

**Minutes of Proceedings of November Monthly Meeting of
Nenagh Town Council held in the Civic Offices, Nenagh
on Monday, 5th December, 2011**

Councillors Present: Cllr. H. McGrath Cllr. S. Morris
Cllr. V. O'Dowd Cllr. L. McGee
Cllr. J. Moran Cllr. T. Morgan
Cllr. T. Moylan Cllr. C. Delaney
Cllr. T. Mulqueen

Also Present: M. O'Connor, Town Manager
D. Purcell, Town Clerk
K. Callanan, Town Engineer
S. O'Callaghan
K. Clifford

The Mayor, Cllr. V. O'Dowd presided.

1. To consider Minutes of October Monthly Meeting

It was proposed by: Cllr. Hughie McGrath
Seconded by: Cllr. Lalor McGee
and agreed that the minutes be adopted.

To consider Minutes of Special Meeting

It was proposed by: Cllr. Seamus Morris
Seconded by: Cllr. James Moran

Cllr. McGee welcomed Mayor and Cllr. Moran back to the Council Chamber after their recent illness and wished them well. All Members wished to be associated with this.

Cllr. McGee congratulated the Community Creche on winning a National Community Creche Award. Cllr. Morris congratulated St. Mary's Secondary School on the winning of the Munster Senior A Camogie Final and commended the sterling work of Ger Dullea with the camogie team. Cllr. Morris proposed to honour Ger Dullea with a Civic Reception in the New Year. Cllr. Delaney congratulated St. Paul's Boxing Club on their recent success at the Bridget Orr Memorial Event.

Cllr. Morris extended a vote of sympathy to the O'Donnell family on the death of Thomas, to the Gilmartin family on the death of Michael Gilmartin and to the O'Brien family on the death of Mary O'Brien.

Cllr. McGrath referred to the upcoming Christmas events planned by Nenagh Chamber of Commerce and stated that he was of the understanding that the was a

shortfall of funding and asked if more funding could be allocated by the Council. Mayor advised the Members that she and the Town Manager had recently met with a representative from the Nenagh Chamber of Commerce who stated that the financial situation had been rectified.

Cllr. McGee queried the position with regard to works at Knockanpierce and if works would be carried out on the road around the green. Town Engineer advised that the clearing out was about to get underway at the back but the road around the green would have to be examined and considered in the context of the 2012 Roadworks Programme if works were necessary. Cllr. Moylan complimented the Executive on the recent meeting with the residents of Knockanpierce and requested that a costed programme of works be presented to the Council for discussion.

Cllr. Moran referred to footpaths getting damaged frequently by heavy vehicles at Rossa Place.

Cllr. McGrath stated that the Warmer Homes Scheme was not working satisfactorily and he was having no success in trying to make contact with Muintir na Tire regarding applications. He felt that a delegation of the Members should meet with Muintir na Tire or a letter be sent from the Council to try to resolve the issue. Mayor advised that she would correspond with SEAI and Muintir na Tire and would report back to the next meeting.

Cllr. McGrath advised the Members that the request was taken to the County Council Meeting regarding Draft Nenagh Town & Environs Development Plan 2013-2019. He further advised that a series of meetings had taken place with the County Manager and the Director of Planning and Members were happy to let the map go on public display and that any issues raised could be dealt with through submissions.

Town Clerk stated that the Draft Nenagh Town & Environs Development Plan 2013-2019 was now on public display and was available on the Town Council's website, or could be purchased on CD or hard copy in the office. He further advised that an advertisement had been placed in the paper inviting submissions and urged the people to engage in the process. He stated that the Statutory Bodies had been notified and every effort would be made to get the public involved.

Cllr. Delaney queried which zoning map was on public display and Town Clerk stated that the first map which had been presented to the Members previously was on display. Cllr. Moylan complimented the Members who had brought the matter to the Council meeting and hoped that the message be sent out urging the public to get involved.

2. To consider Minutes Action Plan

Storm Sewers in Hamilton Drive

Town Engineer advised that the Contractor would be starting works within the next two weeks.

Pedestrian Crossing at St. Patrick's Terrace

Town Engineer stated the pedestrian crossing would be completed before Christmas.

No Dumping Sign at Bulfin Crescent/Sallygrove

Town Engineer confirmed that the sign has been ordered

Manhole at John's Terrace

Town Engineer advised that the offending manhole will be removed.

Insulation of Council owned properties at St. Joseph's Park

It was agreed to leave this item on the Agenda and Mayor to follow up with SEAI and Muintir na Tire.

Derelict House at Tyone

Town Clerk advised that correspondence had been forwarded to the owner and a follow up inspection would take place.

Bend on Through Road from O'Rahilly Street to St. Conlon's Road

Town Engineer stated that chains would be placed between bollards.

Ivy on tower of Kenyon Street Graveyard

Town Clerk advised that a meeting would be arranged with members of the Kenyon Street Graveyard Committee with a view to removing the ivy.

3. Manager's Orders

Noted.

4. Planning Register

Noted.

5. To approve Overdraft Accommodation for 2012

Sarah O'Callaghan outlined to the Members that overdraft accommodation in the amount of €500,000 may be required for Capital Projects in 2012.

Cllr. Delaney queried whether the money was for specific Capital Projects or could be used if a shortfall occurred in other areas. Town Clerk advised that the money was specifically for Capital Projects.

Cllr. Morgan queried whether Projects at the Leisure Centre and Lisboney Burial Ground had been fully costed. Town Manager advised that in the case of the Graveyard at Lisboney monies that had been set aside were spent on the land acquisition and legal costs and €500,000 was required for works to be carried out there. He further advised that in regard to the Town Park and the Leisure Centre Upgrade one and a half million was the figure that was the working assumption and

the exact details of the plan and the costs would become more realistic after the full consultation process.

It was proposed by: Cllr. Tom Moylan
Seconded by: Cllr. James Moran

AND RESOLVED

“That we, the Nenagh Town Council, pursuant to the Local Government Act 2001, hereby apply to the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government for authority to borrow from the Treasurer, Allied Irish Bank, Pearse Street, Nenagh by way of temporary overdraft, a the sum of €500,000 (five hundred thousand euro) on Capital Account for the period from 1st January, 2012 to 31st December, 2012.”

6. To discuss Public Consultation for the Town Park and Leisure Centre Improvements

Town Clerk informed the Members that ABK Architects had been appointed as Design Team. Two meetings had taken place with the Town Manager, Leisure Centre Manager and Town Clerk and it was now proposed to hold meetings with the Leisure Centre Staff and the Members and to hold a public information session on Tuesday, 13th December. He stated that an advertisement regarding same would be placed in this week’s newspaper.

Mayor encouraged the people to get involved with the Project through the Consultation Process and all the Members were in agreement with same. Cllr. Moylan expressed concern that the Public Consultation was very close to Christmas and hoped that this would not detract from it. Town Manager advised that this would not be the only chance that the public would have, explaining that following on from the initial public consultation the Design Team would be repeating the exercise and the public would again be invited to take part.

Town Clerk advised that the public were free to come in on Tuesday, 13th December from 6 to 8 p.m. and to share their views with the Architects and the Landscape Architects. He further stated that the Members would meet with the Architects from 5 to 6 p.m.

Cllr. McGrath queried whether the Architects were locally based and Town Manager replied that they were based in Dublin but had extensive experience working with the Council. Cllr. Morgan referred to a small parcel of land adjacent to the Leisure Centre and felt that this was a golden opportunity for the Council to try and acquire same and have it stitched into the future plans for the Town Park.

Cllr. Morgan queried the possibility improving the internal gable walls of the swimming pool. Town Manager agreed that this was unsightly and would certainly be considered in the overall refurbishment plan.

7. To consider insulation of Local Authority houses at St. Joseph's Park

Cllr. McGrath stated that the matter was raised at a recent Housing SPC meeting. Cllr. McGee stated that he had corresponded with the Department since the last meeting and was awaiting a reply. It was agreed to leave this item on the Agenda.

8. Correspondence

Cllr. Morris requested that all motions received should be acknowledged.

9. Town Mayor's Business

Mayor stated that it was her intention to hold the Christmas party in February. She further advised that the Irish Wheelchair Association would attend the next meeting and address the Members about parking in the town. Mayor welcomed the Christmas Events planned by the Chamber of Commerce and the free parking in the Car Parks for the three Saturdays prior to Christmas, and urged people to shop locally. She congratulated the North Tipperary Hospice on the Tree of Remembrance located at the Court House.

Cllr. Delaney referred to a large banner placed on the railings at roundabout at AIB. Cllr. McGrath stated that banner was being removed the following morning. Cllr. McGrath queried the possibility of the Traffic Wardens using their discretion with regard to delivery vans making deliveries on Friar Street. Cllr. Mulqueen supported this but Cllr. Delaney stated that it was not delivery trucks that were causing the major problem, but members of the public who were leaving their cars there.

Cllr. Delaney urged people to come out and to get involved in the "Elves" activity as the Chamber of Commerce were endeavouring to get into the Guinness Book of Records.

10. Town Manager's Business

Town Manager advised the Members that following on from the meeting in the Town Hall about the Scouts Hall two groups had come back with proposals for the future use of the hall. He suggested putting an advertisement in the local paper for any interested group to submit full proposals for the future of the Scouts Hall. The issues to be addressed to include details of the legal structure of the group, clear details of the proposed use, the type of lease a fully costed plan, a full business plan with details of bank loans and guarantees, the annual running costs and the capital costs. He stated that the Council would draw up a brief which would be provided to any interested parties to assist in making their submission.

A general discussion took place and Cllr. Morgan stated that he would have concerns about the Scouts Hall. He further stated that major refurbishment was required in this case referring to the asbestos roof and that a lot of expense would be involved.

Cllr. Moylan welcomed the two groups that had come back and felt that they would incur some costs in putting proposals together. He queried whether another advertisement was necessary. Cllrs. McGrath, Delaney & Mulqueen were in agreement with Cllr. Moylan and felt that the Council should sit down with the two interested groups first before advertising again.

Town Manager stated that an excellent performing theatre had recently been opened in the Arts Centre and people had reservations with two performing venues in a town the size of Nenagh. He further advised that he had met with one of the interested groups who had a rough outline of a proposal with nothing near the level of detail that was required by the Council.

It was agreed that the Executive would prepare the Brief for consideration at the December meeting. A meeting would then be arranged in mid January with the two interested groups.

Town Manager advised the Members that Kieran Callanan, Town Engineer is retiring in February and would be replaced by Peter Fee.

11. Town Clerk's Business

Town Clerk advised that a grant had been allocated to Ballymackey Football Club at April Monthly Meeting. However Ballymackey Football Club did not host the event as applied for and requested that grant be transferred to Nenagh AFC Brickfields as this organisation held the event instead. Town Clerk stated that if this was done a precedent would not be set and a condition in would be placed on future allocations in this regard.

It was proposed by: Cllr. H. McGrath

Seconded by: Cllr. L. McGee

And agreed that the grant in the amount of €750 be paid to Nenagh AFC Brickfields.

12. Town Engineer's Business

Town Engineer advised of recent works undertaken at Burkes Corner, Dublin Road Corner and Dromin Road.

13. To discuss Notices of Motion

1. Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. H. McGrath

"I am calling on Nenagh Town Council to put in place bollards across from Gala Filling Station on the footpath so as to stop traffic parking on the footpath and causing problems for pedestrians and motorists coming out of the shop and adjoining estates".

Seconded by: Cllr. Virginia O'Dowd

Town Engineer advised that he could see justification for bollards and agreed to inspect same. Cllr. O'Dowd stated that a similar problem arises at Kelly's Shop, St. Conlan's Road.

2. Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. H. McGrath

"I am calling on Nenagh Town Council to carry out remedial work to Council ground at the rear of houses in Hamilton Drive".

Seconded by: Cllr. Seamus Morris and supported by Cllr. Morgan

Town Engineer advised that it was his understanding that a Contractor will be shortly on site.

3. Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. S. Morris

"That this Town Council recognises that families in Nenagh are already struggling to make ends meet at present and further recognising that many local businesses have been devastated by the reduction in spending power of the people of the town through job losses, tax increases and austerity measures. Nenagh Town Council notes with concern the Governments proposals to introduce water charges and property taxes. That this Council recognises that such a move will deflate the local economy even further and prolong the current recession. We call on the Government to desist from introducing these additional taxes at this time".

Seconded by: Cllr. Hughie McGrath

4. Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. S. Morris

"That this Town Council asks our Government through the Attorney General to investigate the possibility of taking a case against the Ministers of the previous Government who with no transparency and at a disastrous moment of weakness agreed to saddle the people of Ireland with an odious debt that does not serve the best interests of the nation (that debt being the Private debts of Anglo Irish Bank and Irish Nationwide Building Society)".

Seconded by: Cllr. Hughie McGrath

5. Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. S. Morris

"That Nenagh Town Council supports the naming of the new National Children's Hospital as the "Kathleen Lynn National Children's Hospital".

Seconded by: Cllr. Hughie McGrath

It was agreed to send the Notice of Motion to Department of Health.

6. Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. S. Morris

"That Nenagh Town Council would write to An Taoiseach and appropriate Ministers expressing our concerns regarding the proposed series of cuts to fuel and household allowances relating to pensioners, carers and the unemployed which were recently announced. The €65 million 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, i.e. gas, ESB and oil".

Cllr. Morris withdrew this Notice of Motion.

7. Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. S. Morris

“That Nenagh Town Council asks the Minister for Foreign Affairs to expel the Israeli Ambassador over the violent interception of the M V Saoirse in international waters, kidnapping the Peace activists (which included Nenagh man Trevor Hogan) on board and imprisoning them in Israel”.

Seconded by: Cllr. Hughie McGrath

Cllr. Morris requested that correspondence be forwarded to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

8. Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. C. Delaney

“That Nenagh Town Council invites President Higgins to Nenagh town to coincide with his recent election and inauguration”.

Seconded by: Cllr. Lalor McGee and supported by Cllr. McGrath

It was agreed that that the Council would wait for an appropriate event to send the invitation.

9. Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. C. Delaney

“That Nenagh Town Council in an attempt to keep pace with modern technology and public needs should consider creating its own iPhone App”.

Seconded by: Cllr. Seamus Morris

Cllr. Delaney said he had discussed this with the Town Manager previously. Cllr. McGrath queried the cost involved. Town Manager stated that he would talk to IT and would report back to Members.

10. Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. C. Delaney

“That Nenagh Town Council (in conjunction with North Tipperary County Council) fix the public paths at Tyone stretching from the Ballygraigue Road junction down to the Railway Bridge as in parts they are in a poor state of repair and make some homeowners’ driveways liable to flooding”.

Seconded by: Cllr. Seamus Morris

Town Engineer advised that this matter could be dealt with a County Council Area Meeting. Cllr. Delaney stated that Broadband works caused the problem there.

11. Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. L. McGee

“I am calling on Nenagh Town Council to include Shamrock Court in the 2012 Road Works Programme for a total revamp”.

Seconded by: Cllr. Tommy Morgan

Town Engineer advised that Shamrock Court could be included in the 2012 Road Works Programme. Cllr. O’Dowd queried the possibility of erecting a stone or a name plate for the estate.

14. Any Other Business

Cllr. Morgan referred to the Love Hate programme currently being broadcast on RTE and had concerns about same. Cllrs. Morris & McGee were not of the same opinion.

Cllr. Morris congratulated the Fire Chief on the actions taken with regard to apartments at Ball Alley Lane.

Cllr. Delaney referred to contents of Notice of Motions at the meeting and felt that National and International and were not within the remit of Nenagh Town Council. Cllrs. Morris & McGrath disagreed with Cllr. Delaney. Cllr. Morris stated that if any matter affected the people of Nenagh or North Tipperary he would raise it regardless. Cllr. McGee queried the amount of Notice of Motions that could be accepted. Cllr. McGrath felt that it was a very useful way to make representations and to have records of same.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Mayor:

Town Clerk:

Date:
