

Comhairle Baile Mhuineacháin
Monaghan Town Council

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 21st June 2010 at 3.30pm in the Council Chamber of Monaghan Town Council, Town Hall, 1 Dublin Street, Monaghan.

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Robbie Gallagher

Present: Cllrs. Seán Conlon, Thomas Hagan, David Maxwell, Donal Sherry, Seamus Treanor and Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha.

In Attendance: Declan Nelson, County Manager, Gareth Mc Mahon, Town Engineer, Marie Deighan, Town Clerk and Mary Mc Coy, Clerical Officer

Apologies for inability to attend were received from Cllr Mary Carroll and Cllr. Paul McGeown.

Gary Keenan attended the meeting as an observer.

Attendance of Representatives from Monaghan Town Football Club

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Robbie Gallagher welcomed Paul Smyth, Séamus Gallagher and Paul Gilsean, Monaghan Town Football Club to the meeting to discuss their application to lease Belgium Park Football Field. The representatives circulated documentation to the Members outlining the history and the objectives of the club and their proposals for the development of Belgium Park Football Field which include the:-

- refurbishing and extending of the current changing rooms to incorporate key improvements such as a social community room that would be available for local community and resident groups
- improving of the playing field, focusing on drainage so the pitch would be open twelve months of the year,
- addition of flood lighting so that the pitch would be available in winter months
- development of a small spectator area.

It was noted that in order to accommodate the extra facilities the Club would have the need for the unused green space behind the current dressing rooms. It was also noted that a minimum of a 30 year lease is required for grant applications. Séamus Gallagher from Monaghan Town Football Club reiterated that there would be no exclusion on any club who wish to use the field and that it is their intention to have fun days, family days, barbeques, etc.

A question and answer session followed and the Members asked the football club representatives to meet with the Residents Association from the area. The delegation of Séamus Gallagher, Paul Smyth and Paul Gilsean left the meeting room.

Following a discussion and on the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha it was agreed that the Planning Sub-Committee of Monaghan Town Council meet to discuss in more detail the application from Monaghan Town Football Club.

1. Confirmation of May Monthly Meeting held on 17th May 2010.

On the proposal of Cllr Donal Sherry seconded by Cllr Thomas Hagan it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the May Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 17th May 2010.

2. Matters arising from the Minutes

It was noted that a meeting of the Planning Sub-Committee will be arranged in the next few weeks to discuss the proposed erection of a monument to commemorate The Great Hunger.

3. Manager's Orders

The Members noted Manager's Orders numbered 103/10 – 129/10 and noted that the Town Council are in the process of purchasing 3 no. dwellings from their Housing Capital Allocation funding.

4. Correspondence

The Members noted the following correspondence:

- Letter dated 10th May 2010 from Lori O Neill, MSPCA acknowledging the sum of €1,000 under the Community Grant Scheme 2010.
- Letter dated 7th May 2010 from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government in connection with a proposed extension of Phase 2 of the Mullaghmat Remedial Works Scheme to include the provision of oil fired central heating for 14 additional houses in the estate. Following a discussion it was agreed to ascertain the heating needs of the 14 tenants and prepare a report for the next meeting.
- Acknowledgement dated 11th June 2010 from the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources.
- Letter dated 18th May 2010 from the Health Service Executive regarding incidents where ambulances had difficulty locating housing estates in Monaghan Town. Cllr Donal Sherry informed the Members that he is meeting with Mr. Vincent Duffy, Health Service Executive Ambulance Service's Operations Officer for the Monaghan area to discuss initiatives to improve identification of addresses of dwellings in Monaghan Town.
- Letter dated 11th June 2010 from Monaghan County Council regarding "Head Shops".
- Letter dated 27th May 2010 from the Secretary of Ballyalbany Presbyterian Church stating that the Town Councils request seeking a suitable location for placing a playground in the Coolshannagh/Ballyalbany areas was unsuccessful. The Members expressed disappointment at this correspondence. The Town Engineer stated that there may be other land in the area which could be explored as a suitable location for a playground.
- Letter dated 16th June 2010 from the Secretary of Monaghan Harps GAA Club setting out a number of provisions put in place by the Club in order to address issues raised by the residents in the area. The Members complimented the Club in the manner in which they responded to the complaints.

5. Business submitted by An Cathaoirleach

No business was submitted by An Cathaoirleach.

6. Planning Applications

The Members noted Planning Applications numbered M.T. 10/11 – M.T. 10/12.

7. Consideration of Reports of Committees

There were no reports of Committees.

8. Roads/Housing

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

- Overhanging of trees on Rowantree Road
- Knockroe Glen – ramps required
- Footpath on Clones Road - overgrown
- Safety measure to be installed on platform at Peter's Lake

The Town Engineer stated that some form of traffic calming measure will be introduced into High Street to control the speed of vehicles.

The Town Engineer informed the Members that the one-way system in Mill Street will be implemented within the next few weeks.

The Members noted that the Pay Parking Bye-Laws will be reviewed in the next few months to facilitate the parking changes taking place in The Diamond area due to the Regeneration Project.

It was noted that as there is no further information from the Developer of the Mixed Use Development in the town it was agreed that a meeting be arranged with the Director of Clarks in committee at 4.00pm on Monday 19th July 2010 regarding the future of the development.

The Members noted from the County Manager that the tender details are being finalised at present for the construction of the Monaghan Fire Station.

9. Telecommunication Mast at Killygoan

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

10. Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme

Gareth McMahon, Town Engineer informed the Members that the current phase of the Remedial Works Scheme is on time and on budget and is due for completion in July 2011. The Town Engineer stated that he is meeting with the Departments Architectural Inspector on Wednesday 23rd June 2010 in order to progress the scheme to the next phase.

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

The Members of the Town Council acknowledged the disruption being caused by the works at The Diamond, Dublin Street and Old Cross Square, Monaghan and stated that the works, when finished will yield a significant economic dividend for the town. Gareth Mc Mahon, Town Engineer stated that a traffic management plan is in place and deliveries to all businesses are being accommodated at all times.

It was noted that a recent article published in the local newspaper in which Cllr. Thomas Hagan was critical of the Council's failure to replant trees which were removed from The Diamond as part of the regeneration project had given bad publicity to the Council in an unfair and unnecessary way. Cllr. Hagan was informed by the Town Engineer that the trees had been assessed by the Council's Horticulturist and it was determined that replanting them would have had to take place by February in order to save them. Cllr. Hagan apologized for any inconvenience he may have caused to the Council.

Cllr. Sherry stated that if the barrier at the rear of the Town Council Offices was removed it would encourage more pedestrians to use Dublin Street. The County Manager stated that the barrier was necessary for staff car parking.

12. Local Authority VAT on Income

Arising from an E.U. Directive it was noted that with effect from 1st July 2010 Local Authorities will have a changed status and will be regarded as taxable persons for VAT purposes. The Members were presented with a report showing that increasing short term parking fees from 50c to 60c an hour and increasing long stay car parking fees from €1 to €1.20 per day would absorb most of the €37,865 for which the Council would be liable in Vat between the 1st July 2010 and the 31st December 2010. On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Seamus Treanor it was agreed that the Town Council absorb the VAT burden for the remainder of the year and review the matter in the context of Budget 2011.

13. Consideration of Annual Financial Statement for Year Ended 31st December 2009

The Members noted the Annual Financial Statement for Year Ended 31st December 2009.

14. Consideration of Over-Expenditure for year ended 31st December 2009

On the proposal of Cllr Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr Seamus Treanor it was agreed to approve of the over-expenditure for the financial year ended 31st December 2009 as outlined in Note 17 of the Annual Financial Statement.

15. Consideration of approval to Overdraft Accommodation to 31st December 2010

On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha it was agreed to approve of overdraft accommodation in the sum of €1m for half year ended 31st December 2010.

16. Consideration of approval to dispose of land in accordance with Section 183 Notice dated 9th June 2010

On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha it was agreed to approve of the disposal of 0.0281 Hectares (0.069 acres) of land in the townland of Annahagh, Monaghan to Mr. Leslie Crawford, Annahagh, Monaghan in accordance with Section 183 Notice of the Local Government Act 2001 dated 9th June 2010.

17. Questions

Cllr Robbie Gallagher asked:

(a) Can the Council give an update on the painting of the railings at McCleary's shop and the wall in front of St. Patrick's Terrace?

Monaghan Town Council has engaged a local painting contractor and he will be carrying out this work in the coming weeks.

(b) Can the Council take immediate action to repair the loose manhole covers at Westenra Terrace that are causing great distress to the residents of that area?

This matter has been referred to the Water Services Section of Monaghan County Council who are investigating a solution to the problem.

© Can the Council provide an up-date on the position of the proposed bus shelter at the library on the North Road?

The local steel manufacturer who was engaged to provide proposals and a price for the construction of this shelter has pulled out of the project. Monaghan Town Council are now looking at alternative sources for a suitable shelter in this area.

(d) What is the current position regarding the upkeep and presentation of vacant and derelict building in the town?

A number of Monaghan County Council's planning staff has been assigned to look at the issue of derelict sites across the county. Councillors can bring problem locations to the attention of these staff members by reporting same to the Town Clerk.

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

(e) Will Monaghan Town Council provide to its elected Members notification of Council Housing Allocations as is the current practice of Monaghan County Council to its Members?

The Town Council will notify the Members of offers of tenancies as is the current practice of Monaghan County Council to its Members.

18. Resolutions from other Local Authorities

(a) “Wexford County Council calls on the Minister for Transport in response to “The Marine Pollution Prevention, Preparedness and Response Capabilities Study 2008” to immediately provide Emergency Towing Vessels (ETV) around the Irish coastline in order to protect Ireland’s coastline from Economic and Environmental damage”.

Wexford County Council

It was agreed to mark the above Resolution read.

(b) “That this Council demand that An Taoiseach, Brian Cowen, T.D. , Brian Lenihan, T.D., Minister for Finance and the Government provide a financial aid package or relief’s for residential mortgage holders and S.M. E.’s (small and medium enterprises) who find themselves through no fault of their own, having great difficulty meeting their financial commitments at this time”.

Castleblayney Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

©”Dublin City Council recognising

- (1) That Veolia is a leading partner in the consortium contracted to build a light railway system linking Israel to illegal settlements in occupied East Jerusalem;
- (2) That the Irish Government and the U.N. does not recognise Israel’s annexation and occupation of East Jerusalem and have repeatedly stated their views that the Israeli settlements in East Jerusalem and the West Bank contravene international law;
- (3) The Veolia’s involvement in the project is in contravention of the UN’s stated demand that Israeli settlements activities and occupation should not be supported.

This Council calls on the City Manager not to sign any new or renew any existing contracts with Veolia as it would be in contravention of the wishes of this Council. Galway and Sligo City/County Councils have supported similar motions”.

Dublin City Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

(d) “In light of the economic plight we now find ourselves in and the collapse of the building industry, Macroom Town Council call on all local Authorities to review their Development Charges. We are no longer in the Celtic Tiger era and we need to make drastic changes to kick start our economy again. In all areas of business, costs are falling and Local Authorities need to drastically reduce Development Charges to adapt to changing times”.

Macroom Town Council

It was agreed to mark the above Resolution read.

(e) “Bandon Town Council welcome the publication of the WSIP 2010-2012 listing the approval of approx. 340 contracts which are due to commence over the period 2010-2012 at an estimated cost of €1.840B. The Town Council calls on the Minister for the DOE & LG to suspend the current water pricing policy and to provide 100% funding to all the schemes that are approved to allow those schemes proceed which will both address the necessary water services infrastructure deficit and provide badly needed employment in the construction industry”.

Bandon Town Council

It was agreed to mark the above Resolution read.

(f) “That Castlebar Town Council supports the call to regulate so called cash for gold shops”
Castlebar Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution .

19. Conferences

(a) Byrne/Perry Summer School – “Entwined Histories 11: Ireland, France and America” – Christian Brothers School, Gorey, Co. Wexford – 25th – 27th June 2010 – (approx. cost €640)

(b) TGR Seminars – Professional Development Conference for Councillors – “Developing Vibrant Communities through Creativity and Innovation: A Business Perspective” – Holyrood Hotel, Bundoran, Co. Donegal – 2nd – 4th July 2010 – (approx. cost €470)

© Celtic Conferences – “A Practical Guide to Media Skills for Councillors” – The Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork – 15th-18th July 2010 – (approx cost €1000)

(d) Carlow Tourism 8th National Conference – “Tourism – The Way Forward” – Mount Wolseley Hotel, Tullow, Co. Carlow – 24th-26th June 2010 – (approx cost €60)

No attendance is to take place to the above Conferences.

Cllr. Seán Conlon stated that he was unable to attend the TGR Seminar in Westport on the 21st May 2010. Cllr. Conlon was nominated to attend this Seminar at the May Monthly Meeting of the Town Council.

20. Any other Business

The Members approved the payment of €17,000 to the Harvest Time Blues Festival Committee for 2010.

Cllr. Sherry expressed concern that elderly people who collect their pensions at Monaghan Post Office are being intimidated by “begging” taking place outside the building. It was agreed to write to the Gardaí in this matter.

The Members agreed to the payment of a grant of €3808 to the Mullaghmatt Cortolvin Community Development Ltd in lieu of a similar amount from the Development Association in respect of Condition No. 3 of Planning Permission 42/02. It was noted that the Development Association have been granted charitable status.

21. Sympathy/Congratulations

A vote of congratulations was extended to the following:

- The Dublin Street Traders on their hosting of an “Avonmore Big Picnic for Barrestown”
- Ryan Sheridan, Monaghan on his success in his musical career
- Cllr Paul McGeown on his success in the Cork City Marathon
- Cllr Paul McGeown on being voted the Cavan League Referee of the Year.
- Monaghan County Football Team on their win over Armagh. The Members wished them every success in the next round of the Ulster Football Championship. It was agreed to erect bunting throughout the town if Monaghan reached the final stage of the Ulster Championship on the 18th July.

The Members wished Andrea Gilligan, Northern Sound Broadcast Journalist success in her career as she takes up a post with Donegals Ocean FM.

A vote of sympathy was extended to the Curran family, Ardaghey on the sudden death of Tony Curran.

This Concluded the Business of the Meeting.

Dated this the 19th day of July 2010

Cathaoirleach