

COMHAIRLE BAILE MHUINEACHÁIN MONAGHAN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Special Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 18th October 2010 at 5.00p.m. in the Council Chamber of Monaghan Town Council, Town Hall, 1 Dublin Street, Monaghan to mark the retirement of Declan Nelson, County Manager.

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: Marie Deighan, Town Clerk.

At the outset the Town Clerk welcomed the Cathaoirleach and Members of Monaghan Town Council, Declan Nelson, County Manager and his wife Mary, Staff Members and Retired Staff Members of the Town Council to the Council Chamber on the occasion of honouring Declan Nelson, County Manager on his forthcoming retirement in November 2010.

The Town Clerk called on the Cathaoirleach of Monaghan Town Council to speak. Cllr. Gallagher paid tribute to Declan Nelson, County Manager and stated that he was very professional and committed to the town and had overseen many projects which he could be very proud of in his tenure as Town and County Manager. Cllr. Gallagher stated that in addition to the three major bypass projects in the County, Declan Nelson had overseen the construction of the Monaghan Leisure Complex, the development of Peters Lake and the regeneration of The Diamond, Dublin Street and Old Cross Square. The Cathaoirleach stated that Mr. Nelson was jovial, friendly and easy to talk to and had a wealth of knowledge and he was sure that the staff and elected members would continue to tap into that knowledge. He stated that there is a now a big void to fill to secure a County Manager as devoted as Mr. Nelson was.

Cllr. Gallagher called on Cllr Seán Conlon to speak on behalf of the Sinn Féin group. Cllr. Conlon stated that the Council are celebrating Declan Nelsons 10 years in Monaghan and regretted the fact that he was leaving his post. Cllr. Conlon stated that Mr. Nelson was very actively aware of the town and he knows in the future that when Declan is asked for his advice/wisdom he will not be too far away.

Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha, longest serving member of the Town Council, speaking initially as Gaeilge recalled her disappointment when she heard that Declan Nelson was retiring from his post as County Manager and Manager of Monaghan Town Council. Cllr. Uí Mhurchadha stated that the County Manager gave very good service to the Town and displayed a great love of the Irish language. Cllr. Uí Mhurchadha wished him a long and happy retirement.

Cllr. Gallagher called on Cllr. Mary Carroll to speak on behalf of the Fine Gael group. Cllr Carroll stated that Declan Nelson had been a man who was dedicated to the town and had a vision for the town and that the fruits of that vision can now be seen. Cllr. Carroll stated that Declan Nelson was always ready to listen and advise and wished him well in the future.

Cllr. Seamus Treanor referred to Declan Nelson as a true gentleman and found him at all times to be accommodating, helpful and willing to listen.

Marie Deighan, Town Clerk spoke on behalf of the Town Council Staff and stated that Declan Nelson brought a wealth of knowledge with him to Monaghan in December 2000 having worked as Assistant County Manager in Galway for 6 years and County Secretary in Offaly County Council for 4 years previous to that. The Town Clerk stated that reading through the Minutes of the Meetings for the past seven years give an idea of the legacy of infrastructure that Declan Nelson had achieved for the Monaghan people down through his years as Manager - Monaghan Leisure Complex, streetscape developments of Glaslough Street, Park Street, Dublin Street and the Diamond, the construction of the new Machinery Yard, the development of Peters Lake area, etc. Marie Deighan wished Declan Nelson and his family every happiness and good health in the years ahead.

Presentations were made to Declan Nelson and his wife, Mary by the Cathaoirleach and Town Clerk.

Declan Nelson stated that he was very honoured by the remarks that had been made and stated that his 10 year contract was now concluding. Declan Nelson stated that he has been very pleased with all the work that has been achieved in the town during the last 10 years. Mr. Nelson praised the commitment and dedication of the staff and referred to the great support he had received from the Elected Members. He paid tribute to the fairness and professionalism of the press and thanked them for their contribution over the past 10 years.

Mr. Nelson expressed the view that Monaghan Town is well placed to take advantage of a further upturn in the national economy as the town has a very modern waste water scheme, good road structure and the ESB has been upgraded around the town. Declan Nelson thanked his wife Mary and family for their support which had allowed him further his career.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Dated this the 15th day of November 2010.

Cathaoirelach