

COMHAIRLE BAILE MHUINEACHÁIN
MONAGHAN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 20th
June 2011 at 6.15p.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, Thomas Hagan, Paul McGeown, Donal Sherry, Seamus Treanor and Pdraigín Uí Mhurchadha.
- In Attendance:** David Fallon, Acting County Manager, Gareth McMahon, Town Engineer, Marie Deighan, Town Clerk and Sinead McCann, Staff Officer.

A Civic Reception took place to honour Gaelscoil Ultain on the occasion of celebrating 25 years of Education tré Ghaeilge in Monaghan town.

1. Confirmation of May Monthly Meeting held on 16/05/2011

It was agreed to amend the Minutes under point No. 3 (matters arising) to read Cllr. Seán Conlon in place of Seán Conlan TD.

On the proposal of Cllr. Robbie Gallagher seconded by Cllr Donal Sherry it was agreed to adopt, as amended the Minutes of the May Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 16th May 2011.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

The Members noted a price reduction introduced recently for attendance at Ulster Championship Football Matches but urged the GAA to look again at their pricing policy from a family aspect as admission fees are still too expensive.

David Fallon, Acting County Manager stated that he has had a number of meetings with the developers and discussions with their legal team on the Mixed Use Development at Rooskey in order to have an agreement drawn up to reinstate the car park. The Acting County Manager stated that a waste licence may be required as part of the planning application for the reinstatement.

Cllr. Seán Conlon stated that the IPA Conference for Local Authority Members which he was nominated to attend in Waterford on the 26/27th May 2011 has been cancelled.

In relation to the introduction of a long term pay parking permit system for the town the Members were informed that all General Practitioners operating in the town have been informed of the scheme. It was agreed also to send the correspondence to the Chamber of Commerce for their information.

Cllr. Seán Conlon sought clarification on development contribution levies imposed on an individual in respect of a planning application for a smoking area in the town. David Fallon, A/County Manager stated that the charges imposed are in accordance with the Development Contribution Scheme.

It was agreed to set up a Planning Sub-Committee meeting to progress the proposal for the erection of a Famine Memorial for the town. It was also agreed that Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha, Shirley Clerkin, Heritage Officer, Somhairle MacConghail, Arts Officer and Liam Bradley, Curator of Monaghan County Council Museum be invited to attend the meeting.

Cllr. Seán Conlon commended Monaghan Tidy Towns on the work which they have carried out in the town. Cllr. Conlon expressed the view that every effort should be made to contact the owners prior to a building being selected for painting/enhancement works and to encourage them to do the work themselves. Cllr. Conlon proposed that a letter be sent to the Tidy Towns Committee asking them to request the owners of a building, in cases where the committee carried out works, to make a donation to the Tidy Towns Group which would cover the cost of the said works. This was seconded by Cllr. David Maxwell and agreed.

Cllr. Donal Sherry welcomed the removal of the summer seat from Church Square.

3. Manager's Orders

The Members noted Manager's Orders numbered 63/11 – 86/11.

4. Correspondence

The Members noted the following correspondence:-

- Acknowledgement letter dated 17th May 2011 from the Office of the Taoiseach regarding the Fás Office in Monaghan town.
- Acknowledgement letter dated 17th May 2011 from the Office of the Minister for Social and Family Affairs regarding the Fás Office in Monaghan town.
- Letter dated 27th May 2011 from the Office of the Minister for Social and Family Affairs regarding the Fás Office in Monaghan town which stated that the Minister has been advised that there is no decision to close the Monaghan office. Cllr. Gallagher thanked the Members of the Council for their support in relation to having this matter highlighted at an early date.
- Letter dated the 18th May 2011 from the Fás Office, Dundalk declining the Members invitation to attend a Town Council Meeting to discuss the Fás Office in Monaghan town.

- Acknowledgement letter dated 26th May 2011 from Deputy Heather Humphreys TD enclosing a letter from Willie Penrose TD regarding Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme.
- Letter dated 8th June 2011 from Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin TD regarding Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme.
- Letter dated 16th May 2011 from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government regarding Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme.
- Letter dated 18th May 2011 from Damien Treanor, A/Director of Roads and Transportation, Monaghan County Council regarding the purchase of a site from Monaghan Town Council on O' Neills Farm for a new Civil Defence Office. The Members noted that the Machinery Yard may not be disposed off for several years. Following a discussion and on the proposal of Cllr. Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr. Mary Carroll it was agreed that a Section 183 Notice under the Local Government Act 2001 be prepared for the sale of land on O' Neills Farm to Monaghan County Council to accommodate a Civil Defence Office.
- Acknowledgement letter dated 24th May 2011 from the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government regarding a request for funding for the sewage scheme to be extended to the Scotstown Road and Clones Road.
- Letter dated the 7th June 2011 from the OPW regarding the Members Notice of Motion seeking to establish an Enterprise Centre on the site of the former Revenue Commissioners Customs premises on the Armagh Road, Monaghan. The Members expressed disappointment with the contents of the letter.
- Letter dated 30th May 2011 from the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in relation to the National Famine Commemoration.
- Letter dated 19th May 2011 from Monaghan Allotment Society asking the Town Council to confirm that the Allotment Society is the only organization being considered for Elliotts field. The Town Engineer stated the Allotment Society still have a number of issues outstanding with the Council which they need to address. It was agreed to correspond with the Society in this regard.
- Letter dated the 19th May 2011 from Dr. James Reilly TD, Minister for Health confirming a date/time/location of the 16th June 2011 at 10.30a.m. in Leinster House, Dublin for a meeting with a delegation from Monaghan Town Council to discuss Monaghan General Hospital.
- Letter dated 17th May 2011 from Ards Borough Council regarding a resolution by Thurles Town Council in relation to the recent murder of Constable Ronan Kerr.

- Letter received on the 17th June 2011 from Richard McKenna, Casual Trader Operator in Monaghan town. Gareth McMahon, Town Engineer stated that he has examined, as requested the proposal to use a portion of the Taxi Rank as a casual trading area and stated that there would be enough space to do this. Cllr. Donal Sherry proposed and Cllr. Seán Conlon seconded that the Town Council make a decision tonight to introduce a new casual trading bay at the front of the Courthouse. The Town Clerk stated that the Town Council would have to designate the proposed new casual trading area taking into account the reports of the relevant bodies and then the matter would be put out for public consultation.
- Correspondence dated May 2011 stating that Killygoan Playpark has been shortlisted for a Brennans Bread playground make-over. The Members appealed to the public to cast their vote in favour of the playground.
- Letter dated 1st June 2011 from the Rehab Group thanking the Members for their nomination for the 37th People of the Year Awards.
- Letters of thanks from Cllr. Noel Keelan, Monaghan County Council and Carrickmacross Town Council thanking the Members for their vote of sympathy on the death of his mother, Bridget.
- Letter of thanks from Paul Clarke, Staff Member of Monaghan County Council thanking the Members for their vote of sympathy on the death of his mother, Maureen.
- Letter of thanks from Noel Hennessy, Clones Road thanking the Members for their vote of sympathy on the death of his wife, Rosaleen.
- Letter dated the 14th June 2011 from Leanne McKenna, Mullaghmart requesting the Town Council's support for their project "Improving Bicycle Use in Monaghan". On the proposal of Cllr. Mary Carroll seconded by Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha it was agreed to support the project and the Members complimented Ms McKenna and Ms. Niamh Gallagher on the work undertaken by them todate on their project.

5. Planning Applications

The Members noted Planning Applications numbered MT 11/6 – MT 11/11.

6. Business Submitted by An Cathaoirleach

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. David Maxwell stated that a delegation representing Monaghan County Council, Monaghan Town Council and the Hospital Alliance met with Dr. James Reilly TD, Minister for Health on Thursday 16th June 2011 at 10.30a.m. in Leinster House, Dublin and stated that nine members of the HSE staff were also in attendance. Cllr. Maxwell stated that the meeting proved fruitful and thanked the Minister for the meeting. The agenda for the meeting was as follows:-

- Restoration of Acute Medical and Surgical Services to Monaghan General Hospital
- 24 hour Accident and Emergency Cover at Monaghan General Hospital
- Restoration of the Intensive Care Unit at Monaghan General Hospital
- The Doctor-on-Call Service

Cllr. Seán Conlon also thanked the Minister for meeting with the delegation and stated that the meeting was useful but expressed disappointment at the large number of HSE staff present at the meeting who are all in support of the status quo situation in the hospital. It was noted that the Minister may consider the setting up of a Medical Assessment Unit in Monaghan General Hospital. Cllr. Conlon stated that he was of the opinion that the Minister was not aware of the situation at Monaghan General Hospital and had to consult several times with his HSE advisors. Cllr. Gallagher stated that he was disappointed leaving the meeting stating that the future for Monaghan General Hospital is as bleak as it ever was. Cllr. Seamus Treanor stated that he was disappointed with the outcome of the meeting and complimented Dr. Illona Duffy on her contribution to the meeting. Cllr. Thomas Hagan called on the Members to give the Minister time to deal with the situation. Cllr. Carroll stated that she and her party colleagues would continue to fight for the hospital.

7. Consideration of Reports of Committees

Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha stated that Cllr. Robbie Gallagher and herself attended a Social and Cultural Strategic Policy Committee Meeting of Monaghan County Council held recently in the Wildlife Centre in Clontibret. Cllr. Uí Mhurchadha praised the location for the meeting and encouraged the public to visit the facility.

Cllr. Seán Conlon stated that the official opening of the International Forge-In Festival is taking place on Thursday 23rd June 2011 at 5.00p.m. at the front of the Courthouse.

8. Roads/Housing

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

- Potholes – at entrance to Knockroe Glen
- Dunsinaire lane in bad condition.
- Dwelling in Ard Glas – kitchen needs repair.
- Grass needs cutting in front of Kellys factory

Cllr. Thomas Hagan called for Mill Street to be made one way as vehicles are still turning left onto the North Road even though there is a “no left turn” sign in place.

Cllr. Donal Sherry complimented the Town Council staff on the help they had extended to a Local Authority tenant who had a house fire recently.

Cllr. Donal Sherry complained that people walking their dogs are allowing them to foul all over the place. Following a discussion the Acting County Manager suggested that signage be erected to make the public more aware of the fines that could be imposed on them.

It was also agreed that a letter be issued to the Gardaí concerning public drinking activities, littering, etc taking place on a constant basis at Peters Lake/Canal Park. Cllr. Mary Carroll called on the general public to contact the Gardaí immediately if they see anti-social behaviour taking place.

9. Telecommunication Mast at Killygoan

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

Cllr. Paul McGeown left the Council Chamber.

10. Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme

Gareth McMahon, Town Engineer informed the Members that the Council have approval from the Department to proceed to a detailed design stage for Phase 3 of the Remedial Works. The Town Engineer stated that he was now looking at trying to have Phase 2 of the scheme extended to include a small number of houses and works to the road at the rear of the estate.

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

The Members were informed by the Town Engineer that a letter of acceptance issued today to the preferred contractor for the installation of playgrounds in two locations in the town. The Members also noted that the Council are preparing tender documents for the completion of works in Old Cross Square, Monaghan.

12. Progress on Windows/Doors – Killygoan Area

The Town Engineer informed the Members that works to the windows/doors in the Killygoan area is substantially complete. Cllr. Donal Sherry requested that this matter be kept on the agenda until all of the works have been completed to the satisfaction of the tenants.

13. Appointment of Nominee to the Management/Supervisory Board of the new Garage Theatre.

On the proposal of Cllr. Thomas Hagan seconded by Cllr. David Maxwell it was agreed that Cllr. Robbie Gallagher be appointed as the nominee to the Management/Supervisory Board of the new Garage Theatre.

14. Consideration of application to take in charge the Access Road between Dublin Street and the Diamond Centre Car Park.

The Members noted drawing no. DSA11-001 together with letter dated 23rd March 2011 from Latimer Associates requesting the Town Council to take the access route between Dublin Street and The Diamond Centre Car Park in charge. On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Robbie Gallagher it was agreed to proceed to public consultation with an application for the Council to take in charge the Access Road between Dublin Street and the Diamond Centre Car Park.

15. Notices of Motion:-

- (a) “That this Council deplores the Government’s implementation of the previous Government’s failed programme”.

Cllrs. Uí Mhurchadha, Conlon, Sherry, Mc Geown

Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha proposed the Notice of Motion and Cllr. Seán Conlon seconded the Motion. Cllr. Mary Carroll stated that she would not support the motion. Following a discussion a vote was taken which resulted as follows:-

In favour of the Motion:- Cllrs. Conlon, Uí Mhurchadha, Sherry (3)

Against the Motion:- Cllr. Carroll, Hagan, Maxwell (3)

Abstained from voting:- Cllrs. Gallagher, Treanor (2)

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. David Maxwell used his casting vote which resulted as follows:-

In favour of the Motion:- (3)

Against the Motion:- (4)

The Cathaoirleach declared the Motion lost.

- (b) “That this Council calls on the Government to seek full co-operation from the UK and Northern Ireland Authorities in relation to access to information in all files relating to the Dublin and Monaghan Bombings”.

Cllrs. Carroll, Hagan, Maxwell

On the proposal of Cllr. Mary Carroll seconded by Cllr. Thomas Hagan it was agreed to adopt the above Notice of Motion.

16. Ceisteanna/Questions

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

- (a) During 2010 how many parking fines were issued for illegal parking in disabled parking bays in Monaghan Town?

59 Parking fines were issued for illegal parking in disabled parking bays in Monaghan Town in 2010.

- (b) In the recent assessment of unfinished housing developments undertaken by the Planning Section of Monaghan County Council, were the derelict terraced dwellings (painted yellow) that are part of the Millbrook development at Milltown taken into consideration and will they be monitored on health and safety grounds accordingly?

Monaghan County Council is the Planning Authority in this case.

- (c) To accommodate the dozens of dwellings dependent on septic tanks in the Milltown and Telayden areas has there been consideration given by Council, or is there potential for, installation of public foul and storm water drainage systems in this part of town?

Monaghan County Council is the Sanitary Authority in this case.

- (d) In an effort to improve the appearance of the main northerly approach road (N2) into town and compliment the voluntary efforts of local residents, can the following enhancement measures be undertaken in the New Terrace/St. Patricks Terrace area?
- (i) vandalised (scorched) wooden fencing at football pitch replaced and weedkill applied
 - (ii) Black railings straightened opposite McCleary's shop, possible project for upcoming "Forge-In Festival"
 - (iii) Repair of kerbing
 - (iv) Installation of additional bollards at St. Patricks Terrace to prevent vehicles mounting/damaging footpaths and kerbing
 - (v) Weed elimination/spraying along stone walls at St. Patricks Terrace
- Most of these items have been previously identified and are on works lists for completion. The issue regarding a need for additional bollards shall be investigated further and the Engineer will report back.*
- (e) On the sloped bank at the entrance to Killygoan from the Glen Road where grass cutting is difficult, can planting of rhododendrons, evergreen shrubs and perennial flowers be undertaken similar to existing growth along the Glen?
Planting options in this area shall be discussed with the town gardener with regards to species type, suitability and costs.
- (f) From the Department of Environment, Community and Local Governments "Unfinished Housing Developments" fund whereby almost €300,000 has been applied for by the County Council Planning Section, has any amount been allocated for housing developments in the Monaghan town area? What is the total allocation for the County?
The Department has awarded €3405 for remedial works to be carried out on the Forest Walk development at Mullaghmatt. A further €5,700 has been awarded in respect of one further development in the functional area of Monaghan County Council. The Members expressed disappointment at the lack of funding available.

17. Resolutions from Other Local Authorities:-

- (a) "That Ardee Town Council call on Louth County Council and other Local Authorities who have litter wardens to change working hours to catch people who are committing offences at weekends and late in the night".

Ardee Town Council

The Members supported the above Resolution.

- (b) “That this Council in light of the potentially catastrophic danger to public health posed by various Nuclear reactors in Japan:-
- (i) Renew its opposition to UK Government plans to build 5 new nuclear power stations along the Irish Sea in Britain;
 - (ii) Calls on the Minister of the Environment to voice concern to his UK counterpart in the strongest possible terms;
 - (iii) Calls on the appropriate Departments to take further legal steps confirming Ireland’s status as a Nuclear Free State;
 - (iv) Replace the “Nuclear Free Town” signage which informed Wexford Town visitors of our Nuclear Free Status;
 - (v) Renew its lapsed membership of the NFLA (Nuclear Free Local Authorities)”.

Wexford Borough Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

- (c) “That this Council seek support from other Local Authorities to call on the ESB to give customers in arrears similar discounts to those enjoyed by all other customers and without delay put a pre-paid meter system in place”.

Fermoy Town Council

It was agreed to mark the above Resolution read.

- (d) “That the Members of Wexford Borough Council appeal to the Government to urgently review and change the legislation relating to the method used to assess rateable valuations of Commercial Rates – replacing it with a more fairer and equitable method of assessing and calculating rate liability with a cost neutral effect on Local Authorities”.

Wexford Borough Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

- (e) “That this Council recognises that:-
- The Universal Social Charge is an unjust and regressive tax, bearing down most heavily on those least able to afford it;
 - The Universal Social Charge affects people earning as little as €77 per week;
 - The Universal Social Charge is indiscriminate and affects someone earning €100,000 at the same rate as someone earning €6,016;
 - Low income workers, including medical card holders, working lone parents and working widows, who were exempt from the health and income levies which the Universal Social Charge replaced, are no longer exempt;
 - Coupled with the changes to tax credits and bands introduced in Budget 2011, the Universal Social Charge has increased the burden of taxation on the working poor;
 - And calls on the Government to abolish the Universal Social Charge.”

Carlow Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

(f) “That Shannon Town Council call on the Government to ensure that no levies/taxes are imposed on motor or house insurance to pay for losses incurred by Quinn Insurance”.

Shannon Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

(g) “That Clones Town Council call on the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Eamon Gilmore TD to request the German Authorities to reopen the case of Matthew Fitzpatrick who died tragically on the 11th December 2010 in Mannheim, Germany. I would also urge the Tánaiste to meet with the family of Matthew Fitzpatrick so that they are given the opportunity to outline their concerns with regard to the significant discrepancies found between the autopsy which took place in Mannheim, Germany and the second autopsy which took place in Ireland”.

Clones Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

18. Conferences

- (a) TGR Seminars – Professional Development for Councillors “Leadership Skills Development” – Bunratty Castle Hotel and Luxury Spa, Bunratty, Co. Clare – 15th – 17th July 2011 – (approx. cost €700)

No attendance is to take place to the above Conference.

19. Any Other Business

Cllr. Seamus Treanor expressed disappointment over the lack of a response from the Office of Public Works regarding complaints of works carried out to the front elevation of the Courthouse in the town (steel sheeting applied to windows and front door of the building). It was agreed that a letter be issued again in this regard.

Cllr. Seamus Treanor proposed that a letter be sent to Monaghan County Council conveying the Town Council’s support for the Monaghan/Cavan Fishermen’s Association who have highlighted the issue of illegal poaching of coarse fish in the County. This was agreed to.

20. Sympathy/Congratulations

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

- The family of the late Brian Lenihan, T.D., former Minister for Finance
- The family of the late former Taoiseach and Fine Gael Leader, Dr. Garret FitzGerald
- The family of the late Lorraine McKenna nee Kendrick, Cornacassa
- The family of the late Liam Kelly, former Senator and MP, Mullaghduin
- The family of the late Liam McCleary, Tirkeenan

A vote of congratulations was extended to the following:

- Rory McIlroy, Co. Down on winning the US Open Golf Championship
- Martha Williamson-Hunter on her appointment as Principal of Beech Hill College, Monaghan.
- Frank McManus on his retirement from the post of Principal of Beech Hill College, Monaghan.
- County Monaghan Senior Ladies Football Team on reaching the Ulster final
- Bishop John McDowell, newly appointed Church of Ireland Bishop of Clogher.

The Members wished the Monaghan Senior Football Team the best of luck in their football match against Offaly on Sunday next.

Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha complimented the Town Council Gardener on the placement of beautiful flower boxes on the Town Council building.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Dated this the 18th day of July 2011

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach