

**Minutes of Proceedings of Monthly Meeting of
Nenagh Town Council held in the Civic Offices, Nenagh
on Monday, 28th July, 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
D. Purcell, Town Clerk
E. O'Donoghue, A/Town Engineer
S. O'Callaghan
K. Clifford

Apologies: Cllr. T. Sheary

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

Cllr. Moylan congratulated Cllr. Morgan on his recent retirement as Station Officer and commended his work over the years with the Fire Service. All present wished to be associated with these comments.

1. To consider Minutes of June Monthly Meeting

It was proposed by: Cllr. S. Farrell,
seconded by: Cllr. T. Moylan,
and agreed that the minutes of the June Monthly Meeting be adopted.

To consider Minutes of Annual Meeting

It was proposed by: Cllr. S. Morris,
seconded by: Cllr. S. Farrell,
and agreed that the minutes of the Annual Meeting be adopted.

2. To consider Minutes Action Plan

Public Lighting at Thomond Place

The A/Town Engineer informed the Members that he had received a report from the ESB stating that the need for a light was marginal and questioned whether an extra light was warranted. Cllrs. McGrath & Mulqueen disagreed with this assessment.

Wheelchair Entrance to St. Paul's Playground

The A/Town Engineer reported that the design was at an advanced stage and funding had been secured. The Mayor asked for a timescale for these works. The A/Town Engineer replied that works would be completed in the next couple of months.

Report on Cluain Muilleán and Bruach Tailte

The Town Manager informed the Members that the Engineer in the Planning Section who was dealing with this matter was on sick leave and he hoped to progress the matter as quickly as possible on his return.

Railway Station Car Park

The Members asked if it was the case that people using the rail service had to pay for parking. The Town Manager replied that it was and this was now standard in all Iarnród Éireann Car Parks throughout the country and the charge was quite low compared to other car parks. He said that there would be a facility to buy multiple day parking discs shortly.

Hospital Meeting

Cllr. Morris asked if there had been any communication from the three T.D.s who did not attend the meeting. The Town Manager replied that there had not.

Cllr. McGrath expressed disappointment that an individual had been named at the meeting as being on a committee of the HSE and bringing back information to the Fianna Fail Cumann. He said that he had spoken to the individual concerned and he had assured him that his name had only been put forward to go on a committee which had never met. Cllr. McGrath asked Cllr. Morris to withdraw his comments and to apologise to the individual concerned. Cllr. Morris acknowledged that he had mentioned the person by name but said that this had not been reported in the media and the person's name was still on the internet as being a member of the committee. Cllr. Mulqueen supported Cllr. McGrath.

Cllr. Moylan referred to a suggestion at the meeting that the Members go to Limerick to meet the HSE and said he would not settle for some representation from the Council. The Mayor agreed stating that the nine Members would be nominated to attend.

Traffic Lights at Market Cross

The A/Town Engineer informed the Members that he had instructed that the sequencing of the lights be changed to allow the filter light from Kenyon Street onto Pearse Street to come on first to clear the traffic. He said he would monitor the situation when this change had been made before taking any further action.

Limerick Road Realignment

The A/Town Engineer circulated a programme of works for the scheme. Cllr. O'Connor asked that the residents be consulted with regard to the works. The A/Town Engineer agreed.

Cllr. Moylan asked if the roadway at Shesherahkeale could be resurfaced as part of this scheme. The Town Manager replied that this could be looked in the context of the 2009 Roadworks Scheme.

3. To note Planning Register

Noted.

4. To note Manager's Orders

Noted.

5. To consider Draft Annual Financial Statement, 2007

Sarah O'Callaghan presented the draft AFS to the Members.

It was proposed by: Cllr. T. Moylan,

seconded by: Cllr. S. Morris

and resolved that pursuant to the provisions of section 104 of the Local Government Act, 2001 this Council hereby authorises expenditure in excess of the expenditure figure adopted in the Council's Estimate of Expenses 2007 under the following headings :

Programme	Description	Amount
0101	Local Authority Housing	€33,154
0201	Road Upkeep	€7,535
0202	Road Improvement	€7,000
0203	Road Traffic	€9,413
0301	Public Water Supply Schemes	€11,547
0302	Public Sewerage Schemes	€34,904
0406	Twinning of Local Authority Areas	€279
0408	Administration and Miscellaneous	€27,014
0501	Waste Disposal	€32,444
0502	Burial Grounds	€10,916
0601	Leisure Centre	€871
0803	Financial Management	€125,753
0808	Administration and Miscellaneous	€58,410

Cllr. O'Connor asked for a breakdown of the figure of €197,773 for Transfers to Reserves. It was agreed that this would be provided.

6. To consider Section 183 Notice for disposal of land at Lisboney

It was proposed by: Cllr. T. Morgan,

seconded by: Cllr. T. Moylan

and resolved that pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, this Council hereby agrees to the disposal of lands comprising plot of ground being part of the Townland of Lisbunny and Barony of Upper Ormond containing 0.3128 hectares which was purchased from Bridget Duggan, Patricia O'Meara, Anne Lovett, John O'Meara and David O'Meara, to Kevin McSherry, C/o Open Season, Pearse Street, Nenagh, in accordance with the notice issued to the Members of this Council on the 17th day of July, 2008.

7. To consider Section 183 Notice for disposal of property at 32 Sarsfield Street, Nenagh

It was proposed by: Cllr. S. Morris,
seconded by: Cllr. T. Morgan
and resolved that pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, this Council hereby agrees to the disposal of lands comprising plot of ground with dwelling house and premises direct thereon situate at and known as number 32 Sarsfield Street, Nenagh which was purchased from Denis and Catherine Quinn, to Linda Cahalan, Ashley Park, Ardcroney, Nenagh, in accordance with the notice issued to the Members of this Council on the 17th day of July, 2008.

8. To discuss Scouts Hall

Cllr. Morris said that the Members had decided they needed more discussion with the Executive on this issue. Cllr. Moylan asked if there was any update from the Department on funding for the Leisure Centre Project. The Town Manager replied that as soon as the allocation had been announced by Deputy Lowry, the Council had sought confirmation that the funding was available and clarification as to how the money would be drawn down. He was reluctant to engage consultants to draw up detailed plans until this clarification was received.

Cllr. McGrath felt that the Scouts Hall and the Leisure Centre were two separate issues and the Leisure Centre Project should not hinge on the future of the Scouts Hall. The Town Manager replied that he was simply responding to a query that had been raised. The Mayor said that the issue would be revisited at another meeting.

9. To discuss Nenagh Castle Project

The Members expressed dissatisfaction that no progress had been made on this issue and requested that the OPW be contacted and asked to close the gates of the Castle Field until such time as they were in a position to hand it over to the Town Council. The Town Manager agreed that this would be done.

10. To adopt Taking in Charge Policy for Private Housing Developments

The Town Manager said that the draft policy had been circulated. He said that the policy had been devised through the SPC for all local authorities in North Tipperary and had been adopted by the County Council at their meeting the previous week.

It was proposed by: Cllr. J. O'Connor,
seconded by: Cllr. V. O'Dowd,
and agreed that the Taking in Charge Policy for Private Housing Developments be adopted.

Cllr. Morris asked that a plan be drawn up of the estates to be taken in charge and presented to the Council. The Town Manager said that he had previously advised the Members that the Council would be taking on a major financial burden however everything would be done to ensure that expense would be incurred by the Developers rather than the Council where possible.

11. To receive Manager's Report in relation to taking in charge of Monaree Estate

It was proposed by: Cllr. J. O'Connor,
seconded by: Cllr. S. Morris,
and resolved that pursuant to the provisions of Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993, this Council hereby agrees to declare the roads serving the Housing Estate known as Monaree Estate to be public and take in charge all open spaces, car parks, sewers, watermains and drains within the development.

The Members welcomed this and Cllr. O'Connor asked that the residents thanks be put on record.

12. To receive Town Engineer's Report on Clare Street/William Street Junction Improvements

The A/Town Engineer presented his report to the Members. The Members welcomed the proposals but had reservations regarding banning right turns into Yewston. The Town Manager replied that it was essential that there would be no right turn and advised that scheme should proceed as proposed while funding was available from County Council and if further traffic management was needed it could be looked at after the scheme was completed.

13. To discuss Farmers Market

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

14. To discuss Military Barracks

The Town Manager informed the Members that the Department of Defence was prepared to hand over the site to the Council for €1. However he was not happy with some of the details and was waiting for clarification from the Department.

15. To discuss Unfinished Estates

This item had already been dealt with.

16. Correspondence

The Mayor said that correspondence had been circulated. Cllr. Morris suggested that all motions received from other local authorities should be supported unless the Members disagreed with them. This was agreed.

The following motions were supported: -

Westmeath County Council

"That this Council discuss the severe implications that the EU Directive on the Protection of Habitat Species is causing to our communities by the ban on turf cutting and also requests the Minister for the Environment Heritage and Local Government to accommodate the domestic turf cutters in these areas, as the EU has left this accommodation to the discretion of the individual countries."

Portlaoise Town Council

"That the Portlaoise Town Council calls on Laois County Council to introduce a low interest rate fixed rate loan scheme to enable all those currently on the Affordable Housing list to raise the finance for their own homes."

17. Town Mayor's Business

None.

18. Town Manager's Business

The Town Manager informed the Members that disability access funding of €80,000 had been allocated for improvement works in the town.

19. Town Clerk's Business

None.

20. Notices of Motion

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

"In the light of the closure of the Elderly Ward of Nenagh General Hospital for three months, I am asking Nenagh Town Council to write to the HSE to find out who will take responsibility for any deaths (if any) as a result of this action."

Cllr. Morris asked that this motion be left on the agenda.

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

"That Nenagh Town Council Engineer put forward a plan for Traffic Calming on Drummin Road to be presented to the Council at your monthly meeting."

The A/Town Engineer said that he was working on this and would have it for the next meeting. Cllr. O'Connor asked when the scheme would be finished. The A/Town Engineer replied that he hoped it would be completed in the next two months. The Mayor asked when landscaping would be done. The A/Town Engineer replied that grass seeding would be done in early autumn and trees planted in November.

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

"That Nenagh Town Council carry out the work so that the ESB can put in place the lights over pedestrian crossings before the schools reopen in the Autumn."

The A/Town Engineer replied that an order had been placed with the ESB and he was meeting with them the following day to progress the matter.

4. Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Virginia O'Dowd

"I am calling on Nenagh Town Council to increase the fine for parking in a Disabled Persons space from €80 to €300."

The Town Manager replied that the amount of parking fines was prescribed in national regulations and could not be changed by individual authorities. He said that he agreed with the sentiments of the motion. He had written to the Minister seeking clarification on previous correspondence. Cllr. O'Dowd asked that this motion be left on the agenda.

5. Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Virginia O'Dowd

"I am calling on Nenagh Town Council to write to Deputy Maire Hctor, Minister of State with responsibility for older people to use her influence to make the fuel allowance to the elderly payable all year round."

This motion was supported.

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

"That this Town Council prepares a waiver scheme to be put in place for refuse collection for the elderly and the disadvantaged and to be funded as part of the Estimates for 2009."

Cllr. Morris said he would amend this motion for the next meeting.

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

"That this Town Council put in two extra ramps into St. Joseph's Park."

Cllr. Morris asked the A/Town Engineer to look at this for the next meeting.

8. Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Seamus Morris

"In the light of the recent accident in Ball Alley Lane where an ambulance could not get into the lane, that this Council lets us know what their overall plan for the area including Kenyon Street Car Park."

The Town Manager replied that there was a very clear plan for the area and he could not understand why it had not progressed. The Council had been caught in a dilemma where developers had sought planning permission to avail of the town renewal tax incentives which would eliminate dereliction. However one proposal did not progress but he was confident that it would go ahead in the not too distant future.

Cllr. Morris asked if the apartments in this area were occupied illegally. The Town Manager agreed to look into the matter.

9. Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Seamus Morris

"That this Town Council recognises the problem at Belmont/St. Conlon's Road where the path narrows at the traffic lights and it is too narrow to allow babies buggies to pass thereby forcing people onto the road and then sets about to fix the problem."

The A/Town Engineer agreed to investigate.

21. Any Other Business

Cllr. O'Connor asked when the Cluid houses at Tyone would be occupied. The Town Clerk replied that interviews were being held the following week and the houses should be tenanted by the end of September. Cllr. O'Connor asked if the Members would be notified as to who houses were allocated to and if they would be from the Nenagh Town Council housing list. The Town Clerk replied that they would.

Cllr. O'Connor asked if a price for the affordable houses had been determined. The Town Clerk replied that he was getting a revised cost from the quantity surveyor as a sewer had been diverted and one house was being omitted as a result. Cllr. McGrath asked what would now be put in the space where the house was being omitted. The Town Clerk replied that the area would probably be divided between the gardens of the two adjoining houses.

Cllr. Morgan asked that the area of waste ground in Ard Cruidin be cleaned up as fires were being lit there regularly. The Town Clerk agreed to investigate.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Mayor: _____

Town Clerk: _____

Date: _____