

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

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2012 at 5.00p.m. in the Council Chamber of Monaghan Town Council, Town Hall, No. 1 Dublin Street, Monaghan.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Cathaoirleach:** Cllr. Seamus Treanor

**Present:** Cllrs. Seán Conlon, Robbie Gallagher, Thomas Hagan, David Maxwell, Paul McGeown, Donal Sherry and Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha.

**In Attendance:** David Fallon, Acting County Manager, Gareth Mc Mahon, Town Engineer, Marie Deighan, Town Clerk and Sinéad Tibby-Tracey, Clerical Officer.

An apology for inability to attend was received from Cllr. Mary Carroll.

The Members welcomed Richard McKenna, Casual Trader to the meeting as an observer.

**1. Confirmation of June Monthly Meeting held on 18/06/2012**

On the proposal of Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha seconded by Cllr Thomas Hagan it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the June Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

**2. Confirmation of Annual General Meeting held on 18/06/2012**

On the proposal of Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha seconded by Cllr David Maxwell it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

**3. Confirmation of Meeting held on 15/06/2012**

On the proposal of Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha seconded by Cllr David Maxwell it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2012 in Teach na nDaoine Family Resource Centre, Mullaghmat with Jan O' Sullivan, T.D., Minister for Housing and Planning.

**4. Matter arising from the Minutes**

Cllr. Seán Conlon proposed that the Council undertake the necessary infrastructure works required for the development of proposed allotments at Killygoan, Monaghan in accordance with the Acquisition of Land (Allotments) Act, 1926.

This was seconded by Cllr. Donal Sherry. It was noted that it is the view of the Planning Department that planning permission is required for the development of allotments and the Allotment Society have been informed by the Town Engineer that the Engineering Department of the Town Council will provide whatever technical support they can to the Society in this regard. David Fallon, A/County Manager stated that the Council will have to consider the cost implications to the Council in relation to Cllr. Conlon's proposal. On the proposal of Cllr. Robbie Gallagher seconded by Cllr. David Maxwell it was agreed to refer the matter to the Planning Sub-Committee.

Cllr. David Maxwell agreed to provide details to the Town Clerk on an impressive monument he saw when he was in Prince Edward Island in Canada which may be suitable for a proposed Famine Memorial. Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha proposed that the Council should work towards having a Memorial in place for "The Gathering Ireland 2013".

Cllr. Donal Sherry requested a copy of the Engineer's report relating to the newly installed pelican crossing on the Glen Road and expressed disappointment that adequate public consultation didn't take place prior to the installation.

It was agreed to deal with Item No. 16 on the agenda:-

**16. Consideration of Casual Trading Area at Church Square North – opposite Courthouse.**

The Members noted correspondence from the Gardaí confirming that there has been no increase in public order incidents in Church Square for the duration of the trial period of the casual trading in the area. On the proposal of Cllr Donal Sherry seconded by Cllr Robbie Gallagher it was agreed to continue to designate the site at Church Square North as a Casual Trading area for a further period of 12 months.

Richard Mc Kenna left the meeting room.

**5. Manager's Orders**

The Members noted Manager's Orders numbered 98/12 – 113/12.

**6. Correspondence:-**

The Members noted the following correspondence:-

- Letter dated 18<sup>th</sup> June 2012 from the Department of Finance in relation to a Notice of Motion adopted by the Council calling on the Banking Sector to withdraw their intention to pursue parents of young couples who find it necessary to seek their financial help. The Cathaoirleach expressed disappointment with this correspondence.

- Acknowledgement letter dated 4<sup>th</sup> July 2012 from the Office of the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation concerning GAME and the vacant Revenue Commissioners offices at Coolshannagh. On the proposal of Cllr. Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha it was agreed to place the item “Vacant Revenue Commissioners Offices” on the Agenda for the September Monthly Meeting of the Town Council.
- Letter dated 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2012 from Coillte in relation to charging for car parking at Rossmore Park. Cllr. David Maxwell stated that this matter had been discussed at County Council level and that Damian Treanor, A/Director of Services has been tasked to meet with Coillte on the issues and to report back to the Council.
- Letter from the President of the American Committee for the Commemoration of Victims of the Irish Hunger (1845-1851). On the proposal of Cllr Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha it was agreed to refer the correspondence to Shirley Clerkin, Heritage Officer, Monaghan County Council.
- Letter dated 20<sup>th</sup> June 2012 from Shirley Clerkin, Heritage Officer, Monaghan County Council regarding a proposal for an outdoor classroom facility adjacent to Tom Young’s Wood, Monaghan. Gareth Mc Mahon, Town Engineer stated that he would bring a report to the next Town Council meeting on this matter.
- Letter dated 18<sup>th</sup> June 2012 from Somhairle MacConghail, Arts Officer, Monaghan County Council seeking the draw down of €13,000 for the Harvest Time Blues Festival 2012. On the proposal of Cllr Paul McGeown seconded by Cllr Robbie Gallagher it was agreed to contribute €13,000 as provided for in Budget 2012 to the Monaghan Rhythm & Blues Festival. Cllr. Thomas Hagan stated that there are proposals in place for a Country and Western Festival in the town next year. Cllr. Donal Sherry informed the Members that he is on the organizing committee for the Festival and has visited Clonmany, Co. Donegal where a Country and Western Festival takes place on an annual basis.
- Letter dated 20<sup>th</sup> June 2012 from Lorcan Ronaghan, former Councillor thanking the Members and staff for inviting him to the unveiling of a wall plaque in the Town Council Chamber which lists the holders of the Chair of Monaghan Town Council. This event took place to commemorate 175 years of the Town Council.
- Letter of thanks from Fergal O Hanlon’s GFC acknowledging receipt of €900 from the Community Fund.

## **7. Planning Applications**

The Members noted Planning Application numbered MT 12/12 – MT 12/14.

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

No business was submitted by An Cathaoirleach.

## **9. Consideration of Reports of Committees:-**

There were no reports of Committees.

## 10 Roads/Housing:-

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

- Killyconnigan – potholes
- Belgian Square/Horseshoe Bridge/Old Cross Square to Cathedral – Hedges to be cut
- Glaslough Street Car Park (rear of Flemings) – Manhole covers broken/lids to be replaced.
- Killygoan – Gullies to be cleaned
- Belgium Park (green area) - dogs fouling – signage required. The Budget Sub-Committee were requested to consider the introduction of a “poop scoop” scheme.
- Heaton's Corner – Dip in road
- Handrail to be replaced – Old Cross Square
- Mill Street – repairs to road
- Glaslough Street Car Park – confusion to motorists regarding right-of-way
- Road Surface repairs required in vicinity of Flacks Garage
- Derelict House – Barrack Lane
- Illegal dumping - Mullaghmatt

Gareth McMahon, Town Engineer stated that there are a number of vacant Local Authority apartments in Drumbear Estate due to an issue with noise which has been encountered by tenants who were residing there. The Town Engineer stated that extensive tests and surveys have been carried out to ascertain the cause of the serious problems.

Gareth McMahon, Town Engineer stated that the gate to Belgium Park Football Field has been locked on a number of occasions recently due to the bad weather conditions and in order to protect the playing surface of the pitch.

The Members condemned those who vandalized floral displays in the centre of town recently.

Cllr. Donal Sherry stated that Local Authority tenants have to pay for windows broken in incidents of vandalism by young people under prosecution age and is of the opinion that this is an unfair system.

Cllr. Seán Conlon stated that households who have paid the new Household Charge are receiving reminder letters for payment and that this is causing a lot of distress/confusion to the people concerned. David Fallon, A/County Manager stated that approx. 57% of people in County Monaghan have paid the charge and reminder notices have issued to those who have not paid. The A/County Manager accepted that cases would arise where people would get a reminder letter by mistake but if people had paid, the matter could not be followed up. Cllr. Conlon suggested that the Council should desist from sending out reminder letters until there is full clarity about who had not paid.

Following a discussion and on the proposal of Cllr. David Maxwell seconded by Cllr. Seamus Treanor it was agreed to write to the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government requiring his Department to consider introducing legislation to give powers to Local Authorities to deal with private dwellings which have gone into disrepair.

**11. Telecommunication Mast at Killygoan**

The Members look forward to the removal of the telecommunication mast at Killygoan.

**12. Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme**

The Members welcomed the announcement of €1.5m for Phase 3 of the Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme and that projects already underway will have first call on funding in 2013. The Town Engineer stated that he is hopeful that there will be a contractor on site in early 2013.

**13. Progress on Windows/Doors – Killygoan area**

It was agreed to defer this matter until the September Monthly Meeting.

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

David Fallon, A/County Manager informed the Members that the Council have now signed a Contract with the Developer for work to commence on the restoration of the site at Rooskey to its original condition as a car park. The A/County Manager stated that when the waste permit is granted work may commence on the site.

It was noted that a bond and a legal agreement have been put in place to ensure that all outstanding monies will be paid. The Members noted that the work may be completed by February 2013. The Members look forward to the completion of the works.

**15. Consideration of Annual Financial Statement for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011.**

The Members noted a copy of the Annual Financial Statement for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011. It was noted that the deficit on the Revenue Account has increased by €168,401 to €263,267 which is due to the provision of bad debts in the Accounts.

**17. Canal View Housing Estate**

The Members noted a submission received from a resident in the Canal View Housing Estate in relation to a defective footpath in the estate and noted that the matter has since been addressed. On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Seán Conlon it was agreed to take-in-charge Canal View

Housing Estate, Mullaghcroghery, Monaghan under Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000-2006 and in accordance with drawing No. CVT12-01. On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Seán Conlon it was agreed to declare the road to be a public road under Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.

**18. Consideration of approval to dispose of Freehold Interest in Council Dwelling**

On the proposal of Cllr Donal Sherry seconded by Cllr David Maxwell it was agreed to approve of the disposal of the Freehold Interest in No. 2 Cathedral View, Monaghan in accordance with Notice dated 25<sup>th</sup> June 2012 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

**19. Consideration of Appointment of Nominee to the Board of the Garage Theatre**

The Members noted a letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2012 received from County Monaghan VEC enclosing a new Garage Theatre Terms of Reference which has been developed to address concerns/recommendations/conditions requested by both Monaghan County Council and Monaghan Town Council on foot of decisions taken to provide grant-aid towards the new Theatre. Cllr Robbie Gallagher was appointed as the nominee to the Board of the Garage Theatre.

**20. Notices of Motion:-**

- (a) "That this Council write to Joan Burton, Department of Social Protection regarding her decision to stop unemployment payments to part-time firemen who are on 24 hour call, who are deemed to be unavailable for work".

Cllr Seamus Treanor

On the proposal of Cllr Seamus Treanor seconded by Cllr Donal Sherry it was agreed to adopt the above Notice of Motion. It was also agreed to forward the motion to the Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, T.D. and to all Local Authorities.

- (b) "That we write to Phil Hogan, T.D., Department of Environment regarding extending the sewage system on the Scotstown-Clones Road to the main sewage system of Monaghan town, also the Old Armagh Road-Ashgrove Lawns area".

Cllr Seamus Treanor

The Town Engineer stated that Ashgrove Lawns will be connected to the sewage scheme under the Serviced Land Initiative and it was agreed to amend the Notice of Motion to read as follows:-

"That we write to Phil Hogan, TD., Department of Environment regarding extending the sewage system on the Scotstown-Clones Road to the main sewage system of Monaghan town".

On the proposal of Cllr Seamus Treanor seconded by Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha it was agreed to adopt the amended Notice of Motion.

- © "That Monaghan Town Council support the introduction of bye-laws or other measures which would ensure that circuses which use wild animals are prohibited from performing in any part of this local authority area, in light of the well documented evidence of suffering endured by the animals involved and the serious animal welfare issues raised".

Cllrs. Uí Mhurchadha, Conlon, Sherry, McGeown

On the proposal of Cllr Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr Donal Sherry it was agreed to adopt the above Notice of Motion and to include the Motion in the newly adopted Monaghan Town Council Parks and Open Spaces Bye-Laws 2012. It was noted that the Bye-Laws will be amended to incorporate the Motion. On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Seamus Treanor it was also agreed to circulate the motion to all Local Authorities.

## **21. Ceisteanna/Questions:-**

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

- (a) In relation to Knockroe Glen, has the proposed meeting between NAMA and the County Council Planners, as advised by the Town Engineer, taken place yet and if it has what was the outcome of that meeting?

An office meeting did not take place but NAMA's Planning and Development Advisor did inform the Senior Planner by telephone that NAMA have funding available re safety works. A submission is currently being prepared re same. In addition, a Derelict Sites Notice has been issued (under S.11 of the Derelict Sites Act 1990) requiring the following to be done within a specific timeframe:-

- Clear the site of construction waste, unused construction materials, construction paraphernalia and partially completed building works.
- Redistribute soil, then rotovate and seed with grass, in order to return ground levels to a safe and even contour.

- (b) In reference to the recent spate of vandalism to the Killygoan Park Area, what is the cost to Monaghan Town Council for remedial works?

The cost of materials was €600 incl. VAT. Labour costs was €290 - Total cost = €890.

The Members condemned those who carried out the vandalism to the Park. On the proposal of Cllr. David Maxwell seconded by Cllr. Thomas Hagan it was agreed to consider CCTV for the area.

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

- © Would the Council consider in the interests of clarity and safety for motorists the installation of a junction box or clearer signage at the junction on the bottom of Rowantree Road/North Road/Rope Walk Road?

The Engineers will re-examine the signage and road marking at this junction to provide additional clarity.

- (d) Would the Council consider the relocation of the summer seat on Rope Walk to a more favoured location along the road?

There is no issue with moving this summer seat if necessary. Clarification on the reasons for moving the seat and where it is suggested it be relocated to is required.

- (e) Has the Council made any progress with regard to seeking sponsorship from local businesses for the maintenance and upkeep of roundabouts around the town?

The Town Gardener has been asked to review this file and provide a report on same which will be presented to the Members in the near future. This report will help guide the process of seeking sponsorship.

- (f) What is the current situation with regard to the on-going negotiations between the Planning Section of the Council and the Administrator in relation to the unfinished housing development at Latlurcan Glen/Court/Close and when can the residents of same expect a final resolution?

A site resolution plan which included a schedule of works required to complete the development at Latlurcan was agreed between the developer and the Planning Section of the Council in late 2011. This schedule related to a number of matters which included the completion and repair of water services, roads, landscaping (hard and soft) and the provision of open space.

In December 2011 press reports indicated that the developer, Latlorcan Developments had gone into administration. Subsequent to this, the Planning Section of the Council met with Cavanagh Kelly Accountants, the appointed administrators in an attempt to agree a way forward. On 18<sup>th</sup> May 2012, following protracted discussions, the Administrator advised that the relevant financial institution had agreed to fund the site resolution plan agreed with the developer in late 2011. They also advised that they would be appointing an architect who would submit a planning application to regularise outstanding planning matters relating to the site. The Planning Section has requested in writing that written confirmation of this from the relevant financial institution be provided but this has not yet been received. Consequently, a Derelict Site Notice under Section 11 of the Derelict Sites Act 1990 has been prepared for service requesting that the site is cleared of construction waste, used construction materials, construction paraphernalia and partially completed building works and that the area is soiled and grassed.

Claims over the bonds relevant to this development remain in place and will be utilised in the event that the relevant financial institution fails to complete the development in accordance with the agreed site resolution plan.

## **22. Resolutions from Other Local Authorities:-**

- (a) “That Buncrana Town Council write to Noel Brett of the Road Safety Authority regarding the Road Safety Strategy 2013-2020 document which is being developed at present, asking them to incorporate training for cyclists as part of the plan and also to develop an accredited course for Ireland”,

Buncrana Town Council

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

## **23. Conferences:-**

- (a) TGR Seminars – “Fluoridation of Irish Water Supplies: Current debates implications and consequences for Irish consumers” – Kilmurry Lodge Hotel, Limerick – 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2012 – (approx. cost €680)



- (b) Celtic Conferences – “Mind mapping and effective reading techniques” – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork – 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2012 – (approx. cost €900).
- (c) The 25<sup>th</sup> John Hewitt International Summer School – “The State of Hope”- Marketplace Theatre and Arts Centre, Armagh – 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> July 2012 – (approx. cost €700).
- (d) Celtic Conferences – “Creating Employment Opportunities in local food production” – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork – 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> August 2012 – (approx. cost €900).
- (e) The 11<sup>th</sup> Benedict Kiely Literary Weekend – “Drink to the Bird” – Strule Arts Centre, Omagh – 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> September 2012 – (approx. cost €390).
- (f) Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland Centenary Annual Conference – Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe – 12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> September 2012 – (approx. cost €700)

It was agreed that the two delegates to the AMAI, i.e. Cllrs Maxwell and Uí Mhurchadha attend Conference (f). It was also agreed that if any Member of the Town Council wishes to attend the Conference they should make contact with the Town Clerk.

#### **24. Any Other Business**

On the proposal of Cllr Robbie Gallagher seconded by Cllr Seamus Treanor it was agreed to send a letter to Bus Éireann asking them to clarify the position in relation to a few incidents which have arisen recently where problems were encountered by passengers waiting in the Monaghan Bus Depot to get seats on the No. 32 bus (Letterkenny/Dublin Express Bus). Cllr. Gallagher referred to an incident where ten people were waiting at the Bus Depot and there were three vacant seats on the Letterkenny/Dublin bus – three passengers were taken on the bus and the remaining passengers had to wait for hours for transport.

Gareth Mc Mahon, Town Engineer confirmed that goalposts have been purchased for the green area in Mullaghmatt and will be erected when ground conditions improve.

It was agreed to send a letter to the Gardaí in relation to the speeding of vehicles throughout the town.

It was noted that the Nelson Doyle Dancers from Miramichi, New Brunswick are coming to Monaghan from the 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> August 2012 and will be performing throughout the County during the duration of their stay.

Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha referred to a book entitled “Exiles and Islanders” by Author, Brendan O’ Grady which describes Irish settlement in Prince Edward Island from 1768 to 1880 and it was noted that this book is now available from the Monaghan Library service.

It was noted that some work has to be carried out to the “Hive of Knowledge” Sculpture before it is located in Church Square.

## **25. Sympathy/Congratulations**

A vote of Sympathy was extend to the following:-

- The Mc Guinness family, Drumreask, Ballinode on the death of Maree Mc Guinness.
- The family of the late Brendan (Brendie) Devine, Drumbear Lodge Nursing Home and formerly Clondalkin and Tirkeenan, Monaghan.

The Members paid tribute to Sinn Féin Councillor, Sheila McKenna, Carrachor, Scotstown, Co. Monaghan who died on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2012. A vote of sympathy was extended to her husband, Eddie, daughter Gráinne, son Darragh and family members. A minute silence was held.

A vote of Congratulations was extended to the following:-

- Matthews Coaches of Inniskeen who won the Olympic contract in London to transport the world's top athlete's to the Olympic Games.
- Eoghan Mc Ginnity who won the U-11 Irish one wall handball competition.
- Christopher Mc Kenna on winning the U-23 B Irish one wall handball competition.
- Liam Bradley, Curator and the staff of Monaghan County Museum who have been awarded maintenance of full accreditation under the Heritage Councils Museum Standards Programme for Ireland.

The Members extended good luck to:-

- Colin McAree, Manager of the Monaghan County Minor Football Team and his squad in their forthcoming game against Tyrone
- the Irish Olympic Team in London in July
- Town Council employee, Brian Finnegan, Manager of the CMUL Soccer Team who are taking part in the Umbro Cup Competition in Galway.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Dated this the 17<sup>th</sup> day of September 2012

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

