

**Minutes of Proceedings of Adjourned Monthly Meeting of
Nenagh Town Council held in the Civic Offices, Nenagh
on Wednesday, 13th February, 2008**

Councillors Present: Cllr. S. Morris Cllr. T. Moylan
 Cllr. S. Farrell Cllr. V. O'Dowd
 Cllr. T. Morgan Cllr. H. McGrath
 Cllr. J. O'Connor Cllr. T. Mulqueen

Also Present: P. Heffernan, Town Manager
 M. Woulfe, Town Engineer
 D. Purcell, Town Clerk
 S. O'Callaghan
 K. Clifford

Apologies: Cllr. T. Sheary

The Mayor, Cllr. S. Farrell presided.

1. To discuss Roadworks Programme 2008

The Town Engineer outlined his programme to the Members.

Cllr. Moylan complimented the Town Engineer on his extensive programme and asked if there was any provision for discretionary spending. The Town Manager replied that there was a budget of €50,000 for urban road maintenance and discretionary works could be funded from this.

Cllr. O'Connor asked if street name plates would be bilingual. The Town Engineer replied that they would. Cllr. O'Connor then asked if a policy would be adopted. The Mayor replied that this was an item on the agenda.

Cllr. O'Connor referred to the inclusion of €20,000 for the removal of build outs at the Market Cross and said that it was his understanding that the build outs would not be removed. The Town Engineer replied that he had agreed not to remove the build out on Kenyon Street if it was possible to implement the traffic light improvements without doing so. He said he would have to take the advice of the supplier and come back to the Members.

Cllr. Morgan said that the green arrow on the traffic lights at Kenyon Street to turn into Pearse Street should come on at the same time as the green light for traffic going straight into Mitchel Street to relieve congestion.

2. To set date for Civic Reception for Ladies Soccer Team

The Mayor informed the Members that she proposed to hold a joint Civic Reception for the New Institute Snooker Team and the Ladies Soccer Team on Wednesday 12th March at 7.00 p.m. The CBS Band will perform in the concourse at 8.00 p.m.

3. To discuss Unfinished Estates in the town

The Mayor said that she had received representations from the residents of Cluain Muillean, Bruach Tailte and Brookville Green requesting that their estates be taken in charge by the Council.

Cllr. Morris said that he had contacted the Department of the Environment on this issue and he had been sent a copy of a circular issued to all local authorities which gave a clear directive that management companies should only be used for apartments. He said that the Department had requested a list of all estates not taken in charge and the reasons why not for each Council and asked what had been returned from Nenagh Town Council.

Cllr. O'Connor felt that the Council must deal with the residents genuine concerns and said that the planning authority should have bonds from developers which would take care of outstanding issues. He asked how this could be set in motion.

The Town Manager said that there were a number of issues involved. Firstly, there was an enforcement issue regarding the completion of works required under planning permission. In some cases it was difficult to know when an estate was finished as there may be a number of planning permissions. The second issue was the taking in charge of estates. Up to the Planning & Development Act, 2000 there was no formal process involved. There was a procedure set out in Section 180 of the 2000 Act which may be activated by the residents or developer applying to the planning authority to have an estate taken in charge. The Council must then carry out a detailed inspection and where works are found not be satisfactorily completed enforcement proceedings must be taken. In the case of older estates, i.e. those for which planning permission was granted over twelve years ago, the Council have no option but to take them in charge. He said that this is a huge issue for local authorities and would have major implications for resources in future years. He said that a list of all estates in the town was currently being compiled and any nearing the twelve year cut off point would be given priority. Where an estate was within the time for enforcement the Council would not be taking on work that the developer should have done. He said that this work would tie in with the appointment of a full-time Town Engineer and this recruitment process was ongoing. He said that bonds would be called in where possible however there may be an issue with the adequacy of bonds. He told the Members that a policy was being prepared and would be brought before the Members.

The Mayor asked that this item be left on the agenda.

Cllr. Morris asked if management companies were conditioned by the Town Council. The Town Manager that this was only done in the case of apartments.

4. To discuss Signage in the Town

The Mayor circulated a map of the town with street names and said that this item would be on the agenda for the February Meeting.

5. Town Manager's Business

The Town Manager referred to the area of land to be transferred to Enable Ireland and told the Members that he had a recommendation from technical staff that by slightly altering the piece of land being given to Enable Ireland two additional sites for houses with access from Cormack Drive could be achieved.

It was proposed by: Cllr. V. O'Dowd
Seconded by: Cllr. T. Morgan
and agreed that the area of land being transferred to Enable Ireland be amended as proposed by the Town Manager.

Cllr. Moylan asked that this land be transferred as soon as possible.

The Town Manager informed the Members that the Homeless Action Plan for the County had identified a need for emergency homeless accommodation in the three towns. He said that the County Council were arranging with Cluid to lease four bed-sit apartments in Tyone for this purpose, one for a caretaker and three for emergency homeless accommodation. The Members broadly welcomed the proposed Homeless units for Nenagh but expressed concern that they be managed properly. The Town Manager explained that the units would be supported by the HSE and that a Professional Care Organisation would have the responsibility for managing the service.

6. Town Mayor's Business

The Mayor informed the Members that the JFK March Bands would be coming to Nenagh on Saturday 15th March and that the Mayor's Charity Ball would be held on Saturday 22nd March.

The Mayor asked the Town Engineer if he had any update from the residents of Knockanpierce as a result of his meeting with the residents. The Town Engineer replied that he had not.

Cllr. Morgan asked if there were further works to be carried as part of the Shamrock Court Refurbishment Scheme. The Town Manager replied there were to be discussions with the residents facilitated by NCN to see what works were required as part of Phase 2 of the scheme. Cllr. Moylan said that NCN had engaged with the residents. The Mayor said that Young Nenagh Project would be bringing a proposal for the piece of land at the rear of the estate.

7. Town Clerk's Business

The Town Clerk informed the Members that the statutory Assessment of Housing Need had been advertised and forms should be returned by 7th March.

The Town Clerk circulated a copy of a letter he sent to Minister Eamon O Cuiv on the Members behalf with regard to their representation on the North Tipperary Leader Partnership and a reply was awaited. He said a Member should still be nominated.

It was proposed by: Cllr. T. Morgan
Seconded by: Cllr. S. Farrell
and agreed that Cllr. T. Moylan be the Nenagh Town Council nominee to the North Tipperary Leader Partnership.

8. Correspondence

Notice of Motion received from Passage West Town Council

“While welcoming the measures outlined in the new Road Safety Strategy, this Town Council calls on the Minister for Transport and Marine to postpone the implementation of the new rules concerning the provisional licence holders until the waiting period for a driving test had been reduced to the 8 week target set by the Government.”

It was agreed that this motion be supported.

9. Any Other Business

Cllr. Morris wished to pass a vote of sympathy on the death of Gearoid O’Broin and complimented his conviction, honour and patriotism.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Mayor: _____

Town Clerk: _____

Date: _____