

# Comhairle Baile Mhuineacháin

## Monaghan Town Council

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May 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, Paul McGeown, Donal Sherry and Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha.

**In Attendance:** Declan Nelson, County Manager, Jonathon Condell, Assistant Engineer, Marie Deighan, Town Clerk and Sinead Mc Cann, Staff Officer.

Apologies for inability to attend were received from Cllrs Mary Carroll, David Maxwell and Seamus Treanor.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Seán Conlon welcomed Gary Keenan, as an observer to the meeting.

### **Attendance of Representative from Airtricity Solutions**

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Seán Conlon welcomed Sean Lynch, Team Manager, Airtricity Solutions to the Meeting. It was noted that Airtricity have taken over from ESB Contracts in the provision of, and maintenance of public lighting in the town. Mr. Lynch stated that Airtricity are presently locating to new premises and his section will be looking after the Counties of Monaghan, Cavan, Louth and Meath.

Cllr. Robbie Gallagher entered the Meeting Room.

Mr. Lynch stated that there will be staff assigned to monitor the areas once a month who will conduct patrols, identify public lighting problems and prepare reports which will be forwarded to the Councils Engineer. The Members stated that there is a need to improve public lighting in the Mullaghmatt area and to increase the brightness of street lighting in the town area. The Members thanked Mr. Lynch for his informative presentation and looked forward to a good working relationship with Airtricity. Mr. Lynch stated that he will forward his contact details within the next couple of weeks. Mr. Lynch left the Council Chamber.

### **1. Confirmation of April Monthly Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2010.**

On the proposal of Cllr Paul McGeown seconded by Cllr Robbie Gallagher is was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the April Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

### **2. Matters arising from the Minutes**

Cllr Donal Sherry referred to another incident in Monaghan Town where an ambulance was in the Connolly Park area of the town looking for a dwelling house in Fairview Crescent, Killygoan. It was agreed to write again to the HSE on this matter.

Cllr. Sherry referred to a number of derelict dwellings in the Killygoan area. Declan Nelson, County Manager stated that a Derelict Sites Register is being compiled at present for the County and requested Cllr. Sherry to submit details of the sites for examination.

The Members praised the organisation of the ceremony held on the 7<sup>th</sup> May conferring Civic Honours on Her Excellency, Cecilia MacKenna, Ambassador of Chile to Ireland. The Cathaoirleach stated that Her Excellency was very appreciative of the honour and stated that it had been one of the highlights of her career as Ambassador to Ireland.

It was agreed to consider a Terms of Reference and criteria for how future recipients would be chosen taking into account eligibility, timescale of how often the honour be conferred, etc.

Declan Nelson, County Manager stated that he had met recently with the Developer of the Mixed Use Development in the town and stated that they are actively pursuing a number of initiatives. The County Manager stated that a bond is in place for the project and that a substantial amount of money has already been spent on the project by the Developer. It was agreed, on the suggestion of the County Manager to meet with the Director of Clarkes in committee in early July if more definite information is not received by the June Meeting.

It was noted that meetings are taking place with the relevant organisations regarding the acquiring of a suitable location for placing a playground in the region of Coolshannagh and Ballyalbany.

It was noted that the developer of Drumbear Wood Housing Estate is not interested at present in the Town Council providing a play park for the area.

The Members noted that Gaeltacht Scholarships will be issued to successful recipients for summer Gaelscoil on Thursday the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2010 at 8.00p.m. in the Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Seán Conlon stated that he attended a wreath laying ceremony in Dublin earlier in the day organised by the Justice for the Forgotten in memory of the 34 victims who were killed as a result of the Dublin and Monaghan bombings.

### 3. **Manager's Orders**

The Members noted Manager's Orders numbered 84/10 – 102/10.

Referring to Manager's Order No. 98/10 the Members reported pay parking machines out of order in various locations in the town.

It was noted that with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010 Local Authorities will have a changed status and will be regarded as taxable persons for VAT purposes. Declan Nelson, County Manager stated that Local Authorities will now be faced with having to account for VAT on the supply of any goods/services where they complete, or may compete with private sector suppliers of similar goods/services, e.g. pay parking in car parks (21%). The County Manager asked the Members to consider how the deficit which the Council will have in their income will be dealt with, e.g. increase pay parking charges by 10c an hour to 60c/increase long stay car parking from €1 to €1.20 per day/cut services in order to defray the cost of the VAT. It was agreed to place the matter on the agenda for the June Monthly Meeting of the Town Council and to produce a report outlining the implications of the VAT on pay parking income.

### 4. **Correspondence**

The Members noted the following correspondence:

- Acknowledgement dated 29<sup>th</sup> of April 2010 from the Office of the Taoiseach, Dublin.
- Correspondence dated 17<sup>th</sup> April 2010 from Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin TD regarding TETRA/TV reception interference. It was noted that Deputy Ó Caoláin met recently with Eamon Ryan TD, Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources and another meeting is scheduled to take place this week. The Members look forward to a resolution to the matter.

- Letter from George Ballantine, Chairman of Monaghan Town Football Club making application for a long term lease from the Town Council in relation to Belgium Park Football Field. On the proposal of Cllr Donal Sherry seconded by Cllr Paul McGeown it was agreed to invite a delegation from Monaghan Town Football Club to the next meeting of Monaghan Town Council to discuss the matter in detail. The Town Clerk undertook to prepare a list of users of the football field.
- Correspondence received on the 16<sup>th</sup> April 2010 from the Residents of Roosky Vale Housing Estate regarding the volume of noise coming from the fun fair in the Monaghan Harps Grounds. Cllr. Donal Sherry stated that Monaghan Harps Football Club have given an undertaking to address all issues raised by the Residents of the area.
- Email dated 7<sup>th</sup> May 2010 from Grace Moloney, Clogher Historical Society inviting the Members to a ceremony to be held on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 4p.m. in front of the Courthouse in commemoration of those who suffered during the Great Famine. The Cathaoirleach praised the organisers of this event.
- Letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> May 2010 from the Office of the Minister for Finance regarding a Notice of Motion adopted by the Members at the April Monthly Meeting.
- Email dated 19<sup>th</sup> March 2010 from Nicole Mousset regarding twinning with St. Avertin, France. It was agreed to defer entering into twinning arrangements at present due to the current economic situation and to review the matter at a later date.
- Letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> May 2010 from ESB Telecoms regarding the Telecommunication Mast at Killygoan stating that there are currently 22 items of equipment on the Mast.
- Letter dated 11<sup>th</sup> May 2010 from the North East DOC stating that the Members of North East Doctor on Call including the doctors from Monaghan town are satisfied that their patients are satisfactorily serviced by NEDOC in the Castleblayney Centre. The Members expressed disappointment with the correspondence.
- Monaghan Tidy Towns Financial Accounts for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> July 2009. It was agreed to examine the Accounts in detail at the preparation of Budget 2011.
- Letters of support from various Local Authorities regarding Notice of Motion circulated to all Local Authorities which was adopted at the Town Council Meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2009.

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

No business was submitted by An Cathaoirleach.

#### 6. **Planning Application**

The Members noted Planning Application number M.T. 10/09.

#### 7. **Consideration of Reports of Committees**

The Members noted Minutes of the Budget Sub-Committee meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2010. The Members approved the payment of €5,000 to the Féile Oriel Festival Committee and congratulated all involved in the success of the Festival.

The Members noted Minutes of the Budget Sub-Committee meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

## 8. **Roads/Housing**

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

- Bin to be replaced in Park Street
- Ramps on Coolshannagh Road to be replaced
- Potholes – entrance to Glencove Manor
- Safety Measure to be installed on platform at Peters Lake
- Raise Ramps – playarea in Killygoan.
- Signage required on islands on approach roads to the town.

The Members congratulated the Rotary Club and the Town Council on the floral display at the Four Seasons Roundabout. The Assistant Engineer was requested to investigate the possibility of providing a car parking space in this area.

## 9. **Telecommunication Mast at Killygoan**

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

## 10. **Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme**

It was noted that Monaghan Town Council in conjunction with the National Building Agency (NBA) sought the views of the Residents of Mullaghmatt to build 9 additional houses in infill areas in the Mullaghmatt Housing Estate. The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Seán Conlon stated that a community election was held which resulted as follows:-

Total Votes cast = 73

Spoiled Votes = 2

In favour of infill housing = 28

Against infill housing = 43

The Members noted that there is a considerable degree of opposition to the proposed housing and that there is no funding available at present for the proposal. Cllr. Hagan submitted a petition to the Cathaoirleach of a list of names of residents who are not in favour of additional housing in the area.

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

It was noted that works under the above Scheme are scheduled to commence in June 2010 for a five month period and that advance works are almost complete.

The Members agreed to proceed with works planned by Monaghan County Council for a watermain replacement (including valves, fittings and connections) in Dublin Street and a twin sewer rising mains across Old Cross Square as outlined in a detailed report from Dan Doody, Senior Engineer, Water Services Section of Monaghan County Council. It was noted that the works will be co-ordinated with the resurfacing works and will cause some disruption in the areas. The Members requested that traders/residents in the area be given adequate notification at all times regarding works to be carried out.

12. **Consideration of Draft North East Homelessness Action Plan – May 2010 – May 2013**

The Members noted a copy of the Draft North East Homelessness Action Plan 2010-2013 which was circulated on the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2010.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Seán Conlon referred to page 2 of the document (Strategic Aim No. 6) “to ensure better co-ordinated funding arrangements and re-orientate spending on homeless services, away from emergency responses to the provision of long-term housing and support services”. Cllr. Conlon expressed alarm that there be movement away from emergency services until such time that there are adequate facilities in place for those who may become homeless as a result of unforeseen circumstances, e.g. fire, flooding, etc.

13. **People of the Year Awards**

On the proposal of Cllr Donal Sherry seconded by Cllr Thomas Hagan it was agreed to nominate the Management and Staff of Monaghan General Hospital for the People of the Year Awards 2010.

14. **Notices of Motion:-**

(a) “We wish to propose a motion that the Town Council support our call for the closure of the Head Shop in this town. We have already brought this to the attention of the Gardaí with regard to young teenagers entering these premises. Given the fact that other young underage teenagers have been hospitalised recently after taking products from these type of shops we are calling on the Council as a Body to organise a Public campaign against this premises in the town”.

Cllrs. Hagan, Carroll, Maxwell

Cllr Thomas Hagan withdrew the above Notice of Motion as the Head Shop in Monaghan Town has now been closed. Cllr. Hagan remarked that Head Shop Products could still be obtained via the internet. It was agreed to write to Eamon Ryan TD., Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources expressing the Town Council’s concern at the availability of Head Shop products through the internet. The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Seán Conlon also called on the Planning Section of Monaghan County Council to challenge any planning application for the change of use of premises in the County that might relate to Head Shop activity.

(b) “In the context of the fact that Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May has been designated as a National Day of Remembrance to commemorate the Great Hunger, that this Council proceed with the erection of an appropriate monument to those who died in this area, as previously approved by the Council”.

Cllrs. Uí Mhurchadha, Conlon, Sherry, McGeown

On the proposal of Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha seconded by Cllr Seán Conlon it was agreed to adopt the above Notice of Motion. It was agreed that the Planning Sub-Committee of the Town Council meet with the Arts Officer, Heritage Officer and a representative from the Historical Society to advance the proposal.

15. **Resolutions from other Local Authorities**

(a) “That Mullingar Town Council calls on the Minister for Family and Social Affairs, Mary Hanafin, T.D., to amend the eligibility criteria for the Mortgage Interest Supplement Scheme (M.I.S.) having regard to the existing anomalies contained in this Scheme”.

Mullingar Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

(b) “Recognising that the recent decision to ban certain substances sold in “Head Shops” is welcome, Donegal County Council calls on the Government to bring legislation to ban all “Head Shops” and the sale of all psychoactive drugs associated with them”.

Donegal County Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

© “That this Council would facilitate the holding of a public rally on the Mall, on a date to be decided, to allow the citizens of this town express their outrage at the disgraceful fallout from the banking crisis that has involved a doubling of the national debt and the wasting of taxpayers’ money on Anglo Irish Bank and Irish Nationwide. The effects of this bailout will be felt by every worker in this town for the next 10 to 15 years in tax increases. It will also result in cutbacks in health, in education, in social services and in the failure to deliver the basic infrastructure that this country needs. It behoves us as Councillors to facilitate the anger and outrage of the people affected by this financial disaster and to invoke the spirit of Michael Davitt at this time, in Co. Mayo in general and in Castlebar in particular”.

Castlebar Town Council

It was agreed to mark the above Resolution read.

(d) “That this Council call on the Government not to introduce V.A.T. charges on Council services until January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011”.

Donegal County Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

(e) “That this Council calls on Minister Batt O’Keeffe, Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment to work with the Regulator to ensure that the UK/Northern Ireland business is re-opened with immediate effect to safeguard the 2800 highly skilled jobs at Quinn Insurance”.

Clones Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

(f) “That this Council supports that “Justice for Robert Delaney Campaign” and the recently established website [www.innocentvictimsOfviolence.ie](http://www.innocentvictimsOfviolence.ie) which was set up by the Delaney Family as a forum of support and information for the campaign and furthermore calls on any citizen with information on the callous crime which resulted in Robert’s hospitalisation to inform the Gardaí of any such information”.

Cobh Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

## 16. Conferences

(a) TGR Seminars – Professional Development Conference for Councillors – “Being Positive in a Negative Climate” – 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2010 – Castlecourt Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo – (approx. cost €740)

On the proposal of Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha seconded by Cllr Thomas Hagan it was agreed that Cllr Seán Conlon attend Conference (a).

(b) Chartered Institute of Housing – The Conference of the Isles – “ Moving Housing Forward Together” – 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> May 2010 – Slieve Donard Resort and Spa, Newcastle, Co. Down – (approx. cost €700)

© TJK Conferences Ltd – Defamation Seminar for Councillors – 28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> May 2010 – Patrick Punch Hotel, Limerick – (approx. cost €570)

(d) Tarbert Community Care Ltd Conference – 5<sup>th</sup> June 2010 – Lanterns Hotel, Tarbert, Co. Kerry – (approx. cost €570)

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:-

Kerry Literary and Cultural Conference – attended by Cllr. Robbie Gallagher.

## 17. Any other Business

There was no other business.

## 18. Sympathy/Congratulations

A vote of congratulations was extended to the following:

- Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Duffy on his retirement from the post of Bishop of Clogher
- Bishop Elect Monsignor Liam MacDaid on his appointment
- Tommy Bowe, Monaghan on receiving the IRUPA Players’ Player of the Year Award
- Monaghan Town Football Club on their success on winning the Monaghan League Cup
- Cllr. Paul McGeown, Chairman and the organisers of the Blackwater 10K event which was held in Monaghan town on the 16<sup>th</sup> May
- Patrick Cassidy on winning the Blackwater 10k event and Cathy McCourt, winner of the Ladies Section of the event.

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:

- The Mulholland family, Drumbear on the death of John Mulholland
- The Toal family, Cortolvin Road on the death of Brendan Toal, Armagh

A minutes silence was held.

Following the meeting, the Members joined the Cathaoirleach in laying a Wreath at the Memorial in Church Square, Monaghan in memory of those who died as a result of the Monaghan Bombing on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 1974.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Dated this the 21<sup>st</sup> day of June 2010

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**Cathaoirleach**