

**Minutes of Proceedings of Monthly Meeting of
Nenagh Town Council held in the Civic Offices, Nenagh
on Monday, 29th November, 2010**

Councillors Present: Cllr. H. McGrath Cllr. S. Morris
Cllr. V. O'Dowd Cllr. L. McGee
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

Apologies: Cllr. T. Sheary

The Mayor, Cllr. S. Morris presided.

1. To consider Minutes of October Monthly Meeting

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

Cllr. Delaney queried the up to date position with regard to Traffic Calming on the Dromin Road. Town Engineer advised that proposals had been sent to residents of Dromin Road and Droim Na Coille.

Cllr. McGee queried whether contact had been made with business people on William Street with regard to parking. Town Clerk stated that proposals for double yellow lines had been sent to the Gardai for approval and Town Engineer will contact the business people involved.

Cllr. Moylan advised the members that the Arts Centre had been opened for the past month and fantastic events had been held there. Cllrs. Morris & O'Dowd concurred with this. Cllr. Moylan encouraged people to attend the venue and requested that the Programme of Events be placed on the Town Council website.

Cllr. Moylan referred to proposed meeting with Chamber of Commerce and ratepayers as previously discussed at meeting held on 1st November, 2010. He stated that the Chamber were very appreciative of the Council with regard to sponsorship of their Winter Wonderland Display and were keen to set a date for a meeting.

Cllr. Morris advised the Members that the Christmas Lights had been turned on that day and commended those involved. He also referred to the free car parking in the car parks on the four Saturdays before Christmas and hoped that they would be availed of.

Cllr. O'Dowd extended congratulations to Nenagh Canoe Club who were the recipients of a Youth and Sports Award organised by CAVA.

Cllr. O'Dowd stated that she had been in contact with the Cycle Club and had sourced two possible locations for positioning of bicycle racks, namely pavement area outside Subway on Pearse Street which she thought would take 2 bicycle racks and area outside Bank of Ireland, Mitchel Street, which would take another two racks. Town Engineer to look at same.

Mayor advised the Members that he attended a fantastic night at the CAVA Presentations held in Borrisoleigh and complimented CAVA on same.

Cllr. Mulqueen congratulated the Town Engineer with regard to the Scouts Hall Car Park. Cllr. Moran agreed with this and encouraged people to shop locally.

Cllr. Delaney requested an up to date report on the sewerage problem at Friar Street. Town Manager advised that a report had been received from Water Services stating that a CCTV survey had been carried out which showed no problem with the sewer network, however significant deposits of grease were observed. It appeared that this was as a result of businesses in the area involved in the preparation of food and the report emphasised the importance of having adequate grease traps installed in these premises.

The Town Manager stated the preliminary stages of a survey of the sewerage networks in the town had commenced and part of this included replacing old culverts with proper modern pipes as outlined in the Water Services Investment Programme.

Cllr. Delaney welcomed the report but felt that the problem would not be sorted out until sufficient funding was available to carry out the works and requested that in the meantime correspondence be sent to businesses with regard to their duties in respect of management of oils, fats and grease.

Cllr. Morris stated that many businesses are operating in a very good manner but others were not and a very bad smell was emanating from there at times. He requested that a copy of the report be forwarded to all Councillors.

Cllr. McGee queried whether grease traps were a requirement by law. Town Manager advised that Guidance Documents were being prepared nationally and that this would be a condition of planning permission for newer premises.

Cllr. Morris referred to two establishments operating in Connolly Street without the proper planning permission and requested that the Council take immediate action on same.

Cllr. Moylan referred to an e-mail received from Chairman, North Tipperary CAVA stating that their funding had been withdrawn as outlined in the National Recovery

Plan which would have serious implications for CAVA. He further advised that CAVA represent about 100 voluntary groups and the only funding available is a Government grant. Cllr. Moylan requested that representations be made on behalf of CAVA to Michael Finneran, Minister for Housing and Local Services and John Gormley, Minister of The Environment, Heritage and Local Government calling on all funding to be restored. Cllrs. Morris and O'Dowd supported this.

2. To consider Minutes Action Plan

Cluid & Novas Meeting

Cllr. Morris referred to a very positive informative meeting held with Cluid and Novas. Members agreed with this. Cllrs. McGrath and Moylan referred to problems with frozen water pipes last year and hoped there would not be a reoccurrence of same. Cllr. Moylan queried whether a request for taking the estate in charge was received by the Council. Town Manager confirmed that no request had been received to take the estate in charge and advised that the Council would be watching all the estates with regard to water problems.

Traffic Calming at Dromin Road

Town Engineer advised that a "radar" sign might suit in the area and would investigate same.

Graffiti at back of Cormack Drive

Town Engineer suggested that painting the whole wall was possibly a solution to cover the graffiti but advised the Members that it was hard to get rid of graffiti altogether.

3. To note Manager's Orders

Noted.

4. To note Planning Register

Noted.

5. To consider Manager's Report on Proposed Development of an Extended Car Park at O'Rahilly Street, Nenagh

Town Manager presented Report to Members on proposed development of an extended Car Park at O'Rahilly Street in accordance with Part VIII of Planning and Development Act, 2000. Mayor and Members agreed with same. Mayor stated that he was now looking forward to having the Car Park finished there. Town Manager advised that work would commence in the New Year.

6. To set date for Budget Meeting

Cllr. Moylan queried whether the Council would hold a couple of workshops pre-Budget meeting. Cllr. Morris agreed with this and further requested that Members would need to know what monies was going to be available to them for the coming year, keeping the ratepayers in mind. Town Manager advised the Members that the statutory period for holding Budget Meeting was 24th November, 2010 to 15th January, 2011. It was agreed to hold a pre-Budget workshop on Thursday, 6th January, 2011 at 6.00 p.m. and Budget meeting on Thursday, 13th January, 2011 at 7.00 p.m.

7. To set date for December Meeting

Mayor advised the Members that he intended holding the Mayor's Party in January of next year. It was agreed to hold the December Monthly Meeting on Monday, 13th December, 2010 at 7.00 p.m.

8. To discuss Housing

Mayor stated that this item had been dealt with previously.

Cllr. Moylan referred to correspondence with regard to Affordable Housing Scheme and queried the situation if the Council was not successful in selling the houses. Town Clerk advised that the Department had approved in principle to leasing and Council had corresponded with the Department further with concerns addressing the tenure of tenants. He further advised that the Council had corresponded with a number of voluntary bodies and the Irish Council for Social Housing asking for submissions of interest in leasing. He stated that the deadline for submissions was 17th December, 2010 and the submissions would then be evaluated. In the meantime every effort would be made to sell as many of the units as possible.

Cllr. Mulqueen queried whether vandalism was becoming a concern in the area. Town Clerk advised that this was the case but the Council were fortunate insofar as the developer is responsible for same until such time as the Council took possession. Cllr. Mulqueen queried the possibility of the Council tenancing the houses and Town Clerk replied that the Council will have to work with the Voluntary Body involved. Cllr. McGee queried whether consideration for tenancy would be given to tenants who have previously tried to source mortgages and have been unsuccessful. Town Clerk advised that they would be considered. Cllr. McGrath queried whether there would be a possibility of leasing to County Council through a RAS Scheme. Town Clerk replied that the only avenue available to the Council was to lease the units to an Approved Housing Body who must take qualified applicants off the Council housing list. Cllr. Moylan stated that he would have a concern should a client come back after six months or so, can he then withdraw from the lease if his circumstances change to buy. Town Clerk confirmed that the Council can sell them at any time.

Cllr. Morris referred to an SPC Housing meeting that he attended where it was stated that it was now possible for people in serious financial trouble and losing their homes

to obtain a certificate to state they were homeless or in need of house and, therefore, can go on the housing list.

9. Correspondence

Cllr. Morris stated that he was disappointed with the reply received from HIQA and appealed for anyone who had horror stories to relate about the Mid-West Regional Hospital to come forward. Cllr. O'Dowd supported this.

Cllr. Moylan referred to Motion received from Clonmel Borough Council and supported same:

"Clonmel Borough Council call on the Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government, the Minister for Enterprise Trade and Innovation and the Minister for Finance to provide funding to Local Authorities to allow them to administer a waiver scheme for commercial rate payers genuinely struggling to make rate payments. That this motion be circulated to all other Local Authorities requesting their support for the motion".

Cllrs. Moylan, Moran and Morris supported Motion received from Monaghan Town Council:

"That this Council calls on the Government to address the plight of the self-employed, who now find themselves unemployed, to access welfare assistance more speedily".

Cllr. Morris referred to people who find themselves unemployed and stated that same should be considered when compiling the Budget to set aside some funding for sponsorship of 5 a side soccer to be run off early in the New Year, for people who find themselves at home in the day time.

Cllr. McGrath agreed with this suggestion.

10. Town Mayor's Business

Mayor thanked Town Engineer for surfacing work carried out at Woodview Close. He referred to the lighting at Ormond Keep and felt that some extra lights need to be installed.

11. Town Manager's Business

None.

12. Town Clerk's Business

None.

13. Town Engineer's Business

Town Engineer advised that some drainage works had been carried out in Gortlandroe. He stated that works on the Scouts Hall Car Park were nearly complete and would be open for Christmas weather permitting. He advised the Members that work was being done on the old N7 from the Leisure Centre to Lisboney Graveyard at present. He stated that work had commenced on Woodview Close but had to be stopped due to the weather. Works on Cormack Drive will commence after Woodview Close. He further advised that works at Maddens Corner would start the following morning.

Cllr. Mulqueen requested Town Engineer to look at area outside CBS gate where water was becoming lodged.

Cllr. McGee stated that residents of Bulfin Crescent had contacted him with regard to recent tree pruning carried out which was unsatisfactory. Town Engineer replied that the ESB had carried out tree pruning recently in the town. Town Clerk stated that the Council also had pruned some trees but had stopped now. Cllr. O'Dowd requested householders to take away any briars etc. on the frontage of their properties to allow people to access footpaths in the interest of safety, as pedestrians have to walk out onto the road.

14. To consider Notices of Motion

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

"I call on Nenagh Town Council to withdraw from their Part 8 Planning Process in Annbrook Heights, as I believe, it is over intensive and taking up too much green space. I also ask that the Council enter into discussion with the residents on this matter".

Cllrs. Delaney seconded the Motion stating that he was surprised there was no public consultation. Cllrs. Moran, Mulqueen and Moylan supported this motion.

Town Manager replied that there seemed to be a misunderstanding about what the Part 8 Process is. He advised the Members that it is the official consultation process set out in Statute. Submissions are invited and nothing is done until that is finalised. He stated that he had presented the drawings at a previous workshop. He explained that the public consultation process was underway with the closing date on 7th December, 2010, and the Council were prepared to meet with any of the residents and thrash out their concerns. He referred to the same process for O'Rahilly Street Car Park and the Scouts Hall Car Park where the Council met with the various bodies and individuals concerned and came back with reports.

Following a general discussion, it was agreed to not proceed with the current proposals and to notify anyone who had made a submission of this. It was also agreed to enter into discussions with the residents of Annbrook Heights and Yewston regarding future proposals for the area.

2. Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Conor Delaney

“That Nenagh Town Council hosts a Civic Reception to honour the players and management of the Nenagh Eire Og Junior A Football Team on their fine achievement in winning the County Final”.

Cllr. Morris seconded the Motion and wished to include the U14 Co. Winning Team and officials of the Eire Og Club. Cllr. Delaney amended the Motion to include same.

3. Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Conor Delaney

“That Nenagh Town Council, in an effort to increase tourism and help local businesses during the economic recession, invites the Queen of England to Nenagh Town to coincide with her proposed visit to Ireland”.

This motion was not passed as no seconder was available.

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

“Nenagh Town Council calls on the Government to recognise the unique and vital role of the postal service in Ireland, particularly rural Ireland, as a means of communication, as a vital economic tool and as an intrinsic part of the fabric of the community.

Our postal service has a social value and an economic value, these must be properly protected as the Government drafts legislation to open the postal market to full competition. Postmen and women provide an important public service and also function as an integral part of the social fabric of their community, particularly for the elderly and the isolated citizens whose only human contact might be their post person. Furthermore, An Post’s extensive delivery and collection network, is an intrinsic part of the economic and business infrastructure of the country. Reaching every corner of the country and by delivering to every front door, An KPost is an essential partner in business from a marketing payment collection and business generation point of view.

As Ireland prepares to liberalise its postal market, it is essential that the government acknowledges this important public service, ensure that the Universal service Obligation is protected by legislation and does not allow the opening of the market to lead to widespread job losses, social dumping and an erosion in service levels as has happened in other countries who have already opened their postal market to competition”.

The Motion was seconded by Cllr. McGrath. It was agreed to forward this Motion to all Councils.

15. Any Other Business

None.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Mayor: _____

Town Clerk: _____

Date: _____