

**COMHAIRLE BAILE MHUINEACHÁIN  
MONAGHAN TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of Special Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2011 at 5.15p.m. 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, Donal Sherry and Seamus Treanor.

In attendance: David Fallon, A/County Manager, Marie Deighan, Town Clerk and Sinead McCann, Staff Officer.

An apology for inability to attend was received from Cllrs David Maxwell and Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha.

At the outset the Cathaoirleach informed the Members that he has received an invitation from Margaret Urwin, Justice for the Forgotten to lay a wreath at their commemorative ceremony at the Memorial in Talbot Street, Dublin on the 17<sup>th</sup> May on the 37<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Dublin and Monaghan Bombings. The Members agreed that the Cathaoirleach attend the ceremony.

It was also agreed to lay a wreath at the Bombing Memorial in Church Square, Monaghan on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2011 at 8.45a.m.

**Possible Closure of the FÁS Office in Monaghan Town.**

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Robbie Gallagher thanked the Members of the Council for attending the Special Meeting at short notice. Cllr. Gallagher referred to the news that the FÁS Office, which is operating in Monaghan town since 1988 is to close on a temporary basis. Cllr. Gallagher stated that the Office provides a service to the people of the County and the outskirts of the border counties of Louth, Cavan, Armagh, Tyrone and Fermanagh. The Members noted that there are two clinics operating in Clones and Castleblayney as an outreach service for local people. It was also noted that the Staff were visited last week by two Regional Managers who informed them of the temporary closure and that there was no discussion/consultation with Management on the closure.

The Cathaoirleach stated that the FÁS Office employs 8 staff who have gained vast experience and knowledge over a period of time and which will now be lost to the County.

The Members of the Council and the A/County Manager concurred with the Cathaoirleach's sentiments. Cllr. Thomas Hagan stated that he has been speaking to Deputy Seán Conlan, TD who stated that the Department has guaranteed him that the FÁS Office in Monaghan town will not be closing on a temporary basis.

On the proposal of the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Robbie Gallagher seconded by Cllr. Seán Conlon it was agreed to write to Joan Burton, T.D., Minister for Social Protection seeking a meeting to clarify the future status of the FÁS Office in Monaghan and to object strongly to any proposal to close the Office on a temporary basis.

It was agreed to send a copy of the letter to the Taoiseach.

It was further agreed to seek a meeting with the Manager of the FÁS Regional Office in Dundalk.

On the proposal of Cllr. Donal Sherry seconded by Cllr. Mary Carroll it was also agreed to send a copy of the letter to all local T.D.'s

The Members commended the Cathaoirleach for calling the Meeting. The Cathaoirleach thanked the Members for their support.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Dated this the 16<sup>th</sup> day of May 2011.

---

Cathaoirleach