

**Minutes of Proceedings of Monthly Meeting of
Nenagh Town Council held in the Civic Offices, Nenagh
on Monday, 27th September, 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: J. McGrath, Co. Manager
D. Purcell, A/Town Manager
S. O'Callaghan, A/Town Clerk
K. Callanan, Town Engineer
K. Clifford

Apologies: Cllr. T. Sheary

The Deputy Mayor, Cllr. T. Moylan presided as the Mayor was delayed.

The Deputy Mayor congratulated Cllr. Delaney and his wife Mary on the birth of their son Benjamin. All present wished to be associated with these sentiments.

The Deputy Mayor welcomed the new County Manager, Joe McGrath, to the meeting. He said he was delighted to have him at the meeting and wished him well in his post as County Manager. The Members wished to be associated with these sentiments and assured Mr. McGrath of their co-operation. The A/Town Manager welcomed Mr. McGrath on his own behalf and that of the staff and said he looked forward to working with him for the good of Nenagh.

The County Manager thanked all for the very warm welcome. He said it was nice to be back in Nenagh and complimented the Town Council on the improvements made in the town over the years. He felt that the town had progressed well and had a lot more to offer. He said that he was ambitious for Nenagh and hoped that everyone could work together to continue to build on this progress. He assured the Town Council of his continued support and looked forward to working with the Members and Executive.

The Deputy Mayor said that while the Members may have party differences, they all worked together for the benefit of the town. He looked forward to working with the County Manager and felt encouraged by his ambitions for the town. The Co. Manager then left the meeting.

1. To consider Minutes of July Monthly Meeting

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

Cllr. McGrath congratulated the Executive on the work done on the Scouts Hall Car Park and hoped it would be completed shortly. He said he had been anxious as Mayor to call a public meeting to get the views of the people regarding the future use of the Scouts Hall. He said several trades people would be willing to offer their services to bring the hall back into use. Cllr. Delaney echoed these sentiments. Cllr. Moran asked if there were any grants available. The Deputy Mayor said that it would be next to impossible to get funding in the current climate. The A/Town Manager reminded the Members that a decision had been taken at the June Monthly Meeting to hold off on any public meeting regarding the Scouts hall until the Town Hall had been opened and was up and running. He said that any project on the Scouts Hall would take huge commitment and it would have to be decided what the hall would be used for and who was going to manage it before any grants could be applied for. He said that there was no Town Council funding available. The Deputy Mayor said that he appreciated that was what had been decided and the Town Hall would be open at Halloween. He said that his own position on the Scouts Hall had changed and he felt that there was merit in it being used as an additional community facility in the town subject to funding and management. He felt that the community were needed on board and this could be gauged at a public meeting. He agreed to discuss the matter with the Mayor.

The Deputy Mayor said that people on Pound Road were concerned about lighting and anti-social behaviour in the new car park. The Town Engineer replied that three high powered lights were being installed, one of which would be located just inside the pedestrian entrance from Pound Road.

To consider Minutes of Special Meeting held on 9th August, 2010

It was proposed by: Cllr. C. Delaney
Seconded by: Cllr. H. McGrath
and agreed that the minutes be adopted.

2. To consider Minutes Action Plan

Traffic Calming on Dromin Road

The Town Engineer informed the Members that he had examined this and felt that a raised platform would be suitable at the junction of Dromin Road with Drom na Coille and he would consult with the residents regarding this. Cllr. Moylan asked if there was funding available for this. The Town Engineer replied that it would be included in the 2011 Roadworks Programme.

Gullies at St. John's Terrace

The Town Engineer said that he would have to look at this matter again.

Post Office Car Park

The Town Engineer said that he had sent the layout for the Scouts Hall Car Park to An Post but had not received any reply. He didn't see that there was anything the Council could do in this matter.

Parking on William Street

The Town Engineer said that he proposed to extend double lines at the junctions of William Street with Clare Street and Silver Street. He also felt that parking should be restricted on one side of the street and the residents would have to be consulted in this regard.

Manholes at Summerhill

The Town Engineer said that he would refer this matter to Water Services.

Cllr. Moran asked that the Gas Main be placed on the agenda for the October Meeting.

Cllr. Delaney asked if signage could be improved at pedestrian crossings and mini-roundabouts as he felt they were dangerous. Cllr. Mulqueen supported this.

3. To note Manager's Orders

Noted.

4. To note Planning Register

Noted.

5. To discuss Derelict Sites

The A/Town Manager informed the Members that nine property owners had been written to requesting that specific works be carried out to their properties. Responses had been received in some cases and follow-up inspections were to be carried out. He said reports were awaited on a further nine properties. Of the fourteen properties on the old Derelict Sites Register, five could be removed and reports were being prepared on the remaining nine. He said it was hoped to work with property owners to improve their properties rather than being heavy handed. However, where owners were making no effort, properties would be included on the Derelict Sites Register.

Cllr. McGrath asked if something could be done to improve the old Dunnes Stores property on Pearse Street. It was agreed that a letter be sent to Dunnes Stores requested that the property be improved.

6. To set date for October Monthly Meeting

It was agreed that this matter would be dealt with when the Mayor arrived.

7. Correspondence

It was proposed by: Cllr. T. Moylan
Seconded by: Cllr. L. McGee

And agreed that the following motion received from Passage West Town Council be supported: -

“That this Town Council asks the Minister for Social Protection to develop a formal scheme whereby the skills of those in receipt of Job Seekers Benefit and Job Seekers Allowance can be used on a voluntary basis for the benefit of the community without reducing social welfare entitlements and while the participant continues to seek paid employment, and that such participation can be recognised in a formal way to show prospective employers.”

It was proposed by: Cllr. T. Moylan

Seconded by: Cllr. H. McGrath

And agreed that the following motion received from Ballina Town Council be supported: -

“Ballina Town Council notes with concern recent attempts to downgrade and dissolve democratically elected Local Authorities/Town Councils throughout the country, under the current “Local Government Reform Proposals”. Accordingly Ballina Town Council requests the Minister for Local Government and the Government to cease with immediate effect all proposals to reduce or dissolve democratically elected Local Authorities/Town Councils.”

8. Town Mayor’s Business

None

9. Town Manager’s Business

The A/Town Manager informed the Members that a Variation of the Development Plan would be required too take into account the Planning & Development (Amendment) Act, 2010 and the Regional Planning Guidelines. He proposed having a workshop in mid-October with the Senior Planner to discuss the matter. The Draft Variation could then be put on public display following the October Meeting which would allow the Members to adopt the Variation at the December Meeting. He said that the review of the Development Plan would commence in January and it would be best to have dealt with the Variation before then. He said that the Manager’s Report on the Draft Development Contributions Scheme 2011-2012 would also be considered at the October Monthly Meeting and this could also be discussed at the workshop.

The Mayor arrived at this point and took the chair.

It was agreed that a workshop would be held in committee on Monday, 18th October at 7.00 p.m. to discuss these issues.

It was also agreed that the October Monthly Meeting would be held on Monday, 1st November at 7.00 p.m.

10. Town Clerk's Business

None.

11. Town Engineer's Business

The Town Engineer informed the Members that he had commenced work on the car park and bunding at the back of the Leisure Centre.

Cllr. Moran referred to a problem with sewerage at Friar Street and asked if the matter could be investigated. Cllr. Delaney supported this. The Town Engineer said that he would refer the matter to Water Services.

Cllr. McGrath said that a pole at the pedestrian crossing on the Borrisokane Road had been hit by a vehicle and had not been replaced. The Town Engineer agreed to investigate.

Cllr. Mulqueen referred to a number of public lights on Pearse Street which were not working. The Town Engineer replied that fittings on all decorative lights were being upgraded. Cllr. McGee said that the light at the junction of O'Rahilly Street and Ormond Keep was not working. The Town Engineer replied that this was included in the contract for the road and had been brought to the attention of the contractor.

12. To consider Notices of Motion

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

"I am calling on Nenagh Town Council to carry out the necessary work on St. John's Terrace to stop rain water crossing the road as it heads towards Tesco roundabout, there is a film of water that crosses the road which is about four foot wide, my concern is that you could have aquaplaning as you head towards the roundabout."

Cllr. O'Dowd supported this motion. The Town Engineer replied that this was a county road and therefore not the responsibility of the Town Council. The Mayor said that this problem had been ongoing for some time and he would prefer if the matter could be addressed by the Town Council. The Town Engineer agreed to look at the matter in terms of the County Council Budget.

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

"I am calling on Nenagh Town Council to repair the light outside the Ormond Hotel which has been out of order for some time, in the interest of safety for people coming out of the night club late at night, it is important that there is adequate lighting in this area."

Cllr. McGrath withdrew this motion as the light had been repaired.

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

"That Nenagh Town Council put in place first twenty minute free parking, on street parking to help local business."

Cllr. Morris seconded this motion. Cllr. McGrath said that he had been approached by some business people requesting this. Cllr. Delaney said that he would welcome this but could see potential problems and felt it might create more problems than it would solve. Cllr. McGee agreed with Cllr. Delaney and suggested that one car park be nominated free for a couple of hours a day.

The A/Town Manager replied that the Town Council had 250 on-street car parking spaces which generated €182,500 income per year. He said that more than half of the parking fines issued were issued on-street. Income from parking had been budgeted at €475,000 in 2010 and a Budget had been passed which committed the Council to provide certain services and any change would affect this. He said the Town Council wanted to support business and had done so by reducing the rate by 5% over the last two years.

Cllr. Moylan said he appreciated what the A/Town Manager had said. He supported the motion in principle but felt that it might not be possible in the current year and suggested that it be looked at in the context of the 2011 Budget. He said he would like to see free parking in the car parks again for the three Saturdays before Christmas and asked that this be advertised shortly.

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

"I am calling on Nenagh Town Council to install a bicycle rack in Pearse Street and Kenyon Street to facilitate and encourage people to cycle into town."

Cllr. Morris seconded this motion. The Town Engineer said that he had no objection in principle, the issue would be finding suitable locations.

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

"That Nenagh Town Council discuss the Government's "Local Government Efficiency Report", and if necessary, convene a special meeting to discuss the matter and the possible implications it may have for the future of Nenagh Town Council."

Cllr. Morris seconded this motion. Cllr. Moylan gave the Members a synopsis of a seminar he had attended on this issue at the A.M.A.I. conference. He said that the Government White Paper was due out in the coming weeks and the A.M.A.I. would then be putting a submission together. The Members thanked Cllr. Moylan for this information.

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

"In light of the recent IBAL Litter Survey that Nenagh Town Council write to North Tipperary County Council and request that all approach roads into Nenagh Town that fall under its jurisdiction be properly maintained and kept in good and tidy order."

Cllr. Morris said that he had already written to the County Council in this regard. The A/Town Manager said that the Town Council had also written to the County Council and any private facilities referred to in the IBAL report.

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

"That this Town Council calls on H.I.Q.A. to investigate the health and safety of the Limerick Regional Hospital in the absence of the promised services."

Cllr. McGrath seconded this motion. All the Member supported the motion and it was agreed that it would also be forwarded to Ennis Town Council and Limerick City and County Councils for their support.

8. Notice of motion in the name of Cllr. S. Morris

"That this Town Council calls on Enterprise Ireland, the IDA and Shannon Development to meet Nenagh Town Council twice yearly."

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

13. Any Other Business

The A/Town Manager asked people to be aware that Halloween was approaching and notify the Council of any material that may be used for a bonfire.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Mayor: _____

Town Clerk: _____

Date: _____