

Comhairle Baile Mhuineacháin
Monaghan Town Council

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 15th March 2010 at 3.00pm in the Council Chamber of Monaghan Town Council, Town Hall, 1 Dublin Street, Monaghan.

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Seán Conlon

Present: Cllrs. 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 Donna Toal, Clerical Officer.

At the outset, the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Seán Conlon welcomed Gary Keenan, as an observer to the Meeting.

It was agreed to deal with Item No.17 on the Agenda (Garage Theatre) in committee at the end of the meeting.

1. Confirmation of February Monthly Meeting held on 15th February 2010.

On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Paul McGeown it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the February Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 15th February 2010.

2. Confirmation of Special Meeting held on 1st March 2010

On the proposal of Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha seconded by Cllr Thomas Hagan it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 1st March 2010 in relation to the Conferring of Civic Honours on Her Excellency, Cecelia Mc Kenna, Chilean Ambassador to Ireland.

Cllr Robbie Gallagher entered the meeting room.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Seán Conlon and the Members of the Council congratulated Cllr David Maxwell and the committee involved in the recent ceremony for the Rededication of the Chapel of Rest and Surrounding Graveyard at Coolshannagh, Monaghan. Cllr. Maxwell thanked the Town Council for the funding support given to the committee for the project over the last number of years.

Cllr. Sherry was informed by the Town Engineer that significant works have been carried out to dwellings in Killygoan and that new doors have been ordered and will be fitted within the next few weeks.

The Cathaoirleach stated that the Members of Monaghan Rotary Club are attending a ceremony in Chepelare, Bulgaria where a street will be named "Ireland Street" in recognition of the Rotary Clubs charitable work with the town. Cllr. Conlon stated that a letter will be read out on behalf of Monaghan Town Council thanking the Municipality of Chepelare for bestowing this honour on the town.

It was noted that the Booklet “Keep Well and Warm” published by Sustainable Energy Ireland has been ordered and will be available from the Town Council Offices.

Cllr. Seán Conlon stated that he was unable to attend the Colmcille Winter School Conference on the 26th – 28th February. Cllr. Conlon was nominated to attend this Conference at the February Monthly Meeting of the Town Council.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Seán Conlon stated that the Council had received letter of thanks from the Rossmore Coarse Angling Club commending the Local Authorities for their quick response in handling the situation at Peters Lake caused by a blockage of the sewer system which led to a fish kill. Cllr. Conlon stated that the Monaghan Sub Aqua Club and the Rossmore Anglers are arranging to carry out a clean-up of the lake.

Cllr. David Maxwell stated that a delegation from Monaghan County Council secured a meeting with Sean Haughey, TD, Minister for State at the Department of Education and Science on his visit to Monaghan this morning to officially open the newly refurbished Youthreach Centre at Knockaconny.

4. Manager’s Orders

The Members noted Manager’s Orders numbered 27/10 – 50/10

Cllr Mary Carroll entered the meeting room.

The Members were informed by the County Manager that a Derelict Sites Survey will be undertaken during the year to identify derelict properties throughout the County and initiate steps to have the property owners attend to their maintenance. The Members welcomed this news.

Welcoming the allocation of tenancies at Cluain Lorcáin the Members noted from the County Manager that there is going to be a change at Government level in the spending of money on housing and that capital funding would not be available to acquire housing in the way Local Authorities had done in the past. Declan Nelson, County Manager stated that the leasing of dwellings seems to be the future plan of the Government but until the Local Authorities receive their final housing capital allocation for 2010 they would not know how they were going to proceed.

5. Correspondence

The Members noted the following correspondence:-

- Acknowledgement dated 3rd February 2010 from Batt O’Keeffe T.D. Minister for Education and Science regarding motion in relation to funding for the installation of rainwater harvesting systems in educational institutions.
- Letter dated 19th February 2010 from Jim Ganley, Housing Operational Programmes Unit, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government regarding Mullaghmat Remedial Works Scheme, Monaghan Phase 2.
- Email dated 25th February 2010 from Monaghan County Council setting out the final position in relation to Town Council places on the various SPC’s of the County Council.
- Letter dated 26th February 2010 from Matt Donnelly, Director, Border Regional Authority inviting submissions/observations on the Draft Regional Planning Guidelines for the Border Region 2010/2022.

- Email dated 5th March 2010 from Andrea Márquez, PA to the Ambassador of Chile stating that due to the earthquake in Chile the Chilean Ambassador will not be in a position to be a Guest of Honour at the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Monaghan or accept the Town Councils invitation to receive Civic Honours. It was agreed to liaise with the Ambassador in order to reschedule the event for a future time. It was also agreed to seek quotations from local artists to paint a picture of "Wilville" House.
- Various correspondence from Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin, TD in relation to TETRA impact on television receptions.
- Letter dated 2nd March 2010 from Cora Maguire, Secretary, The County Monaghan Motor Club Ltd applying for permission to use Glaslough Street Car Park for mechanical service on Sunday 25th April 2010 for their Annual Motor Club stages rally. On the proposal of Cllr. David Maxwell seconded by Cllr. Robbie Gallagher it was agreed to grant this request.
- Letter dated 1st March 2010 from John Gormley, T.D. Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government regarding Earth Hour which takes place on Saturday 27th March 2010 at 8.30pm
- Letter dated 9th March 2010 from the General Practitioners in Monaghan Town regarding the Doctor on Call services. The Members expressed disappointment with this response and on the proposal of the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr Donal Sherry it was agreed that a letter be issued to the Management of the Doctor on Call Service emphasising the genuine need for a Doctor on Call service in Monaghan and calling on them to work with the local General Practitioners in setting up a more localised service.
- Letter dated 11th March 2010 from the Office of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government regarding funds raised from the Non-Principal Private Residents charge (NPPR). The letter stated that the Local Government (Charges) Act 2009 obliges County Councils to make a payment to each Town Council within the County in respect of residential properties in the administrative area of the Town Council concerned. It was agreed that a report be brought before the Members at the next Council meeting setting out what projects can be carried out as a result of funds to be received from Monaghan County Council.
- Email dated 11th March 2010 from Lisa Patton, Monaghan Garda Youth Diversion Project Co-ordinator requesting permission to sell tea/coffee on St. Patrick's Day in the town to raise funds for the NYP. In the interest of fairness to all ratepayers in the town it was agreed that the request be refused.

It was noted that the (1) no. casual trader in the town has been granted permission to operate on St. Patricks Day in the loading bay in Dawson Street.

The County Manager stated that work is expected to be completed on the Courthouse by September 2010. It was agreed that the Bombing Memorial be cleaned and that the missing wording on the base be replaced.

6. Business submitted by An Cathaoirleach

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Seán Conlon stated that a tree planting ceremony was organised on Friday last at the new Headquarters for the outdoor staff at Tirkeenan in conjunction with National Tree Week 2010. Cllr. Conlon stated that a number of trees were planted which could be transplanted to other areas in the town at a later stage. A tour of the new Headquarters for the outdoor staff also took place following the tree planting ceremony. The Cathaoirleach thanked everyone involved in the event.

7. Planning Applications

Planning Applications numbered MT 10/02 – MT 10/05 were noted by the Members.

8. Considerations of Reports of Committees

The Members noted the Minutes of the meeting held in committee on 1st March 2010.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Seán Conlon stated that St. Patrick's Day Parade is taking place on the 17th March at 3pm and he thanked the committee of Julie Brannigan, Secretary, Joe Corr and Louise Brannigan for their work and regular attendance at meetings. Cllr Conlon stated that the window display competition has been adjudicated and the winners will be announced on St. Patrick's Day.

Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha stated that she recently attended a Local Travellers Consultative Committee meeting and a meeting of the Social, Cultural and Voluntary Strategic Policy Committee of Monaghan County Council.

9. Roads/Housing

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

- Potholes – Cortolvin Road (39 – 44)
- Road at Church Square - bad condition
- Infant School – Traffic congestion
- Finger post signs to be replaced for Monaghan General Hospital

Cllr. Sherry complimented those involved in the organising and erection of a Memorial Plaque at Killygoan to Michael Hughes, Killygoan who died tragically in February 2009.

The Members welcomed the automatic door recently installed at the Town Council Offices.

The Town Engineer was requested to monitor and to arrange a clean-up off the entries on Dublin Street where there is a presence of litter, broken glass, etc.

10. Telecommunication Mast at Killygoan

The Members noted the following Notice of motion from the Mast Committee:-

“At the joint Mast Committee meeting the Members, who are Members of Clones, Cootehill, Ballybay, Castleblayney and Monaghan Town Councils, called on the Department of Justice, Department of Communications and the Office of Public Works to remove all antennae including mobile phone antennae from masts, as this is causing interference on televisions receptions in towns and also causing serious health worries”

The Members supported the above resolution and looked forward to the removal of the telecommunication mast at Killygoan.

11. Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme

The Members welcomed the arranged site visit to Mullaghmatt housing estate which took place on the 3rd March 2010 to view the ongoing work taking place under the Remedial Works Scheme and the locations for the proposed new build infill units. It was noted that the plans for the proposed housing will be put on public display in Teach na nDaoine to allow the residents of the area have an input to the proposal.

12. Consideration of Programme of Works to be carried out under Road Grants 2010

The Members agreed to adopt the following programme of road works for 2010 as prepared by the Town Engineer:-

Road Grant Allocation - €195,000

Primary Work Proposals:

	Proposals Project	Cost	Running Total
1.	Castle Road overlay and footpath reconstruction	€45,000	€45,000
2.	Old Armagh Road overlay	€20,000	€65,000
3.	Golden Road Overlay	€45,000	€110,000
4.	Mill Street one-way and pedestrian ramp	€15,000	€125,000
5.	Church Square patching	€5,000	€130,000
6.	Coolshannagh Road overlay (in conjunction with water services)	€10,000	€140,000
7.	Rowantree Road/North Road Junction – overlay and pedestrian crossings	€15,000	€155,000
8.	Mall Road overlay	€15,000	€170,000
	Public Lighting condition survey	€9,400	€179,400
9.	Beechgrove Lawns footpath on approach road	€1,800	€181,200
10.	Plantation Road – footpath reinstatement	€1,800	€183,000
11.	Dr Mc Kenna Tce/Woodview triangle – plane out and resurface	€20,000	€203,000

Reserved Works Proposals:

1.	Redo Ramps at Glenview Drive	€7,500	€210,500
2.	Barrier at St. Patrick's Tce	€20,000	€230,500
3.	Additional parking along Devin Reilly Tce	€8,000	€238,500

The Members requested that some form of traffic calming measure be considered for High Street/Castle Road and Old Armagh Road.

13. Consideration of Capital Expenditure Programme 2010-2012 in accordance with Section 135 of the Local Government Act 2001

The Members noted a Capital Expenditure Programme prepared in accordance with Section 135 of the Local Government Act 2001 for the years 2010-2012. The County Manager informed the Members that the data contained in the programme is completely reliant on capital monies being made available by the Department.

14. Consideration of Approval to dispose of the Freehold Interest in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha it was agreed to dispose of the freehold interest in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 on 2 St. Macartan's Tce, Connolly Park, Monaghan.

15. Gateways and Hubs ERDF Grant Scheme – Proposed Works at The Diamond/Dublin Street/Old Cross Square and Provision of Recreation and Amenity Facilities in Housing Estates.

It was noted that trial holes for site investigations to facilitate the undergrounding of services were carried out recently in The Diamond/Dublin Street area of the town in preparation for the proposed works in the area under the BMW ERDF Grants Scheme.

The Town Engineer undertook to consult, in advance of works being carried out, with all businesses/residents who may be affected by any works under the scheme.

Gareth McMahon, Town Engineer stated that he had spoken to a number of business people in the Diamond area who had expressed some concern regarding the loss of car parking spaces which will be brought about under the plans for the major refurbishment of The Diamond/Dublin Street area of the town. The Town Engineer presented a new layout of the scheme to the Members which had incorporated a number of additional car parking spaces following discussion with the business people. The Members welcomed this news and agreed with the proposal. Gareth McMahon informed the Members that it is proposed that the works will go to tender at the beginning of April.

It was noted that play facilities will be provided at Cluain Lorcáin and Mullaghmatt Play Park under the ERDF Grant Scheme. The Town Engineer was requested by the Members to contact the developer of Drumbear Wood Housing Estate calling on him to reverse his decision not to have play facilities in the area and to give approval to the playground provision.

16. Consideration of approval of newspapers for use in accordance with Local Government Planning and Development Regulations 2001

On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Mary Carroll it was agreed to approve of the following newspapers for use in accordance with the Local Government Planning & Development Regulations 2001:

National Newspapers

Irish Independent
Irish Star
Irish Times
Evening Herald

Local/Regional Newspapers

Northern Standard
Anglo Celt

18. Notices of Motion

(a) “That this Council write to the Minister for Justice and Law Reform requesting guidelines set down regarding legal costs incurred in contentious cases”.

Cllr Treanor

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

(b) “That this Council write to the Minister for Communications condemning the proposed tariff to be imposed on Local Radio Stations”

Cllr Treanor

On the proposal of Cllr Seamus Treanor seconded by Cllr Donal Sherry it was agreed to adopt the above Notice of Motion.

© “Go ndéanfadh an chomhairle seo an ghaeilge, céad Teanga Oifigiúil na tíre seo, í a cur chun cinn agus a usáid ar gach ócáid is feidir – fiú más cúpla focal atá í gceist”

“That this Council would endeavour to use and promote Irish, our first official language, on every occasion – even to use the cúpla focal”

Cllrs. Uí Mhurchadha, Conlon, Sherry, McGeown

Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha proposed the above Motion. Cllr. Carroll stated that she agreed with the Motion but thought it was redundant as it had been agreed year after year. Cllr. Uí Mhurchadha stated that the Motion was necessary to remind people of the impact of the Irish language. The Motion was adopted.

19. Question

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

(a) Are there any plans to repair/replace damaged footpath at Plantation, Monaghan?

This work has been included in the Programme of Road Works for 2010.

20. Resolutions from other Local Authorities:

(a) “Wicklow Town Council write to the following Ministers, requesting that they immediately review the legislation and bring forward proposals to ban “Head Candy Shops”.

There are serious concerns with regard to the potential effects of the product sold in these shops. This is an issue of national concern and one that has serious consequences for families all over the country”.

Wicklow Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution

(b) “That this Council call on Transport Minister Noel Dempsey and Environment Minister John Gormley to reverse their decision not to provide emergency funding to repair roads damaged by recent bad weather.”

Tipperary Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

© “That this Council calls on the Minister for Justice to introduce as a matter of urgency legislation to regulate the “Head Shop” industry in Ireland and to make provisions to control all products being sold by these outlets”.

Carrick On Suir Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution

(d) “That Bandon Town Council calls on the Government to ban “Head Shops” in Ireland”.

Bandon Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

(e) “That Tullamore Town Council request information from the HSE regarding the assessment system in place for Medial Card Holders”.

Tullamore Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution

(f) “That this Council write to the Minister for Health calling on her to instruct the H.S.E. not to proceed with the downgrading and possible closure of South Tipperary General Hospital as this decision will have a huge effect on peoples health and peace of mind in the County of Tipperary”.

Tipperary Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution

(g) The Members noted a Resolution from Dublin City Council and agreed to mark it read.

(h) “That South Tipperary County Council requests the Minister for Health and Children, Ms. Mary Harney, T.D. to reverse the H.S.E.’s decision to centralise all medial card processing to the PCRS Offices in Dublin”.

South Tipperary County Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

21. Conferences

(a) TGR Seminars – Conference for Councillors; “Better Communication means better results” – Killarney Court Hotel, Kerry – 19th – 21st March 2010 – (approx. cost €30)

(b) Kerry Literary and Cultural Conference - “Developing Arts and Cultural Initiatives through Town Twinning” – Kerry Literary and Cultural Centre, Listowel – 25th and 26th March 2010 – (approx. cost €20)

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

© National Tidy Towns Conference 2010 – “Sowing seeds...for success”. – Fairways Hotel Dundalk – 26th and 27th March 2010 – (approx. cost €300)

(d) Local Authority Members Association (LAMA) Annual Conference – “Councillors Role in Changing Climate” – Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo – (approx. cost €70)

On the proposal of Cllr Paul McGeown seconded Cllr David Maxwell it was agreed that Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha attend the above Conference.

(e) IPA National Planning Conference 2010 – “Planning for a Smarter Ireland” – Tullamore Court Hotel – 15th and 16th April 2010 – (approx. cost €60)

(f) Co. Wexford 1916 Trust – “The 1916 Rebellion – The National Revival its Beginning and construction” – Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy – 24th April 2010 – (approx. cost €65)

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:-

Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland Spring Seminar, Sligo – attended by Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha.

22. Any Other Business

It was agreed that a Budget Committee Meeting of Monaghan Town Council be held on Monday 22nd March at 10.30am.

23. Sympathy/Congratulations

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:

- Cllr Seamus Treanor on the death of his sister-in-law, Mrs Mary Treanor, Devin Reilly Terrace, Monaghan.
- The Macklin family, Cortolvin View on the death of Stephen Deering, 28 Killyconnigan
- The victims of the Haiti and Chile earthquake disasters.

A vote of congratulations was extended to the following:

- Tommy Bowe on his success with the Irish Rugby team.

This Concluded the Business of the Meeting.

Dated this the 19th day of April 2010

Cathaoirleach