

**Minutes of Proceedings of Monthly Meeting of
Nenagh Town Council held in the Civic Offices, Nenagh
on Monday, 24th September, 2007**

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

Also Present: P. Heffernan, Town Manager
D. Purcell, A/Town Clerk
M. Woulfe, Town Engineer
S. O'Callaghan
K. Clifford

Apologies: Cllr. T. Moylan

The Mayor, Cllr. S. Farrell presided.

1. To consider Minutes of July Monthly Meeting

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

Cllr. McGrath asked when the Council would be meeting with the VEC with regard to the All Weather Pitch. The Town Manager replied that he had spoken to David Leahy from the VEC as any proposal to do anything with the property would have to go before the VEC at a meeting. This was done and a letter had issued from the VEC stating that they were progressing towards the appointment of a management committee. This committee would then be in a position to apply for funding under the Community, Sports and Cultural Grant Scheme. Cllr. McGrath proposed that funding be included in the 2008 Budget to cover the cost of the resurfacing. The Town Manager replied that no club had a beneficial interest in the property and it was in the ownership of the VEC and therefore a grant could be paid to any club. It was agreed that the Council would make further contact with the VEC with regard to setting up a management committee.

To consider Minutes of Special Meeting held on 22nd August, 2007

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

Cllr. O'Dowd expressed disappointment with the responses received from the Minister for Transport and Aer Lingus.

2. To Consider Minutes Action Plan

Lighting at St. John's Lane Car Park

Cllr. Mulqueen expressed dissatisfaction that this matter had been raised at the March meeting and was still being assessed. The Town Engineer replied that the ESB had taken on a large contract to replace faulty lights for the Council and this had been completed. Other work had been put on hold to complete this contract. He said that the ESB propose to send monthly reports of all complaints and works completed. The Mayor asked that these be circulated to the Members. It was agreed that this would be done once the reports were received.

Traffic Calming at St. Joseph's Park

The Town Engineer circulated his report to the Members and outlined his proposals for traffic calming in the estate. He proposed that consultation take place with the residents. Cllr. Morris expressed disappointment that no ramps had been included in the Town Engineer's proposal as he had a petition from 140 people requesting ramps. Cllrs. Sheary, McGrath and Mulqueen supported Cllr. Morris and felt that speed ramps should be included in the Traffic Calming Policy. The Town Engineer explained that the policy did not exclude ramps but stated that ramps should only be used as a last resort. It was agreed to proceed to consultation with the residents.

Proposed Boundary Extension

The Town Manager referred to correspondence received from the County Council and informed the Members that the Town Council would have to do some further work before the County Council would consider the proposed extension. The Mayor said that she would organise a special meeting to discuss the matter. Cllr. Sheary asked who could decide whether or not the boundary was to be extended. The Town Manager replied that the County Council would have a big say in the matter as they would be losing territory and their agreement would be required. He explained that it was a reserved function which required the approval of the Minister. The Members asked that a letter be sent to the County Council expressing their dissatisfaction with the County Council's response.

Speed Limits at Old Birr Road

The Mayor referred to correspondence received from John O'Hanrahan with regard to speed limits at the Old Birr Road. It was agreed to write to the County Council in support of this correspondence.

Flooding at Ballygraique Estate

The Town Engineer informed the Members that work would be carried out shortly to alleviate this problem. He said that a pipe needed to be replaced which passed through private property and the owner would have to be contacted.

3. To Note Manager's Orders

Noted.

Cllr. O'Connor asked why the description of the planning application was no longer included in the list of Manager's Orders circulated to the Members. The Town Manager replied that he would look into the matter.

4. To Note Planning Register

Noted.

5. To discuss Car Parking at the Railway Station and Town Centre

The Town Manager informed the Members that the licence had been received from CIE for signing for the Railway Station Car Park but the insurance issue had to be resolved. He said that the Town Engineer had contractors organised to do the work which would take 4-6 weeks. The Mayor asked if this could be achieved. The Town Manager replied that it could once the insurance issue could be resolved. Cllr. Morgan asked how many spaces would be available in the car park. The Town Manager replied that there would be 150 car parking spaces and 5 bus parking spaces reserved for CIE's own use.

Cllr. Morris asked for an update with regard to the multi-storey car park at Kenyon Street. The Town Manager replied that he understood that a planning application was ready to be submitted but there would be a traffic implication and the Road Design Office was looking at it.

Cllr. McGrath asked for an update on the O'Rahilly Street Car Park. The Town Manager replied that the Heritage Section of the Department had concerns regarding the use of some of the site for car parking due to proximity to the castle. He said that he was trying to arrange a meeting on site.

The Mayor referred to correspondence received from the Chamber of Commerce requesting that bus stops, loading bays and disabled parking spaces be highlighted in different colours. It was agreed that this would be done.

6. To discuss Nenagh Castle Project

The Town Manager informed the Members that he had no update on this matter. He expected a planning application in October.

7. To discuss Scouts Hall

In view of the fact that the Parish had purchased another property, a general discussion then took place on the future use of the property and it was agreed to hold a special meeting to discuss the matter further.

8. To accord Civic Reception

Discussed under Notices of Motion.

9. To discuss Proposals for Casual Trading Area

Proposals for the proposed casual trading area were circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed to proceed to finalise draft bye-laws.

10. To discuss Nenagh Military Barracks

It was agreed to write to the Minister for Defence requesting a deputation to discuss the Military Barracks site.

11. To adopt Scheme of Priorities for the Allocation of Affordable Houses/Apartments in accordance with Part V of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended)

It was proposed by: Cllr. S. Morris

Seconded by: Cllr. T. Sheary

and agreed that the Scheme of Priorities for the Allocation of Affordable Houses/Apartments in accordance with Part V of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended)

12. To consider Proposal by Eircom to withdraw Public Payphone from Church Road, Nenagh

The Town Manager referred to correspondence received from Eircom requesting submissions on their proposal to withdraw the public payphone from Church Road. It was agreed to write to Eircom requesting that the payphone be retained.

13. Town Manager's Business

None

14. Town Mayor's Business

None.

15. Town Clerk's Business

The A/Town Clerk informed the Members that the early morning swim in the Leisure Centre had been extended to three days a week. Cllr. O'Dowd said that the showers had not been working the previous weekend and asked that this be investigated.

16. Correspondence

Notice of Motion received from Clonakilty Town Council

"That this Council writes to the Minister for Transport calling for an amendment to the present Hackney Regulations so as to enable hackney drivers to legally stop and pick up potential customers who "flag" them down on the street without a prior arranged booking.

We suggest that in order not to impede on Taxi Operators , that the above condition for hackneys would only operate in towns where there is no taxi service operating, and it be confined to the hours of 12 midnight to 4.00 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday mornings and public holidays.

This motion is tabled in recognition of the potential service which hackneys could provide during these critical hours to get large crowds out of town centres, whilst also recognising the unviability of people investing in taxi licences in small towns."

It was agreed to support this motion.

17. To consider Notices of Motion

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

"That this Town Council awards a Civic Reception to Nenagh AFC Ladies Soccer Team National Junior Champions 2007."

The Mayor said that she had intended to accord a Civic Reception to the Ladies Soccer Team and it was agreed that a date be set at the October meeting.

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

"That this Town Council awards a Civic Reception to Tipperary Minors Hurling All Ireland winning team which had two Eire Og players on it."

The Town Manager informed the Members that the County Council were holding a Civic Reception for the team. Cllr. Morris asked if this could be a Joint Civic Reception.

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

“That this Town Council changes its list of Priority of Letting to include separated parents who have access to their children. Many parents who are separated have access to their children at weekends etc. We need as a Council to prioritise these people because they need to have somewhere safe and comfortable to bring up their children with dignity. Many of these parents may have had to leave their home and have had to move into their parents or dingy flats.”

The Town Manager responded that the current scheme would take into account anyone who would prove a need for housing. He said there was adequate cover in the scheme and it may be dangerous to name any particular class of person.

Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. J. O’Connor

“That Nenagh Town Council invite some representatives of Monaree Estate, Nenagh to our October 2007 meeting to discuss outstanding issues on the Estate in Committee.”

It was agreed to invite representatives to attend at 6.30 p.m. before the October meeting and to write to them and ask them to submit a list of issues they wish to discuss in advance.

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

“That all Councillors and Town Clerk, Town Manager and Town Engineer adjourn the meeting so we can walk around the town to see first hand the lighting problems. I would like to adjourn the meeting at 10.00 p.m.”

Cllr. Morgan suggested that a representative from the ESB be asked to walk the town with the Members to assess the lighting. It was agreed that a letter be sent to the ESB requesting this.

Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. V. O’Dowd

“That Nenagh Town Council complete the final surface dressing on upper Ballygraique Road and connect the lighting.”

The Town Engineer replied that he was having difficulty getting contractors to complete the surfacing. He expected the ESB to connect the lighting the following week.

Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. V. O’Dowd

“That Nenagh Town Council line the town’s streets to allow for proper car parking bays in order to maximise and define car parking spaces.”

The Town Manager replied that it would be difficult to come up with the optimum measurement for a bay and it would also create a new parking offence.

Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. V. O’Dowd

“That Nenagh Town Council request An Garda Siochana to enforce the parking laws in respect of the bus parking area in Kickham Street to allow busses to use the space provided without blocking traffic.”

The Town Manager replied that the Town Council wardens enforce the parking laws but cannot be there full time. It was agreed to write to the Gardai requesting their co-operation.

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

"That Nenagh Town Council install public lighting on the left hand side of Ballygraique Estate."

The Town Engineer agreed to investigate.

18. Any Other Business

Cllr. O'Connor asked for a timescale on the Dromin Road. The Town Engineer replied that it was now three weeks behind schedule and they were trying to catch up.

Cllr. O'Connor requested an update on the Clare Street/William Street Junction. The Town Engineer replied that he had a proposal but there was a problem with loss of parking spaces so he was trying to come up with an alternative proposal. Cllr. O'Connor asked that the Members be informed before any decision made.

Cllr. Morris asked for an update on Limerick Road improvement works. The Town Engineer replied that works would commence the following morning.

Cllr. Sheary asked that the barrier at the corner of Mitchel Street/Sarsfield Street be improved.

The Town Engineer informed the Members that he was looking at a new street cleaning machine which would be able to get into smaller areas. He said that there would be a week's trial at the end of October.

Cllr. McGrath asked if more litter bins could be installed at Church Road. The Town Manager replied that litter bins were only being used for domestic rubbish near residential areas.

It was agreed that the October meeting be held on Monday, 22nd October at 7.00 p.m. and a Special Meeting be held in committee to discuss the Scouts Hall on Monday, 8th October at 7.00 p.m.

Cllr. Morgan asked if the Council would be confiscating material which had been stored for Halloween bonfires. The Town Manager replied that it would. It was agreed to write to the Gardai requesting their co-operation in collecting this material.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Mayor: _____

Town Clerk: _____

Date: _____