

**Minutes of Proceedings of Monthly Meeting of
Nenagh Town Council held in the Civic Offices, Nenagh
on Monday, 26th November, 2007**

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

Also Present: D. Purcell, A/Town Manager
 K. Clifford, A/Town Clerk
 M. Woulfe, Town Engineer
 M. Ryan

Apologies: Mr. Paddy Heffernan

The Mayor, Cllr. S. Farrell presided.

1. To consider Minutes of October Monthly Meeting

It was proposed by: Cllr. J. O'Connor
Seconded by: Cllr. S. Morris
and agreed that the minutes be adopted.

Cllr. Sheary asked that a Vote of Sympathy be passed to Josette McGrath on the death of her brother-in-law, Joe Daly. All Members wished to be associated with same.

Cllr. O'Connor expressed displeasure with response from the VEC regarding nomination to Management Committee. He felt that after making huge financial contribution in the amount of €250,000.00 the Members were entitled to more Representation on the Committee i.e. two elected Representatives and requested that this be made known to the VEC. Cllrs. Morris and Sheary supported Cllr. O'Connor. Cllr. Moylan stated that he was not present at last VEC meeting but would raise the issue of a second nominee at meeting to be held next week. Cllr. McGrath queried had the Committee been formed as of yet? The Mayor replied that it was a small Committee comprising of herself, Donal Purcell, Cllrs. John Sheedy and Sean Creamer, Sean Crowley, CEO of VEC and the Principal of the Vocational School. She stated that the CEO has to check the legalities of the VEC becoming involved in a separate Legal entity to manage the Sports facility before the Town Council would make any financial contribution to the project. A/Town Manager informed the Members that when the Committee is established it will be expanded to take on sports representatives. The Mayor stated that Elaine Cullinane, Sports Partnership would provide a broad spectrum of representation on the Committee. The members requested the A/Town Manager to write to the VEC expressing the Members total

dissatisfaction with the response to their request to having a second elected representative on the Management Committee.

Cllr. Sheary queried whether the Town Council are paying for the lights constantly left on in different areas of the town, both day and night and requested that the Town Engineer report to the Members regarding same? Cllr. O'Dowd inquired about the status of lighting on the Dromin Road and stated that she had been in contact with the ESB and was informed by them that they were awaiting the connection fee before lighting would be switched on. Town Engineer responded as follows that the Budget Estimate for Public Lighting in the town for 2007 was €75,000 of which €50,000 was spent on fixed charges. Capital spending comprised of a combined plan between North Tipperary County Council and Nenagh Town Council of €110,000 on upgrading lights including to date 176 lights which have been upgraded in the town including 18 in Tyone, 19 in St. Conlans Road, 13 in Ciamaltha Meadows, 21 in the Dublin Road, 22 in Summerhill, 13 in Ashe Road and 10 on the Old Birr Road. He would find out for the next meeting about the query regarding payment for the lights that were on during the day. With regard to the Dromin Road, Town Engineer informed Members that 700 meters of road had recently been surfaced, the Council were held up on one section as there is a number of ESB poles to be removed and could not get an exact timeframe from the ESB as to when the works would be done. He also stated that connection fee had been paid. Cllr. O'Dowd was informed by a Senior ESB Official today that the fee had not been paid and it was not acceptable that lights could not be provided. Town Engineer reiterated that the connection fee had been paid quite recently and was frustrated with lack of services by the ESB. Cllr. McGrath queried the possibility of temporary lighting to be erected on the Dromin Road and Town Engineer advised Members that he would look into same. Cllr. O'Connor requested that a letter be forwarded to the ESB on behalf of the Members expressing concern at the delay as the connection fee had been paid. A/Town Manager stated that he was aware of the lighting situation on the Dromin Road and confirmed that he would write to the ESB about the matter. He also stated that lighting in general had improved significantly since the last Monthly Meeting namely St. Johns Lane Car Park and the New Line. Town Engineer stated that 90% of the lights were now upgraded in the last 18 months and we are now down to the final 10%, noting that the complaints were now moving around and that in itself was good. Cllr. Morgan wished to congratulate Town Engineer and his staff on the good work carried out in St. Josephs Park and St. Johns Lane Car Park.

Cllr. Morris expressed concern regarding Nenagh General Hospital's recent ratings in the Health Information and Quality Authority Cleanliness Test and felt that this was directly related to the absence of a Clinical Risk Manager who is currently on leave and had not been replaced due to the cut-backs at the hospital. He noted that the Council had requested John Hennessy, Networks Manager, HSE to meet with the Members and reiterated that this request be made again. Cllr. O'Connor supported this request. A general discussion took place on the issue.

Cllr. O'Connor queried the amended location of the Casual Trading Area in Johns Lane Car Park. A/Town Manager stated that the amended drawing as agreed by the Members at the October Monthly Meeting was gone out for public consultation as part of the Draft Bye Laws; closing date for observations or submissions was Friday 28th December, 2007. A/Town Manager highlighted that a report would be brought back

to the members when the Casual Trading Bye Laws would be finalised. Cllr. Sheary stated that development was due to take place in there shortly and Members should bear this in mind before the Casual Trading Area is fully designated.

Cllr. O'Connor referred to representations he had made for a resident in Cormack Drive with regard to disposal of land in conjunction with disposal of land to Enable Ireland and queried the status of this request. Cllr. Morgan queried the possibility of disposal of strip of land to Enable Ireland adjoining their proposed site. He informed Members that the area in question was unkempt and required urgent attention. A general discussion took place regarding illegal bonfires held on Halloween Night. It was agreed that a co-ordinated approach between the Town Council, the Gardai, the Fire Service, Spleodar and representatives from local housing estates was needed well in advance of Halloween next year. A/Town Manager advised the Members that big efforts had been made by the Town Foreman and his staff regarding the disposal of materials throughout the day and night and into the following day. Cllr. O'Connor wished to congratulate the Council Staff on their work throughout the day and noted with disappointment the lack of co-operation from some of the public towards the Fire Service.

2. To Consider Minutes Action Plan

Members expressed satisfaction with all the works carried out at the New Line, Tesco, Johns Lane Car Park and St. Josephs Park.

Cllr. Sheary queried what was the Environmental Plan proposed for the town? The Mayor said it was part of the Tidy Towns Initiative. A/Town Manager said it was a form of a Landscape/planting plan for the town.

Cllr. Sheary referred to the recent pigeon infestation on Pearse Street and asked if the executive would seek advice on what could be done about it.

3. To Note Manager's Orders

Noted.

4. To Note Planning Register

Noted.

5. To consider AMAI Submission on Local Government Reform

This item is to be placed on the Agenda for the December meeting.

6. To discuss Town Centre Car Parking

Town Mayor advised the Members that 50 car park spaces have already been lined and in use at Railway Station Car Park. Town Engineer advised that the first third of

the Car Park should be fully surfaced, lined and lit in a week's time. 50 spaces were currently in use during daylight hours. He stated that the work had gone very well and hoped that the Car Park would be fully open early in the second week of December. Cllr. O'Connor congratulated Town Engineer and all those involved in making the Car Park a reality in time for Christmas. All Members wished to be associated with same. Cllr. Mulqueen requested that Town Engineer investigate build out at the entrance of the Railway Station Car Park. Cllr. McGrath requested appropriate signage indicating the location of the car park and queried would it be free for the Christmas period? Town Engineer stated that signs will be erected and that parking in the Railway Station Car Park would be free up to Christmas. The Mayor asked that a letter be forwarded to the Chamber of Commerce requesting their Members to advise their staff to avail of this Car Park thereby freeing up other town centre car parking spaces over the Christmas period. Cllr. Moylan suggested we inform the public through an advertising campaign. A/Town Manager expressed delight at the progress of the car park and concurred with Cllr. Moylan with regard to the advertising campaign. Cllr. Sheary felt the 150 spaces would not be sufficient for the town for Christmas and queried the possibility of the Town Council providing a Park 'n' Ride facility to go from designated areas on the outskirts of the town. A/Town Manager replied that the car parks Cllr. Sheary had in mind were private car parks developed for the retail activity in their own areas. Cllr. O'Dowd queried the possibility of a Commuter bus service and felt that the Council should be investigating such an option. Cllr. Moylan stated that when the Town Manager investigated the Park 'n' Ride facility last year, very little interest was shown in the project. Cllr. Mulqueen queried the situation regarding Bachelors Walk Car Park? A/Town Manager replied the Council have been in contact with the OPW as regards the extent of car park that can be used.

7. To discuss Nenagh Castle Project

A/Town Manager advised the Members that good work was going on up there at the moment. Cllr. O'Dowd queried whether a timeframe had been put in place for when works would be completed. A/Town Manager replied that no timeframe had been given to date, the roof was being put on at present and that no planning application has yet been lodged with this Council. Cllr. Morgan expressed regret that the OPW had wasted a golden opportunity to fence off the Castle Field which would help prevent the ongoing vandalism and anti-social behaviour taking place. He also suggested that the gates should be locked at 4.30pm every evening.

8. To discuss Scouts Hall

The Mayor informed Members that five submissions had been received and had been written to and that two of these groups were requested to get together to exchange views.

9. To consider Contributions to Local Organisations

It was proposed by: Cllr. T. Moylan
Seconded by: Cllr. V. O'Dowd

And agreed that contributions would be distributed as per attached sheet.

10. To consider Contributions under the Arts Act

It was proposed by: Cllr. T. Moylan
Seconded by: Cllr. V. O'Dowd

And agreed that contributions would be distributed as per attached sheet.

11. To consider Grants to Residents Associations

It was proposed by: Cllr. T. Moylan
Seconded by: Cllr. V. O'Dowd

And agreed that contributions would be distributed as per attached sheet.
Cllr. O'Connor queried whether remaining funds in this category could be transferred to the Contributions to Local Organisations and/or Contributions under the Arts Act. It was agreed that the A/Town Manager would check if this could be done and advise the Members in advance of the next meeting.

12. To consider vacant site at Clare Street

A/Town Manager advised the Members that he had been in contact with the land owner who was willing to transfer this strip of land to the Town Council. The Council would then be in a position to improve this area which would require removal of the low wall, filling with topsoil and planting it up.

13. Town Managers Business

A/Town Manager stated that a PA/loop system would be installed in the Chamber on this Thursday and Friday

14. Town Mayors Business

It was proposed by: Cllr. V. O'Dowd
Seconded by: Cllr. S. Morris

And agreed that the December Monthly Meeting be held on Monday 17th, December at 6.30pm.

Town Mayor stated that date for Civic Reception for Ladies Soccer Team was not yet finalised and requested that this item be back on the Agenda for the January meeting.

15. Town Clerks Business

None.

Town Engineer updated the Members about the 2007 Road Works Programme which had worked quite well overall. Roadworks were 80% complete, hopefully 90% by Christmas but were competing with Broadband. He stated that Clare St./ William St. junction was not going to be started in 2007 as it was back with the design team for a revised design to be drawn up, which was nearly complete. He advised the Members that with regard to resurfacing of Stafford Street, a delay had arisen where Water Services were not able to get a private Contractor to do the works and this work had to be done by Council Staff. He proposed transferring the allocation for Stafford Street to the Dromin Road budget; this was agreed by the members, same to be spent before Christmas. Cllr. Moylan queried when the works at Stafford Street would be done. Town Engineer stated Stafford Street would feature in the Road Works Programme for 2008, which would go before the Members in the New Year. Cllr. Morgan wished to complement the fine work Shannon Broadband were doing and asked the Town Engineer to convey these sentiments. Cllr. Morris asked what benefits the town would get from Broadband and Cllr. O'Connor requested correspondence be sent to Shannon Broadband inviting them to make a presentation to the Members at either the January or February meeting on the connection process that will be involved and the cost of same. Town Engineer stated that Shannon Broadband would introduce competition to the market and provide larger band widths, higher/faster speeds and better connectivity. The infrastructure would be in place after Christmas, the ducting would be there and the business people would be able to get access.

16. Correspondence

A general discussion took place in respect of the Military Barracks. Members sought an urgent meeting with Minister O'Dea to discuss funding to restore the Military Barracks. Members felt that action should be taken sooner rather than later and it was agreed that Cllr. Mulqueen would set up a date for such a meeting, preferably before the December Monthly Meeting.

Notice of Motion received from Monaghan Town Council

That this Council express its disappointment with the Government for its intention to implement a new Community Childcare Subvention Scheme without any real consultation with Community Childcare providers.

That we further declare that the present system of providing staffing grants is a more equitable measure rather than the direct subvention proposed under the new scheme which will benefit a small minority of parents which will likely lead to the closure of many community crèches and playschools.

We hereby call on the Minister for Health and Children, Mary Harney, T.D. to support the role of community childcare outlets recognising that they have been responsible for providing a vital service which has allowed many parents to return to the workplace and equally important offering early learning opportunities for preschool children. We demand that the proposed scheme be abandoned in favour of a more equitable scheme based on the current model”.

It was agreed to support this motion.

17. To consider Notices of Motion

NOTICE OF MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR HUGHIE MC GRATH

“That Nenagh Town Council put a Stop Sign at the entrance to Ormond Court/Hawthorns and clearly mark the road”.

Town Engineer agreed that a Stop Sign / Stop Bar to be erected.

NOTICE OF MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR HUGHIE MC GRATH

“That Nenagh Town Council include in its work programme for 2008 to upgrade pipe to take surface water from in front of the houses in Dublin Road”.

Town Engineer advised that permission has been sought from the Department for a major drainage scheme for Dublin Road 2008 and awaiting confirmation of same.

NOTICE OF MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR TOM MULQUEEN

“I am calling on the Town Council to erect cameras in the area of Silver Mews and the Coach Yard area where there are black bags of rubbish dumped daily and are collected by this Council which we are obliged to do, as this is a huge expense to the Council. Let the Courts deal with these people”.

This motion was supported by Cllr. Morgan. The A/Town Manager agreed that consideration could be given to CCTV cameras in the context of the 2008 Budget. He advised the Members that it was very difficult to identify the culprits and to get enough evidence on them to bring a prosecution. Cllr. Moylan informed the Members of the process involved in making an application for funding CCTV cameras. Cllr. Morgan stated he had details of Private Investigators which were not expensive and could supply the Council with details if needed. Cllr. O'Connor supported this.

NOTICE OF MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR TOM MULQUEEN

“That Nenagh Town Council suspend all road works from the 8th December, 2007 entering the centre of the town for Christmas and allow people to shop in peace and comfort”.

I am also calling on the Town Manager to give Saturday before Christmas free parking in the town. This would be helpful to the Ratepayers”.

Cllr. Morris supported this motion. A general discussion took place and it was agreed the new Railway Station Car Park will make a significant impact on the car-parking situation and that it will be free of charge to the public until Christmas. In regard to providing free car parking on the Saturday before Christmas, the A/Town Manager informed the Members that the Council was already providing the Railway Car park free until Christmas and that if car parking was provided free of charge throughout the town that the loss of Revenue from car-parking would have to be made up elsewhere, which in effect could impact on the Ratepayers. Furthermore he said that providing free car parking on the streets and in town centre car parks would only encourage people to leave their cars there all day.

NOTICE OF MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR SEAMUS MORRIS

“Under Section 138 of Local Government Act to let the Councillors know what we got for the use of Nenagh Town Council car park for entrances to developments now ready to open and what is the overall plan for the area”.

Cllr. Morris agreed to withdraw this motion for the present and that he would talk to the A/Town Clerk about the information he required.

NOTICE OF MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR SEAMUS MORRIS

“That this Town Council breaks down the Council Housing List by length of time on our housing list”.

A/Town Manager stated that it was possible to give this breakdown but that staffing resources are limited and that we had to prioritise the work to be done to provide the best service to our housing clients. He said it would not give a true picture of the housing need as it would only show the overall time an applicant had been on the list. Furthermore it would not give any information regarding the conditions that each family was living in whereas the housing list provided to the members each month shows the different categories that applicants were qualified under.

NOTICE OF MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR SEAMUS MORRIS

“That this Town Council immediately draws up a list of works for Yewston Estate and sends it to all Councillors with a Works Plan and dates of completion”.

Town Engineer stated that a plan would be drawn up for the next meeting and provisions could be considered in the 2008 Budget process for the necessary works to be carried out.

NOTICE OF MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR SEAMUS MORRIS

“That this Town Council puts a light up at the end of Tobair Mhuire to alleviate the poor coverage of the present lighting system in the area”.

Cllr. Moylan supported this motion. Town Engineer replied that he has contacted the ESB about this.

NOTICE OF MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR VIRGINIA O'DOWD

“I call on Nenagh Town Council to place double yellow lines at either side of the entrance to Monaree to facilitate easy and safe access for residents”

Town Engineer was aware of situation and did not think that double yellow lines would be appropriate as the area was a long way out of town for enforcement of bye laws. Cllr. O'Connor enquired would build outs or footpaths be an option. Town Engineer replied build outs might work and same would be investigated.

18. Any Other Business

Cllr. O'Connor requested that a short discussion on *Branding of Nenagh* to take place at the December meeting. Mayor agreed same.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Mayor: _____

Town Clerk: _____

Date: _____