

Comhairle Baile Mhuineacháin
Monaghan Town Council

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 18th October 2010 at 6.15pm in the Council Chamber of Monaghan Town Council, Town Hall, 1 Dublin Street, Monaghan.

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Robbie Gallagher

Present: Cllrs. Mary Carroll, Seán Conlon, 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 it was agreed that the Meeting be adjourned for a short time as a mark of respect to the late Noel Duffy, Ballybay Town Councillor who died following a short illness on Monday morning. A minutes silence was held.

1. Confirmation of September Monthly Meeting held on 20th September 2010.

The Minutes were amended to read a vote of congratulations to Monaghan Ladies Junior Camogie Team on their All Ireland success instead of Monaghan Ladies Junior Football Team. On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Paul McGeown it was agreed to adopt the Minutes, as amended of the September Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 20th September 2010.

2. Matters arising from the Minutes.

The Town Clerk was requested to issue a letter to An Post again concerning the removal of a post box from the Dunnes Stores area of the town.

Cllr Seán Conlon reminded the Members that the Monaghan Town Joint Policing Public Meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 19th October 2010 in the Market House, Monaghan.

Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha informed the Members that she requested the Town Clerk to forward Notice of Motion 17(a) which was adopted at the September Monthly Meeting of the Town Council to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and to all Local Authorities in the Country. The Members approved this request.

Gareth Mc Mahon, Town Engineer stated that the Town Council's plumber will be carrying out the necessary works to install central heating in the four dwellings in Mullaghmatt who do not have central heating at present.

The Town Clerk was requested to write to the Gardaí regarding the speeding of vehicles on the Old Armagh Road and the Dublin Road.

3. Manager's Orders

Managers Orders numbered 170/10 – 196/10 were noted by the Members.

4. Correspondence

The Members noted the following correspondence:-

- Letter dated 6th October 2010 from Monaghan County Council regarding telecommunication mast at Knockaconny, Monaghan. The Town Clerk was requested to seek an update on the matter before the next Town Council Monthly Meeting.
- Acknowledgement dated 30th September 2010 from the Office of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources regarding the recent ESB price increase.
- Letter dated 21st September 2010 from the Office of the Minister for Housing and Local Services regarding rents.
- Letter from Monaghan Town Football Club received on 11th October 2010 in relation to the leasing of Belgium Park Football Field which indicated that the Club are still interested in pursuing their application to lease the Football Field. Following a discussion it was agreed that Belgium Park Football Field should remain in the ownership of the Town Council and the Town Engineer was requested to carry out an inventory of lands in the ownership of the Council so that the Council could examine alternative sites for the Monaghan Town Football Club's proposal. It was agreed to refer the matter to the Planning Sub-Committee of the Town Council.
The Members condemned a recent incident which took place at the football field where pieces of cardboard with nails in them were left strewn in the car park. The incident has been reported to the Gardaí.
- Letter dated 22nd September 2010 from the County Manager to Tommy Clarke, Managing Director of P Clarke & Sons Ltd regarding the Monaghan Mixed Use Development and letter from Tommy Clarke dated 8th October 2010 to the County Manager.
- Email dated 11th October 2010 from Somhairle MacConghail, Arts Officer, Monaghan County Council regarding an International Artist Blacksmiths gathering in Monaghan Town from 23rd – 26th June 2011. Mr. MacConghail was congratulated on this event and it was agreed that the Planning Sub-Committee meet with the Arts Officer to plan the event.
- Email dated 5th October 2010 from Maeve Lyons, Ashville Media Group congratulating Monaghan Town Council on being nominated in different categories for the LAMA Awards 2011.
- Note of thanks from the Finnan family, Tully for the Members expression of sympathy in their recent bereavement.
- Note of thanks from the Mulholland family, Drumbear for the Members expression of sympathy in their recent bereavement.
- Correspondence from Monaghan Chamber of Commerce Retail Promotions Committee stating that the switch on of the Christmas Tree lights will take place on the 21st November 2010. It was agreed to allocate €2500 to the Monaghan Chamber of Commerce as funding for the official switching on of the Christmas lights in the town.
- Submission document dated 9th October 2010 from Frank Mc Enaney, Chairman of Monaghan Chamber of Commerce regarding financial support proposal for Monaghan Chamber of Commerce for the year 2011. On the proposal of Cllr. David Maxwell seconded by Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha it was agreed to forward this correspondence to the Budget Sub-Committee of Monaghan Town Council.

5. Business submitted by An Cathaoirleach

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Robbie Gallagher congratulated the organisers of the County Monaghan People of the Year Awards which were presented at the weekend. He paid special tribute to the overall winners, the Tearmann Organisation and George Wallace of Ballybay.

6. Planning Applications

The Members noted Planning Applications numbered MT 10/25 – MT 10/26.

7. Considerations of Reports of Committees

The Members noted Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held in committee with a delegation of traders from Dublin Street, Monaghan on Monday 20th September 2010. The Members noted that the Planning Sub-Committee Members met earlier in the day with the delegation of traders from Dublin Street and the Town Engineer gave them a draft proposal with a scope for 86 car parking spaces off Dublin Street. The Traders were asked to liaise with the Town Engineer on the matter.

The Members noted Minutes of Budget Sub-Committee meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 11th October 2010 regarding the opening of tenders for Wayfinding Signage and a report on the Non-Principal Private Residence Charge. On the proposal of Cllr. Robbie Gallagher seconded by Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha it was agreed to write to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government requesting that those who are liable for the charge be notified in advance of the charge becoming due.

It was noted that the Planning Sub-Committee of the Town Council met earlier with the Gardaí and discussed the ongoing complaints of disturbances to residents of the Peters Lake Area of the town created by a large number of patrons exiting the night club in the town. The Gardaí stated that they did not have an issue with people exiting the night club and going up through the Diamond but asked the Council to hold off on such an arrangement until the current road works in The Diamond are complete. The Gardaí were also asked to correspond with the operators of hackneys/taxis/buses with a view to establishing a central pick-up point at the rear of the Courthouse. It was agreed to place the matter on the agenda for the next Town Council Meeting.

8. Roads/Housing

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

- Footpath in Killyconnigan needs repair
- Bins on Dublin Street to be replaced
- Footpath (147 Mullaghmatt) needs repair
- Illegal dumping – St Macartans Tce – back lanes
- Traffic calming measures – Glen Road/Old Armagh Road
- Tullyherim – Public lighting to be erected
- Manhole needs repair – front of Hillgrove Hotel
- Remove car parking spaces on Hospital Hill so as to improve the view for those exiting the Hospital.

Cllr. Donal Sherry complimented the works which have been carried out recently on the Golden Road, Killygoan.

9. Telecommunication Mast at Killygoan

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

10. Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Robbie Gallagher referred to a recent meeting which took place in Teach na nDaoine Family Resource Centre regarding the proposal for infill housing in the estate and stated that the Council were disappointed with the small turn-out of people at the meeting. Cllr. Gallagher requested an up-date on the situation at the next Town Council Meeting.

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

Gareth Mc Mahon, Town Engineer reported that all substantial works will be complete on the Monaghan Town Regeneration Scheme by the end of October 2010 and that some minor works and snagging will take place after that date.

The Town Engineer was requested to attend a meeting of Monaghan County Council following concerns raised by them regarding the newly constructed roundabout at Old Cross Square, Monaghan. Gareth McMahan stated that the roundabout is a one lane roundabout and that there is an over-run area to facilitate heavy goods vehicles to go up on the low lying kerbs. Declan Nelson, County Manager stated that the roundabout also offers benefits to Monaghan Harps Football Club and Monaghan Bottlers. The Town Engineer state that a yellow box junction has yet to be installed at the entrance to the Pound Hill from the N2.

12. Consideration of Draft Policy Document under Section 254 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 and the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended for the Licensing of Street Furniture, Goods Displays, Sandwich Boards and other such structures

The Members noted Draft Policy document for the Licensing of Street Furniture, Goods Displays, Sandwich Boards and other such structures. On the proposal of Cllr Mary Carroll seconded by Cllr Thomas Hagan it was agreed to adopt the Policy.

13. Notices of Motion:-

(a) “That this Council calls on the Government to address the plight of the self-employed, who now find themselves unemployed, to access welfare assistance more speedily”.

Cllrs. Uí Mhurchadha, Conlon, Sherry, McGeown

On the proposal of Cllr Donal Sherry seconded by Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha it was agreed to adopt the above Notice of Motion and to circulate it to all Local Authorities.

- (b) That this Council requests that:
- (i) the Minister for Finance would not reduce the old age pension and
 - (ii) that particularly in relation to our border economy would not make any increases to VAT in the upcoming budget and that the Minister would ensure that those most able to pay will carry their fair share of the burden”.

Cllr. Robbie Gallagher

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

© “That this Town Council calls on the Minister for Finance not to increase the VAT rate in the forthcoming budget”.

Cllrs Carroll, Hagan, Maxwell

On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Mary Carroll it was agreed to adopt the above Notice of Motion and to circulate it to all Local Authorities in the Border Region.

13. Ceisteanna/Questions

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

(a) There is a number of lights out of order in Mullaghmatt for sometime which can lead to anti-social activity and a danger to pedestrians. Is this due to works being carried out in the remedial scheme? Can this be rectified as soon as possible given the onset of dark winter evenings?

A number of lights have been affected by the works. The contractor is committed to getting these lights reconnected as soon as possible.

(b) What is the up-to-date position on the installation of CCTV cameras in the Mullaghmatt area?

The installation of the CCTV cameras in Mullaghmatt is being co-ordinated by the Resource Centre at Mullaghmatt. Enquiries on progress should be addressed to Packie Kelly.

Cllr. Robbie Gallagher will ask:-

© In view of recommendations in the recent IBAL and Tidy Towns Reports could the Council

(i) Outline the current approach to litter in the town

(ii) Propose a schedule with regard to different areas of the town, frequency of collection, etc.

Litter bins in Monaghan town are emptied daily. The streets of the town are swept 5 day per week including 2 early morning sweeps at the weekend. There is a general operative assigned on a daily basis to litter picking in the town centre. Additional special clean-ups are organised from time to time as required. Monaghan Town Council will liaise with Tidy Towns to ensure that their application for 2011 better reflects the level of work, commitment and resources allocated by Monaghan Town Council and our staff towards keeping the streets of Monaghan clean.

(d) Would the Council consider publicising the annual Halloween Firework Display to a greater extent with a view to bringing more people from the wider North Monaghan area into the town both to reduce the incidence of potentially dangerous displays elsewhere and to bring business into the town on the day? (letters/posters to schools for example).

Each year Monaghan Town Council allocates €6000 to Monaghan Neighbourhood Youth Project who organise the entire Halloween activities. This funding was paid to them in early October this year. The Members noted the proposed expenditure to be incurred by the NYP in organising this years activities.

Cllr. Donal Sherry welcomed the notice circulated to all householders by Town Council Staff reminding them that waste material should not be provided by them for the purpose of burning in bonfires as it is an offence under the Waste Management Act.

(e) What is the expected completion date for the work on The Diamond, Dublin Street and Old Cross Square?

The original contract completion date is October 30th 2010. The Contractor was awarded 12 additional days within the contract arising from additional works carried out on behalf of Water Services. Despite the extension of time on the contract, the contractor continues to work towards the original completion date. The contractor has advised that he is confident that this date will be met for substantial completion of the works. Some minor works and snagging may still take place after this date however.

15. **Resolutions from other Local Authorities:-**

(a) “That Clones Town Council calls for a review of the application of the Habitual Residence Condition for social welfare claimants, in light of anomalies arising for the border community, and asks the Department of Social Protection to work with the Department of Social Development in the North with a view to establishing an All Ireland Taxation and Social Welfare system”.

Clones Town Council

On the proposal of Cllr Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr Donal Sherry it was agreed to adopt the above Resolution.

16. **Conferences:-**

(a) Chartered Institute of Housing in Northern Ireland – “Investing in Affordable Housing – Time for new ideas” – 21st October 2010 – Long Gallery, Parliament Buildings, Stormont, Belfast – (approx. cost €100).

(b) TGR Seminars – “Facebook for Councillors, A Business Perspective” – 22nd – 24th October 2010 – Killarney Heights Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry – (approx. cost €870)

© Ballyhoura Development Limited – “The Future of Rural Areas to 2031” – 11th – 12th November 2010 – Charleville Park Hotel, Co. Cork – (approx. cost €670)

On the proposal of Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha seconded by Cllr Paul McGeown it was agreed that Cllr Seán Conlon attend conference ©.

The Members were circulated with reports complying with Section 142(5)(f) of the Local Government Act 2001 in relation to the following Conference:-

AMAI Conference, Buncrana – attended by Cllr David Maxwell

AMAI Conference, Sligo – attended by Cllr David Maxwell

AMAI Conference, Buncrana – attended by Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha

17. **Any Other Business**

Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha informed the Members that An Post and the Embassy of Chile are unveiling two new stamps featuring Don Juan MacKenna and Bernardo O' Higgins on Thursday 28th October 2010 in the GPO, Dublin to mark the Irish Role in Chilean Independence on Thursday 28th October 2010. The Cathaoirleach was requested to attend the above event.

Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha highlighted the fact that 82 bed-nights had recently been recorded as a result of County Monaghan's link with Prince Edward Island. Former Town and County Councillor, Willie McKenna was thanked for the work he does in fostering the PEI link with Monaghan.

18. **Sympathy/Congratulations**

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:

- The Keenan family, Glenview Heights on the recent death of Marie Keenan.
The Smith family, Ard Glas on the death of Eugene Smith
The family of the late Dr. Maurice Nelligan, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, renowned Irish heart surgeon
The Mc Geough family, Emyvale on the death of Louise Mc Geough.

A vote of congratulations was extended to the following:

- Barry and Simon Murray, Universal Graphics on obtaining ISO 9000 Quality Accreditation.
Aoibhinn McGinnity, Monaghan, on her role in the RTE drama series "Love/Hate".
Eamon Mc Eaney on being appointed County Senior Football Team Manager.
Colm McAree, Monaghan on being appointed County Minor Football Manager.
Northern Sound Radio Station on receiving two Road Safety Promotion awards.
Declan Brennan, Manager of Clontibret County Football team on their success in the County Final.
The organisers of the Taste of Monaghan Festival Event.
Adrian Cawley on obtaining an Ulster title
St. Macartans College Students who represented their school at a Law Event in the USA recently.
Clontibret, Doohamlet and Corduff Football Teams on their recent successes.
Seamus McEaney, former County Senior Football Team Manager and his assistant,
Adrian Trappe for all their work with the County Football team and for raising Monaghan Football to a new height.

The Members reiterated their good wishes to Declan Nelson, County Manager and wished him good health and happiness in the years ahead. Declan Nelson stated that the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government have no proposals at present to fill the post of County Manager and that it appears that there will be an Acting Manager for a time.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Dated this the 15th day of November 2010

Cathaoirleach