

**Minutes of Proceedings of Monthly Meeting of
Nenagh Town Council held in the Civic Offices, Nenagh
on Monday, 22nd February, 2010**

Councillors Present: Cllr. H. McGrath Cllr. S. Morris
Cllr. V. O'Dowd Cllr. L. McGee
Cllr. T. Sheary Cllr. J. Moran
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. Hughie McGrath presided.

The Mayor proposed votes of sympathy on the deaths of Tomas Mac Giolla and Michael Geaney and with Jimmy Cahalan, Town Foreman on the death of his sister Mary Fogarty. All wished to be associated with these votes of sympathy.

The Mayor congratulated Lorraine Treacy, Nenagh Town Council and her husband Jimmy on the birth of their son Keelan. Cllr. Morris congratulated St. Mary's Secondary School on winning the Camogie League Final. Cllr. Delaney extended congratulations to the Nenagh Youth Club on their recent success. All wished to be associated with these sentiments and wished the Mayor well with the forthcoming St. Patrick's Day Parade.

1. To consider Minutes of January Monthly Meeting

It was proposed by: Cllr. J. Moran
Seconded by: Cllr. T. Sheary
and agreed that the Minutes be adopted.

Cllr. Sheary asked that Taking Estates in Charge be left on the agenda. He referred to the request to take Radharc Darach in charge. Cllr. Moylan excused himself from the meeting for this discussion. Cllr. Sheary said that the necessary snag lists had been completed and felt that the estate should be taken in charge. The Town Manager replied that a lot of progress had been made with regard to taking in charge of Carrig Rua and Radharc Darach, the proposal had been advertised and inspections carried out. However, an issue had arisen during the recent cold spell where pipes had frozen and people had been left without water for up to a week. The fire service and water services had provided water on an

emergency basis. He said that this was a serious issue and put on record that there were no other issues with regard to these estates. He went on to say that a letter would issue to the Developer asking for his proposals to rectify the matter.

Cllr. Delaney asked that a pedestrian crossing be provided on Stafford Street. The Town Engineer replied that a condition had been placed on the planning permission for the new development to provide a pedestrian crossing.

Cllr. O'Dowd queried the possibility of installing a pedestrian crossing on the Dromin Road near the entrance to Drom na Coille to assist the residents and as a traffic calming device. The Town Engineer replied that a speed survey had been carried out on the Dromin Road and this showed that there was an issue with speeding. He said that he would look at options for traffic calming and felt that the proper place for a pedestrian crossing would be near the school. He also said that a speed measuring device had been erected on the Ballygraigue Road but it had been vandalised so there were no results yet. Cllr. Moylan suggested that the results of the speed survey be given to the Gardai asking them to concentrate on that area. It was agreed that this would be done when the results of the Ballygraigue Road survey were available.

Cllr. Moylan asked if there was any update on the portion of the Dromin Road in the County Council area. The Mayor said that he had raised the matter at the County Council Area Meeting. He said that a survey had been carried out on the junction with the N52 and this was being raised with the NRA. The Town Manager replied that land would have to be acquired to complete works on the Dromin Road and works would proceed as soon as the land was acquired.

Cllr. Delaney asked that Traffic Calming be placed on the agenda for the March Meeting.

Cllr. Morris referred to his Notice of Motion regarding the 17 point plan and agreed to withdraw the motion if the matter could be discussed at that stage. This was agreed.

Cllr. Morris said that the road was now nearly finished but the other issues needed to be looked at, in particular points 10, 12, 14, 16 and 17. Cllr. Moylan welcomed the report that had been circulated and agreed with Cllr. Morris regarding some of the issues raised. He referred to Item 2 and had reservations about not imposing a 30kph speed limit. He also felt that public lighting should be improved in Cormack Drive as proposed in Item 10. With regard to Item 14, he felt strongly that playgrounds should be provided, stating that this had been a major selling point of the overall plan. He said that all that was required was a few pieces of play equipment. He also supported Cllr. Morris regarding Item 17.

The Mayor supported what both Councillors had said. He said that the 23 affordable houses were nearing completion and 3 show houses would be completed in the next few weeks. He went on to say that there were a lot of issues in the plan and he hoped that most would be carried out.

The Town Manager said that the 17 point plan had been modified by the Council and only 14 or 15 points had been adopted. Progress had been very good on most items however there were some other issues that needed discussion. He said that playgrounds should be discussed in light of the upcoming facilities workshop. He felt that the traffic calming measures would be extremely effective and he could not see anyone driving at more than 30kph on the new road. He said that once the houses were completed the whole appearance of the area would be greatly improved.

Cllr. McGee supported Cllrs. Morris and Moylan with regard to playgrounds. He was not in agreement with the proposal to provide infill housing on the green area at Cormack Drive as proposed in Item 9.

Cllr. Delaney was delighted to see the plan coming to fruition but shared Cllr. Moylan's concerns regarding the speed limit on the new road and supported the request for play equipment in Cormack Drive/Woodview Close.

Cllr. Morris said that the people of Cormack Drive and Woodview Close had got very little from this. He asked if items other than the affordable houses and the road were ever considered. He did not accept that all items could not be tackled until the road was completed. The Mayor requested a costing on play equipment for the facilities workshop. Cllr. Morris requested an action plan showing when items would be completed. The Town Manager replied that it was not correct to say that nothing other than the road and the houses had been done and said that what was outstanding was quite small. Cllr. Moylan said that tremendous work had been done and he did not want to see this overshadowed by falling down on a few small things.

2. To consider Minutes Action Plan

St. Paul's Playground

The Town Engineer said that the signage and bin would be installed within the week.

Parking at St. Mary's Primary School

The Town Engineer advised that pedestrian railings had been erected.

3. Manager's Orders

Noted

Cllr. Moylan referred to Manager's Order to issue court proceedings for non-payment of rates and urged the Executive to do everything in their power to avoid issuing proceedings in the difficult trading environment. Cllrs. Mulqueen and Delaney supported these sentiments. The Town Clerk took on board what the Members had said stating that most business people had paid their rates and where anyone had made an effort and put an agreement in place there was no problem. Where there was no response there was no option but to go the legal route.

The Mayor suggested that the Chamber of Commerce be invited to attend a meeting to discuss rates and other issues. The Town Manager replied that the Chamber of Commerce should write to the Council requesting a meeting and stating what they wished to discuss.

The Mayor circulated a letter he had received from the Stereame Commercial Partnership requesting the Members to call on the Chamber of Commerce to withdraw their appeal to An Bord Pleanala against the decision of Nenagh Town Council to grant planning for the proposed discount store at Springfort Retail Park. He said that he did not want to interfere with anyone's right to object. The Town Manager said that Nenagh Town Council had granted permission for the development. This had been appealed to An Bord Pleanala. He felt that it would be totally inappropriate of the Council to call on anyone to withdraw an appeal.

The Mayor informed the Members that he had offered to facilitate a meeting between both parties, stating that he could only get involved if they took up his offer.

4. Planning Register

Noted

5. To consider Disposal of Portion of Town Hall, Nenagh, in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001

It was proposed by: Cllr. H. McGrath
Seconded by: Cllr. C. Delaney

And resolved that pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, this Council hereby agrees to the disposal of portion of Town Hall, Nenagh, in accordance with the notice issued to the Members of this Council on the 8th day of February, 2010.

6. To note Nenagh Town Council's Draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2010 and to agree to circulate it for consultation (in line with the Housing Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 2009)

The Town Clerk referred to the Draft Strategy which had been discussed at the previous week's workshop. He said the various changes as suggested by the Members had been made and it was now proposed to circulate the document to the Gardai, HSE and JPC for their comments.

It was proposed by: Cllr. H. McGrath
Seconded by: Cllr. V. O'Dowd
and agreed that the Draft Nenagh Town Council Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2010 be circulated to the Gardai, HSE and JPC for their comments.

Cllr. Delaney referred to a recent incident at the homeless unit in the Cluid Housing Estate which had caused a lot of concern among the residents. He asked that the Council write to Cluid requesting a copy of their Anti-Social Behaviour Policy. The Town Manager replied that the homeless unit had operated without any problem for quite some time. In the recent incident the person had died of natural causes. He said that he, the Town Clerk and the Mayor would be meeting with Arlington Novas and would come back to the Members. The Gardai had assured him that they were happy with the way the unit was being run. He said that he would not like the wrong message to go out. The other Members felt that the recent incident had been blown out of proportion.

18. To discuss Notices of Motion

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

"That this Town Council calls a meeting with all the responsible Health Service personnel to review and update this Council of any impact on the people of North Tipperary as a result of the re-configuration of vital services to the Regional Hospital in Limerick."

This motion was seconded by Cllr. Delaney. After a general discussion it was agreed that an invitation would issue to the HSE to attend a meeting with the Council and the local Oireachtas Members.

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

"That Nenagh Town Council implement the full 17 Point Plan as drawn up by Nick De Jong and Associates in the Woodview Close, Cormack Drive, Ormond Keep area before the road is opened."

Cllr. Morris withdrew this motion.

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

"That this Council calls on the Minister for Justice to introduce as a matter of urgency legislation to regulate the "Head Shop" industry in Ireland and to make provisions to control all products being sold by these outlets."

Cllr. Moylan seconded this motion and it was agreed that a letter would issue to the Minister for Justice.

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

"That this Council seeks a deputation with An Tainiste, Mary Coughlan, Minister for Enterprise and Employment to discuss the chronic unemployment situation in Nenagh and to seek state intervention to tackle this issue."

Cllr. Moran seconded this motion and it was agreed that a letter would issue to the Minister for Enterprise and Employment.

8. To discuss Street Cleaning and Litter

It was agreed that this item be left on the agenda.

9. To discuss recent closure of Businesses in Nenagh

This item had already been discussed under Manager's Orders.

10. To discuss Nenagh Castle Project

It was agreed that this item be left on the agenda.

11. To consider North Tipperary County Council Draft Corporate Plan 2010-2014 and Draft Customer Action Plan 2010-2014

The Town Clerk informed the Members that the draft plans had been circulated and the Council could make a submission up to 31st March. He said this item would be placed on the March agenda.

12. To discuss Biomass Energy Project at Nenagh Leisure Centre

The Town Manager informed the Members that this initiative was being led by the Tipperary Energy Agency and the proposal was that the hotel and the leisure centre would move to a wood chip boiler from oil. He said grants were available and the initial investment should be repaid within two years. Cllr. O'Dowd asked how much the initial investment would be. The Town Manager replied that the total cost would be in the region of €300,000. Approximately €140,000 would be available in grants and the remaining costs would be split between the hotel and the Council.

13. Correspondence

It was agreed that this item be left on the agenda.

14. Town Mayor's Business

None

15. Town Manager's Business

None

16. Town Clerk's Business

The Town Clerk proposed that the Facilities Workshop be postponed until Monday, 22nd March at 7.00 p.m. This was agreed.

17. Town Engineer's Business

The Town Engineer informed the Members that the Urban Road Grant for 2010 would be €195,000, an increase of €18,000 on 2009.

Cllr. Delaney asked that footpaths in Tyone be repaired.

19. Any Other Business

Cllr. Sheary referred to an invitation to attend the United Irish Societies of San Francisco St. Patrick's Day Celebrations. He asked that as the Mayor was not taking up the invitation, would the Members support his attendance as Deputy Mayor. He felt that it was important to keep up the Council's ties with San Francisco. Following a discussion on the matter it was agreed that the invitation to San Francisco would not be taken up.

Mayor: _____

Town Clerk: _____

Date: _____