and extension of the network to surrounding environs. The proposed scheme is included in the current Water Services Investment Programme at an estimated cost of €27m. Site investigations and Utility Survey Contracts were completed in 2008. At this stage the contract documents are substantially complete by the appointed consultant, T.J. O’ Connor and Associates. Wayleave negotiation/land acquisition or the Part 8 planning process has not commenced to date and will require considerable time and resources to complete. In the interim, Monaghan County Council has made application to the DEHLG to advance an integral element of the main scheme (Advanced Works at Old Cross Square). Planning permission was granted for advance works at Old Cross Square to construct a new pumping station and trunk mains from the main traffic lights to Old Cross Square. This contract, titled Monaghan Town Collection Network – Advance Works Contract No. 2 is designed to alleviate frequent incidences of flooding at the junction of Dawson Street/Glen Road/Market Road by providing for the construction of a new pumping station and upgrading of part of the sewer network. Monaghan County Council formally submitted the relevant contract documents and sought DEHLG approval to proceed with the tender process in August 2008. To date, Monaghan County Council has not received Advance Works contract document approval. The estimated cost of the advance works is €4m.

On the proposal of Cllr. Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr David Maxwell it was agreed to issue a letter to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government requesting that the long awaited Monaghan Town Drainage Scheme Collection System be advanced urgently to the next stage.

© What is the up-to-date position regarding the progress of the realignment of road from Old Cross Square to Mall Road?

We are awaiting delivery of the advanced warning sign. When received we will implement the new layout

23. Resolutions from other Local Authorities:-

(a) “Royalties should be reintroduced on oil and gas production in order to guarantee state revenue from the exploitation of our natural resources”.

Macroom Town Council

The Members noted correspondence in relation to the above Resolution. Cllr David Maxwell proposed and Cllr Mary Carroll seconded the above Resolution.

Cllr Seán Conlon proposed that a letter of support be sent to the Shell To Sea Protest Group commending them for putting on to a national platform the issue of the exploitation of natural resources. This was seconded by Cllr Paul Mc Geown. Following a discussion it was agreed that a vote be taken on Cllr Conlon’s proposal which resulted as follows :

In favour of Cllr Conlon’s proposal – Conlon, Sherry, McGeown, Uí Mhurchadha (4)

Against Cllr. Conlon’s proposal – Gallagher, Treanor, Maxwell, Carroll, Hagan (5)

The Cathaoirleach declared his proposal lost.

(b) “Passage West Town Council request all Town Councils in Ireland to instruct their IPB delegate to vote only for sitting Councillors for directorships in IPB, and that you inform this Town Council of the outcome of your consideration of this motion”.

Passage West Town Council

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

© “That this Town Council calls on the Government to halt the issuing of any new taxi or hackney licenses and return this power to Local Government”

Portlaoise Town Council

On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Seán Conlon it was agreed to mark the above Resolution read.

24. Conferences

(a) Third Sector Forum – “Traveller Enterprise and Employment” – Dublin Hilton Airport Hotel – 22nd July 2009 – (approx. cost €260)

(b) Parnell Summer School 2009 – “Leisure and Recreation in Ireland” – Avondale House, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow – 9th – 14th August 2009 – (approx cost €1338)

© Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland 96th Annual Conference 2009 – Gleneagle Hotel Killarney – 10th – 12th September 2009 – (approx. cost €890)

(d) Benedict Kiely Literary Weekend 2009 – Strule Arts Centre, Omagh – 10th September – 13th September 2009 – (approx. cost €365)

Cllr Seán Conlon proposed that the Town Council suspend participation in all Conferences from now until the end of 2009. This was seconded by Cllr Mary Carroll. Cllr David Maxwell stated that two Members of the Council were nominated at the Annual General Meeting as the Town Councils representatives to the AMAI Conference which is to be held in September.

Cllr Mary Carroll proposed the following amendment to Cllr Conlon’s proposal – “That the Council attend no more conferences between now and the end of the year apart from the forthcoming AMAI Conference in September”. This was seconded by Cllr Donal Sherry. Cllr Robbie Gallagher stated that the proposals were unfair to the Members of the Council who are not AMAI delegates and proposed that the Councils Conference budget for the remainder of the year be reduced by half so that it would allow Councillors to attend conferences if they wished. This was seconded by Cllr David Maxwell.

Following a discussion the Cathaoirleach withdrew his initial proposal in favour of Cllr Carrolls amendment. A vote was then taken on Cllr Carroll’s proposal which resulted as follows:-

In favour of Cllr Carroll’s proposal – Carroll, Uí Mhurchadha, McGeown, Sherry (4)

Against Cllr Carroll’s proposal – Gallagher, Maxwell, Hagan, Treanor (4)

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Seán Conlon used his casting vote which resulted as follows:-

In favour of Cllr Carroll’s proposal- (5)

Against Cllr Carroll’s proposal – (4).

Cllr Carroll’s proposal was carried.

25. Any Other Business

Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha proposed that the Town Council send the following Motion to the AMAI Annual Conference in September:-

“With the end of Local Authority complement of houses resulting from Part V, Local Authorities should be actively considering the purchase of unsold houses resulting from the economic down-turn”.

26. Sympathy/Congratulations

A vote of congratulations was extended to the following:

- Former Town Council Member, Lorcan McAdam and his wife Barbara on the birth of their baby daughter
- Josephine Duffy, County Registrar, Circuit Court Office, Monaghan on her retirement.

A vote of sympathy was extended to the family of the late Dr Elmo DeHoedt, Tirkeenan former Consultant Anaesthetist at Monaghan General Hospital.

This Concluded the Business of the Meeting.

Dated this the 21st day of September 2009

Cathaoirleach