

COMHAIRLE BAILE MHUINEACHÁIN
MONAGHAN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 17th October 2011 at 5.00p.m. in the Council Chamber of Monaghan Town Council, Town Hall, No. 1 Dublin Street, Monaghan.

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. David Maxwell

Present: Cllrs. Mary Carroll, Seán Conlon, 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 Janice Eardley, Clerical Officer.

1. Confirmation of September Monthly Meeting held on 19/09/2011

On the proposal of Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha seconded by Cllr. Donal Sherry it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the September Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 19th September 2011.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. David Maxwell stated that he attended the launch of the “Taste of Monaghan” Festival and he praised the organizing committee on the success of the Festival in the town. The Members also congratulated the Environment Section of Monaghan County Council on the stall they had presented as part of the festival dealing with the prevention of food waste.

3. Manager’s Orders

The Members noted Manager’s Orders numbered 146/11 – 162/11.

Cllr Robbie Gallagher entered the meeting room.

4. Correspondence

The Members noted the following correspondence:-

- Letter dated the 29th September 2011 from Dr. James Reilly, T.D., Minister for Health concerning the Minor Injury Unit at Monaghan General Hospital. The Members expressed disappointment with the contents of the letter and noted that the reduced hours of operation at the Minor Injury Unit at Monaghan Hospital will come into effect from the 1st November 2011.

- Letter dated 7th September 2011 from the R.T.E. Information-Communications Section regarding dissatisfaction expressed by the Members of the Council at the lack of coverage given to the National Famine Commemoration in Clones. It was agreed to send a letter again requesting their reasons for non-attendance at the Commemoration.
- Acknowledgement dated 26th September 2011 from the Office of the Taoiseach regarding a Notice of Motion adopted by the Members at the September Monthly Meeting concerning the introduction of additional taxes.
- Letter dated the 4th October 2011 from the Office of The Minister for Justice and Equality regarding the Criminal Justice (Community Service) (Amendment) Act 2011.
- Acknowledgement dated 29th September 2011 from An Garda Síochana regarding Charitable Collections in Monaghan Town.
- Letter received on 10th October 2011 from the Residents Association of Coolshannagh Walk expressing concerns at the lack of play facilities for children in the area. On the proposal of Cllr. Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr. David Maxwell it was agreed to send a letter again to Town of Monaghan Co-Op and the Ballyalbany Presbyterian Church Committee asking them to reconsider allowing the Council to acquire a parcel of land in their ownership adjacent to the Housing Estate for the provision of a play park facility for use by the children of Coolshannagh Walk.
- Letter dated 21st September 2011 from Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd confirming a decision to issue a dividend of €29,937.16 to Monaghan Town Council from a fund of €10 million on foot of their financial results for 2010.

The Members noted a report from the Town Engineer dated 10th October 2011 regarding remedial works to be carried out to two dwellings in the Cluain Lorcáin housing estate at an estimated cost of €35k - €40k. On the proposal of Cllr Thomas Hagan seconded by Cllr Mary Carroll it was agreed that the dividend from Irish Public Bodies be offset against the cost of the works to be carried out to dwellings in the Cluain Lorcáin housing estate. Following a discussion and on the proposal of the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. David Maxwell seconded by Cllr. Donal Sherry it was agreed that the Housing Sub-Committee of the Town Council meet to put in place procedures for tenants who wish to carry out works to their own dwellings.

- Report dated 23rd September 2011 from Cllr Gary Carville, Monaghan County Council regarding the Annual General Meeting of Irish Public Bodies which was held in the Burlington Hotel, Dublin on Wednesday 21st September. The Cathaoirleach thanked Cllr. Carville for his detailed report.
- Report from the Town Engineer on the purchase of landscaping materials for the town. Cllr. Donal Sherry acknowledged the report.
- Email dated 3rd September 2011 from Michelle Murphy, Sports Co-ordinator, Monaghan Sports Partnership regarding the achievement of the Monaghan Ironmen/women.

- Letter dated 6th October 2011 from Seamus Gallagher, Secretary of Monaghan Town Football Club regarding the use of Belgium Park Football field. The Town Clerk informed the Members that an advertisement has been placed in the local newspaper this week inviting applications for the use of Belgium Park football field for the 2011/2012 winter season.
- Breakdown of costs from Foróige for the Annual Halloween Event which will be taking place on the 31st October 2011 at Monaghan Shopping Centre. The Members noted that warning notices have been circulated to all residents in housing estates in the town regarding illegal bonfires. The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. David Maxwell stated that he wishes to send out a warning to parents regarding fireworks and the risks attached to unauthorized bonfires. Cllr. Maxwell also invited the Members to attend the planned Halloween Celebrations and Fireworks display in the town on the 31st October 2011. Cllr. Thomas Hagan proposed that a letter be sent to all of the schools in the town highlighting the dangers of fireworks. This was seconded by Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha and agreed. Cllr. Donal Sherry proposed that the same letter be sent to the Residents Associations in the town. This was seconded by Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha and agreed.
- Certificate of Appreciation from Youth Work Ireland, Monaghan thanking Monaghan Town Council for hosting the Youth for Peace Cycle from 14th -18th August 2011.
- Letter dated 14th October 2011 from Frank Mc Eaney, Chairperson of the Taste of Monaghan Festival thanking the Town Council for their financial contribution towards the running of the festival and the Council staff for their help in assuring the event ran very smoothly.
- Letter dated 14th October 2011 from Robbie Healy, Chairman of the Halloween Bats Festival, Monaghan Chamber of Commerce requesting a drawdown of €5,000 to facilitate the festival. On the proposal of Cllr Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha it was agreed to contribute €5,000 to the Halloween Bats Festival.
- Letter received on 17th October 2011 from Shane Mc Cann, New Terrace, Monaghan regarding a request for a disabled parking bay at 2 New Terrace. It was agreed that the Town Engineer prepare a report on this matter.
- Email dated 13th October 2011 from Rosemary Pooley, Researcher for the R.T.E. series “Dirty old towns” stating that they are on the look out for towns for their second series that are undertaking projects to clear up and improve their towns. It was agreed to refer this correspondence to the Planning Sub-Committee of the Town Council.

5. Planning Application

The Members noted Planning Application numbered MT 11/17.

The Acting County Manager, David Fallon informed the Members that the Planning Application for a new roadway, as part of the Phase 2 works for the N54-R188 Monaghan Town Link Road, linking the Cortolvin Road with the Cootehill Road has been withdrawn as the application is invalid. It was noted that the application will be re-lodged again within a few weeks.

6. Business Submitted by An Cathaoirleach

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr David Maxwell informed the Members that Monaghan Town Council have been successful in an application for funding in the sum of €1,010 for outdoor gym equipment under the 2011 Local Authorities Sports Capital allocations. Cllr. Seán Conlon expressed his concern in the manner in which the Members were notified of the funding stating that it should have been communicated to the Members in correspondence rather than being announced at the Meeting by the Cathaoirleach. Gareth McMahon, Town Engineer stated that additional funding became available and a call had been made to Local Authorities for proposals to be made under the scheme. Cllr. Conlon was critical of the way funding allocations are being announced by politicians in the media.

7. Consideration of Reports of Committees

The Members noted the Minutes of a Sub-Committee meeting held on Wednesday 21st September 2011 in relation to proposals for a Famine Memorial for the town. The Members stated that they look forward to receiving the development of a proposal for a Famine Sculpture for the town.

The Members also noted from the Minutes that the Tidy Towns Committee are interested in the idea of sculpting a tree sculpture on the Dublin Road.

8. Roads/Housing

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

- Illegal dumping – Mullaghmat (formerly Kane's supermarket)
- Traffic calming measures required on Oriel Way road – it was noted that this request would form part of next years road grant.
- Drains blocked – Clones Road and Tully
- Belgian Square – pot holes
- St. Patrick's Terrace – Gully to be installed
- Loose bricks on footpath – North Road
- Public light out of order – Cathedral Walk
- ESB Pole in bad state of repair – Slip Road at Beech Hill
- Glen Road – Dip in roadway
- Remedial works to back lanes in Killygoan and Connolly Park – it was noted that these works would be examined in the context of Budget 2012.

Cllr. Seán Conlon stated that vehicles coming down Glaslough Street and turning right at the Diamond are experiencing difficulty in making the turn and proposed that a hatch box be inserted into a car parking bay in The Diamond to make it easier to manoeuvre. This was seconded by Cllr. Mary Carroll and agreed.

Cllr. Mary Carroll referred to the dangers posed by some motorists who overtake a number of vehicles on the Glen Road in order to turn into the car park to avoid the traffic lights in the area. It was agreed to raise the matter with the Gardaí at the next Joint Policing Committee Meeting.

9. Telecommunication Mast at Killygoan

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

10. Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme

David Fallon, Acting County Manager stated that he visited the Mullaghmatt estate at the invitation of the Mullaghmatt/Cortolvin Residents Association and that he was very impressed at the excellent manner in which the estate is kept by the residents.

The Town Engineer informed the Members that a proposal for the design of Phase 3 of the Scheme will be forwarded to the Department before the end of the year. It was also agreed to send a reminder letter to Willie Penrose, T.D. inviting him to Mullaghmatt to see the good works which have been carried out under the scheme.

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

The Members welcomed the installation of the playgrounds at Cluain Lorcáin Housing Estate and Oriel Way Playpark. Gareth Mc Mahon, Town Engineer stated that Phase 2 of the works has commenced and that a major element of the works will be complete by the end of October.

12. Progress on Windows/Doors – Killygoan Area

It was noted that remaining works outstanding to the windows and doors in Killygoan will be completed within the next few weeks. The Town Engineer informed the Members that a replacement programme for 38 front doors and frames to dwellings in Ard Glas, Killygoan has been advertised.

13. Report on Mixed Use Development at Rooskey

The Members noted that the planning application to restore the car park at Rooskey has not yet been received from the developer.

14. Consideration of Declaration of Public Road under Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993:-

The Members noted a letter dated 26th September 2011 from the Council's Solicitor regarding a request received by the Town Council to take the alleyway from Dublin Street to the Diamond Centre car park in charge. The Members also noted a submission from a resident in Dublin Street. Following a discussion and on the proposal of Cllr. Robbie Gallagher seconded by Cllr. Thomas Hagan it was agreed that a meeting be organized with the owners and residents of the area to discuss the matter.

15. Consideration of approval to Overdraft Accommodation to the 31st December 2012

On the proposal of Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha seconded by Cllr. Mary Carroll it was agreed to approve of Overdraft Accommodation in the sum of €1 million to the 31st December 2012.

16. Consideration of Pedestrian Crossing on the North Road, Monaghan Town

The Members noted drawing number PC11/01 and PC 11/02 showing a proposal for a Pedestrian Crossing on the North Road. It was agreed to relocate the proposed Pedestrian Crossing nearer the Town Centre and to consult with the businesses/residents of the area. The matter will be brought before the Members again for their approval.

17. Consideration of Civic Reception to mark the visit of the Ulster Connacht Regional Session of the European Youth Parliament Ireland (EYP) -18th – 20th November 2011.

The Members noted email dated 8th September 2011 from Micheál Callaghan regarding this years Ulster Connacht Regional Session of the European Youth Parliament Ireland (EYP) which is to be held in Monaghan Town on the weekend of 18th – 20th November 2011. On the proposal of Cllr Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha it was agreed to contribute €500 to the EYP. The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. David Maxwell undertook to meet with the organisers of the event with a view to holding a Civic Reception for them in advance of the Conference.

18. Ceisteanna/Questions

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

- (a) On behalf of the residents of the Montfort Estate and in an effort to improve community safety in that area will the Council Executive liaise with Airtricity/ESB Networks imploring on them the need to repair nine faulty street lights currently not working?

The Montfort Estate has not been taken in charge by the Council. The Residents Association should liaise with the public lighting providers for the estate to arrange for the repair of the lights. It was agreed that a letter be issued by the Council to the Management Committee of the Estate highlighting the problem.

- (b) Will the Council Engineer please give update on progress to date on implementing the 2011 Road Allocation proposals?

The 2011 Road Programme is 90% complete. All major works are complete with the exception of the Mill Street/Church Square Urban Regeneration project which is 80% complete. The surface patching programme is yet to commence, but is scheduled for the week commencing 31st October.

© With the current phase of Mullaghmat Remedial Scheme near completion will the Council gardener liaise with the residents with a view to optimising the potential for planting and enhancing of the landscaped environment of the area. Also in the same area, the provision of new street lighting is wholly inadequate. On behalf of the Residents, will the Council implore upon the NBA the need for increased lighting?

The NBA design contains an element of landscaping that has yet to be implemented. On completion of the landscaping from the remedial scheme, requirements for additional planting in the area can be looked at. There are a number of additional light columns to be erected as part of the remedial scheme (Phase 2). On erection of these lights the performance of the public lighting in the estate generally can be reviewed.

Cllr. Robbie Gallagher asked:-

(d) What is the current situation re the ongoing discussions between the Development/Creditors and the Local Authority in relation to the outstanding works in the Latlurcan Glen/Court/Way Housing Estate, Dublin Road, Monaghan?

The developer has agreed a programme of works with the planning section that will allow the regularisation of planning in the estate. A costing report has been prepared and submitted to the site funder and we are awaiting a response at this time.

(e) What is the position in relation to the erection of signage indicating the location of three Hotels in Monaghan town namely, Four Seasons, Hillgrove and the Westenra Hotel?

The signs have been designed and an order placed. This project is being managed by the Road Design Office of Monaghan County Council.

(f) How many people are currently on the Council Housing List and what is the make up of the list? How many people have refused the offer of Council Housing to date in 2011?

There are currently 264 on the Housing list which is made up as follows:-

Small Family – 92

Family 42

Single U55 112

OPD 18

24 housing applicants have refused the offer of Council Housing (including 2 transfers) to date in 2011.

19. Resolutions from other Local Authorities:-

- (a) “That we Killarney Town Council would write to An Taoiseach and appropriate Ministers expressing our concerns regarding the proposed series of cuts to fuel and household allowance relating to pensioners, carers and the unemployed which were recently announced. The €65m saved will come at a price, and that price is going to be paid by some of the most vulnerable in our society who will be left struggling and at risk during the winter months. Meanwhile at the other end of the scale fuel costs have increased dramatically, e.g. gas, ESB, coal and oil.”

Killarney Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

- (b) “I call on this Council to write to the Minister for Social Welfare to provide funding for a national waiver scheme for refuse collection service.”

Carrick-on-Suir Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

- © “That this Council condemns the decision of the Department of Social Protection to change the payment method for social welfare recipients from that of a choice based possibility of payment into the bank account to insisting that those on social welfare must now queue at post offices on a weekly basis. This Council also calls on the Minister for Social Protection, Joan Burton to ensure that those seeking help and assistance in social welfare offices are afforded the privacy and dignity they deserve.”

New Ross Town Council

It was agreed to mark the above Resolution read.

- (d) “That Kilkee Town Council calls on the Minister for Education to review the dates that primary and secondary schools reopen at the end of the summer to begin the new school year.”

Kilkee Town Council

It was agreed to mark the above Resolution read.

- (e) “That this Council calls on the Minister for Transport with regard to the centralisation of the driver licensing section to rethink the matter and allow the facility to be retained locally here in Monaghan.”

Ballybay Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

20. Conferences:-

- (a) Irish Planning Institute Autumn Conference 2011 – “Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment” – The Gibson Hotel, The Point Village, Dublin – 21st October 2011- (approx. cost €500)
- (b) Celtic Conferences – “Optimising Taxation Allowance and Benefits and Revenue on Line Service Workshop” – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork – 22nd – 24th October 2011 – (approx. cost €900)
- © Douglas Hyde Conference 2011 – “The Economy vs The People: Ireland’s Divided Mind” – BMW Regional Assembly, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon – 4th November 2011 – (approx. cost €420)

On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Seán Conlon it was agreed that Cllr Robbie Gallagher attend Conference ©.

- (d) Drogheda Borough Council – A Conference on the Great War, 1914-1918 – Westcourt Hotel, Drogheda – 5th – 6th November 2011 – (approx. cost €294)
- (e) Nuclear Free Local Authorities All Ireland Forum Seminar – Wexford Council Offices, Carricklawn, Wexford – 11th November 2011 – (approx. cost €460)

On the proposal of Cllr Mary Carroll seconded by Cllr Thomas Hagan it was agreed that Cllr David Maxwell attend Conference (e)

- (f) TGR Seminars – Professional Development for Councillors – Strategic Planning for 2012 – “Creating a practical plan for maximum personal productivity in 2012” – Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise, Co. Laois – 11th – 13th November 2011 – (approx cost €630)
- (g) Clare Tourist Council/Clare County Council – A National Tourism Conference – “Tourism – The Potential for Economic Growth” – Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare – 24th – 26th November 2011 – (approx. cost €800).

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

- AMAI Conference, Trim – attended by Cllr. David Maxwell
- AMAI Conference, Bantry – attended by Cllr Thomas Hagan
- AMAI Conference, Trim – attended by Cllr Thomas Hagan
- Irish Council for Social Housing Conference, Galway – attended by Cllr Donal Sherry.

21. Any other business

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. David Maxwell stated that Monaghan Town Council are celebrating 175 years in existence in 2012 and that he intends to organise a celebration to mark the occasion.

Cllr. Donal Sherry expressed criticism that a car is provided to the holder of the Office of Mayor of Galway City. It was noted that this provision has been in place now for many years in various cities in the Country.

Cllr. Seán Conlon stated that the Garage Theatre are running 2 productions in the near future to raise funds and encouraged the Members to attend.

The Members condemned the recent vandalism carried out to hanging baskets and floral displays on the Town Council building.

22.Sympathy/Congratulations

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:

- Larry Sherry, 25 Dr. McKenna Terrace, Monaghan on the death of his wife Jean.
- The O'Brien family on the death of Donal O'Brien, Scotland and formerly High Street, Monaghan.
- The Hughes family, Mall Road on the death of Kathleen Hughes
- The family of the late Nancy Brennan, Rooskey Vale and formerly Dublin.

A vote of congratulations was extended to the following:

- Ciara Mc Anespie on winning the September Ulster GAA Writers Merit Award.
- The Monaghan Senior Ladies Football Team on their fine performance in the All Ireland Football Final against Cork.
- The Latton Senior Football Team on winning the Senior Football Championship Final.
- The Carrickmacross Football Team on winning the Intermediate Football Championship Final.
- Cremartin Football Team on winning the Junior Football Championship Final.
- Truagh Minor Football Team on winning the Minor Championship Final.

The Members congratulated and expressed good luck wishes to Monaghan United Football Team who are now top of the Airtricity League First Division with only two matches left in their bid for promotion and elevation to the Premier League.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Dated this the 21st day of November 2011.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

