

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

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>  
May 2012 at 5.00p.m. in the Council Chamber of Monaghan Town Council, Town  
Hall, No. 1 Dublin Street, Monaghan.

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**Cathaoirleach:** Cllr. David Maxwell

**Present:** Cllrs. Mary Carroll, Seán Conlon, Robbie Gallagher, Thomas Hagan, Donal Sherry, Seamus Treanor and Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha.

**In Attendance:** David Fallon, Acting County Manager, Gareth Mc Mahon, Town Engineer, Marie Deighan, Town Clerk and Donna Toal, Clerical Officer.

An apology for inability to attend was received from Cllr. Paul McGeown.

**Meeting with Representatives from Monaghan Allotment Society**

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. David Maxwell welcomed Michael O' Hare, Frank Sherry and Gerry Murdock, Monaghan Allotment Society to the Meeting. Michael O' Hare presented a booklet to the Members "Proposals for Allotments at Killygoan/Pound Hill, Monaghan". The delegation outlined proposals for the development of allotments at Killygoan which will accommodate 21 plots. Mr. O' Hare stated that the allotments will incorporate a single path down the middle of the area with 10 allotments on one side and 11 on the other side. It is also envisaged that the Society will use a water collection system which will involve conserving water and there will be compost bins located on the site. It was noted that there is support from the Killygoan Residents Association and the Killygoan Junior Tidy Towns Committee for the project.

Cllr. Paul McGeown entered the Meeting Room.

The Members noted that the approx. cost of developing the allotments is €3,340. The Members welcomed the project and thanked the delegation for their presentation.

Michael O' Hare circulated a letter to the Members seeking approval for the temporary use of land at Mullaghmat by the local residents for an allotment scheme under the Management of Monaghan Allotment Society. Michael O' Hare stated that the proposal would clean up the area which is currently a dumping ground. David Fallon, A/County Manager stated that the land in question is earmarked for a road development in the future and that the Council couldn't commit to support the project without taking legal advice.

The delegation left the Council Chamber. On the proposal of Cllr. Donal Sherry seconded by Cllr. Robbie Gallagher it was agreed to support the proposal for an allotment area at Killygoan/Pound Hill. It was agreed that the Town Engineer prepare a map and have it circulated to the Residents of Killygoan for consultation purposes.

## **1. Confirmation of April Monthly Meeting held on 16/04/2012**

On the proposal of Cllr. Seamus Treanor seconded by Cllr Thomas Hagan it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the April Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2012.

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

It was noted that Michael Duffy, Senator for Cavendish, Prince Edward Island is presenting a 1903 Atlas to Monaghan County Museum on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2012. It was agreed that the Leas Cathaoirleach, Cllr Paul McGeown, in the absence of the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. David Maxwell will make a presentation to the Senator on his visit to Monaghan Town. All Members of the Town Council have been invited to attend.

It was agreed to make contact again with Coillte regarding a request for details of the rate of plantation which has taken place in the years 2009, 2010 and 2011 and the projected figures for 2012. It was agreed to place this matter on the agenda for the next meeting of Monaghan Town Council.

It was agreed to seek Accounts from the Féile Oriel Festival Committee in respect of the Festival which was held during the May Bank Holiday weekend.

Cllr. Mary Carroll referred to her request for additional signage asking motorists to respect cyclists or to slow down for them. Gareth McMahon, Town Engineer stated that an application for funding has been made to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport under the Active Travel Towns Funding Scheme 2012/2013 to carry out a scoping study to see how cycle access around the town could be improved.

The Members noted that the Town Clerk and Town Engineer met with a concerned resident regarding the taking in charge by the Council of the alleyway leading from Dublin Street to the Diamond Centre Car Park. It was noted that the Town Council have received a key of the gate which has been erected on the alleyway and that the resident is satisfied with the taking in charge of the alleyway.

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

The Members noted Manager's Orders numbered 59/12 – 81/12. Cllr. Donal Sherry stated that he is dissatisfied with the quality of grass cutting being carried out in parts of the town. The Town Engineer agreed to examine the matter.

## **4. Correspondence**

The Members noted the following correspondence:-

- Letter dated 13 April 2012 from the Department of Social Protection regarding delays in processing applications under Family Income Supplement (FIS).

- Acknowledgement letter dated 20<sup>th</sup> April 2012 from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport regarding a request for funding to update and modernize the Bus Depot on the North Road in Monaghan Town.
- Letter dated 19<sup>th</sup> April 2012 from RTE in reply to a Notice of Motion adopted by Monaghan Town Council.
- Letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2012 from the National Roads Authority regarding signage.
- Letter dated 4<sup>th</sup> May 2012 from the Office of the Minister for Housing and Planning in connection with a visit by the Minister to the Mullaghmatt Housing Estate. The Members expressed disappointment with the contents of the letter. On the proposal of Cllr. Thomas Hagan seconded by Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha it was agreed to make a renewed effort to get the Minister to visit Mullaghmatt estate.
- Acknowledgement letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2012 from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government regarding the former Revenue Commissioners premises on the Armagh Road.
- Acknowledgment letter dated 27<sup>th</sup> April 2012 from the Department of Finance regarding a Notice of Motion adopted by Monaghan Town Council in relation to the banking sector.
- Letter dated 25<sup>th</sup> April 2012 from the Office of Public Works regarding the former Customs Unit at Coolshannagh, Monaghan.
- Letter dated 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012 from the Health Service Executive in relation to blood pressure tests for patients at Monaghan Hospital. Cllr Thomas Hagan was requested to contact Bridget Clarke, General Manager, HSE on this matter.
- Letter dated 16<sup>th</sup> April 2012 from An Garda Síochána regarding Anti-Social behaviour.
- Letter dated 27<sup>th</sup> April 2012 from Monaghan County Council calling on Monaghan Town Council to consider highlighting the disabled parking space in front of the Westenra Arms Hotel in blue markings. On the proposal of Cllr. Robbie Gallagher it was agreed to write to the Gardaí calling on them to monitor the Disabled Parking Bays after 6p.m. and on Sundays to ensure that they are not been abused by able bodied people. The Members also called for consideration to be given to the provision of additional signage in the area to increase awareness of the disabled bay. The Members welcomed the installation of two disabled parking bays in the Courthouse Car Park.
- Letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> April 2012 from The Garage Theatre requesting a draw down of 50% (€15,000) of the allocated grant (€30,000). The Members noted the Accounts of the Garage Theatre for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010. On the proposal of Cllr Donal Sherry seconded by Cllr Mary Carroll it was agreed to pay €15,000 to the Garage Theatre, Monaghan.
- Information from Aura Internet Services regarding the development of a mobile App for Monaghan Town Council.
- Letters of support from various Local Authorities in relation to Notices of Motion adopted by Monaghan Town Council in relation to (a) Increase in Vat from 21% to 23% (b) Winter fuel allowance (c) Cuts in funding for CE Scheme participants (d) Payments of motor tax by direct debit (e) Cuts in the home insulation grants.

- Email from Somhairle MacConghaile, Arts Officer, Monaghan County Council setting out details of the Stone Sculpture Symposium in Clones. The Members were asked to contact the Town Clerk with dates suitable for them to attend.
- Emails regarding Series 2 of RTE's Dirty Old Towns.
- Memo from Children of 13 Beechgrove Lawns, Monaghan seeking the provision of a skate park in the housing estate. It was agreed that the Planning Sub-Committee meet with the young people of the area through the Beechgrove Lawns Residents Association.
- Feedback received from Dympna Condra, Tourism and Marketing Executive Officer, Monaghan County Council on the unsuccessful application for Interreg IVA funding.
- Email dated 4<sup>th</sup> April 2012 from the Office of the Minister for Finance seeking additional information on a Notice of Motion adopted by the Members of Monaghan Town Council in relation to the banking sector. The Members noted the response to be forwarded to the Minister for Finance.
- Letter of thanks from Monaghan Harps GFC for the Community Grant awarded to them.
- Letter of thanks from MSPCA for the Community Grant awarded to them.
- Letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> May 2012 from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport regarding the Town Council's Motion calling for the upgrading and modernizing of Bus Eireann's Bus Depot in Monaghan Town.

## **5. Planning Applications**

The Members noted Planning Applications numbered 12/4 – 12/7.

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

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. David Maxwell invited the Members of the Council to attend a wreath laying ceremony which will take place at the Bombing Memorial in Church Square, Monaghan on Thursday morning 17<sup>th</sup> May 2012 at 9a.m.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. David Maxwell stated that Richard Bruton TD, Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation is coming to Monaghan on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2012. It was agreed that Cllrs. Maxwell, Conlon, Gallagher and Treanor will meet with the Minister on his visit and a full report will be brought before the Members at the June Monthly Meeting.

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

The Members noted the Minutes of the Planning Sub-Committee Meeting held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2012. It was noted that the Planning Sub-Committee met again with the Residents of Belgian Square prior to the May Monthly Meeting and that a solution to a request to have the yellow box clearway extended in the Square should be resolved in the near future.

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

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

- “No Drinking” Signs to be replaced in the Diamond following completion of the works in the area
- Road entrance to Old Park Court Housing Estate in a dangerous condition
- Broken glass strewn on the playpark at Oriel Way – the Town Engineer undertook to speak with the Manager of Teach Na nDaoine Family Resource Centre
- Safety barrier required at Schools on Clones/Park Road
- Finger post sign in vicinity of Courthouse – loose condition
- Wall at Belgium Park – dangerous condition
- Road caving in at entrance to dwellings – Dublin Road
- Drains blocked – Killygoan
- Killyconnigan footpaths in need of repair
- Manhole lids – Dublin Street/Westenra Tce/Dublin Road
- Pothole – entrance to McNallys car park, Glen Road
- Road caving in – corner of Flacks garage

Cllr Donal Sherry enquired as to what public consultation took place regarding the re-location of the pedestrian crossing on the Glen Road in Monaghan Town. David Fallon, A/County Manager stated that the pedestrian crossing was discussed with the Gardaí at the Collision Prevention Meetings and that the Town Council carried out a survey of pedestrian movements at this location. It was noted that the project was installed and managed by the County Council Area Engineer. Gareth Mc Mahon, Town Engineer stated that there were safety issues raised with the existing crossing due to the two lanes approaching from the Cootehill direction. David Fallon, A/County Manager stated that he would have a full report on the matter for the June Monthly Meeting.

Cllr. Mary Carroll left the Meeting Room.

Cllr Paul McGeown condemned those who broke the newly planted trees at Rope Walk.

The Members requested an update at the next Town Council Meeting on the works carried out to date under the Road Works Programme 2012.

Cllr Donal Sherry complimented the staff on the road repairs which have been carried out at the entrance to Knockroe Glen Housing Estate and on the removal of graffiti from the equipment in the play area in Killygoan.

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

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

**10. Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme**

It was noted that this item has been dealt with under Correspondence.

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

Cllr David Maxwell stated that he didn't get an opportunity since the last Council Meeting to visit the two tenants in Killygoan who claim they still have outstanding works to be resolved to their windows/doors.

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

David Fallon, Acting County Manager stated that the Contractor has submitted a programme of works to reinstate the car park at Rooskey. The A/County Manager stated that the Contractor is committed to carrying out the works and hoped that the works would be complete by the end of the year.

**13. Consideration of approval to dispose of Freehold Interest.**

On the proposal of Cllr Donal Sherry seconded by Cllr Thomas Hagan it was agreed to approve to dispose of the Freehold Interest in No. 4 Killyconnigan, Monaghan in accordance with Notice dated 24<sup>th</sup> April 2012 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

**14. Consideration of correspondence from Irish Business against Litter regarding the 2012 IBAL Anti-Litter League – Special Business Award**

The Members noted correspondence dated 14<sup>th</sup> April 2012 from Dr Tom Cavanagh, Chairman Irish Business Against Litter. It was agreed that the Town Council will, as requested, propose suitable nominees for the Special Business Award. It was noted that a spring clean of the town organised by the Tidy Towns Committee is to take place on Saturday.

**15. Notices of Motion:-**

(a) "That this Council write to Minister for Health, James Reilly demanding life saving medication be made available to the citizens of this Country irrespective of the cost".

Cllr. Treanor

Cllr Seamus Treanor proposed the Motion and Cllr Robbie Gallagher seconded the Motion. Cllr David Maxwell proposed an amendment to the Motion to read as follows:- "That this Council write to the Minister for Health, James Reilly demanding life saving medication be made available to this country at a reasonable cost."

A vote was taken which resulted as follows:

In favour of the Motion:- Cllrs Conlon, Gallagher, Hagan, Mc Geown, Sherry, Treanor, Uí Mhurchadha (7)

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr David Maxwell abstained from voting.

The Motion was carried.

(b) “That this Council write to the Minister for Justice asking him to rescind his intention to grant early release to prisoners”.

Cllr. Treanor

On the proposal of Cllr Seamus Treanor seconded by Cllr Robbie Gallagher it was agreed to support the above Notice of Motion.

## **16. Questions**

### **Cllr Robbie Gallagher asked:-**

(a) When do the Council propose to complete the works in relation to Ballyalbany Bridge?

*Monaghan County Council repaired half of the bridge earlier this year. Monaghan Town Council received a quotation from the Contractor of €11,000 approx. for repair to the section of the bridge on our side of the boundary, We do not currently have a budget allocation to carry out this work.*

(b) What stage are discussions at between the Council and those responsible for Knockroe Glen in relation to safety of the site, tidying up of materials and general upkeep?

*Be advised that the developer has confirmed that their/his loans are now with NAMA and their/his further operation on-site will be at NAMA’s behest. He has advised us that he has submitted a business plan for consideration and is awaiting NAMA’s decision on same. In light of this information we have formally contacted NAMA’s Planning and Development Advisor for an update re their position. We advised that if the developer does not move shortly in terms of remediation on-site we are looking at issuing, as applicable Dangerous Places and/or Derelict Sites Notices. We have yet to receive a response.*

*In the interim, it is noted that the potholes have been patched and the laying of a surface dressing along the estate’s access road has been carried out. This work has been completed at the expense of the Local Authority with a view to ultimately recouping costs via the ongoing remediation discussions.*

Gareth Mc Mahon, Town Engineer stated that NAMA have now been in touch with the County Council Planners and are proposing a meeting later in the week.

## **17. Resolutions from Other Local Authorities:-**

(a) “Nenagh Town Council calls on Minister Shatter to roll out a National Programme of Restorative Justice expanding the work currently taking place in the Nenagh and Tallaght Projects. The existing adult projects provide an alternative method of dealing with certain categories of offences and offenders and have proven results in terms of cost effectiveness and rates of reoffending”.

Nenagh Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

(b) “That Kilkee Town Council seek support for it to be made compulsory to have all dogs micro-chipped in an effort to improve the control of dogs”.

Kilkee Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

© “That this Council requests the Department to allocate the necessary funding to meet the demand for Pensions and Redundancy caused by implementation of Government Policy”.

Donegal County Council

It was agreed to mark the above Resolution read.

(d) “Can this Council call on the Minister for Social Protection to allow for unemployed self employed individuals to gain social welfare payments from the date of non-employment thus helping stop the unemployed entrepreneur brain drain from our County and Country”.

Donegal County Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

(e) “Given that presently we are experiencing the highest ever prices of fuel in Ireland and the fact that 57% of this cost is duty, we call on the FG/LAB Government to reduce this tax immediately and introduce a fuel stabiliser which would reduce duty as oil prices rise into the future”.

Donegal County Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

## **18. Conferences**

- (a) Celtic Conferences – “West Cork Fusion – A Brief exploration of West Cork Culture and Artisan Foods”. – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery – 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> May 2012 – (approx. cost €900)
- (b) TJK Conferences Ltd – “Planning Seminar for Councillors” – Patrick Punch Hotel, Limerick – 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> June 2012 – (approx. cost €50).
- © TGR Seminars – “A Blueprint for Councillors to Access Funding for Upgrading Sports Facilities in Communities across Ireland” – Kilmurry Lodge Hotel, Castletroy, Limerick – (approx. cost €85).
- (d) TGR Seminars – “How to Influence People – Usable Tips, Tools and Strategies from the Psychology of Persuasion” – Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport – 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> June 2012 – (approx. cost €53).

No attendance is to take place to the above Conferences.

## **19. Any Other Business**

Cllr Seán Conlon criticised the decision by Fáilte Ireland not to open the Tourist Information Office in Monaghan Town this year. On the proposal of Cllr Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha it was agreed to send a letter to Dr. Leo Varadkar TD, Minister for Transport Tourism and Sport calling on him to reverse the decision and to reinstate the Tourist Office. It was also agreed to send a letter to Fáilte Ireland Dublin, Sligo and Letterkenny.



Cllr Donal Sherry referred to the recent controversy on the proposal to close the kitchen facilities at Monaghan General Hospital and St. Mary's Hospital, Castleblayney. It was noted that the food for both hospitals may be provided from the kitchen of St. Davnet's Hospital in Monaghan Town. It was agreed to send a letter to the HSE calling on them to clarify the matter.

A discussion took place regarding the ongoing cutbacks which have taken place in Monaghan Hospital. The Sinn Féin Members called on the Fine Gael Members to consider resigning over the Hospital issue. The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. David Maxwell stated that he wouldn't be resigning and referred to a number of cutbacks which have taken place in the Hospitals in Northern Ireland.

Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha requested that a letter be issued to the Courts Service concerning the delay in restoring the Harp symbol to its place over the entrance to the Court House.

Cllr Donal Sherry called on the Courts Service to allow young and capable unemployed people to man polling stations in the forthcoming Referendum.

## **20. Sympathy/Congratulations**

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:-

- The Mc Keown family, 44 Fairview Crescent on the death of Colin (Charlie) McKeown
- The Smyth family, 138 Mullaghmatt on the death of Peter Smyth
- Dominic Kane, Monaghan Town Council staff Member on the death of his mother, Elizabeth Kane, Armagh
- Janice Eardley, Monaghan Town Council staff Member, Cllrs Robbie Gallagher and Paul McGeown on the death of Alice Swift, Mall Road
- Cllr Winston Bennett, Ballinagh, Co. Cavan on the death of his son, Mark

A vote of congratulations was extended to the following:-

- The Committee of Ballyalbany Church on the success of the flower festival over the weekend
- Monaghan Ladies Football team on winning the National League Competition against Cork
- Paul McGeown, Chairman of the Blackwater 10K Walk/Run fun event which took place recently in the town.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Dated this the 18<sup>th</sup> day of June 2012

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Cathaoirleach**

