

Comhairle Baile Mhuineacháin
Monaghan Town Council

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 20th September 2010 at 5.00pm 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 Miriam Mc Mahon, Assistant Staff Officer.

Attendance of Rory MacFlynn, Project Architect, National Building Agency, Dublin.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Robbie Gallagher welcomed Rory MacFlynn, Project Architect, National Building Agency, Dublin to discuss the planning of Phase 3 for the Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme.

Mr. MacFlynn presented a detailed appraisal of existing open space area for Phase 3 of the Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme and stated that it is evident that a large area of car parking and open space to the rear of some of the dwellings within Phase 3 present a problem. Mr MacFlynn stated that in February of this year the National Building Agency presented outline proposals for the next phase of the Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme to Monaghan Town Council which included an element of infill housing (9 dwellings). It was noted that this proposal was presented to the residents of Mullaghmatt and there was opposition to any suggestion to infill as the perception was that the density within the estate is sufficiently high. Mr MacFlynn stated that the NBA have taken into account the wishes of the residents and the latest proposal involves a reduced number of infill houses (3 no. 2 bed single storey units). Mr. MacFlynn also stated that the proposal involves the taking in of land into the curtilage of existing houses in the area.

The Members thanked Mr. MacFlynn for his detailed presentation.

On the proposal of Cllr Donal Sherry seconded by Cllr David Maxwell it was agreed to request Mr MacFlynn to make a presentation to the residents affected by the proposal. The presentation is to be arranged for Teach Na nDaoine, Family Resource Centre. Mr MacFlynn left the meeting room.

1. Confirmation of July Monthly Meeting held on 19th July 2010.

On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Paul McGeown it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the July Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 19th July 2010.

2. **Confirmation of Meeting held in Committee on 19th July 2010.**

On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Thomas Hagan it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the Meeting held in Committee on 19th July 2010 with Tommy Clarke, Managing Director and David Mole, Project Manager, DPT Mixed Use Developments Ltd regarding Monaghan Town Centre Mixed Use Development.

3. **Matters arising from the Minutes**

The Members noted correspondence dated the 9th September 2010 and a drawing from Tommy Clarke, Managing Director, P. Clarke & Sons Ltd in relation to the Monaghan Mixed Use Development. Mr Clarke's following proposal was noted by the Members:-

Phase 1 – Fill in the car park to level 1 and provide car parking for 200 cars, construct Civic Offices and mixed development of retail and offices.

Phase 2 – Develop remainder of site.

It was noted that Mr. Clarke stated in his correspondence that the scheme makes economic sense to finish and he is confident that Monaghan Town has the capacity to accommodate the development.

Cllr Seamus Treanor called on the Members to call a halt to the project and recommended that the site be filled in totally. The Members noted that the developer is eagerly and enthusiastically pursuing options to get the project up and running again. Following a discussion, Declan Nelson, County Manager recommended a third option, which is a variation on Mr. Clarke's proposal namely that the project be divided into three phases:-

Phase 1 – Fill in the car park to level one to accommodate 200 cars

Phase 2 – Construct Civic Offices and the mixed use development of retail and offices

Phase 3 – Develop remainder of site

The Members welcomed the County Manager's suggestion and agreed to forward it to Clarkes for their response.

Gareth Mc Mahon, Town Engineer informed the Members that there is no hope of land being acquired to provide a children's play facility in the Coolshannagh Walk area. The Members expressed disappointment at the news.

It was noted that as the Knockroe Glen housing estate has not yet been completed ramps or other traffic calming measures would not be introduced until the wearing course was laid in the estate.

Declan Nelson, County Manager reported that Belgium Park Football Field became the property of Monaghan County Council in 1915 and was handed over to Monaghan Urban District Council in 1928 for the purpose of providing Council housing. From 1930 – 1970's the land in question was used as a sports ground catering for a variety of activities and the Urban District Council rented the field to Clubs/Groups. The Urban District Council leased the pitch to a number of individuals in the 1980's who wanted to develop the pitch as a soccer complex and planning permission was granted for certain facilities, including a stand. The County Manager stated that an appeal was made to An Bord Pleanála in June 1985 and the Board refused planning permission for the erection of a fence and stand at the football field. Mr Nelson said that because of this decision the Council then allocated land in Killyconnigan to the football club on which the pitch at Gortakeegan today is built. On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Paul McGeown it was agreed to write to Monaghan Town Football Club to enquire if they are still interested in pursuing their application to lease the football field.

It was noted that the playground at Belgium Park Football Field was built on an area which can also be used for car parking and that the car park is necessary to reduce the parking of cars in the housing estates in the vicinity especially on days/evenings of football matches.

Declan Nelson, County Manager stated that income from the Non Principal Private Residence (NPPR) would have to be factored into the Council's Revenue Account to make up for the deduction in income from the Local Government Fund/Road Grants, etc.

The Town Engineer stated that he received correspondence from the Residents of Mill Street who are objecting to a gate being moved in the area to allow the one way traffic system to proceed in the street. Gareth McMahon undertook to explore the matter with the residents.

Declan Nelson, County Manager informed the Members that funding is available in the Capital Account for the erection of a Memorial in relation to the Great Hunger.

The Members referred to late night parties in private housing estates which were causing distress to neighbours in the area. Landlords were called upon to exercise due diligence when assigning tenancies. Cllr. Uí Mhurchadha enquired if action had been taken by the Executive in relation to local authority tenants who were causing disruption. The Town Clerk informed Cllr. Uí Mhurchadha that this matter was being dealt with.

Cllr. Seán Conlon showed camcorder footage of a crowd of people assembling in Glaslough Street Car Park following late night entertainment in the Town Centre. Issues raised by the Members included the proximity of the lake to the area where the crowds had gathered and the noise disturbance caused to the residents of the area. The Town Engineer pointed out that a barrier prevents those attending the functions to go up through the Diamond. On the proposal of Cllr. David Maxwell seconded by Cllr. Seán Conlon it was agreed that the planning sub-committee meet with the Gardaí to discuss the matter.

Declan Nelson, County Manager stated that a major review of the Monaghan Town Council Casual Trading Bye-Laws will take place when the regeneration works to the Diamond area have been completed. Mr. Nelson also stated that the Town Council need to regularise the situation in relation to the Farmers Markets in the town.

It was noted that the National Building Agency are currently preparing costings for the installation of central heating in four dwellings in Mullaghmart.

4. **Manager's Orders**

The Members noted Manager's Orders numbered 139/10 –169/10.

5. **Correspondence**

The Members noted the following correspondence:-

- Letter dated 4th August 2010 from An Garda Síochána in relation to “Begging”
- Letter dated 29th July 2010 from An Post concerning the removal of a post box from outside Dunnes Stores.
- Letter dated 23rd July 2010 from the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources regarding the broadcasting levy.
- Letter dated 4th August 2010 from Keel Properties Ltd regarding housing development at Knockroe.
- Letter dated 4th August 2010 from An Garda Síochána regarding late night disturbances at Peter's Lake.
- Letter dated 1st September 2010 from the Department of Justice and Law Reform regarding funding for the organisation Justice for the Forgotten.
- Letter dated 8th September 2010 from the Commissioner for Taxi Regulation regarding a public consultation process which took place in July 2010.
- Letter dated 3rd August 2010 from ESB Networks regarding the Monaghan Town Regeneration Project.
- Letter dated 8th August 2010 from Monaghan Chamber of Commerce seeking funding for the Taste of Monaghan Festival which will take place from 6th – 10th October. On the proposal of Cllr Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr David Maxwell it was agreed to contribute €4,000 to the Taste of Monaghan Festival.

The Members congratulated the Chamber of Commerce on their work in promoting the town and wished them success on their forthcoming festivals.

- Letter dated 28th July 2010 from Monaghan Chamber of Commerce in relation to a request to close off Church Square to traffic during the Taste of Monaghan Festival. On the proposal of Cllr David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Paul McGeown it was agreed to grant the request and to ask the Chamber of Commerce to liaise with the Taxi Rank operators. Gareth Mc Mahon, Town Engineer pointed out that the closure of Church Square from the 7th – 10th October will have major impact on traffic in the town.
- Letters dated 23rd July 2010 from Richard Mc Kenna, Casual Trader. It was agreed to discuss the contents of this correspondence with the Gardaí.
- Acknowledgement from the Mc Gann Family, Latlurcan thanking the Members for their kind expression of sympathy on the sad occasion of Gerry's death.
- Letter from Joseph Duffy, Bishop-Emeritus of Clogher thanking the Members for their good wishes on his retirement as Bishop of Clogher.
- Letters of support from Local Authorities regarding Notice of Motion which was adopted at the Town Council Meeting on the 19th April 2010 in relation to rates.

6. **Business submitted by An Cathaoirleach**

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Robbie Gallagher referred to the increasing problem of dog litter in the town. The Town Engineer stated that a scheme is currently being rolled out by the Environment Section of Monaghan County Council which has identified a number of locations in the town for dog litter bins.

7. **Planning Applications**

The Members noted Planning Applications numbered MT 10/17 – MT 10/24.

8. **Considerations of Reports of Committees**

Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha stated that she attended the Social, Cultural and Voluntary Strategic Policy Committee Meeting of Monaghan County Council and commended the Museum Curator, his staff and the staff of the County Library for the work that they are carrying out throughout the County.

Cllr Mary Carroll stated that she will not be available to attend a meeting of Coiste Gaelige on 30th September 2010.

9. **Roads/Housing**

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

- Ramps required – Park Street/Dublin Street/Hill Street/Cluain Lorcaín.
- Killyconnigan – Footpaths deteriorating
- Swimming Pool – Pedestrian Crossing required

- Coolshannagh Road – Ramps to be re-layed
- Weeds on footpaths – Knockaconny area.
- Monaghan Swimming Pool – Public light out of order
- Bins to be replaced on Dublin Street
- Bins required for Cluain Lorcaín housing estate.
- Footpath requires repair on Dublin road (opposite Cathedral)
- Tom Young’s Wood – Paths overgrown. The Town Engineer stated that under the Neighbour Woods Scheme the Council were putting together an application in association with Coillte to improve this area.
- Public light required at rear of 21 Belgium Square
- Additional seating required - Killygoan area
- Road gully to be examined – Pound Hill
- Tree on North Road to be examined.

Cllr. Donal Sherry stated that he received complaints about grass cutting in housing estates where the grass was not been lifted after it was cut. The Town Engineer informed him that the Town Council had been short staffed and therefore were not in a position to deliver the same level of service as before.

Cllr. Uí Mhurchadha referred to anti-social behaviour problems in an area in Mullaghmatt Housing Estate where steps leading to houses had been widened and upgraded. The Town Engineer stated that the works undertaken were necessary and that a CCTV camera would be located at the area which Cllr. Uí Mhurchadha referred to.

10. **Telecommunication Mast at Killygoan**

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

On the proposal of Cllr. Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr. David Maxwell it was agreed to seek a report from the Planning Section of Monaghan County Council regarding the relocation of the mast at the Army Barracks, Knockaconny, Monaghan.

11. **Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme**

It was noted that the Remedial Works at Mullaghmatt are underway.

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

It was noted that the Roundabout under construction in Old Cross Square will be completed and re-opened by the end of this week. The granite stone is currently been laid in the Diamond area and will be completed within five weeks.

13. Consideration of Proposed Amendments of Parking Control (Pay Parking) Bye-Laws and Car Park Bye-Laws.

The Members noted drawing number PP-005 together with Town Engineers Report and the schedule of proposed amendments. Following a discussion and on the proposal of Cllr Mary Carroll seconded by Cllr Paul McGeown it was agreed to adopt, as presented, the amendments to the Parking Control (Pay Parking) Bye-Laws and Car Park Bye-Laws.

14. Consideration of County Manager's Report in accordance with Part V111 of the Planning and Development Regulations (S. I. No. 600 of 2001) for Development of Tully Gate Lodge, Mullaghmatt, Monaghan. The proposed development will comprise of the following:-

- (i) Construction of a new footpath to facilitate pedestrian movements
- (ii) Relocation of an existing stone wall behind the proposed footpath

The Members noted County Manager's report dated 3rd September 2010. On the proposal of Cllr Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr Thomas Hagan it was agreed to proceed with the development as proposed and recommended in the County Manager's report.

15. Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 – 2006 and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.

Declan Nelson, County Manager declared an interest in this item as he is a resident in the estate. The Members noted Planning Report dated the 17th September 2010 together with drawing No. TCC10-001. On the proposal of Cllr Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr David Maxwell it was agreed that Monaghan Town Council take in charge the roads and public open spaces in Clover Hill Housing Estate.

16. Setting of Agenda for Monaghan Town Joint Policing Public Meeting

It was noted that a Public Meeting has been arranged for Tuesday 19th October 2010 at 8p.m. in the Market House, Monaghan.

It was agreed that the agenda for the public meeting be as follows:

- Presentation by Gardaí on policing issues
- Presentation on Domestic Violence
- Presentation on Teenage Alcohol Abuse/Awareness
- Relevance of JPC's within our community

17. Notices of Motion:-

- (a) "That this Council vehemently opposes any proposal to abolish Town Councils, a move that would deprive the citizens access to the most basic form of democracy".

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.

(b) “That this Council deploras the proposal by ESB to increase charges by almost 5% at a time when the wholesale cost of same has reduced by 2%.

Cllrs. Uí Mhurchadha, Conlon, Sherry, McGeown

On the proposal of Cllr Donal Sherry seconded by Cllr Thomas Hagan it was agreed to adopt the above Notice of Motion and to forward the Motion to Minister Eamon Ryan T.D., Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources. It was also agreed to circulate the Motion to all Local Authorities.

© “That this Council investigate the possibility of installing a pedestrian crossing in Dublin Street in the interest of pedestrian safety”.

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.

(d) “That this Council investigate the possibility of putting traffic calming/restricting measures in place on the Glen Road approach to Monaghan Town in the interests of safety.”

Cllrs Carroll, Hagan, Maxwell

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

18. Questions

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

1. Could we have a commitment to have the restoration of road markings which were severely damaged during the harsh winter?
Road markings have been renewed in a number of town centre locations this year. A thorough renewal of lines throughout the town may be warranted. A budget of €10-€15k should be set aside to facilitate this project.
2. With the commencement of construction works of the new town Fire Station at Annahagh, will the Executive give clarification as to what arrangements are in place regarding transfer of ownership of this site from the Town Council to the County Council?
1.40 acres of land was transferred by way of a Section 183 Notice under the Local Government Act 2001 in November 2006. This was passed by the Members of Monaghan Town Council at the November Monthly Meeting held on the 26th November. The matter is currently with the Solicitor.

Cllrs. Carroll, Hagan and Maxwell asked:-

3. Can the Council look at what measures need to be taken to repair damage to Horseshoe Bridge in order to prevent further erosion/damage?
There is some superficial erosion of the pointing around the stone on the parapet wall. This can be made good at the same time that the new footpath and wall is being constructed at Tully Gate Lodge. This work is to be carried out as part of phase 2 of the remedial scheme.
4. Can the Council replace the ticket meter at the back of the Westenra Hotel as over the last number of weeks we know of at least four occasions when it had to be reported?
This machine is one of the busiest in town and therefore when it is not in operation it is going to generate a lot of complaints. Statistically the machine is performing similarly to all others. Monaghan Town Councils staff will monitor this machine over the coming weeks and determine if a new machine is required at this location.

Cllr. Robbie Gallagher asked:-

5. Would the Council consider installing a pedestrian crossing at Dublin Street with the aim of both improving pedestrian safety and helping to reduce the speed of traffic on Dublin Street?
Monaghan Town Council placed a digital traffic counter on Dublin Street for 10 days to monitor traffic flow and speeds. A breakdown of the statistics is attached. Councillors will note from the data that less than 0.3% of vehicles exceeded the speed limit during business hours. There is a location on the upper side of Dublin Street which could facilitate a pedestrian crossing without the loss of car parking if Councillors elect to proceed with.
6. Would the Council investigate street lighting along the back lanes to the rear of Glenview Drive and Woodview to alleviate anti-social behaviour in the area?
There is no budget for providing lights to back lanes this year. Councillors may elect to budget for this project for 2011, however it has been the policy not to provide public lighting in backlanes of estates with one or two noted exceptions.
7. Could the Council investigate the installation of additional bins to alleviate the litter problems at the Belgium Park Football Field as well as anti-litter signage, particularly in light of the recent IBAL report?
Additional bins can be provided, however the existing litter bins in this location are not used to capacity at present. Subsequent to the IBAL report the Monaghan Town Council operatives who attends the pitch during matches has had his duties broadened to include a litter pick of the car park at the end of a match. Additional signage can be installed requesting visitors to use the litter bins provided.

8. Can the Council give an update on the proposed installation of the bus shelter on the North Road?

This proposal was discussed with a local Engineering firm some time ago. However, the firm is not in a position to design and build this facility. The matter will be considered in the context of the 2011 Budget.

19. Resolutions from other Local Authorities:-

- (a) "Ballina Town Council notes with concern recent attempts to downgrade and dissolve democratically Elected Local Authorities/Town Councils throughout the Country, under the current "Local Government Reform Proposals". Accordingly Ballina Town Council requests the Minister for Local Government and the Government to cease with immediate effect all proposals to reduce or dissolve democratically elected Local Authorities/Town Council's".

Ballina Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

- (b) "That this Town Council asks the Minister for Social Protection to develop a formal scheme whereby the skills of those in receipt of Job Seekers Benefit and Job Seekers Allowance can be used on a voluntary basis for the benefits of the community without reducing social welfare entitlements and while the participant continues to seek paid employment, and that such participation can be recognised in a formal way to show prospective employers".

Passage West Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

20. Conferences:-

- (a) Greystones Town Council/Ards Borough Council/La Touche Legacy Committee 2010 Autumn Seminar – "Local Democracy – in Changing Times" – Charlesland Golf and Country Club Hotel, Greystones, Co. Wicklow – 1st – 3rd October 2010 – (approx. cost €650)
- (b) Kerry Life Education Ltd Conference – Getting a Grip 2010 – "Building a Social Response" – Europe Hotel and Conference Centre, Killarney, Co. Kerry – 7th – 8th October 2010 – (approx. cost €780)
- © LAMA Autumn Seminar 2010 – "Local Government Efficiency and Financing" – Listowel Arms Hotel, Listowel, Co. Kerry – 8th – 9th October 2010 – (approx. cost €790)
- (d) Douglas Hyde Conference 2010 – "Inside Creativity: Education, Innovation, Economy, Society" – Abbeyfield Hotel, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon – 15th – 16th October 2010 – (approx. cost €450)
- (e) Nuclear Free Local Authorities All Ireland Forum Seminar – "Radioactive discharges in the Irish Sea – why may they rise over the next decade and should we be worried?" – Fingal County Hall, Swords, Co. Dublin – 22nd October 2010 – (approx. cost €180)

No attendance is to take place to the above Conferences.

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:- AMAI Annual Conference – attended by Cllr Seán Conlon.

Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha stated that six of the nine Town Council Members attended the AMAI Conference in Buncrana recently.

21. Any other Business

It was agreed by the Members to proceed with an ESB connection to the Chapel of Rest, Coolshannagh Graveyard in the sum of €1327.95. It was agreed to fund this payment from the contribution provided by the Council in Budget 2010 towards the renovation of Coolshannagh Church.

Declan Nelson, County Manager stated that he will be resigning from his post of County Manager when his contract expires in November.

22. Sympathy/Congratulations

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:

The Carbin Family, Ballinode on the tragic death of Peter Carbin.
Eugene Murray, Mullaghmatt and former employee of Monaghan Town Council on the death of his wife, Mary.

A vote of congratulations was extended to the following:

Monaghan Untied Football team who take part in the EA Sports League Cup Final this weekend.

Padraig Crudden who has been selected to represent Ireland in a track and field event in the Special Olympics next year.

Katie Taylor, Co. Wicklow - Women's World Boxing Champion.

Monaghan Harps underage football teams on their recent successes

Cllr Paul McGeown who is to participate in a Marathon in Poland in the next few days.

O' Hanlon's GFC on their recent success in underage football competitions.

Monaghan Ladies Junior Football Team on their All Ireland success against Cavan.

The participants in Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann which took place in Cavan in August.

Mícheál O Muircheartaigh on his retirement from broadcasting with RTE.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Dated this the 18th day of October 2010

Cathaoirleach

