

CARRICKMACROSS TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of proceedings of monthly meeting of Carrickmacross Town Council held in the Old Union Workhouse, Shercock Road, Carrickmacross, on Monday the 12th April, 2010 at 2:30p.m.

Cllr. M. Kerr-Conlon, Meara Bhaile presided.

Present: Cllrs. T. Carolan, M. Clarke, K. Jankaitiene, N. Keelan, P. Mc Nally and P.J. O'Hanlon.

Cllrs. Carthy and Martin sent their apologies.

Also in attendance: - Paul Clifford, Town Manager, Alan Hall, Senior Executive Engineer, Frances Matthews, Town Clerk and Amanda Murray, Staff Officer.

1. Confirmation of minutes of Council meetings:-

The minutes of the March monthly meeting were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Kerr-Conlon seconded by Cllr. Carolan.

2. Matters arising.

Cllr. O'Hanlon said that the members had just returned from a meeting on the Convent Lands and on foot of correspondence received by him from the residents of lower Drummond-Etra, he was confident that the Council would have a more suitable site for funfairs available on the Convent Lands for 2011. The members noted photographs which were taken over the course of the St. Patrick's Day weekend which showed anti-social activities in the vicinity of the OPD's in lower Drummond-Etra. He proposed that this matter be discussed at an upcoming JPC meeting. Cllr. McNally said that while he found the photographs disturbing, the Council could not back peddle on its decision to allow the funfair to use the Council's car-park over the course of the June bank holiday festival. Cllr. Keelan concurred with the sentiments of the previous speakers and seconded Cllr. O'Hanlon's proposal to discuss the matter at a JPC meeting. Cllr. Carolan said that she had previously raised her concerns at the lack of monitoring at the St. Patrick's Day funfair. She went on to say that this type of behaviour was not exclusive to the duration of the funfair. Cllr. Clarke said that it was a disgrace that young people would harass and intimidate older people in their homes in this type of way.

Cllr. Keelan enquired if there had been any response from the unions in relation to an end to the disputes currently ongoing. He was informed that the Council had received no correspondence and he requested that the matter be pursued.

Cllr. Keelan requested that the budget subcommittee consider the possibility of a nominal contribution towards the Carrickmacross Lions Club.

3. Correspondence.

The members noted a letter from Monaghan Co. Council regarding a request from this Council for economic development/strategies being undertaken in County Monaghan.

The members noted a letter from Aer Lingus in relation to group bookings. A letter of acknowledgement was received from Mr. Tom Gallagher, Private Secretary for Minister Michael Finneran in relation to the housing allocation. A letter was received from Ms. Geraldine Kane, H.S.E. in response to the Council's letter regarding the Doctor-on-Call Service. A letter was received from An Garda Síochána regarding alleged speeding at O'Neill Street. Cllr. O'Hanlon, on foot of this letter, commented that he was hopeful that monies would soon become available for a pedestrian crossing on O'Neill Street. On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan seconded by Cllr. Clarke, it was unanimously agreed that Cllr. Kerr-Conlon would join Balbriggan Town Council's 150th anniversary celebrations.

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan, seconded by Cllr. Clarke, the following notice of motion from Balbriggan Town Council was unanimously adopted:-
"Balbriggan Town Council call on the Minister for Education not to cut back on the number of special needs assistants in our schools".

The following notices of motion received from Clonmel Borough Council were unanimously adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Keelan seconded by Cllr. Clarke:-

"This Council calls on the Minister for Education and Science to immediately reverse the shocking decision to reduce the number of "SPECIAL NEEDS ASSISTANTS" providing an invaluable service to children in our Education System, and furthermore that this motion be forwarded to all other Local Authorities".

"That Clonmel Borough Council request the Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform to introduce legislation to ban or control the sale of dangerous substances from Head shops throughout the 26 Counties. New laws are urgently needed to cover the sale of dangerous substances from Head Shops".

"That Clonmel Borough Council requests the Minister for Health and Children, Mary Harney T.D to reverse the HSE decision to centralise all Medical Card processing, to the PCRS Offices in Dublin. This proposed transfer will result in a total melt down of medical card processing and will restrict the number of medical cards issued".

The following notices of motion received from Castlebar Town Council were unanimously adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Keelan seconded by Cllr. Carolan:-

"that the Members of Castlebar Town Council resolve to call on the Government to introduce legislation to prohibit Banks, Building Societies and other Mortgagors from seeking additional monies from people whose property they repossess and sell off".

"that the Members of Castlebar Town Council call on the Minister of the Environment to introduce as a matter of urgency a Tax and Rates Relief Urban Renewal Scheme in order to create employment".

Cllr. Clarke proposed the adoption of the following motion from Kilrush Town Council and this was seconded by Cllr. Keelan, while Cllr. Kerr-Conlon stated that water charges were inevitable and it would be hypocritical to adopt such a motion:-

“That this Council would write to all Councils to protest against water rate charges”.

The following notice of motion by Clones Town Council was noted by the members:-

“That the members of this Council call on the members of Monaghan Co. Council to reverse their decision not to protest at the downgrading of Monaghan Hospital, when Government Ministers visit the County and we also ask the four other town Councils in Monaghan to support this motion and join our County Council colleagues when the protests are held in the relevant towns”.

Cllr. McNally said that this motion had previously been defeated at Co. Council level as there was no precedent to protest a visiting Minister who had been agreeable to meet with the members of a Council and this Minister had met with representatives from Monaghan to discuss the hospital issue.

4. Reports

The Town Clerk circulated correspondence from the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government outlining the housing allocations for 2010. She informed the members that the Council were currently looking at houses to purchase for its housing stock.

Cllr. McNally said that he was dissatisfied with the pace that the street reinstatement was taking. He said that there were a number of locations around the town where large holes were causing problems for footpath and road users. He proposed that an invitation issue to Mr. Cathal Flynn and representatives from P. & S. to attend an upcoming meeting to discuss the reinstatement proposals. Cllr. Keelan seconded this proposal. The members discussed a number of areas in the town which needed immediate attention.

5. Notice of Motion:

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Cllrs. Carthy & Keelan:-
“That Carrickmacross Town Council calls on the U.S. Administration to withdraw its request for the Extradition of Sean Garland.”

In proposing this motion, which was seconded by Cllr. Carolan, Cllr. Keelan said that this motion had the support of representatives in the Dáil and Seánad. Cllr. McNally said that he could not support the motion as the matter of this extradition was currently before the Irish courts and it would be inappropriate for this Council to interfere or pre-empt their decision. Cllr. O’Hanlon followed up by stating that he did not believe that this was an issue a Council like Carrickmacross should involve itself with. Cllr. Carolan said that she supported the motion on humanitarian grounds, but did not wish to pre-empt the decision of the courts. A vote was taken which resulted as follows:-

For: - Cllrs. Keelan, Carolan, Clarke and Jankaitiene.

Against: - Cllrs. McNally, O’Hanlon and Kerr-Conlon.

The motion was, therefore, carried by four votes to three.

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Cllrs. Jankaitiene & Martin:-
“That Carrickmacross Town Council would formally invite the Lithuanian Ambassador his Excellency, Mr. Vidmantas Purlys and the Honorary Consul in Ireland Mr. Michael McEvoy to visit Carrickmacross and also sign the Council’s distinguished visitors guest book and that this Local Authority avail of this visit to explore our mutual economic interests, EU and cultural links with a view to endeavouring to create much needed local employment”

Cllr. Jankaitiene, in proposing the motion which was seconded by Cllr. Keelan, said that this would be a good gesture for the people of Carrickmacross to invite both Mr. Purlys and McEvoy to sign the visitor’s book in light of the number of Lithuanian people living and working in Carrickmacross and the surrounding areas. She said that there were currently three Lithuanian businesses running successfully in the town and this was just an example of the integration of the Lithuanian people in Carrickmacross. The members present concurred with Cllr. Jankaitiene’s proposal and it was unanimously adopted.

6. Fixing date of next Joint Policing Committee Meeting.

The members agreed that the next JPC meeting should be a public one, held in the Old Union Workhouse on Thursday the 6th of May, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. The topics for the public meeting were agreed by the members as anti-social behaviour and the misuse of drugs.

7. Consideration of AFS 2009, Over-expenditure 2009 and Transfer of Funds, 2009.

The Town Clerk told the meeting that Council approval was required for the transfers from Revenue to Capital Accounts and vice versa during 2009. This was unanimously agreed on the proposal of Cllr. Kerr-Conlon seconded by Cllr. Carolan. Details of the transfers from revenue to capital account were as follows:-

- €300,000 Provision for new civic centre
- € 20,000 Retirement Gratuities
- € 15,000 Development Fund
- € 10,000 Council vehicles replacement
- € 8,400 Broadband
- € 5,000 Furniture for new civic centre
- € 6,000 review of the Development Plan
- € 5,000 Heritage Trail

Details of Inter Capital Transfer in 2009 were as follows:-

- €63,765.54 Housing Internal Capital Receipts – Planned Maintenance
- € 5,080.75 Housing Internal Capital Receipts – 2008 House Purchase
- €59,089.90 Housing Internal Capital Receipts – 28, St. Macartans Villas
- €29,943.69 Capital Contributions – Footpaths at Gallows Hill
- €34,295.21 Capital Contributions – Lighting at Gallows Hill
- €9,153.13 Development Fund – Convent Land Fencing
- €93,446.25 New Office Accommodation – Deposit Account Interest.

The approval for over-expenditure in 2009 was agreed on the proposal of Cllr.Kerr-Conlon, seconded by Cllr.Clarke. Details were as follows:-

	Expenditure (Over)/Under Budget 2009 €
Housing and building	4,182
Road transportation and safety	71,953
Water supply and sewerage	(32,016)
Development incentives and controls	31,201
Environmental protection	35,846
Recreation and amenity	24,107
Agriculture, education, health and safety	--
Miscellaneous services	(46,738)

The Annual Financial Statement as presented to the members was adopted on the proposal of Cllr. McNally seconded by Cllr. Kerr-Conlon,

7. Consideration of Allocation of Community Grants 2010.

The members of the budget subcommittee put forward the following allocations from the 2010 budget which was unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. McNally seconded by Cllr. Kerr-Conlon. It was further agreed that the Council present the cheques to the organisations at 4:00 on Monday the 10th of May, immediately following the monthly meeting:-

Allocation of Funding in 2010 as Proposed by Budget Sub Committee

3rd Monaghan Scouts	€1,000.00
Carrickmacross Youth Club	€500.00
Carrickmacross Community Games	€600.00
Carrickmacross Variety Club	€400.00
Carrickmacross Ladies Football Club	€500.00
Carrickmacross Pioneers	€100.00
Carrickmacross Active Retirement	€500.00
Carrickmacross Cruisers	€400.00
Carrickmacross Rockets	€400.00
Carrickmacross Social Services Council	€500.00
Carrickmacross Comhaltas Ceoltoirí Eireann	€500.00
Carrickmacross Snooker Club	€300.00

Carrickmacross Tidy Towns (annual)	€1,500.00
Carrickmacross Aces AC (1st year of 5)	€5,000.00
<i>Total</i>	<u>€12,200.00</u>

Funding Allocated in Budget 2010 for Specific Projects/Groups

Carrickmacross Language School	€2,000.00
Chamber of Commerce & Industry - Christmas Lighting	€7,000.00
Chamber of Commerce & Industry - Promotion of Town	€15,000.00
Tourism Contribution to part fund Heritage Trail	€5,000.00
St. Patricks Day Parade/Band Performances	€9,000.00
Halloween Festival	€5,000.00
Music Festival	€13,000.00
Carrickmacross Twinning Association	€2,000.00
Tidy Towns Projects	€7,000.00
<i>Total Contributions 2010</i>	<u>€65,000.00</u>

9. Manager's Orders.

Manager's order nos. 11/10 to 15/10 were noted by the members.

10. Planning Applications.

The following planning applications were noted by the members at the April monthly meeting:-

<u>Ref. No.</u>	<u>Development Description.</u>
10/02	Applicant :- Mr. Pierce O'Sullivan & Mrs. Charlie Murtagh. Proposal:- Retention permission for change of use of first floor residential apartments to office space incorporating 2 no. offices and toilet facility, alterations to elevations on ground floor, signage and ancillary works at 24, O'Neill Street, Carrickmacross.
10/03	Applicant :- Daisychain Childcare Proposal:- Single storey prefabricated extension to the east elevation and enclosed fire escape stairs from first floor to the north elevation of existing crèche at Cluain Alainn, Carrickmacross.

10/04

Applicant :- Michael & Jane Ward

Proposal:- Conversion of existing garage into two storey extension to side of dwelling house at 32, Crann Nua, Carrickmacross.

11. Conferences.

It was unanimously agreed that Cllr. Kerr-Conlon would attend Dundalk Chamber of Commerce Bids conference in the Ballymascanlon Hotel, Dundalk on the 11th of May, 2010.

12. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations.

Votes of Sympathy were passed with each of the following:-

Lily Markey and family on the death of her husband Dan.
Gerard & Regina Crosby on the death of their son Damien.
Mrs. Dympna Egan on the death of her mother Maura Marron.
Mr. Breen Jackson on the death of his father Henry.
Mr. Padraig Lonergan on the death of his uncle Dr. Jim Lonergan.
Mrs. Cissy Lynch on the death of her nephew Robert Walker.
Mrs. Claire Duffy on the death of her husband Brian.
Mrs. Catherine Busby on the death of her brother John Gollogly.
Mr. Anthony Dooley and family on the death of his wife Hanna Dooley.
Mrs. Bernadette Slevin and family on the death of Mr. Gerry Slevin.
Mr. James Reilly, 74, Cloughvalley on the death of his mother Dolly.

13. Any Other Business.

Cllr. Jankaitiene offered condolences to the families of the 96 people who died in an air crash in Russia over the weekend. She requested that a letter issue to the Polish embassy in Ireland and requested that a book of condolence be opened. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. McNally and unanimously agreed by the members present.

The following report was presented to the members by Mr. Alan Hall, SEE:-

Review of Traffic Management at Chapel Lane Schools, for Carrickmacross Town Council Meeting 12-4-10

Location

This section of road is two-way from Cloughvalley to the cul-de-sac at the Phoenix Centre. It is one-way east only from Main Street to Phoenix Centre. The Car park is designed as a large roundabout to allow vehicles to safely turn. There are a number of developments in this locality that generate traffic, such as; Phoenix Centre, Doctors Surgery, Band hall and the Schools.

Traffic Control Measures in Place

- Single Yellow Line - North and South Sides of Street from Phoenix Centre to School & from School to Junction with Cloughvalley OPD's (No Parking 8:30 to 9:30, 12:10 to 12:40, 1:30 to 3:15.)

- Double Yellow lines – North and South Side in front of Phoenix Centre and Car park.
- Double Yellow lines –South Side from Bus stop to Rockdanial Road.
- Zigzag no stopping markings outside school.
- Marked Pedestrian Crossing to east of schools, attended by School warden.
- Car park opposite Phoenix Centre
- Bus stop parking spaces next to Basketball court, to allow buses to collect pupils and exit area without passing by school entrances.

Observations

- A high percentage of children are delivered and collected from schools by car.
- Most of these pass by the school entrance, which creates traffic congestion.
- There is significant non-compliance with traffic management measures. Motorists stop at or as near as possible to the school gates, blocking visibility of children from oncoming vehicles.
- The Council Car park opposite Phoenix Centre is under used, rarely if ever full.
- The School Warden does a difficult but excellent job in ensuring children can cross the road safely.

Other Measures proposed in past but not implemented

- The Girls School has a pedestrian access to the Church Car park on O’Neill Street. This would provide an alternative safer route into the school for children as well as reducing traffic on Chapel Lane.
- Walking School Bus – To encourage children to walk to school and thus reduce traffic at this location.
- Car parking next to the basketball court would allow cars to deliver and collect children without travelling by the school entrances.

Issues for Consideration

- The Council has spent a lot of time in the past number of years looking at the location and have put in place extensive traffic management measures. However, these are being ignored. This creates a traffic hazard in blocking clear visibility between pedestrians and motorists. This comes down to education and enforcement.
- High dependence on car-use creates high concentration of traffic congestion at key times at this location.
- A “roundtable” approach by all relevant parties (School authorities, Parent’s Association, Gardai & Town Council) is required to tackle the safety issue.

Cllr. McNally acknowledged the report as very detailed. He proposed to write again to the principal of Bunscoil Lughaidh Naofa and request that gateway to the rear of the school leading to St. Joseph’s car-park is opened to allow the area

to be used as a pickup point. He said that in order to tackle the problems at this location, there was a need for round table talks with all the interested parties. He said, however, that the schools would have to have met prior to this with their parents associations and school management boards, and bring suggestions to the table which would be acceptable to all. He said that the solutions to these problems rested with the schools, and the Council would involve itself as a facilitator only.

Cllr. Clarke commended the Engineer on the detail of the report. He commented that education and enforcement were lacking at this location, and accepted the fact that in such cases, the Council could not always engineer a solution. He said, however, that the safety of the children was the real issue here, and the Council had an onus to take the lead in forging a solution. He requested the Engineer to look at the possibility of making the entire length of Chapel Lane one-way. The Engineer said that this might solve some problems, it would cause many others. The members agreed that the best approach was through dialogue with the schools and it was agreed to write to all interested parties.

The Manager told the members that there was a Traffic Warden available on request from another local authority, but due to the moratorium on staffing numbers, and lack of funding, a new warden would not be employed full time in Carrickmacross in the foreseeable future. The members expressed their displeasure at this arrangement, stating that the recent signage put in place advising dog owners to clean up after their dogs was useless without the threat of a fine from a warden. They requested that the temporary warden should be on patrol more often, as people could predict his visits and were abusing the system when they knew he was not in the town. It was unanimously agreed to write to the Gardaí and request that, in view of the Council's staff shortages, more attention is paid to the matter of litter in the town and make efforts to enforce the law regarding same.

The meeting concluded at 4:15 p.m.

Meara Bhaile
10th May, 2010.
Date

Town Clerk