

Comhairle Baile Mhuineacháin
Monaghan Town Council

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 19th July 2010 at 5.00pm in the Council Chamber of Monaghan Town Council, Town Hall, 1 Dublin Street, Monaghan.

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Robbie Gallagher.

Present: Cllrs. Mary Carroll, Seán Conlon, 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 Sinead Tibby, Clerical Officer.

An apology for inability to attend was received from Cllr Thomas Hagan.

Gary Keenan attended the meeting as an observer.

At the outset the Cathaoirleach, Cllr Robbie Gallagher extended a vote of sympathy to the families and friends of the eight members of the Donegal community who were killed recently in a two car crash. A minutes silence was held.

1. Confirmation of June Monthly Meeting held on 21st June 2010.

On the proposal of Cllr Donal Sherry seconded by Cllr David Maxwell it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the June Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 21st June 2010.

2. Confirmation of Annual General Meeting held on 21st June 2010.

On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Seán Conlon it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 21st June 2010.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

Cllr Seán Conlon called for the removal of the barrier at the rear of the Town Council offices to encourage more pedestrians to use Dublin Street. The County Manager stated that a legal agreement has yet to be signed between the Town Council and the owner of a development in the area. Following a discussion it was agreed that "Pedestrian access to Dublin Street" signs be erected in the area.

Cllr Uí Mhurchadha welcomed the recent pruning of trees and it was noted that the overgrown footpath on the Clones road is been dealt with by the Town Council's Horticulturist.

It was agreed to write again to An Post regarding the removal of a post box at Dunnes Stores.

Cllr Donal Sherry stated that he met with Mr Vincent Duffy, Health Service Executive Ambulance Services Operations Officer for the Monaghan area regarding incidences where ambulances had difficulties locating housing estates in Monaghan Town. Cllr Sherry stated that he outlined four cases to Mr. Duffy and he felt that there will be a satisfactory outcome in this matter.

Gareth Mc Mahon, Town Engineer stated that the Council are relying on the goodwill of a landowner to provide the Council with a site for the placing of a playground in the Coolshannagh/Ballyalbany area.

4. Manager's Orders

The Members noted Manager's Orders numbered 130/10 – 138/10.

5. Correspondence

The Members noted the following correspondence:-

- Letter dated 28th June 2010 from Peadar Morgan, Wildlife & Heritage Centre, Clontibret congratulating Cllr Gallagher on been elected Cathaoirleach of Monaghan Town Council and extending an invitation to the Members to visit the Wildlife and Heritage Centre. The Members expressed appreciation at the good wishes and stated that they would visit the Centre on an individual basis.
- Letter dated 17th June 2010 from the Rehab Group thanking the Members for their nomination for the 36th People of the Year Awards.
- Acknowledgement dated 2nd July 2010 from Inspector P.J. McMorrow, Monaghan Garda Station regarding the Town Council's concerns in relation to "Begging" in parts of the town. It was agreed that a letter be sent to the Gardaí again in this regard.
- Letter dated 18th June 2010 from Liam Mac Daid, Parochial House, Tyholland thanking the Members for their good wishes on his recent appointment as Bishop of the Clogher Diocese.
- Letter dated 15th July 2010 from the Department of Finance regarding Notice of Motion passed by the Members of the Town Council in November 2009.
- Letter dated 7th July 2010 from the Monaghan Neighbourhood Youth Project. The Members congratulated Stephanie Warman and Craig O'Leary who are going to Vietnam on the 23rd July on a two week Youth Volunteer Programme and wished them every success in their venture.

6. Business submitted by An Cathaoirleach

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Robbie Gallagher complimented and acknowledged the effort made by all concerned at the recent Barbeque held at the Rehab Care Centre in Monaghan.

7. Planning Applications

The Members noted Planning Applications numbered MT 10/13 – MT 10/16

8. Considerations of Reports of Committees

The Members noted the Minutes of a Meeting of Monaghan Leisure Complex Committee held on Tuesday 19th January 2010. It was agreed that the Budget Sub-Committee of the Town Council consider setting aside a fund as a joint venture with Monaghan County Council in order to carry out repairs and improvement works, when needed to the Leisure Centre. David Moore, Manager of the Complex and his staff were complimented on the running of the facility.

The Members noted Minutes of a Meeting of the Planning Sub-Committee held on 13th July 2010. It was agreed that a fence be erected around Mousewood Cemetery and a stile be constructed to give access to the cemetery. It was also agreed to erect a plaque on the fence and to erect a small Memorial in Belgium Park to commemorate those who are buried in Mousewood Cemetery.

It was also agreed that a Memorial be erected to commemorate those who died and emigrated as a result of the Great Hunger.

It was noted that a letter of objection to the proposed leasing of Belgium Park Football Field to Monaghan Town Football Club has been received from the Kilnacloy/St Patrick's Tce Residents Association. The County Manager stated that the title deeds of the football field will be examined, legal advice will be sought regarding the leasing of the football field, etc. and a report will be brought before the Members at the September Monthly Meeting.

It was agreed that nominations for the Honorary Freedom of the Town be made in writing to the Town Clerk who will then bring the matter before the Planning Sub-Committee of the Town Council.

9. Roads/Housing

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

- No. 24 Belgium Square – back spouting needs repair
- Additional seating required at Killygoan Play Park
- Road gully to be examined – Pound Hill

The Members welcomed an allocation of €3.91m from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government to Monaghan County Council for the Monaghan Town Sewerage Scheme. It was noted that this work will involve the construction of a waste water pumping station, provision of odour control plant at the Old Cross Square pumping station site and the construction of replacement sewers and ancillary works. These works, when undertaken will alleviate the frequent incidents of flooding from the combined sewer at the junction of Dawson Street/Glen Road/Market Road areas.

It was agreed to defer introducing Mill Street as a one-way system until the major works currently underway in the town centre are completed.

The Members welcomed the recent refurbishment works carried out to the Social Welfare Office in the town.

Cllr. Conlon urged the Members of the Council and the public to make their views known to Monaghan County Council in relation to the route options for the proposed N2 Clontibret to the Border Road Scheme before the deadline for public submissions on the 7th August 2010.

The Town Engineer informed the Members that traffic calming measures are to be installed in Knockroe Glen Housing Estate as part of the planning permission.

It was noted that the Town Council will be contributing to the cost of construction of the road to the new Fire Station Headquarters at Annahagh from the proceeds of the sale of the land to Monaghan County Council for the Fire Station.

10. Telecommunication Mast at Killygoan

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

11. Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme

The Town Engineer informed the Members that a survey has been undertaken to ascertain the heating needs of the fourteen tenants in Mullaghmatt who do not have oil fired central heating. It was noted that ten of the tenants do not wish to proceed with central heating at this stage and four tenants wish to have central heating installed. The County Manager agreed to have the works costed.

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

Gareth Mc Mahon, Town Engineer reported as follows on the above Regeneration Works:-

- Water main element is substantially complete
- New footpaths have been laid in Dublin Street
- All businesses have been facilitated for receipt of deliveries
- Dublin Street will close for a period of one week commencing 16th August 2010 to re-build the road.

It was agreed to write to the ESB requesting them to ensure that all ESB poles and overhead cables in Dublin Street are removed before the end of November to facilitate the erection of the Christmas Lights.

A discussion took place regarding the introduction of a grant scheme to help improve the appearance of buildings in Dublin Street following the completion of the Regeneration Works. It was agreed to bring a proposal before the Members in this regard.

13. Consideration of publication of Proposed Amendments to Parking Control (Pay Parking) Bye-Laws and Car Park Bye-Laws.

The Members noted map reference no. PP-005 and schedule relating to the proposed Amendments of the Bye-Laws.

Cllr Seán Conlon requested double yellow lines in front of the old railway station where currently a loading bay and parking space exists, as a vehicle parked at this location tends to create a pinch on this busy road. Gareth Mc Mahon, Town Engineer undertook to examine the situation.

The Members agreed to publish, as presented, the proposed amendments to the Parking Control (Pay Parking) Bye-Laws and Car Park Bye-Laws as per Schedule and Map Reference No. PP005.

14. Questions

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

(a) In an effort to reduce late night disturbance at weekends in the residential area adjacent to Peter's Lake, will this Council agree to meet with An Garda Síochana and relevant businesses with the view to re-assessing previous commitments that crowd control and associated nuisances would be tackled through a multi-stakeholder approach?

On the proposal of Cllr. Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr. Donal Sherry it was agreed that a letter be issued to the Gardaí setting out the Members concerns in relation to the above question. It was also agreed to place the question on the agenda for the next meeting of Monaghan Town Joint Policing Committee.

Cllr Robbie Gallagher asked:-

(b) Location: Killyconnigan Road (off the Clones Road) – leads to cul-de-sac.

Would the Council remove the weeds which are growing on the road and footpath, also repair the drop in the road at the same location?

The Killyconnigan and Cortolvin areas have been recently targeted for weed killing by Monaghan Town Council ground staff.

© Would the Council extend the footpath, which leads from the front row of houses at Mullaghmatt to the Horseshoe Bridge at the same location in the interest of road safety?

A Part VIII Planning Application has recently been lodged by Monaghan Town Council to relocate the existing wall and provide a footpath at this location. The works will be carried out as part of the remedial scheme.

(d) Would the Council examine the footpath which leads from Traffic Lights to Dunnes Stores as it seems to have sank to one side and as a result leaves walking on it difficult?

This footpath was re-laid by Monaghan Town Council staff last year. The problem arises because of the very poor nature of the ground in this area. Monaghan Town Council will investigate ways to permanently resolve this issue.

15. Resolutions from other Local Authorities:-

(a) "In view of the reopening of the Head Shop in Wexford, after only closing down for some days, I call on this Government to adopt the Labour Party Bill which would mean that specific planning permission would be required for the change of use of a premises to open a Head Shop as a further measure to strengthen the law in this area".

Wexford Borough Council

The Members supported the above Resolution.

(b) "That this Council views Vehicle Registration Tax as an unjust tax and calls on the Government to make immediate plans for its abolition".

Donegal County Council

The Members marked the above Resolution read.

© “This Council calls on the County Manager not to sign or renew any contracts with Veolia, Veolia Water, Veolia Water Ireland and Veolia Environment, and implement a policy of ensuring that all multinational companies that tender for projects in Donegal have a clear ethical record”.

Donegal County Council

The Members supported the above Resolution.

(d) “Macroom Town Council notes with concern recent attempts to downgrade and dissolve democratically elected Local Authorities/Town Councils throughout the country, under the current “Local Government Reform Proposals”. Accordingly Macroom Town Council requests the Minister of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Government to cease with immediate effect all proposals to reduce or dissolve democratically elected Local Authorities/Town Councils”.

Macroom Town Council

The Members marked the above Resolution read.

(e) “That Clonmel Borough Council calls on the Government and the Minister for Health to disband the dysfunctional Health Service Executive”.

Clonmel Borough Council

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

(f) The Members noted Resolution from Killarney Town Council regarding the Fianna Fáil submission to the Government White Paper on Local Government Reform. The Members marked the Resolution read.

16. Conferences:-

(a) The John Hewitt International Summer School – “Back to Uncertainty: Considering Other Possibilities” – Marketplace Theatre and Arts Centre, Armagh – 26th – 30th July 2010 – (approx. cost €670)

(b) The Parnell Summer School 2010 – “The Role of Media in Politics and Society” – Avondale House and Forest Park, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow – 8th – 13th August 2010 – (approx. cost €1042)

© Benedict Kiely Literary Weekend 2010 – “The Shortest Way Home” – Strule Arts Centre Townhall Square, Omagh – 9th – 12th September 2010 – (approx. cost €360)

(d) Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland 97th Annual Conference – “Local Government for the Future” – Inishowen Gateway Hotel, Buncrana, Co. Donegal – 9th – 11th September 2011 – (approx. cost €500)

It was agreed that the two delegates to the AMAI, Cllr. David Maxwell and Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha attend the above Conference. On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Mary Carroll it was agreed that Cllr Thomas Hagan attend the above Conference. It was also agreed that if any member wishes to attend the AMAI Conference that they should forward their name to the Town Clerk.

(e) A Taste of West Cork Food Festival International Food Conference – “Food for the Future – Can Ireland feed itself?” – West Cork Hotel, Skibbereen, Co. Cork – 11th September 2010 – (approx. cost €790)

17. Any Other Business

Cllr Seamus Treanor called for a traffic calming measure to be introduced on the Old Armagh Road.

It was noted that the next meeting of Monaghan Town Joint Policing Committee will take place on Wednesday 8th September 2010 at 6.00p.m.

Cllr. Uí Mhurchadha stated that she has received complaints regarding tenants of Local Authority dwellings in the town who were causing annoyance/disturbance to their neighbours. It was noted that the Council will not tolerate such behaviour from tenants which resulted in the lives of their neighbours being placed in hell.

18. Sympathy/Congratulations

The Members passed a vote of congratulations to the following:-

- The Monte Carlo, Glaslough Street on celebrating 40yrs in business
- Monaghan Ladies Senior Football Team on winning the Ulster Championship Final
- Killeevan GFC on the success of their Páirc Fest Music event.
- Aaron Mc Carey on making his debut with Wolverhampton Wanderers.
- Alicia Boylan, Student of St. Louis Secondary School on been selected to represent Ireland in a Track and Field International event
- The organisers of the recent Park Street Fair Party
- Seamus Neely, former Monaghan Town Clerk on his appointment as County Manager with Donegal County Council.
- Monaghan Medal Winners in the Special Olympics.

The Members wished the Monaghan Senior Football Team good luck on Saturday in their back-door game against Kildare and congratulated Tyrone Senior Football Team on winning the Ulster Championship Final.

This Concluded the Business of the Meeting.

Dated this the 20th day of September 2010

