

**Minutes of Proceedings of Monthly Meeting of
Nenagh Town Council held in the Civic Offices, Nenagh
on Monday, 30th April 2007**

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

Also Present: P. Heffernan, Town Manager
 Jacqueline McGrath, Town Clerk
 M. Woulfe, Town Engineer
 K. Clifford
 L. Jones

Apologies: Cllr. S. Morris

The Mayor, Cllr. T. Moylan presided.

1. To consider Minutes of March Monthly Meeting

It was proposed by: Cllr. T. Sheary
Seconded by: Cllr. T. Mulqueen
And agreed that Minutes be adopted.

Mayor informed the members that following the recent deputation from the VEC he proposed to meet them again along with other bodies i.e the Sports Alliance, Boxing Club, Snooker Club etc with a view to getting their support. The meeting was scheduled for Thursday 3rd May at 5pm.

Town Manager advised the members that the main purpose of the meeting was to seek commitment in the broader sense from outside interested bodies toward the cost of the activities. He further advised that it was not common for the Town Council to 100% fund a project and that there has to be an effort from others benefiting also.

To consider Minutes of Adjourned March Monthly Meeting

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

To consider Minutes of Special Meeting held on 16th April, 2007

It was proposed by: Cllr. T. Mulqueen
Seconded by: Cllr. V.O' Dowd
And agreed that Minutes be adopted.

Cllr. Sheary wished to clarify issues that had arisen in relation to his non attendance at previous meetings and he advised the Members that he had advocated for years that doing business inside the Council chamber was the way to go and was always in full support of the Mayor.

Cllr. O' Connor queried the position with regard to Housing representations and requested a list of standard repairs and the status of the total repairs list. The Town Clerk informed him that representations are put on a computer system and on file. She further informed him that he can be advised on his own representations only. Town Manager stated that sensitive information was involved and not available in the public domain, but a priority list would be furnished to him without personal details.

Cllr. McGrath felt confusion had risen among the commercial users of the recycling centre and requested the Town Council to seek an extension to allow people to come up with an alternative way of disposal of commercial waste.

The Town Manager advised that he had reported this matter on the 16th April and a decision had been taken at that stage. He stated that the recycling centre was a victim of its own success. The site did not allow for expansion and the Council were actively looking for a proper site. He further advised that he had no function whether another extension would be granted or not but he would pass on the Members comments. Cllr. Sheary felt that the small commercial user would be quite prepared to pay for its use and would be a great chance to make it a superb facility. Cllr. O' Dowd advised that this is the property of the County Council and that people should be encouraged to recycle and not telling them that it is not possible. Cllr. O' Connor supported Cllr. McGrath's request. Town Mayor proposed to send a motion to the County Council requesting them to stay open for a few more weeks and requested a deputation for the area meeting.

2. To consider Minutes Action Plan

Traffic Lights at St. Conlon's Road:

Town Engineer informed the Members that a new pole had been erected and the traffic lights should be installed by Wednesday of the following week.

Sallygrove:

Cllr. McGrath felt that confusion had arisen amongst Sallygrove residents regarding the area to be enhanced. Town Clerk advised the Members that the area concerned was between Burach Tailte and Sallygrove and any remaining money after the boundary issue had been solved would be spent enhancing the

Sallygrove estate. Town Engineer informed the members that of the money spent to date the majority had been spent on filling the depression and drawing material. He stated that the boundary is now gone and positive work had been done. Cllrs. O'Dowd, Morgan and Moylan complimented the Town Engineer on the works carried out.

Public lighting in Nenagh:

Town Engineer informed the Members that the ESB are nearly finished with works around the town and hopefully the back log of issues over the past 6-9 months should be addressed by the next meeting. Cllr. O' Connor enquired when the remaining Decorative Lighting in Kenyon Street will be installed. Town Engineer informed him that this should be complete by the next meeting.

Town centre Car Parking:

Town Manager was pleased to inform The Members that the advertisement was in the paper this week for 150 spaces in the car park at the Railway Station. Regarding the Bachelors Walk car park, an Archaeologist had been engaged as directed by the Department and was currently working there.

Courthouse Car Park:

Town Manager stated that the car park was full on that day and that he will keep same under observation and if a sign was required it would be erected.

Cllr. Morgan queried what progress had been made on the Multi-Storey car park at Kenyon Street and the Town Manager replied that it was at pre-planning stage and that a planning application had not been received in this Council as of yet.

Cllr. O'Dowd requested that hospital signage be made more vivid around town and on approach roads into town and Town Manager replied that money had been set aside for signage in this year's budget.

Litter Bins – Update on Gum Buster and Green Machine:

Town Engineer advised that that Green Machine will be in operation on the streets on the 8th May. Cllr. Farrell queried whether correspondence had been forwarded to owners of commercial premises. Town Manager stated that he was hoping to add to the letter, details of the Green Machine etc and the letter would be sent out in due course. Cllr. Morgan stated that the condition of the streets at lunch time is deplorable and that contact should be made with the schools in respect of same. He further stated that the Green Machine must be visible throughout the day and not early in the morning.

Public lighting improvements in the vicinity of the new public convenience:

Town Engineer informed the members that an order had been placed with the ESB for the erection of this light.

Investigate extending footpath on Borrisokane Road between beyond Cluain Caoin:

Town Engineer informed the members that the area concerned was quite an extensive area involving 170 metres of footpath. The developer will be responsible for some and there will be a section that will have to be looked at by the Council.

Part VIII Process re. Construction of Houses and Roadway at Nenagh North:

Town Manager advised the members that he had intended having a report for this meeting but on the afternoon of the last day for receipt of submissions the Council received approx 430 submissions, which made it impossible for him to have his report ready, but same would be available at the May meeting.

Investigate surface of footpaths on Dublin Road:

Town Engineer queried this issue with Cllr. Farrell and having ascertained that the area concerned was at the left hand side of the hotel, he informed the Members that there was no funds available at present for this work. In relation to the bench, Town Engineer stated that this was being attended to.

Investigate installation of 2 yellow box junctions at Ballygraique Road:

Town Engineer informed the Members that a letter had been forwarded to the Superintendent regarding same. Cllrs. Sheary, Farrell and Moylan expressed concerns regarding the parking on footpaths in Ballygraique Estate when athletics meetings take place.

Proctor & Gamble – Proposed meeting with Worker Representatives/Mgt.

Town Mayor advised that a letter had gone to Proctor & Gamble to arrange meeting with management and workers, he also stated that he had made contact with Martin Meere and the discussions coincides with an already planned public meeting on the 12th May.

3. To Note Managers Orders

Noted.

Mayor queried the status of the tender for construction of 6 houses at Gortlandroe. Town Clerk replied that Contract had been signed and are now seeking a start date.

4. To Note Planning Register

Noted.

5. To consider Traffic Calming Policy

A general discussion took place regarding the Traffic Calming Policy. Town Engineer advised the members that it had been brought before the Roads SPC and approved by the County Council at the December meeting. Cllr. Moylan hoped that the fears of local residents would be taken into account and would

like it included in the 'ranking system'. Cllr. McGrath queried whether the age profile of residents would be taken into account. He also queried how a situation could be overcome in an estate where mostly all of the properties are rented and the 'majority' of the residents would have to be in favour. Town Manager advised that owner/occupiers would be acceptable in this case.

Cllr. O'Connor felt that this item had been discussed at length and that it doesn't do the town any favours and it denudes Members of any powers with relation to it. He felt that the sole purpose was to remove the powers of the Town Council Members to make any representations.

Town Manager stated that he would not agree with that and he felt it prioritised the most needy areas in accordance with the wishes of the majority of the residents and this was the most democratic way. He also stated that it was far better to have a policy in place than have no policy at all and the majority of people want a Traffic Calming Policy as a basic requirement. Cllr. Farrell queried the possibility of adopting the policy as presented and reviewed in 6 months time.

Mayor proposed to take a vote on this issue.
In favour of adopting Traffic Calming Policy:
Cllr. Moylan
Cllr. V. O'Dowd
Cllr. T. Morgan
Cllr. S. Farrell
Cllr. T. Sheary

Against adopting the Traffic Calming Policy:
Cllr. J. O'Connor
Cllr. H. McGrath
Cllr. T. Mulqueen.

Traffic Calming Policy was, therefore, adopted.

15. To Consider Notice of Motion

Notice of Motion in the Name of Councillor 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 this item be carried over to the next meeting

Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Virginia O' Dowd

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

Cllr. O'Dowd stated that the residents of Annbrook Heights are willing to let go of the top grassed area to be cemented over for car parking. Cllr. Mulqueen supported Cllr. O'Dowd on this issue. Cllr. McGrath queried whether an approval of the majority of the residents would be required. Town Engineer replied stating that each case would be dealt with individually. Cllr. Sheary felt that the members were often castigated about not providing green areas and would be very careful about taking any green areas away. Cllr. Mulqueen requested a deputation with Annbrook Heights residents. Cllr. Farrell stated that the residents of Knockanpierce were very happy to hear that the Council were willing to help them. Town Engineer replied that parking in housing estates were separate issues and requested that residents of Annbrook Heights and Knockanpierce come forward as soon as possible as there was a budget in place and urged them to come back to him with their proposals.

Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Virginia O' Dowd

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

Cllr. O' Dowd felt that there was a genuine need for this. Town Engineer replied that traffic management at William Street/Clare Street junction was being looked at and resources had been committed to same. He would then look at a pedestrian crossing as a 3rd priority in that area.

Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Virginia O'Dowd

"Nenagh Fair Trade Committee are calling on Nenagh Town Council to

- Support and promote the concept of Fairtrade, on a regular basis, through its publications and other outlets
- Promote Nenagh as a Fairtrade Town
- Continue serving Fairtrade coffee and tea at its meetings, in its offices and canteens
- Allocate Fairtrade Town responsibilities to a member of staff or committee to ensure continued commitment to its Fairtrade Town status. (This member of staff or committee would be a liaison between the Town Council and the Fairtrade group)
- Erect street signs declaring Nenagh a Fairtrade Town on securing Fairtrade status.

Cllr. Sheary supported this motion. Cllr. O'Connor commended this project and urged the Council to seriously liaise with the Fairtrade Committee.

It was proposed by: Cllr. T. Moylan

Seconded by: Cllr. S. Farrell

And agreed that Councillor V. O'Dowd would be the Liaison person on the Fairtrade Committee.

Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Seamie 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”

In the absence of Cllr. Morris this item to be dealt with at next meeting.

Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Seamie Morris

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

In the absence of Cllr. Morris this item to be dealt with at next meeting.

Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Seamie Morris

“That this Town Council provides this meeting with all up to date information, regarding all Planning Enforcements in place at the present moment”.

In the absence of Cllr. Morris this item to be dealt with at next meeting.

6. To receive Manager’s Report on Part VIII Procedure on construction of 21 no. 3-bed and 4 no. 4-bed houses and Roadway at Nenagh North, Nenagh.

Dealt with previously

7. To discuss Public Lighting

Dealt with previously

8. To discuss Nenagh Castle Project

Town Manager advised the members that no application had been lodged as of yet. Cllr. O’ Connor queried the current status of the Castle field and Town Manager replied that the Council still had not got possession of the Lease. Cllr. O’Connor stated that a number of assaults had taken place in the field and instructed the Council to write to the Office of Public Works to police the area properly.

9. To discuss Town Centre Car Parking

Dealt with previously

10. To discuss Scouts Hall

A general discussion took place regarding the Scouts Hall and the Town Hall, with the announcement earlier that week that the Town Hall application had been unsuccessful for Access Funding. Town Manager advised that it was now necessary to sit down with Nenagh Community Network to discuss future proposals, as money had been promised from Nenagh Town Council, County Council and other sources regarding same.

Cllr. McGrath requested that the Scouts Hall be kept to the forefront now as rain was getting in and that the building was in very bad need of repair. Cllr. Sheary queried whether the Parish Committee had come back with the Parish proposals. Town Manager informed the members that they had not come back to us but had also been awaiting the announcement of funding.

Cllr. Sheary felt that this property was now one of the worst derelict buildings in the town and he queried the possibility of drawing monies from the Development Funds to carry out repairs. Town Manager stated that a decision had to be made in regard to value for money and stated that money will not be available for every body's needs. Cllr. O'Connor felt that a special meeting should be called.

11. Town Manager's Business

Town Manager informed the members that he wished to highlight the situation regarding Register of Electors and the Register Supplement. He advised the Members that the latest time for application for postal vote was the following evening and an application to be included in the Supplement to be with the Council not later than the following Saturday.

Town Manager stated that Nenagh Town Council was unique in that it had two candidates contesting the Election and wished them both well.

12. Town Mayor's Business

Cllr. Moylan reminded the members of the forthcoming Civic Receptions to be held on Wednesday 16th May at 7pm.

13. Town Clerk's Business

None

14. Correspondence

Cllr. O'Connor requested that Correspondence be held over until the next meeting.

15. Any other Business

Cllr. Mulqueen queried the possibility of providing a pedestrian crossing at Kenyon Street. Town Engineer agreed that a pedestrian crossing was required at the entrance to the Car park but was concerned that same would eliminate some parking spaces and felt that it would be a bit premature. Town Manager stated that when 150 extra spaces become available, the situation could be looked at again.

Cllr. O'Connor enquired about the situation on Cluid Housing in Tyone and Ballygraigue Road and requested a briefing on the allocation of the houses and the qualification for same as he felt people were under the presumption that they should make their application to the Town Council.

Town Manager stated that planning has been granted for both estates and plans are available for public inspection. He stated that the houses are managed by Cluid, the applicants should make their application to Cluid, and be qualified for housing.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Mayor: _____

Town Clerk: _____

Date: _____