

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

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2012 at 6.30p.m. in the Council Chamber of Monaghan Town Council, Town Hall, No. 1 Dublin Street, Monaghan.

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**Cathaoirleach:** Cllr. Seamus Treanor

**Present:** Cllrs. Mary Carroll, 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.

**1. Confirmation of May Monthly Meeting held on 15/05/2012**

On the proposal of Cllr. Robbie Gallagher seconded by Cllr Paul McGeown it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the May Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2012.

**2. Confirmation of Meeting held on 15/05/2012**

On the proposal of Cllr. Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr Robbie Gallagher it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2012 in relation to the Draft Monaghan County Development Plan (incorporating the Development Plan for the Town of Monaghan).

**3. Matters arising from the Minutes**

The Members congratulated the Monaghan Allotment Society on their “Open Day” at the Allotments in Tydavnet on the 16<sup>th</sup> June which was a huge success. The Town Engineer stated that the Town Clerk and himself had met a delegation from the Allotment Society and are in the process of clarifying boundaries and other issues before going out to public consultation.

Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha stated that she had attended the recent Stone Sculpture Symposium in Clones and called for progress to be made towards the development of a Famine Memorial in the town. Cllr. David Maxwell stated that when he was in Prince Edward Island in Canada recently he had seen an impressive monument and is of the opinion that its design would be suitable for a proposed Famine Memorial.

Gareth McMahan, Town Engineer informed the Members that funding has been granted for the provision of cycle paths around Monaghan town.

Cllr. David Maxwell thanked the Members of the Town Council for giving him the privilege of going to Prince Edward Island. Cllr. Maxwell reported that he had attended a number of meetings and met a large number of people who have links with Monaghan. The Members noted that the Nelson Doyle Dancers from PEI will be visiting Monaghan in August and that a Rugby Team are also planning a trip to Monaghan in 2013.

Following a discussion and on the proposal of Cllr. David Maxwell seconded by Cllr. Thomas Hagan it was agreed to invite Bridget Clarke, HSE General Manager to a meeting of Monaghan Town Council to discuss concerns over hospital services in the area.

The Members referred to the recent visit of Canadian Senator Michael Duffy to the Monaghan County Museum. The Members praised the Curator and his staff on the guided tour given to them on the occasion and encouraged the public to make greater use of the facility.

On the proposal of Cllr. Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha it was agreed to write to Richard Bruton TD, Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation seeking an update from him on a meeting which had taken place in May 2012 with a delegation of Members from the Town Council regarding the vacant former Revenue Commissioners Offices at Coolshannagh, Monaghan and the request for putting tighter legislation in place to prevent the situation which happened to employees in GAME Stores throughout Ireland.

The Members noted that no reply has been received from Coillte regarding a view expressed by the Members that the € charge levied by Coillte for vehicles entering Rossmore Park is excessive and calling for the fee to be overturned. On the proposal of Cllr. Donal Sherry seconded by Cllr. Paul McGeown it was agreed to write again to Coillte requesting them to consider the possibility of raising the admission barrier to Rossmore Park after 6p.m. in the summer months to facilitate those who wish to use the Park for walks.

It was noted that a report will be brought before the Members at the July Monthly Meeting on the new traffic light system installed recently on the Glen Road.

#### **4. Manager's Orders**

The Members noted Manager's Orders numbered 82/12 – 97/12.

#### **5. Correspondence**

The Members noted the following correspondence:-

- Letter dated 6<sup>th</sup> June 2012 from the Department of Health regarding the proposed closure of kitchen facilities at Monaghan Hospital and St. Mary's Hospital, Castleblayney. The Members expressed disappointment with the contents of this letter.
- Letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> June 2012 from the HSE regarding the relocation of kitchen facilities – Monaghan Hospital and St. Mary's Hospital, Castleblayney.

- Acknowledgement letter dated 21<sup>st</sup> May 2012 from the Department of Health regarding life saving medication for citizens of this country. The Members expressed disappointment with the contents of this correspondence.
- Letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> June 2012 from the Office of the Minister for Justice in relation to early release of prisoners. The Members expressed disappointment with the contents of this letter.
- Letter dated 21<sup>st</sup> May 2012 from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform regarding an appeal from the Members of the Council for the introduction of a new method of determining and levying rates on commercial premises.
- Letter dated 24<sup>th</sup> May 2012 from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport regarding the closure of the Tourist Information Office in Monaghan Town.
- Letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> June 2012 from Fáilte Ireland in relation to a Tourism Industry Briefing to be held on the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2012 for the Tourism Businesses and Stakeholders in County Monaghan. Cllr Seán Conlon called on all Members of the Council to attend this briefing.
- Letter dated 28<sup>th</sup> May 2012 from Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin TD regarding Phase 3 of the Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme.
- Email dated 12<sup>th</sup> June 2012 from the OPW confirming that the original steps for the Courthouse are in Monaghan County Councils yard and the Harp over the front door had been thrown out during construction works. On the proposal of Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha seconded by Cllr. Donal Sherry it was agreed to write to the OPW calling for the Harp Symbol to be reinstated over the Courthouse entrance.
- Acknowledgement letter dated 1<sup>st</sup> June 2012 from An Garda Síochána regarding the monitoring of Disabled Parking Bays.
- Letter and correspondence dated 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2012 regarding guidance/instructions issued by the Data Protection Commissioner on the release of public data to Public Representatives. The Members expressed disappointment with this correspondence.
- Invitation from His Excellency Loyola Hearn, Ambassador of Canada requesting the pleasure of Cllr David Maxwell to celebrate Canada day on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012. On the proposal of Cllr Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr Robbie Gallagher it was agreed that Cllr David Maxwell attend the celebration.
- Letter dated 16<sup>th</sup> May 2012 from the Mount Sion Past Pupils Union thanking the Cathaoirleach for his participation in an event in Waterford on the 13<sup>th</sup> April 2012.
- Letter received on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2012 from Ballyalbany Flower Festival Committee thanking the Members for the generous contribution towards sponsoring the festival.
- Letter dated 6<sup>th</sup> June 2012 from Sr Máire, Mullaghmatt thanking the Members of the Council for their greetings on the occasion of her retirement from the teaching staff of St. Louis Girls National School, Monaghan town.

- Letter dated 18<sup>th</sup> June 2012 from Brendan Sherlock and James Campbell seeking a financial contribution towards the “Monaghan 10 Miler” event which is to take place on the 19<sup>th</sup> August 2012. On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Paul McGeown it was agreed to refer this correspondence to the Budget Sub-Committee of the Town Council.

## **6. Planning Applications**

The Members noted Planning Applications numbered MT 12/8 – MT 12/11.

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

No business was submitted by An Cathaoirleach

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

The Members noted the following reports of Committees:-

- Minutes of Special Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2012 with a delegation from the Monaghan Chamber of Commerce in relation to festivals.
- Minutes of Planning Sub-Committee meeting held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2012 with the Residents of Belgian Square.
- Minutes of Planning Sub-Committee meeting held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2012 regarding the counting of votes on three options given to each household in Belgian Square regarding the yellow box clearway in the estate. The Members noted the outcome of the ballot and respected the result as voiced by the people of the area. It was agreed to send a copy of the Minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> June to each household in Belgian Square.

Cllr Robbie Gallagher left the Council Chamber.

## **9. Roads/Housing:-**

The following matters were noted for the attention of the Town Engineer:-

- Railing to be replaced in Old Cross Square/Pound Hill
- Weeds – Clones Road
- Drains blocked – Fairview Crescent
- Potholes – entrance to Schools on Clones Road

The Members welcomed the recent painting carried out to Dunnes Stores. It was agreed that the Planning Sub-Committee consider the introduction of clamping of vehicles which are parked illegally in disabled parking bays in the town.

## **10. Telecommunication Mast at Killygoan**

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

## **11. Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**15. Consideration of approval of Over-Expenditure for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011**

The Members noted details of the over-expenditure of Monaghan Town Council for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011 together with details of the Transfers to/from Reserves and Inter-capital transfers. On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha it was agreed to approve of the Over-Expenditure for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011.

**16. Consideration of Nominations for the 2012 People of the Year Awards**

On the proposal of Cllr Donal Sherry seconded by Cllr David Maxwell it was agreed to nominate Katie Taylor, Boxing Champion for the 2012 People of the Year Awards.

**17. Nomination of Member to Tourism Sub-Committee**

The Members noted correspondence dated 1<sup>st</sup> June 2012 from Monaghan County Council seeking a representative to sit on the Tourism Sub-Committee. On the proposal of Cllr Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr David Maxwell it was agreed that Cllr Paul McGeown be nominated to the Tourism Sub-Committee of Monaghan County Council.

**18. Extent of Plantation by Coillte**

The Members noted correspondence dated 18<sup>th</sup> May 2012 received from Coillte regarding the extent of plantation which took place around the Country in the years 2009, 2010, 2011 and the projection figures for 2012.

## **19. Consideration of Parks and Open Spaces Draft Bye-Laws 2012**

The Members noted a copy of the Monaghan Town Council Parks and Open Spaces Draft Bye-Laws 2012 and a copy of the following submissions received:-

- An acknowledgement dated the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012 from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government
- Letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> June 2012 from Inland Fisheries Ireland, Blackrock, Co. Dublin
- Email dated 13<sup>th</sup> June 2012 from the Town Engineer, Monaghan Town Council

On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Thomas Hagan it was agreed to amend and adopt the Monaghan Town Council Parks and Open Spaces Bye-Laws 2012 taking into account the submissions received.

## **20. Ceisteanna/Questions**

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

- (a) In relation to the recently erected pedestrian operated traffic light system on the Glen Road and which replaced the original zebra crossing, will this Council request that the Planning Office of Monaghan County Council carry out a report as to the possible negative impact this pedestrian crossing might or will have on the potential for development of property/lands adjacent to the crossing on both sides of the Glen Road?

The Pedestrian crossing is located outside a number of existing established residential properties. These properties, due primarily to their limited plot size, have severely restricted development potential. It is not envisaged that the location of the pedestrian crossing at this point will have a negative impact on this existing limited potential.

- (b) Further to previous questions submitted on behalf of the residents of the Latlorcan housing development, Castleblayney Road, can the Planning Section outline in detail the proposed "Schedule of Works" agreed between the Council and financial institutions that aims to address the completion of long outstanding remedial and development works and also indication of timescale for commencement of these works at this unfinished housing development?

A site resolution plan which included a schedule of works required to complete the development at Latlorcan 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 Development 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 the 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 is currently waiting for written confirmation of this from the administrators. It is important to note that the claim of 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.

**Cllr Robbie Gallagher asked:-**

© Could the Council, in order to facilitate emergency services, consider the erection of a sign at the entrance to the Mullaghmatt estate clearly showing the location and numbers of the houses in the estate?

The Council can arrange for signage to be installed in this estate as outlined. This signage could be included in the scope of work for the remedial scheme.

(d) Could the Council clearly indicate, with road markings, that traffic entering town needs to yield at Flacks Garage/Council Yard in the interest of road safety?

This is not a junction per se, but is an area where vehicles need to get in lane appropriately. Vehicles in the left hand lane coming from Emyvale direction have priority in that lane. Similarly vehicles in the right hand lane coming from North Road have priority in that lane. A vehicle wishing to switch lanes should show due care and be mindful of traffic in the lane he wishes to enter. The Area Engineer has said he will investigate options for additional signage in this area.

(e) Could the Council put down a junction box at the Hospital entrance junction in the interest of road safety?

Council Engineers have examined safety around this junction and have carried out a number of traffic calming measures including the provision of ramps and a pedestrian crossing. A junction box is ordinarily used at a busy junction where traffic may back up across the junction preventing vehicles from the other arm of the junction from exiting. This situation does not arise at this junction and therefore a junction box is not required in this instance.

(f) In relation to the flooding in Drumbear and other parts of Monaghan Town when can we expect to have the completed report from OPW/Local Authority in relation to the possible causes of same?

The OPW North West Neagh Bann CFRAM Study is soon to commence. Monaghan Town is included in this study as an area of flood risk. Maps of the high risk areas have been developed. This study will be carried out over the next 18 months. It's anticipated that recommendations for flood mitigation measures will be generated from the study.

**21. Resolutions from Other Local Authorities:-**

(a) "That this Council would seek assurances from the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government that any personal data collected in the recent Household Charge application form would remain strictly confidential and will not be disclosed to other parties as is determined in legislation under the Data Protection and Freedom of Information Acts".

Kilrush Town Council

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

- (b) “That this Council, noting the difficulties faced by many thousands of working families, given increasing petrol and diesel prices and acknowledging that drivers are contributing over 10% of all Government revenue between excise duty, VAT, VRT and motor tax, calls on the Government and the Minister for Finance to support legislation which would reduce the price of petrol and diesel by 5 cents and also to bring about measures which would allow for the review of prices every three months, and allow for the Government of the day to respond quickly to developing situations in the market place”.

Boyle Town Council

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

- (c) “Donegal County Council requests the Minister for Health and Children, Dr James Reilly to instruct the HSE to carry out, as a matter of urgency, a review of the Long Term Illness Scheme with a view to including Long Term Debilitating Illnesses which are not presently recognised by the present scheme”.

Donegal County Council

It was agreed to mark the above Resolution read.

## **22. Conferences**

- (a) Brand Conference – “Innovation and Creativity in Place making across the Irish Sea” – Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire – 21<sup>st</sup> June 2012 – (approx. cost €280)
- (b) Celtic Conferences – “Advancing Technology in Majority World Education” – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork – 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> June 2012 – (approx. cost €80)
- (c) University Ireland/The Irish Times – “Reflecting on a decade of War and Revolution in Ireland 1912-1923:Historians and Public History” – The Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, Dublin – 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2012 – (approx. cost €10).
- (d) Tipperary Peace Convention – International Peace Conference – Ballykisteen Hotel & Golf Resort, Ballykisteen, Limerick Junction, Tipperary – 5<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> July 2012 – (approx. cost €95).
- (e) TGR Seminars – “Reform of Local Government – Implications and Consequences for Councillors, Provision of Services and Communities” – Bunratty Castle Hotel, Co. Clare – 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> July 2012 – (approx. cost €90)

The Members noted details of a Tourism National Conference to be held in Carlow from the 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2012.

No attendance is to take place to the above Conferences.

The Members were circulated with a report complying with Section 142(5)(f) of the Local Government Act 2001 in respect of the following Conference:- Association of County and City Councils, Kilkenny – attended by Cllr. Seán Conlon on the 10th/11th May 2012.



### **23. Any Other Business**

The Members expressed sadness at the decision of Monaghan United Football Club to withdraw from participating in the Airtricity League of Ireland. On the proposal of Cllr. Donal Sherry seconded by Cllr. Seán Conlon it was agreed to write to the Club in this regard and to state that the Town Council look forward to the Club's return to the National League.

Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha called on the Members to complete the Questionnaire Survey of Local Authority Elected Members on the future of Local Government and to submit it to the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government before the closing date.

It was noted that the owner of a derelict site on the Castleblayney Road has been requested to address the matter.

### **24. Sympathy/Congratulations**

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:-

- Philomena Ward, Staff Member of Monaghan Motor Tax Office on the death of her mother, Mrs. Alice Greenan, Crosshugh.
- The Fox family, No. 2 Old Cross Square on the death of Vincent Fox
- Francis Mc Carron and Linda Pinkster, 5 Clover Hill on the death of their daughter, Emma Mc Carron.
- O' Hanrahan Family, Killyconnigan on the death of Patricia (Patsy) O' Hanrahan.

The Members wished the Monaghan County Football Team every good wish on Sunday in their Championship Game against Down at Armagh.

A vote of congratulations was extended to Europe GAA P.R.O., Brian Clerkin and his involvement with St. Gallen's GAA Club in Switzerland.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Dated this the 16<sup>th</sup> day of July 2012

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cathaoirleach**