

Monaghan Town Council

Comhairle Baile Mhuineacháin

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 15th June 2009 at 6.00pm 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 Sinead Mc Cann, Staff Officer.

1. Confirmation of May Monthly Meeting held on 18th May 2009

On the proposal of Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha seconded by Cllr David Maxwell it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on Monday 18th May 2009.

2. Matters arising from the Minutes

It was agreed to form a sub-committee of the Town Council to work with Comhairle Na nÓg and other interested youth clubs in advancing the proposal of a youth café for the town. Cllrs Maxwell, McGeown, Treanor, Gallagher and Sherry were nominated to the committee and it was agreed to liaise with Fiona Mc Entee, Youth Development Officer, Monaghan County Council in this regard.

It was noted that the HSE have given an undertaking that the public lights out of order on the walkway through St. Davnets Hospital will be repaired.

3. Manager's Orders

Manager's Orders numbered 120/09 – 133/09 were noted by the Members.

4. Correspondence

The Members noted the following correspondence:-

- Letter dated 17th May 2009 from Margaret Conlon TD regarding the Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme.
- Letter dated 25th May 2009 from Aoife O'Sullivan, Private Secretary to the Minister for Finance, Department of Finance regarding the VAT differential between Ireland and the UK. Cllr. Maxwell expressed disappointment at the Minister's unwillingness to reduce the VAT rate as a measure to stem the outflow of business from the local retail sector to Northern Ireland.
- Letter of acknowledgement dated 27th May 2009 from Darragh Scully, Private Secretary, Department of Health and Children concerning the Cervical Cancer Vaccine.
- Letter of acknowledgement dated 28th May 2009 from Kathleen McAuliffe, Private Secretary, Minister for Defence in relation to the use of the sports field at Monaghan Military Barracks by Monaghan Town Football Club. It was agreed to re-issue a letter to Willie O' Dea T.D., Minister for Defence asking him to expedite his decision in the matter. It was also agreed to request the local Oireachtas Members to support Monaghan Town Football Club in their request to have the use of the idle sports field at Knockaconny.

- Letter dated 29th May 2009 from Tom Gallagher, Rúnaí Aire Stáit, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government in relation to voluntary housing schemes.
- Letter dated 29th May 2009 from Tom Gallagher, Rúnaí Aire Stáit, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government in relation to the Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme.
- Letter dated 2nd June 2009 from Ian Elliott, Hon. Secretary, A Journey of Remembering inviting the Members on a Journey of Remembering Visit in Flanders from 6th - 8th November 2009.
- Letter received on 11th June 2009 from Monaghan United Football Club in relation to a “Festival of Football” during the week leading up to the AGM of the FAI. It was agreed that the Town Engineer liaise with the committee involved in relation to the erection of bunting/banners etc in Monaghan Town for the event.
- Letter dated 8th June 2009 from Margaret Dawson Baxter, North East Regional Management Team, Social Welfare Regional Office in relation to the Monaghan Social Welfare Branch Office. The Members called again for improvements to be made to the Social Welfare Office especially for those who have to queue outside the offices in inclement weather conditions.

5. **Planning Applications**

The Members noted Planning Applications numbered 09/14 – 09/17.

6. **Business submitted by An Cathaoirleach**

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Seán Conlon referred to a Press Conference held today in Monaghan by the Psychiatric Nurses Association. Following a discussion it was agreed that a letter be issued to Mary Harney TD, Minister for Health and Children, the HSE and the Oireachtas Members calling for the reversal of the downgrading of Mental Health Services in this area. On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Donal Sherry it was agreed to invite a representative from the Psychiatric Nurses Association to the next meeting of Monaghan Town Council to outline the current situation. It was also agreed to extend an invitation to the Oireachtas Members to attend the meeting.

7. **Consideration of Reports of Committees**

There were no reports of committees

8. **Roads/Housing**

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

- Potholes – Mullaghmatt
- Traffic Calming measures required – Hill Street
- Signage “Children Crossing” - playground at Killygoan
- Spraying of weeds
- Bins to be replaced following road works
- Flooding – St. Patrick’s Church
- Coolshannagh Walk – ramps
- Safety railings required between 2 schools on Clones Road to prevent children straying onto path of traffic.

It was proposed by Cllr. David Maxwell and agreed that a letter be issued to the Office of Public Works informing them that the hoarding erected at the front of the Courthouse has created a blindspot for motorists and pedestrians which could result in a serious traffic accident.

It was agreed to write to County Monaghan V.E.C. to seek a progress report on negotiations between the Department of Education and the Department of Defence in relation to the acquisition of the former Monaghan Military Barracks by County Monaghan V.E.C. for the relocation and expansion of MIFET and to offer the Town Council's assistance, if needed in relation to same.

It was noted that undergrounding of ESB cables is taking place on Park Street.

It was noted that the back doors in dwellings in Ard Glas/Ard Aoibhinn/Ard Gleann require repair. Following a discussion and on the proposal of Cllr. Robbie Gallagher it was agreed to write to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government requesting them to consider putting in place a scheme for Local Authorities similar to the "Homebond Cover" to guarantee protection for a certain number of years to Local Authorities against any major defects which may occur in new Local Authority dwellings and where the Local Authority cannot gain satisfaction from the original builder.

Cllr. Maxwell congratulated the Town Council and Monaghan Tidy Towns on achieving 12th position in the recently announced IBAL Results and appealed to people not to drop litter. It was noted that street sweeping in the town costs the Town Council in the region of €300,000 per annum.

9. Pedestrian Safety

Gareth Mc Mahon, Town Engineer stated the he was interested in getting feedback on the new angled parking system which has been installed on the North Road as a temporary measure which will create additional parking and narrow the carriageway to facilitate traffic calming measures. It was agreed that the plans for the new system be displayed in the Library on the North Road to allow those living and working in the area an opportunity to inspect them.

10. Telecommunications Mast at Killygoan

Cllr. Donal Sherry requested and it was agreed that letters be prepared for signing by the newly elected Council at the next meeting of Monaghan Town Council demanding that the antennae attached to the Telecommunication Mast at Killygoan be removed immediately.

11. Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme

It was noted by the Members that a letter of intent has been issued to the preferred contractor for Phase 2 of the Remedial Works Scheme at Mullaghmatt requesting details of Insurances, Performance Bond, etc. The Members called on the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the NBA to ensure that there will be no delays between the completion of phase two and the commencement of phase 3 of the works. It was agreed to give a briefing on the Remedial Works Scheme to the new members of the Council.

Gareth Mc Mahon, Town Engineer left the Council Chamber.

12. Notice of Motion:-

(a)“This Council calls on the Government to seek to renegotiate the indemnity agreement reached with the religious orders in order to secure a realistic level of contribution from those orders to compensate the victims of institutional abuse.”

Cllrs. Carroll, Maxwell, Hagan

On the proposal of Cllr Mary Carroll seconded by Cllr David Maxwell it was agreed to adopt the above Notice of Motion and to refer it to the Department of Justice and to the Taoiseach’s office.

13 Questions:-

Cllr. Conlon asked:-

- (a) Can the Engineering Section state, in conjunction with the County Council, if there is a scheme of remedial works scheduled to address the increasingly poor condition of roads throughout the town?

Resurfacing of a section of Broad Road, Dawson Street, North Road and Church Square will commence 29th June. Mall Road will be resurfaced in August. The Emyvale Road at St. Davnets will be resurfaced towards the end of the year when all works on the SLI have been completed and suitable time for consolidation of the backfilled material has been allowed.

- (b) Further to the question forwarded last month, what progress has been made in relation to determining the origins of an offensive odour that is occasionally present in the Montfort/Coolshannagh/Ballyalbany area and is causing annoyance to nearby residential communities and what measures are being considered to address this nuisance?

There is a private treatment facility in this region that has an Integrated Pollution Prevention Control (IPPC) licence, issued to it by the EPA. This is the most likely source of the odour problem. The managers of this facility have an obligation to ensure that they control emissions and odours coming from the facility. The EPA inspector has been made aware that a problem with odours exists in the area. Any future complaints of odour in this area should be forwarded to Maeve O’ Reilly of the EPA at 01 2680100 to allow her to investigate same.

- © Have the Executive received an update recently from Clarkes Developers regarding the status of the stalled development at the rear of the Town Hall?

Monaghan Town Council is aware that the arbitration proceedings between the two parties have commenced but are not yet concluded. As the Council is not a party to these proceedings it is unable to advise when they will be concluded but expects Clarke Quarries Ltd to honour its commitments as given in the Project Agreement.

The County Manager stated that there is no loss of revenue to the Town Council and that he is confident that the project will be completed.

14. Conference:-

- (a) “The John Hewitt International Summer School – “Unfettered Thought: Belief in the Future?” – Marketplace Theatre and Arts Centre, Armagh – 27th July – 31st July 2009 – (approx. cost €545)

On the proposal of Cllr Mary Carroll seconded by Cllr Thomas Hagan it was agreed that Cllr David Maxwell attend the above Conference.

The Members were circulated with a Report complying with Section 142(5)(f) of the Local Government Act 2001 in relation to the following Conference:-

(a) LAMA Annual Conference, Portlaoise - attended by Cllr. Robbie Gallagher

15. Any Other Business

Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha referred to the continuing downgrading of services at Monaghan General Hospital. On the proposal of Cllr. Mary Carroll seconded by Cllr. Seán Conlon it was agreed to write to the County Monaghan Hospital Alliance to support their work and to ask if Monaghan Town Council can help in any way to prevent the removal of acute medical services from the hospital.

16. Sympathy/Congratulations

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:

- The family of the late Ann Garvey, St. Macartan's Tce, Monaghan
- Bríd Uí Chaolain, Mullaghdun on the death of her brother, Seán McGinn, Castleblayney
- Donnelly Family, Glaslough Street on the death of Brendan Donnelly

A vote of congratulations was extended to the following:

- Rugby Star, Tommy Bowe on his continued success with the Lions
- David Mc Gregor on his success with the U20 Irish Rugby squad.

Best wishes was extended to Maurice Smyth for a full recovery from his recent illness. The County Monaghan Minor Team was wished every success in the next round of the Ulster Minor Championship.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Dated this the 20th day of July 2009

Cathaoirleach