

COMHAIRLE BAILE MHUINEACHÁIN
MONAGHAN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 18th July 2011 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, Paul McGeown, Donal Sherry, Seamus Treanor and Pdraigín Uí Mhurchadha.

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

Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019 (incorporating the Development Plan for the town of Monaghan)

The Members welcomed Toirleach Gourley, Senior Executive Planner, Monaghan County Council to the meeting who presented the following Reports dated July 2011 from the Acting County Manager in respect of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019 (incorporating the Development Plan for the town of Monaghan):-

- Submissions received in response to Issues Paper Consultation
- Submissions received in response to the Strategic Environmental Issues Paper Consultation

Toirleach Gourley requested the Members to examine the reports and invited them to issue directions of a strategic nature to the Manager regarding the preparation of the draft Development Plan. The Members requested that all local organizations be consulted in relation to the Development Plan.

Toirleach Gourley in reply to a question from the Members stated that there is an onus on a developer of a housing estate with over 40 houses to put recreational facilities in place for children.

It was noted that the A/County Manager has recommended in his report that a suitable site be identified for a start-up business centre. Cllr. Seán Conlon requested the Town Clerk to write to the Minister again calling for the transfer of the former Revenue Commissioners Office at Coolshannagh to the local Council and statutory agencies with a view to establishing an enterprise centre on the site so that affordable workspace may be provided for business start-ups. The Members thanked Toirleach Gourley for his presentation. Mr. Gourley left the Council Chamber.

Cllr. Thomas Hagan entered the Council Chamber.

1. Confirmation of June Monthly Meeting held on 20/06/2011

On the proposal of Cllr. Mary Carroll seconded by Cllr Robbie Gallagher it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the June Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 20th June 2011.

2. Confirmation of Annual General Meeting held on 20/06/2011

On the proposal of Cllr. Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr. Thomas Hagan it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 20th June 2011.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Jonathon Condell, Assistant Engineer stated that contact has been made with the developer of Knockroe Glen Housing Estate requesting that the potholes at the entrance to the estate be repaired immediately.

It was noted that no reply has been received as yet from the Office of Public Works regarding Monaghan Courthouse. The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. David Maxwell undertook to telephone the OPW on the matter.

The Members praised the Town Council Gardener and outdoor staff on how well the town looks at present – hanging baskets, floral displays, Peter Lake, etc.

4. Manager's Orders

The Members noted Manager's Orders numbered 87/11 – 103/11.

5. Correspondence

The Members noted the following correspondence:-

- Letter dated the 30th June 2011 from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government stating that an extension of the Town Sewerage Scheme to include the Scotstown Road and Clones Road will not form part of the Department's Water Services Investment Programme 2010-2012. David Fallon, Acting County Manager stated that the priorities for the programme in the County area are the Carrickmacross Water Supply Scheme, the Monaghan Sewerage Scheme at Old Cross Square, the Water Conservation Project and the Carrickmacross Waste Water Treatment Plant. The Members expressed disappointment with the contents of the correspondence.
- Letter dated 24th June 2011 from Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin TD enclosing an acknowledgement from Willie Penrose T.D., Minister for Housing and Planning regarding the Mullaghmat Remedial Works Scheme.
- Acknowledgement dated 1st July 2011 from the Office of the Taoiseach regarding a Notice of Motion adopted by the Members of the Council at the June Meeting concerning the Dublin/Monaghan Bombings.
- Letter dated the 30th June 2011 from the Housing Division of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government regarding funding for CCTV and a Peer Education Programme in the Mullaghmat Estate under the Sustainable Communities Fund.

- Letter and petition dated the 10th July 2011 from the Residents of Canal View Housing Estate objecting to a proposal to locate an entrance to the planned allotment development at Mullaghcroghery from Canal View to Elliotts land. The Members were of the opinion that the Allotment Society had meetings with the Canal View Residents Association to discuss the proposed access to Elliotts Land. Jonathon Condell, Assistant Engineer stated that the access to the lands from the Clones Road was agricultural and unsuitable and the proposed entrance from Canal View was the best access. Following a discussion it was agreed that the Town Engineer meet with the Members from the Allotment Society and a delegation from the Residents Association to discuss the matter. It was also agreed that the Town Council proceed with the purchase of a plot of ground measuring 0.1164 ha at Canal View as agreed at the April Monthly Meeting.
- Letter dated 27th June 2011 from Adrienne Mongey, Youth for Peace Project Co-ordinator regarding The Peace Cycle which is taking place from the 13th August to the 17th August 2011. The letter requested the Council to consider hosting a small reception for the Peace Cyclists as they pass through the town. On the proposal of Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha seconded by Cllr. Mary Carroll it was agreed that the Town Council host a reception to honour the cyclists.
- Letter dated 8th June 2011 from Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin TD regarding Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme.
- Letter dated 6th July 2011 from Brennans Bread thanking all involved in the “Bring Back Family Playtime with Brennans Bread” initiative. The Members thanked everyone who voted for the Playpark at Killygoan and noted that Moyross Playground in Limerick City won the playground makeover. It was agreed to take up the offer as outlined in the correspondence of the donation of bread to a community based programme. The Members suggested that the 10k Fun Walk/Run event 2012 avail of this proposal.
- Letter of thanks dated the 20th June 2011 from Fearghal O’ Hanlon GFC thanking the Members for their contribution under the Community Grant Scheme 2011.
- Letter dated 14th July 2011 from Heather Humphreys TD enclosing reply from Willie Penrose T.D., Minister for Housing and Planning regarding Mullaghmatt Remedial Works.
- Letters of support from various Local Authorities regarding a Notice of Motion adopted by the Members of the Council at the February 2011 Monthly Meeting regarding granting the Irish Diaspora the right to vote in Irish Elections.

6. Planning Applications

The Members noted Planning Applications numbered MT 11/12 – MT 11/13.

7. Business Submitted by An Cathaoirleach

No business was submitted by the Cathaoirleach.

8. Consideration of Reports of Committees

The Members noted the Minutes of the Planning Sub-Committee meeting held on Tuesday 12th July 2011 regarding Mousewood Cemetery and the erection of a Famine Memorial in the town to commemorate the Great Famine.

The Members of the Council agreed with the proposal to erect a fence around Mousewood Cemetery, construct a stile to give access and erect a plaque to honour those who died as a result of the Famine.

In relation to the erection of a Famine Memorial it was agreed that the Cathaoirleach and the A/County Manager meet with the Heritage Officer, Museum Curator and the Arts Officer to discuss proposals for a Famine Memorial for the town. It was also agreed to invite Grace Moloney, Clogher Historical Society to the meeting.

9. Roads/Housing

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

- Pot holes – Belgian Square
- Signage required for Monaghan Hospital – it was noted that the NRA have been asked to speed up their signposting scheme.
- Signage required for Monaghan Hotels – it was noted that these signs have been ordered.
- Public drinking – Peters Lake
- Remedial works required in back lanes in Killygoan
- Illegal dumping – Killygoan area
- Repair work to railings on Pound Hill – it was noted that this work is to commence shortly.

The need for parking bays in Devin Reilly Terrace was raised by Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha and the Assistant Engineer informed her that this did not form part of the Roads Programme this year but could be included in next years programme.

Cllr. Robbie Gallagher called for the piece of waste ground at the Coolshannagh Roundabout to be maintained as it creates a bad impression upon entering the town.

Cllr. Thomas Hagan called for toilet facilities to be provided in the Killygoan playground. It was noted that the cost of running a facility would be in the region of €30,000 and would not be viable.

David Fallon, A/County Manager informed the Members on the up-to-date situation regarding the Mixed Use Development at Rooskey, Monaghan. The A/County Manager stated that the Contractors are targeting the end of July as a submission date for the planning application and that they have made a submission to the EPA regarding a licence and are confident that the project will only require a licence from Monaghan County Council. It was agreed to place this matter on the agenda for future meetings of the Town Council.

Jonathon Condell, Assistant Engineer stated that he would consult the residents of Belgian Square regarding the lengthening of the yellow box traffic provision in the area.

10. Telecommunication Mast at Killygoan

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

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. David Maxwell referred to correspondence received from Airtricity in relation to a new “log a fault” initiative which allows the public register the location of faulty public lighting. The Members welcomed this initiative.

11. Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme

It was noted that Willie Penrose T.D., Minister for Housing and Planning has agreed to visit the Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme in 2011. It was agreed to invite the Mullaghmatt/Cortolvin Residents Association to meet with the Minister on his visit.

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

Jonathon Condell, Assistant Engineer informed the Members that the Tender Documents for the completion of the works in Old Cross Square will be advertised in the next couple of weeks and it is intended that the entire project works will be completed this year.

13. Progress on Windows/Doors – Killygoan Area

Cllr. Donal Sherry stated that there are some outstanding issues with the windows/doors in houses in Killygoan. It was agreed that Cllr. Sherry liaise with the Town Engineer on this matter. Jonathon Condell stated that surveys have been carried out to dwellings in the Ard Glas/Ard Aoibhinn estates and that these works will be tendered within the next few weeks.

14. Consideration of approval of Notice under Section 183 of Local Government Act 2001 in relation to the sale of a plot of ground at Annahagh to Monaghan County Council for a Civil Defence Headquarters.

On the proposal of Cllr. Robbie Gallagher seconded by Cllr. Seán Conlon it was agreed to approve of the sale of a plot of ground at Annahagh to Monaghan County Council for a Civil Defence Headquarters in accordance with Notice dated 6th July 2011.

15. Consideration of approval to dispose of the Freehold Interest in a Council dwelling in accordance with Notice under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2011.

On the proposal of Cllr Seamus Treanor seconded by Cllr Thomas Hagan it was agreed to dispose of the Freehold Interest in No. 5 Woodview, Killygoan, Monaghan in accordance with Notice dated the 28th June 2011.

16. Casual Trading

The Members noted the following documentation which had been issued to them in relation to a proposal to install a Casual Trading Bay in Church Square, Monaghan:-

- (i) Drawing No. TR11-001 showing layout plan of proposed Casual Trading Area in Church Square, Monaghan
- (ii) Reports from the Gardaí, Town Engineer, Planners with Monaghan County Council and the Director of Taxi Regulation.
- (iii) Draft Casual Trading Bye-Laws 2011 in respect of proposed Casual Trading Area at Church Square, Monaghan.
- (iv) Draft Casual Trading (Fees) Bye-Laws 2011 in respect of proposed Casual Trading Area at Church Square, Monaghan.

At the outset the Acting County Manager stated that he could not recommend the proposal to install a casual trading bay at Church Square, Monaghan based on the safety concerns of the Gardaí and the Town Engineer.

Cllr. Seán Conlon proposed that the current Casual Trading Bye-Laws be revoked in accordance with Section 199 of Part 19 of the Local Government Act 2001.

Cllr. Mary Carroll proposed and Cllr. Seamus Treanor seconded that the matter be placed on the Agenda for the September Monthly Meeting of the Council and stated that Cllr. Conlon's proposal was a big decision to make without examining the implications it may have on the town.

Following a discussion Cllr. Conlon withdrew his proposal in favour of Cllr. Carroll's proposal. Cllr. Conlon requested the Town Engineer in conjunction with the existing Casual trader to examine the following areas within Church Square in relation to a proposed casual trading area:-

- In front of the Bank of Ireland (opposite NIB)
- In front of the N.I.B. (opposite Bank of Ireland)
- In front of the Church of Ireland
- In front of Ronaghans/Blacks Chemist (opposite Taxi Rank)
- Loading Bay on North Road (at An Poc Fada)

17. Ceisteanna/Questions

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

- (a) What percentage of the Council housing stock is insulated; what is the expected completion date for the remainder?

Excluding Mullaghmat, which will receive insulation upgrades as part of the remedial scheme, 100% of the housing stock has received attic insulation upgrades as part of an energy efficiency programme that has rolled out over the past 4 years. A programme to provide supplementary insulation in the cavities of the houses is now underway. Approximately 10% of housing stock has now received additional pumped insulation in the cavities. This programme will roll out to the remainder of the houses this year and into next year.

- (b) Where are the plants, compost, baskets etc sourced for the hanging baskets and planters which have recently been placed throughout the town; is the Town Council or Tidy Towns overseeing the installation and maintenance of this planting and who is providing the funding?

Seed plants, bedding plants, compost and other materials required for planting throughout the town are acquired from reputable suppliers and nurseries (local, national and international suppliers are used depending on – the product required, its availability locally and the cost of supply) in accordance with Monaghan County Council's procurement guidelines. This year Monaghan Town Council took on the responsibility of growing and erecting hanging baskets around the town. Most of these baskets were already in the ownership of Monaghan Town Council; however there was a requirement to purchase a small number of additional baskets. Monaghan Town Council maintain the baskets. The funding of this and all other landscaping works throughout the town comes from Monaghan Town Council's annual budget and particularly the Parks, Pitches and Open Spaces element of the Recreation and Amenity Programme Group.

Cllr. Donal Sherry requested a further breakdown of the answer in regard to sourcing goods from local suppliers. It was agreed to have this information for the next monthly meeting.

- © Can the pay parking instruction sign at the Post Office, Mill Street be relocated to facilitate disabled drivers alighting from vehicles as they are experiencing difficulty opening car doors?

There is an ongoing audit of all disabled bays in the town to identify accessibility problems that may exist. All problems, including the one identified here shall be dealt with in this programme.

Cllr. Robbie Gallagher asked:-

- (d) What is the expected date for the installation of the play areas in Cluain Lorcáin and Mullaghmat?

Installation will commence early in August 2011.

- (e) What is the up-to-date situation with regard to proposals to re-instate the car park at the rear of the Courthouse?

Monaghan Town Council is awaiting receipt of a programme from the Contractor which will illustrate the expected date for submission of the planning application and also applications for any other statutory approvals/permissions required for the proposed works. The Council is also seeking a meeting with the Contractor and his legal representatives in order to progress the required variation agreement to the existing contract between the parties.

- (f) What is the up-to-date situation in relation to the on-going works to the draughty doors and windows in the Ard Glas/Ard Gleann areas and what is the projected completion date for the said works?

The planned remedial works to the windows of the Ard Gleann houses have been completed. We are now dealing with routine callout requests as they arise. Following on from an inspection of the windows and doors in the older phases of this development – 1 – 45 Ard Glas – a decision has been made to go to tender for a replacement/repair and servicing programme for these units. The tender documents have not yet been finalised for this project.

18. Resolutions from Other Local Authorities:-

- (a) “That this Council would ask the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, the Minister for Equality and Law Reform and An Taoiseach to bring forward proposals that would extend the postal vote to our emigrants abroad”.

Kilrush Town Council

The Members supported the above Resolution.

- (b) “That this Council ask the Minister for Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government to review the payment system of the Non-Principle Private Residence NPPR in order to lessen the burden on many stretched household budgets by introducing a facility of installed payments also to review S254 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 and Article 201 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 in relation to the fees payable for licensing of tables in public places with the intention of abolishing a national fee and empowering Local Governments with the ability to set more appropriate rates”.

Kilrush Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

- (c) “That Clonmel Borough Council agrees to ask the Minister and the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government to give serious consideration to keep time going the entire year around rather than the present system of putting the clocks back an hour at winter time, as the reasons for doing this are no longer valid”.

Clonmel Borough Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

- (d) “As Businesses in Killarney and practically all town centres throughout the Country are in serious decline over the past decade or so, due to the unequal position of parking charges in these centres compared to retail developments on the perimeter of towns and as the viability of these towns are in jeopardy in the short to medium term, we call on the Minister for Local Government as a matter of urgency to include in the Local Government Reform or Review Programme, mechanisms that will allow Town Councils together with Central Government to introduce an “Equilisation Plan”, town centre versus town perimeter, across the country”.

Killarney Town Council

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

- (e) “That this Council contact the Minister following a discussion on the overturning by An Bord Pleanala of a grant of planning permission by Roscommon County Council for a €40 million development of a Hotel and complex at Copse and Mockmoine, Boyle, Co. Roscommon by Linmur Developments – PD 08/1346. Members referred to the fact that this was the third occasion on which planning approval to develop a Hotel in the Boyle area had been denied, which they feel is detrimental to an area so dependent on tourism. Members then called for An Bord Pleanala to be disbanded and re-established on a regional or county wide basis and requested that the letter would be circulated to all Town Councils for support”.

Boyle Town Council

It was agreed to mark the above Resolution read.

- (f) “That this Council act to protect Right of Ways in our County”.

Donegal Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

- (g) “That Cobh Town Council call on the Irish Minister for Justice and the British Home Secretary to issue a posthumous pardon to all those adults and children who were incarcerated as convicts on Spike Island and elsewhere having being convicted of crimes in relation to stealing food, in particular during the Great Famine. And further that all Local and County Councils be encouraged to make similar calls”.

Cobh Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

19. Conferences

- (a) 5th Mitchelstown Trevor/Bowen Literary Conference 2011 – Mitchelstown, Co. Cork – 15th – 17th July 2011 (approx. cost €770)
- (b) 24th John Hewitt International Summer School – “That loaded word, Remember” – The Marketplace Theatre and Arts Centre, Armagh – 25th July – 29th July 2011 – (approx. cost €445)
- (c) 2011 Parnell Summer School – “Equality then and now” – Avondale House, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow – 14th – 19th August 2011 – (approx. cost €1050)

- (d) 98th Annual AMAI Conference – Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim, Co. Meath – 8th – 10th September 2011 – (approx cost €90)
- (e) The 10th Benedict Kiely Literary Weekend “The Heroes in the Dark House” – 8th – 11th September 2011 – Strule Arts Centre, Omagh – (approx. Cost €350)

It was agreed that the two delegates to the AMAI (Cllrs. David Maxwell and Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha) attend the AMAI Conference. The Cathaoirleach stated that if any other Member wished to attend the Conference that they should contact the Town Clerk.

20. Any Other Business

Willie McKenna was praised for his ongoing work which he is doing in fostering links between Monaghan and Canada. Cllr. Conlon stated that he attended a function in Sliabh Beagh Hotel at the weekend where 42 Canadians were spending 2 nights in Monaghan Town. Cllr. Conlon expressed the view that the Town Council in conjunction with Monaghan County Council should support such functions. The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. David Maxwell stated that there are regular visitors to Monaghan from Canada and Miramichi and that he had met 2 visitors from Miramichi in the Town Council Chamber last week. It was suggested that some form of communication be put in place between Monaghan County Council and Monaghan Town Council to enable all Members to know when visitors from Miramichi/Prince Edward Island are visiting the town. This would allow the Members to support/engage with the visitors and to promote the town/county.

The Members wished Monaghan Phoenix Club every success in their forthcoming 4k/10k Fun Walk/Run and encouraged the public to attend.

Cllr. Seamus Treanor referred to the recent Blacksmiths Forge-In Festival which was held in the town and stated that the town was at a standstill and people were inconvenienced as the centre of the town was closed for the duration of the Festival (6 days). Cllr. Treanor expressed the view that wider consultation with the people of the town is required when a festival arises. The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. David Maxwell stated that a Committee to oversee the Festival was formed consisting of Members from the Chamber of Commerce, Town Council, Staff, etc and that all shops in the town were informed of the closing of the streets. It was noted that the only reason Monaghan Town was selected as the venue for the festival was because it could be held in the centre of the town. The Members acknowledged that the Festival was a huge success and remarked on the National Media publicity that the event generated for the town.

Jonathon Condell, Assistant Engineer stated that during the Jazz Festival in September 2011 it is proposed that Church Square will be closed but that access to/from the Courthouse Car Park will be maintained.

Cllr. Paul McGeown left the Council Chamber.

Cllr. Mary Carroll proposed and Cllr. Thomas Hagan seconded that a letter be issued to the HSE asking them to make information available on their website as to what minor injuries can/cannot be treated at Monaghan Hospital.

The Members appealed to the public to use the services that are still available at Monaghan Hospital and stated that if people are not using the hospital the figures will go against it. It was noted that the Minister for Health had stated at a recent meeting with the Members of the County Council and Town Council that he would consider the provision of a Medical Assessment Unit at the Hospital provided there was funding available to do so and if there is a need for such a Unit in Monaghan.

21. Sympathy/Congratulations

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following and a minutes silence was observed:

- Town Council Staff Member, Eilish Clarke on the death of her father Pat Clarke, Moys, Clontibret.
- Hugh McMahan, School Principal of St. Mary's Boys National School, Monaghan on the death of his father, Cormac McMahan, Ballybay.

A vote of congratulations was extended to the following:

- Patsy Brady, Emyvale Cycling Club on the success of the National Cycling Championships in Monaghan.
- County Monaghan Senior Ladies Football Team on winning the Ulster Final
- Golfer Darren Clarke, Dungannon and Portrush on winning the British Open Golf Competition.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. David Maxwell wished all the Members and Staff of the Council a happy summer break.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Dated this the 19th day of September 2011

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

