

COMHAIRLE BAILE MHUINEACHÁIN
MONAGHAN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 21ST October 2013 at 5.00p.m.in the Council Chamber of Monaghan Town Council, Town Hall, No. 1 Dublin Street, Monaghan.

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Paul McGeown

Present: Cllrs Mary Carroll, Seán Conlon, Robbie Gallagher, Thomas Hagan, David Maxwell, Donal Sherry, Seamus Treanor and Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha.

In Attendance: David Fallon, County Manager, Dermot Deeney, Town Engineer, Marie Deighan, Town Clerk and Eimear McMahan, Clerical Officer.

Presentation to David Fallon, County Manager

At the outset Marie Deighan, Town Clerk welcomed everyone to the Council Chamber to mark the retirement of David Fallon, County Manager in December 2013 following 36 years service to Local Authorities, over 9 of which have been spent in Monaghan County Council and 3 of these as Manager of Monaghan Town Council. Each of the Members paid tribute to the County Manager and thanked him for his years of work and for the kind and courteous manner in which he conducted the business of the Council. The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Paul McGeown made a presentation to David Fallon and wished him and his family all the best in his retirement and stated that his work and advice over the years with the Town Council had been appreciated by the Members. David Fallon thanked the Members for their kind words and the presentation and stated that he had treasured his time in Monaghan. He paid tribute to the Members of the Council and wished them well in the future. He also thanked the Staff of the Town Council for their work over the years and the reporters from the Northern Standard Newspaper and Northern Sound Radio Station for their fair coverage of Town Council affairs.

1. Confirmation of September Monthly Meeting held on 16th September 2013

On the proposal of Cllr. David Maxwell seconded by Cllr Mary Carroll it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the September Monthly Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 16th September 2013.

2. Confirmation of Meeting held in-Committee on 16th September 2013

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 Monday 16th September 2013.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

It was noted that the Monaghan Town Council Street Collections/Begging Bye-Law 2013 will come into effect on 21st October 2013.

Dermot Deeney, Town Engineer informed the Members that remedial works are being carried out at present to the Memorial to the victims of the 1974 Monaghan Bombing.

It was noted that a fence has been erected along the canal route in conjunction with the Greenway Project and the Council are awaiting quotations for the clean-up of the Canal.

It was noted that the matter regarding the Convent Wall has been referred to the Area Engineer.

In relation to a dangerous retaining wall in the Ard Glas area it was noted that the wall is in private ownership and the Town Engineer stated that discussions are underway with the owner.

Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha acknowledged the removal of a build-up of leaves from the Park Street area of the town.

Dermot Deeney, Town Engineer stated that maps are being prepared at present to erect signage for the numbering/locations of dwellings within the Mullaghmatt Housing Estate.

Cllr. Donal Sherry thanked the Executive for distributing notices to householders in the town requesting that no material be donated for burning in illegal Halloween bonfires.

Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha congratulated the Monaghan County Ladies Senior Football Team on their fine performance against Cork in the recent All-Ireland Football Final.

4. Manager's Orders

The Members noted Manager's Orders numbered 136/13 – 156/13. In relation to the Famine Memorial proposed for the town it was noted that works should commence early in the New Year.

Nial O' Connor, Environmental Education Officer, Monaghan County Council and David O' Rourke, Market Street, Monaghan entered the meeting room.

5. Correspondence

The Members noted the following correspondence:-

- Acknowledgement letter dated 20th September 2013 from the Office of the Minister for Social and Family Affairs in relation to a recent decrease in rent supplement in County Monaghan.
- Letter dated 24th September 2013 from the Office of the Minister for Finance in relation to the Personal Insolvency arrangements.
- Acknowledgment letter dated 25th September 2013 from the Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality regarding the Personal Insolvency arrangements.
- Acknowledgement letter dated 25th September 2013 from the Courts Service, Monaghan in relation to a request for signage for the Courthouse as outlined in the National Tidy Towns results. The letter also acknowledged the Members request for the re-instatement of the harp symbol at the Courthouse.
- Email dated 16th September 2013 from Brenda Ní Ghairbhí in relation to Seachtain na Gaeilge 2014.
- Letter dated 2nd October 2013 in relation to the Civic Reception afforded to the victorious Monaghan GAA teams on Monday 22nd July.
- Email dated 28th September 2013 from Cheryl Connolly, Chairperson of Monaghan Tidy Towns Committee stating that the Committee look forward to meeting with the Planning Sub-Committee of the Town Council.
- Letter dated 8th October 2013 from Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd in relation to the Members dividend payment of €25,693 for 2013. It was agreed to refer this correspondence to the Budget Sub-Committee.
- Email dated 2nd October 2013 from Denise Murray in relation to a proposed truck run in aid of the Holy Family School, Cootehill. It was agreed to request Ms. Murray to submit the following information:- how many vehicles will be taking part and will the vehicles include trailers. It was agreed to forward the matter to the Gardaí for their views when a reply is received. The response will then be brought before the Members of the Planning Sub-Committee.
- Letter dated 29th September 2013 from Bernard Mc Aree, Canal Street, Monaghan congratulating the Council on the beautiful floral displays throughout the town. The Members thanked Mr. McAree for his kind words.
- Letter dated 30th September 2013 from Marie Celine O' Byrne SSL congratulating the Council on the many beautiful floral displays throughout the town. The Members thanked Sr. O' Byrne for her kind words.
- Letters of support from various Local Authorities in relation to Notices of Motions adopted at the March, May and June 2013 Monthly Meetings.
- Report from Con Mc Crossan, Chartered Engineer, Water Services Section of Monaghan County Council setting out the level of advancement on all water and sewerage schemes and the plans in place to progress the schemes. David Fallon, County Manager stated that a Capital Programme will be given to Irish Water and that there will be a service agreement and a service level plan between Irish Water and Monaghan County Council but that the new body will decide on the works to be carried out under the Capital Programme.
- Letter dated 16th October 2013 from the Department of Social Protection in relation to rent supplement limits in County Monaghan.

- Map and Schedule prepared by the Town Engineer identifying parcels of land in Town Council ownership.
- Report dated 26th September 2013 from the Senior Traffic Warden in relation to the issuing of traffic fines at Tirkeenan, Monaghan.
- Letter dated 14th October 2013 from David O' Rourke, 23 Market Street, Monaghan in relation to the enforcement of unauthorized take away's trading illegally in Monaghan Town. It was agreed to forward the correspondence received from Mr. O' Rourke to the Planning Section of Monaghan County Council and to bring a report before the Planning Sub-Committee to deal with the matter.

14. Consideration of Draft Litter Management Plan 2013-2016

The Members welcomed Nial O' Connor, Environmental Education Officer, Monaghan County Council to the meeting and noted the Draft Litter Management Plan 2013-2016. Nial O' Connor praised the work done by Monaghan Town Council Outdoor Staff, Litter Wardens and Monaghan Tidy Towns Committee in the area of litter control. Mr. O' Connor stated that the number of litter fines issued have increased in recent years due to the installation of CCTV at bring banks (144 fines in 2012/83 in 2010) and that approximately 200 investigations are carried out on an annual basis. Cllr. Donal Sherry referred to gardens of dwellings which are not being kept in good order and that the Town Council seem to have no remit in this area. Nial O' Connor replied that litter has to be visible from a public place for action to be taken and stated that the Litter Pollution Act provides for a notice to be served on property owners to clean up their properties. It was also noted that the most persistent type of litter in urban areas was small types which is difficult to enforce, e.g. cigarette butts/chewing gum. Nial O' Connor stated that approx. €600,000 is being spent by Monaghan Local Authorities on an annual basis keeping the streets clean. The Education Environmental Officer stated that there are plans in conjunction with the Tidy Towns Committee to introduce reusable cups and billboard advertising. It was noted that the Gardaí have the power to issue litter fines. Cllr. Treanor stated that he favours a "name and shame" approach to litter offending and that areas around some take-aways are a disgrace. Cllr. Mary Carroll raised the problem of dog fouling and called for more bins to be put in place. Cllr. Thomas Hagan referred to illegal dumping at the rear of a premises in Park Street. Cllr. Mary Carroll congratulated the Environment Section for their presence at the Taste of Monaghan Festival and their promotion of an anti-food waste campaign. Nial O' Connor stated that the Green Schools Programme have given the Council participation in the Primary Schools but that there is less participation in second level schools and this is one of the aims of the Draft Plan. Cllr. David Maxwell emphasized the public responsibility in relation to the disposal of take-away litter. Concluding, Nial O' Connor stated that research has shown that the litter problem in the County is improving.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Paul McGeown thanked Nial O' Connor for attending the Meeting. Nial O' Connor left the meeting room.

6. Planning Application

The Members noted Planning Application number M.T. 13/20.

7. Business submitted by An Cathaoirleach

No business was submitted by An Cathaoirleach.

8. Consideration of Reports of Committees

On the proposal of Cllr. Mary Carroll seconded by Cllr. Robbie Gallagher it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the Planning Sub-Committee Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 30th September 2013.

On the proposal of Cllr. David Maxwell seconded by Cllr. Seán Conlon it was agreed to approve of the Minutes of the Monaghan Leisure Complex Committee meeting held on Tuesday 28th May 2013.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Paul McGeown stated that meetings are ongoing at present in relation to the preparation for the switch-on of the Christmas lights in the town.

9. Roads/Housing

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

- Foul smell in Killygoan – (has been referred to the Water Services Section of Monaghan County Council to investigate).
- Relocate bin from summer seat area in Killygoan Play Park
- Street light at Courthouse car park exit - out of order
- Low retaining wall in Mullaghmatt needs repair.
- Handrail on Pound Hill needs replacing.
- Lighting required at Devin Reilly Tce back lane – illegal dumping
- Traffic island light out of order - Corlatt Roundabout – (to be referred to Area Engineer).

Cllr Robbie Gallagher called for clarity at the junction of Flacks Garage as to who has a right-of-way in this area. The Town Engineer undertook to speak to the Area Engineer on this matter.

Cllr Seán Conlon called for definitive road markings for traffic coming from Coolshannagh who wish to enter Belgium Park.

Cllr. Seamus Treanor welcomed the work carried out recently to repair manhole covers throughout the town.

It was noted that repayments on the pay parking loan will cease in 2014.

It was noted that an application for funding has been made for play equipment for the Killygoan Play area.

The Town Clerk informed the Members that prospective tenants are shown around their house before they decide whether to accept it.

10. Telecommunication Mast at Killygoan

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

11. Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme

The Members noted that on the 10th October 2013 Monaghan Town Council received confirmation from the preferred Contractor's bondsman that "subject to payment of fee and completion of usual security requirements" by the preferred contractor, the bondsman would then be in a position to provide a performance bond for the project in favour of Monaghan Town Council. The preferred contractor has also provided confirmation that the insurances required by the contract are in place and that the Council is hopeful of receiving receipt of the performance bond as required in the contract in the coming days allowing programming for commencement of works to commence. The Members expressed disappointment with the delay of the Scheme.

12. Report of Mixed Use Development at Rooskey

The Members welcomed the news that the car park will be opened to the public in the near future and stated that they look forward to it being fully operational for the Christmas Trading period. It was noted that discussions are underway with McNallys/Pattons regarding an extension of the agreement for the use of their car park on a temporary basis. It is the intention to have short term car parking spaces in the Lower Courthouse Car Park town car park. It was agreed to discuss the matter further at a Budget Sub-Committee meeting.

13. Report on Vacant Apartment at Drumbear

Dermot Deeney, Town Engineer stated that no definitive results have yet been received from the acoustic testing carried out in one of the vacant apartments at Drumbear.

15. Consideration of Publication of Proposed Amendments to Parking Control (Pay Parking) Bye-Laws and Car Parks Bye-Laws

The Members noted a copy of the Parking Controls (Pay Parking) Draft Bye-Laws 2013 (amended), Car Park Draft Bye-Laws 2013 (amended), a Schedule of Proposed alterations to Pay Parking Bye-Laws and Drawing no PP006 showing the proposed amendments. It was agreed to refer the matter to the Budget Sub-Committee for consideration.

16. Consideration of Overdraft Accommodation to 31st December 2014

On the proposal of Cllr Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr David Maxwell it was agreed to approve of Overdraft Accommodation in the sum of €1m to 31st December 2014.

17. Notice of Motion:-

- (a) “That this Council calls on the Government to immediately reinstate the Telephone Allowance to OAP’s in the interest of fairness and respect”.

Cllr Robbie Gallagher

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Paul McGeown stated that he was ruling the Notice of Motion out of order because of the timing of its submission for inclusion on the Council’s Meeting Agenda.

18. Ceisteanna/Questions

Cllr. Gallagher asked:-

- (a) Can the Council outline how many people are currently on the Housing List under the different categories. Also how many houses were allocated in 2012 and how many to date in 2013?
- (1) *The current housing list, as extracted from the Monaghan Town Council database, as at the 16th October 2013 indicates that there are **394** persons seeking housing for the Monaghan Town Council area.*
- (2) *The breakdown of the waiting list by bedroom size is as follows:-*

Applicants on the Monaghan Town Housing Waiting List

Persons who qualify for a 1 bedroom property – 161

Persons who qualify for a 2 bedroom property – 153

Persons who qualify for a 3 bedroom property - 67

Persons who qualify for a 4 bedroom property - 13

Transfer from existing Local Authority Accommodation (14 no)

Persons who qualify for a 1 bedroom property – 1

Persons who qualify for a 2 bedroom property – 6

Persons who qualify for a 3 bedroom property – 4

Persons who qualify for a 4 bedroom property – 3

The number of applicants who qualify for consideration on the Monaghan Town Council waiting list but who are currently also on other Monaghan Local Authority lists

Carrickmacross 3

Castleblayney 9

Clones 4

Monaghan County 56

- (b) Can the Council address the poor condition of the back lane at Belgium Park?
Work commenced on the back lane at Belgium Park on 15th October 2013.

19. Resolutions from Other Local Authorities

- (a) “That Ennis Town Council request the Minister for Health to revise the scheme for chronic illnesses and that people in Clare suffering from Crohns disease, Alzheimers and Coronary Heart Disease be recognized as suffering from life long conditions and be included in the Long Term Illness Scheme. And that the fee for these people attending Accident and Emergency be immediately eliminated”.

Ennis Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution

- (b) “In response to the Gathering 2013 and in order to ensure that our emigrants maintaining a meaningful connection with Ireland, Members of Muinebheag Town Council call on the Government to provide that all Irish citizens residing outside of the Country who hold a valid Irish Passport be entitled to vote in the Irish Presidential election”.

Muinebheag Town Council

It was agreed to mark the above Resolution read.

- (c) “In an effort to improve the lives and well being of our deaf and hard of hearing citizens, that Trim Town Council calls on the Government to give official recognition status to ISL, Irish Sign Language”.

Trim Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

- (d) “That this Council calls on the Minister for Health James Reilly, the Government and the HSE to ensure that the 35 million euro funding that had been ring fenced for mental health services for budget 2013 is again ring fenced for budget 2014. This Council also calls for the full amount of that 35 million euro to be spent within the mental health service and not to be spent to make up other departments overspent bills. Suicide is on the rise at an alarming rate and there is a responsibility on this Government to ensure the safety and well being of all of it’s citizens”.

Clones Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

On the proposal of Cllr Seán Conlon seconded by Cllr. Donal Sherry it was agreed to write to the Minister for Health requesting clarification of how the €35m budget allowed for mental health services in 2013 had been spent and to seek information on the allocation made in this regard for 2014. It was also agreed to send a copy of the letter to Kathleen Lynch TD, Minister for State with responsibility for Disability, Equality, Mental Health and Older People.

- (e) “Kilkee Town Council, following the defeat of the Seanad Referendum, calls on An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny to postpone the Local Government Reform proposals until after any reform of the Seanad has taken place”.

Kilrush Town Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

- (f) “That this Council discuss the problems concerning the influx of camper vans taking up spaces in prime car-parks”.

Donegal County Council

It was agreed to mark the above Resolution read.

- (g) “That Donegal County Council call on this Government to “Reverse its’ Policy”, which does not classify Down’s Syndrome as a Low Incidence Disability, and as a consequence prevents these Children from availing of essential resource teaching hours”.

Donegal County Council

It was agreed to support the above Resolution.

20. Conferences

- (a) “TGR Seminars – “Putting People First – Update on Implementation to date” – Bunratty Castle Hotel, Bunratty – 25th - 26th October 2013 – (approx cost €560)
- (b) Association of Irish Festival Events Annual Conference 2013 (AOIFE) – “The Capacity to Endure” – Carlton Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe – 7th – 8th November 2013 – (approx. cost €500)
- (c) Ace Training – “A Practical Guide to Budget 2014” – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford – 8th - 10th November 2013 – (approx. cost €220)
- (d) Ace Training – “The Effects of Budget 2014 on the Irish Economy” The Park Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary – 15th – 17th November 2013 – (approx. cost €690).

On the proposal of Cllr Mary Carroll seconded by Cllr Paul McGeown it was agreed that Cllr David Maxwell attend Conference (d).

The Members noted a Report under Section 142(5)(f) of the Local Government Act 2001 in relation to the following Conferences:-
LAMA Conference, Ennistymon - attended by Cllr. Seán Conlon
AMAI Conference, Clonakilty - attended by Cllr. Seán Conlon

21. Any Other Business

On the proposal of Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha seconded by Cllr. Donal Sherry it was agreed to write to the 5no. Cavan/Monaghan TD’s calling on them to vote against the forthcoming legislation that will allow for the abolition of Town Councils.

It was agreed to hold a Civic Reception at the November Monthly Meeting to honour the Monaghan Harps U-14 Hurling Team and Management who won Division 5 of the Féile na nGael Hurling Tournament 2013.

Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha acknowledged correspondence recently received by her from the Monaghan Tidy Towns Committee which was in bilingual format.

22. Sympathy/Congratulations

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:-

Cllr Donal Sherry on the death of his sister-in-law, Bridie Sherry
Mc Eneaney Family on the death of Mickey Mc Eneaney, 11 Cathedral View, Monaghan.

A vote of congratulations was extended to the following:-

Scotstown Football Club on winning the Senior County Championship
Emyvale Football Club on winning the Junior County Championship
Donaghmoyne Ladies Football Team on winning the County Championship.

The Members wished all teams the best of luck in their respective Ulster Club Games.

A vote of congratulations was also extended to Clontibret Camogie Club on winning the Ulster Junior Camogie Championship.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Dated this the 18th day of November 2013

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

