

**Minutes of Proceedings of Special Meeting of
Nenagh Town Council held in the Civic Offices, Nenagh
on Monday, 16th April, 2007**

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

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

Apologies: Cllr. T. Sheary
Cllr. T. Morgan

The Mayor, Cllr. T. Moylan presided.

The Mayor proposed a vote of sympathy with Feargus Wright on the death of his mother. All Members wished to be associated. The Town Manager also wished to be associated on his own behalf and that of the staff.

1. To discuss Derelict Houses & Public Lighting at St. Joseph's Park

Cllrs. Morris & McGrath said that they were delighted to see that the houses had been boarded up. Cllr. McGrath felt that repairs should be carried out to privately owned houses where old ESB wiring had been removed. He also said that there was no facility for water to run off the concrete in front of some of the houses and that the pedestrian crossing needed to be painted and highlighted more.

The Town Manager said that some progress had been made with regard to the houses. One had boarded up that morning as the Council had agreed to purchase it late the previous week. With regard the other house, he said that a meeting had taken place that day between the Town Clerk, the owner of the house and his Solicitor. Unfortunately it had not been possible to reach agreement and the Council was left with no option but to acquire the house under Compulsory Purchase Order. He said that this process would commence immediately.

The Town Manager said that with regard to public lighting, the Town Engineer had met with the ESB and the head on one light that hadn't been working had been replaced. He said that he had driven through the estate on the night of the March Monthly Meeting and had been surprised to see that all the lights except one were working. By 11.00 a.m. on the morning following the meeting, all of the downstairs of the house requested had been boarded up. He was very disappointed that some

Members had chosen not to attend the Adjourned Meeting after he had brought staff in to facilitate a meeting. He did not consider that not having a meeting was the way to get things done.

The Mayor thanked the Manager for his work in trying to purchase the houses. He said that it was disappointing that the outcome of the meeting regarding purchase of the second house had not been successful. He fully supported the Manager's decision to go to Compulsory Purchase.

Cllr. McGrath wished to clarify with regard to public lighting that the lights on the New Line Road, which he considered to be part of St. Joseph's Park, were not working. He said that he had informed the Mayor on the day of the Adjourned Meeting that he would not be attending as he was not happy with the work that had been carried out and he had apologised to the staff.

Cllr. O'Connor said that the Manager had given an undertaking that the house would be boarded up and only the downstairs had been done. He had asked that the Environment Section be brought in and the rubbish removed and this had not been done either.

The Town Manager said that it gave him no pleasure to board up houses in St. Joseph's Park. He said that three private houses had been boarded up which were not the responsibility of the Town Council and queried why this was necessary. He couldn't understand why houses were vandalised immediately they became vacant and that people must take responsibility for their own actions. The Mayor said that he understood the Manager's frustrations. He said that action had to be taken as things had got out of hand.

Cllr. Morris said that an audit should be carried out of houses that had been abandoned and the owners written to. Cllr. O'Dowd asked if the Council had the right to do this. The Town Manager replied that it had, but houses should not be vandalised because they had become vacant. It was not the responsibility of the Council to board up houses as there may be implications afterwards if anything unfortunate happened. Cllr. Morris also felt that the Gardai should contact the owners so that these houses could not be used for anti-social purposes.

2. To discuss Traffic Lights at St. Conlon's Road

Cllr. O'Connor requested an update on when the traffic lights would be installed. The Town Engineer replied that the civil works had been carried out by Council staff. An ESB column would have to be relocated before the lights were installed and he was waiting for the ESB to do this.

Cllr. Morris said that the Members had been told that the work would be finished in September 2006 and asked if it was necessary to wait for the pole to be moved before the traffic lights were put up. The Town Engineer replied that a certain amount of work in the town is carried out by the private sector and the Council does not have direct control regarding the scheduling of this. He said that it would not be acceptable to erect the traffic lights until the pole had been relocated. The Mayor asked if the

ESB moved the pole could the sub-contractor connect the traffic lights. The Town Engineer replied that the contractor would be instructed to have the lights installed immediately the pole was moved. Cllr. Mulqueen asked that this item be left on the agenda for the April Meeting. The Mayor asked that pressure be put on the ESB to get the pole moved.

3. To discuss Status of Works at Shamrock Court

Cllr. Mulqueen said that he was delighted to see that the refurbishment works had started. The Mayor asked if discussions had taken place with the residents with regard to Phase II of the works. The Town Manager replied that he understood that NCN were going to facilitate a meeting with the residents and draw up a list of works required.

4. To discuss Status of Works at Sallygrove

Cllr. Morris requested an update on the works. The Town Engineer replied that a budget of €31,000 had been allocated to this work. Agreement had been reached with the residents to clean up the green area and fill the hollow between Sallygrove and Bruach Tailte and then consult with the residents again regarding the erection of a railing. He said that this consultation would take place shortly.

Cllr. McGrath said that there was some confusion among the residents of Sallygrove who understood that this money was allocated for Sallygrove alone and that cleaning up the boundary was a separate issue. He asked the Town Engineer to supply a breakdown of the money spent and how much was remaining.

5. To discuss Report on Housing Representations for Nenagh Town Council

Cllr. O'Connor queried whether representations were still being accepted on housing matters. The Town Clerk replied that they were.

Cllr. Mulqueen said that when Members made representations they were never informed of the outcome. The Town Manager said that he would not accept that as a fair comment. If Members wished to make representations there was a way in which it should be done. Some people were making representations directly to outdoor staff and the office staff had no way of knowing this. He said that the Council was required to keep a record of all housing repair requests and make a return as part service indicators.

The Town Clerk informed the Members that when representations were made, they were acknowledged, and added to the repairs list which was then prioritised. She said that it would not be possible to revert to each Councillor on individual representations as it would add a huge volume of work to the existing workload.

6. To discuss Status of Public Lighting in Nenagh

The Mayor requested an update on this matter. The Town Engineer replied that there had been significant progress over the previous three weeks. He said that Phase 1 of the improvement works was almost complete and a lot of maintenance work had been set aside to do this. He said that the ESB now had a second crew working in the town until all maintenance and improvement works were completed.

The Mayor asked if maintenance work had to be carried out by the ESB or if a private contractor could be engaged. The Town Engineer replied that there was a difficulty in getting a private contractor to do work on the ESB network.

The Members requested that the following areas be looked at: Mitchel St., IFAC on Borrisokane Road, Ballygraigue Road, William Street and Sarsfield Street. The Mayor asked the Members to give lists to the Town Engineer for report at the April meeting.

7. To discuss Town Centre Car Parking

Mayor requested an update on O'Rahilly Street Car Park and Railway Station Car Park. Town Manager informed the Members that he had got permission from CIE to proceed to Part VIII in advance of getting the Lease in respect of Railway Station Car Park. The Road Design Office are currently finalising documents and drawings to get process underway and hopefully works would commence in the Autumn.

Town Manager stated that he had a meeting on site with representatives from the Office of Public Works in relation to O'Rahilly Street Car Park and they require a full Archeological Study of the site before the OPW give consent to finalise the Part VIII process. The Archeological Study is to be funded by Nenagh Town Council. A firm of Archeologists has now been identified and an assessment of the site is about to commence. The report must then be forwarded to the OPW and hopefully a go ahead will be given for works to commence.

Cllr. O'Connor stated that Chamber of Commerce were anxious about the delay in relation to Railway Station Car Park and queried whether it would be available for Christmas. Town Manager stated that it certainly was the intention to have it available.

Cllr. Farrell queried the position regarding the time frame for parking at Kenyon Street Car Park. Town Manager informed the Members that the front portion of the Car Park was for a 2 hour duration and the remaining part was "all day" parking.

Cllr. McGrath referred to parking in the Court House Car Park and felt that few people were aware of such a facility. Town Manager agreed to look at the directional signage which was in place and to provide extra signs if required.

8. To consider Minutes of February Monthly Meeting

It was proposed by: Cllr. S. Morris
Seconded by: Cllr. T. Mulqueen
and agreed that Minutes be adopted.

Cllr. O'Connor queried whether Manager's Report on Part VIII Procedure on development at Ormond Keep would be available for April Meeting. Town Manager stated that it would be hard to say and depended on the volume of submissions received.

9. To consider Minutes Action Plan

Clean up area to rear of houses at Woodview Close

Cllr. Morris requested grass cutting to take place between Melrose and Woodview Close. Town Manager stated that the entire area would be attended to but service pipes to the rear of premises would be a problem. He informed the Members that the because main sewers were going across the area and it was not feasible to incorporate the area into individual back gardens as this would create access difficulties for maintenance purposes. He felt that this area would best be dealt with when the adjoining lands were being developed when it could be incorporated into open space.

Cllr. McGrath requested the Environment Section to carry out inspection on an oily coloured water visible at the outlet and Town Manager stated that the Environment Section were presently carrying out tests at the site.

Maintenance of decorative lighting installed by Town Council

Town Engineer informed the meeting that the County Council are responsible for maintenance of decorative lighting located on County Council roads.

Flooding of gardens at Monaree

Town Engineer informed the Members that he had had a meeting with the landowner who created the blockage. Town Council had also contributed to the blockage on the culvert and an agreement has now been reached between the landowner and the Town Council. Landowner will do works on the inside of the drain adjacent to his property and the Town Council to do the work on the outside of the drain.

Cllr. O'Dowd queried whether those works would improve the drain at Clonaslee and Town Engineer stated that they would not impact on it at all.

Recycling Centre

Town Manager circulated a letter from Director of Services for Environment circulated at County Council Meeting earlier that day. He stated that the opening hours of the Recycling Centre are being reviewed with a view to making them as user friendly as possible. He further stated that funding had been secured to improve the entrance and advised the Members that the Recycling Centre is constrained in the works that can be carried out and the Council are actively seeking an alternative site. He advised the Members that since AES closed down, increased pressure had come on the Recycling Centre with a vast increase in the amount of material being brought to the County Council site. Before AES closed down, a small amount of commercial

recyclables had been brought to the site but now there was a marked increase in the volume of commercial waste being presented for recycling. He explained that Local Authority Centres are intended solely for domestic purposes and that from week ending 1st May, 2007, no commercial recyclables will be accepted at the Recycling Centre.

Cllrs. expressed concern at the loss of the facility to commercial and business people. Town Manager stated that the onus was on the business people to dispose of their own recyclables and if commercial people want to have a local outlet, AES would be willing to talk to them.

Gumbuster & Green Machine

Town Engineer reported to the meeting that he had looked at several machines, some left residues on footpaths and he stated that he would be slow to invest in such a machine. He was now looking at the possibility of contracting out and had requested quotations for same.

In relation to the Green Machine, Town Manager advised the Members that procedures were now being finalised with a view to having a staff member operating same in May. Cllr. Farrell expressed concern at the amount of dirt which had collected at some doorways in Pearse Street and enquired whether it was the Council's responsibility to take action in such cases. Town Manager replied that commercial operators have a responsibility for the pavement outside their premises could be asked to keep it clean.

Cllr. O'Connor suggested that a letter be sent to all commercial premises advising them of their responsibilities: (a) to clean up their premises and (b) to sweep up outside premises every day.

Cllr. Morris queried whether all the bins had been purchased and put in place. Town Engineer stated all bins had been purchased and he would report to the next meeting as to whether all bins had now been installed.

Public Lighting improvements in the vicinity of new public convenience

Town Engineer informed the Members that confusion had arisen between himself and the ESB. He stated that he had requested a quotation for one light but a quotation came for lighting for the whole street and he hoped to have the figure for the next meeting.

Extending footpath on Borrisokane Road beyond Cluain Caoin

Town Engineer stated that he was waiting on the Planner's Report.

Cllr. McGrath queried the possibility of replacing two seats at the right hand side of the road at Brookwatson. Town Manager advised that he would check out the matter.

10. Managers Orders

Noted.

11. Planning Register

Noted.

12. To consider Application for funding under the Community, Sport & Cultural Grants Scheme

It was Proposed by: Cllr. T. Moylan

Seconded by: Cllr. J. O'Connor

and agreed to grant Young Nenagh Project Community, Sport & Cultural Grant in the amount of €125,000 for renovation of the Young Nenagh Project premises at St. John's Lane, Nenagh.

13. To consider Road Works Programme 2007

Town Engineer outlined details of Road Works Programme 2007. Cllr. O'Connor queried whether works on Ballygraique Road were finally complete as he could not see any further allocation of funding on Road Works Programme document as furnished. Town Engineer advised that capital monies will finish off whatever remaining works need to be done. Cllr. O'Connor queried how much of the works on Dromin Road would be completed this year and Town Engineer informed the Members that the area from the VEC to the town boundary would be completed this year and that he intended farming out some of the works to private contractors also.

Cllr. Moylan welcomed the Traffic Calming Scheme proposed for some residential areas, also attention being given to the shortage of parking outside some housing estates.

Cllr. Farrell queried Town Engineer's plans for William Street/Clare Street junction. Town Engineer advised that he had plans for banning right hand turns on all four approaches, introducing some build outs to narrow road to allow people to cross and also proposed signage for the junction. He informed the Members that such plans will go to public consultation.

Cllrs. O'Connor and McGrath queried the position with regard to Stafford Street. Cllr. McGrath stated that residents have concerns with regard to speeding. Town Engineer advised that if the Traffic Calming Policy was approved by the Members, Stafford Street was one of the areas going to be looked at as the funding is available.

Cllr. Farrell queried whether resurfacing works were proposed for Hanly's Place and Town Engineer advised that this was the case.

Cllr. Morris enquired as to what progress was made regarding Limerick Road and Town Engineer informed the Members that it was at Land Acquisition stage.

14. Traffic Calming Policy

Members agreed to leave this item on the Agenda for the next meeting. Mayor advised the Members that it had to be dealt with as a matter of urgency at the next meeting.

15. To discuss Nenagh Castle Project

Town Manager informed the Members that funding in the amount of three-quarters of a million had now been allocated and hoped that a Planning Application would be lodged with Nenagh Town Council shortly.

16. To discuss Scouts Hall

Town Manager stated that he had no further news to report. Cllr. O'Connor requested that a letter be sent to the Church Committee regarding their intentions. Town Manager stated that he was very aware of the dereliction of the building. He noted that proposed funding for the Town Hall was due to be announced shortly and felt that the Church Committee would revert back when this became available.

17. Town Manager's Business

Town Manager referred to February meeting with VEC representatives and informed the Members that a decision on same would have to be made by May. He stated that the Council would need to meet with other possible beneficiaries of this Project and bring them on board. Mayor advised that he had spoken with NCN who agreed to facilitate such a meeting.

Town Manager advised the Members that Paul Lemass, IPA is currently looking at the four North Tipperary Local Authorities in respect of Sharing Services, i.e. better service to customers and potential to sharing some services. He informed the Members that he will be reporting to them at a future meeting.

Town Manager stated that the Opening/Unveiling of the Spout was to take place on Friday, 20th April, 6.00 p.m. Work on the Spout Project was now complete and a plaque with an agreed wording was in place. Cost of the Project was in the region of €70,000/€75,000 which included a €30,000 grant from the Heritage Council.

Town Manager stated that he had received a letter of thanks from Mayor of Tonnerre on the occasion of his being accorded a Civic Reception on his visit to Nenagh on 3rd March, 2007.

18. Town Mayor's Business

Mayor invited Members to the Nenagh Community Achievement Awards Ceremony which was to take place on 19th April, in the Abbey Court Hotel. He advised the Members that the Committee were delighted with the nominations received and encouraged people to attend.

Mayor stated that he proposed according 4 Civic Receptions within his term of office, namely:

Nenagh CBS – Under 19 team that won the All Ireland C Basketball Title

Nenagh CMS – All Ireland Colleges Camogie Winners

New Institute Snooker Club – Munster Club Champions

St. Mary's Branch of St. Vincent De Paul which are 100 years in operation.

Cllr. Morris seconded this proposal.

19. Town Clerk's Business

None

20. Correspondence

Cllr. O'Connor requested that this item remain over until the next meeting.

21. To consider Notices of Motion

1. Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Joe O'Connor

"That this Council be informed if contact has taken place between the Solicitor acting on behalf of Nenagh Town Council and the Monaree Residents Association. If so what are the proposals being put forward to resolve the impasse regarding compensation due to the residents of this Estate".

Cllr. O'Connor requested this Motion to be taken off the Agenda as the Committee's Solicitor had not clarified the issues to the Town Clerk.

2. Notice of Motion in the Name of Cllr. Hughie McGrath

"That Nenagh Town Council by way of resolution adopt a proposal that the boundary of the town be altered, as per map to be agreed by Town Council".

It was agreed that the map in respect of this resolution be circulated to Members and the motion re-worded for Agenda for the April meeting.

3. Notice of Motion in the Name of Cllr. Virginia O'Dowd

"I am calling on Nenagh Town Council to investigate the shortage of parking outside houses in established housing estates".

Adjourned in the absence of Councillor O'Dowd..

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

"I am calling on Nenagh Town Council to provide a pedestrian crossing at Cudville roundabout".

Adjourned in the absence of Councillor O'Dowd..

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

"I am calling on Nenagh Town Council to support the promotion of Nenagh as a Fair Trade Town and to continue the practice of providing Fair Trade products in their

canteen. As it is common practice to display a sign indicating that Fair Trade products are provided on site, I would ask that a Fair Trade sign be displayed in a prominent position within the building”.

It was agreed to leave this Motion on the Agenda for April Meeting

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

“That this Town Council recognises its promise to the residents of Summerhill and provides them with residential parking as already agreed at a Council Meeting”.

Cllr Morris declined to move this motion.

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

“That this Town Council calls an emergency meeting on housing issues like anti-social behaviour (ASBOS), repairs and lack of houses in general”.

Cllr Morris declined to move this motion.

19. Any Other Business

Cllr. Farrell queried the surface of the footpaths on the Dublin Road past the Swimming Pool and requested the Town Engineer to inspect same. She also stated that a bench situated in that area also required attention as many walkers use this route.

Cllr. Farrell queried the possibility of installing 2 yellow box junctions at Ballygraique Road and the entrance to the Hospital as vehicles are having problems entering and exiting the hospital.

Town Engineer stated that such works would have to be in consultation with the Garda Superintendent and he would investigate same.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Mayor: _____

Town Clerk: _____

Date: _____