

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 14th December, 2009 at 2:30p.m.

Meara Bhaile: Cllr. Kerr-Conlon presided.

Members present: Cllrs. T. Carolan, N. Keelan, M. Carthy, P.J. O'Hanlon, P. Mc Nally. M. Clarke, C. Martin and K. Jankaitiene,

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

1. Confirmation of minutes of November monthly meeting.

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

2. Matters arising.

There was no issues discussed arising from the minutes.

3. Correspondence.

The members noted a letter from Mr. Oliver Martin 6, Beech Drive requesting that the Council place a preservation order on a tree at Beech Drive. The members were advised that on their approval the matter would go for public consultation for six weeks and then return to the members for their decision. Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that there was a second tree at this location and this should also be included in the order. This was agreed by all the members. On the proposal of Cllr. McNally, seconded by Cllr. O'Hanlon it was unanimously agreed to proceed with the preservation order on the two trees at this location.

- The members noted a letter from An Garda Siochána regarding the policing of weight restrictions in the Town.
- The members noted a letter from Carrickmacross-Carhaix Twinning Association thanking Carrickmacross Town Council for hosting a reception for visitors from Carhaix on the 25th of October last. It was agreed to write to both the Carrickmacross Rovers Soccer Team and the Twinning Association and congratulate them on the innovations in twinning projects, such as their recent visit of the Carhaix Soccer Team to Carrickmacross, and the planned return visit by the Rovers.

- The members noted the Revision Court times and dated.
- The following notice of motion from Ballina Town Council was unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. McNally seconded by Cllr. Clarke:-

“That rent supplement should not be paid to tenants of Landlords who are evading taxes by not paying the levy to the Local Authority on their non-residential homes or those who are not registered with the Private Residential Tenancies Board, as is a requirement under the Residential Tenancy Act 2004”.

- The members noted the following Notice of Motion from Tipperary South County Council:-

“That in view of the ongoing revelations surrounding FAS this Council calls for its abolition in its present form”.

The members felt that while enormous mistakes have been made, this type of agency was needed now more than ever in the current financial climate.

- On the proposal of Cllr. Clarke seconded by Cllr. McNally the following Notice of Motion from Castlebar Town Council was unanimously adopted:-

“That the members of Castlebar Town Council resolve to call on the Government to put in place an embargo on the re-employment by state and semi bodies of former employees who received their retirement gratuity and pension and that the motion be circulated to all other local authorities for consideration.”

- The following notice of motion was received from Mullingar Town Council:-

“That Mullingar Town Council deploras the recommendation of An Bord Snip Nua Report on the elimination of Town Local Government and requests that the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, John Gormley, T.D., gives his full public support to all town councils and to immediately commence the implementation of his Party’s Local Government Policy, which was published prior to the last General Election”.

- On the proposal of Cllr. Carthy, seconded by Keelan, the following notices of motion from Bandon Town Council were adopted:-

“Bandon Town Council support the work carried out by Bandon Family Resource Centre and acknowledge the vital service that it provides to the

Community and ask the Taoiseach and Dail to ignore the recommendation as outlined in the McCarthy report in relation to the Family Resource Centres”.

“Bandon Town Council calls on the Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Deputy Mary Hanafin to ensure that no cuts will be introduced in the special social welfare payment at Christmas. Families with children use this money to cover the costs of Christmas and there is a real danger that this year without it people will be pushed into the hands of ruthless money lenders. Also elderly people use this additional payment to help cover the costs of fuel over the winter and as a result of this cut will undoubtedly go without sufficient heating.”

- The members noted a letter from Inspector Fintan McTiernan regarding anti social behaviour on the Convent Lands.
- The members noted a letter from Mr. Tom Gallagher on behalf of Mr. Michael Finneran, TD regarding the Government’s proposed cutting of housing capital budgets in 2010 and a greater emphasis on Leasing Schemes and RAS schemes to meet housing demands. Cllr. Carolan queried if these cuts would affect Monaghan Co. Council’s request for funding to upgrade the OPDs in Cloughvalley. The Town Manager informed the meeting that he had met with Department officials to discuss this along with other issues and he was hopeful that this funding would be forthcoming in 2010 as these works had been classified under regeneration programmes.

The members were informed that a letter had been received from Hudsons Funfair, regarding the use of the Drummond-Etra car-park on St. Patrick’s Day. It was agreed to put this matter on the agenda for the January meeting.

4. Reports:

- (a). Water (b). Sewerage.

The Town Clerk advised the members that there were no updates on the situation regarding water and sewerage services in the town since the November monthly meeting.

Cllr. McNally said that he was alarmed by the state of repair of Main Street and suggested that the contractors are requested to put a temporary surface in this location, as it was dangerous to both motorists and pedestrians. Cllr. Carthy queried the delay in reopening the Donaghmoyne Road and was informed that the contractors had been waiting on a specific part to complete the job, and it was envisioned that the traffic lights would be removed before Christmas.

c. Housing.

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that Carrickmacross Town Council had now spent its entire housing allocation for 2009 and had purchased seven houses to add to their stock. She went on to say that the allocation of the last two were in progress.

5. Resolution in respect of Peace III funding

The Town Manager advised the meeting that an application for funding under this programme had been made in respect of the two sports projects for Carrickmacross. He said that the works outlined would cost €750,000, which would be 100% grant aided if the application was successful. He said that the works included were astro-turf pitches at the Phoenix Centre, as well as funding towards the ACES Project at Convent Lands. He went on to say that the decision making process under this scheme was slow, and that there was only a minimal chance of success. On the proposal of Cllr. Carthy, seconded by Cllr. O’Hanlon, the application was unanimously supported and the members thanked the Manager for his foresight in putting in the application.

6. Nomination of delegate to An Coiste Gaeilge and SPC.

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan seconded by Cllr. Carthy, it was agreed that Cllr. Kerr-Conlon would be the Council’s representative to “An Coiste Gaeilge”.

In regard to the nomination of a SPC representative from the Town Council, Cllr. Carolan stated that she was a standing member on the Housing SPC and wished to continue to be so. It was unanimously agreed to nominate Cllr. Carolan on the proposal of Cllr. Clarke seconded by Cllr. Kerr-Conlon.

7. Set date for Annual Budget Meeting, 2010.

It was unanimously decided that the Statutory Budget meeting would be held at 4:00 p.m on Monday the 11th of January, 2010 following the January monthly meeting. It was further decided to hold the sub-budget committee meeting on Monday the 21st of December, 2009 at 3:00 p.m.

8. Set date for JPC meeting.

It was unanimously agreed to hold the next J.P.C. meeting on Thursday the 4th of February, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

9. Consideration of proposal for relocation of Taxi Rank.

Since correspondence from An Garda Síochána regarding this issue had not been received to date, it was unanimously agreed to postpone this discussion until the observations of the Gardaí were in hand.

10. Manager's Orders.

Manager's orders nos. 63/09 to 70/09 was noted by the members.

11. Planning Applications.

The following planning application, received since the November monthly meeting, was noted by the members:-

Ref. No.

09/12

Development Description.

Applicant: - Mr. Damien McMahon

Proposal: - Two-storey dwelling, connection to existing services and access from existing estate road and associated site works at Beech Drive, Carrickmacross.

12. Conferences.

It was unanimously agreed that Cllrs. Kerr-Conlon and O'Hanlon would attend the Antrim Tourism Conference.

13. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations.

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

Ms. Ann Byrne, Donaghmoyné Road on the death of her father.

The Dolan family on the death of Ms. Margaret Dolan in Co. Leitrim.

Mr. Eddie Lee on the death of his brother Michael.

Hugh O'Carroll, Lisanisk on the death of his brother Fr. Andy O'Carroll.

Ms. Bridie Sullivan, Highfield on the death of her sister Mary Quigley.

A vote of congratulations was passed with the following:-

The Donaghmoyné Ladies GAA team on winning the All Ireland Senior Club Championship, 2009.

14. Any Other Business.

The members thanked Cllr. Kerr-Conlon for hosting a wonderful Christmas Party the previous Friday night.

The members discussed their recent meeting with representatives from Bus Éireann and it was noted that there are possibilities for new bus shelters to be erected at different locations in the town.

The members voiced their opposition to the upcoming plans to the Eirgrid project, and to its imminent planning application.

It was noted by the members that no response had been received from An Post regarding the provision of a post box in the vicinity of Highfield.

The members unanimously agreed to write to the Principals at both Scoil Rois and Bunscoil Lughaidh Naofa asking them to urge the parents to refrain from dropping children directly outside the school, as it was causing serious traffic congestion as well

as posing serious risks to the children's safety. It was further agreed to liaise with the School Warden on possible solutions to the problems in this area.

The Town Engineer told Cllr. McNally that the Co. Council were looking into possible traffic calming measures at Walsh's Shop, O'Neill Street to protect children exiting St. Joseph's National School.

It was agreed to write to Collins' Bus Service and, while advising them that the Council were very satisfied with the service they were providing, ask them to look at the possibility of providing a service directly to the Airport at peak times.

Cllr. Kerr-Conlon urged the elected members and members of the public to be vigilant when observing dog owners who allow their pets to foul the public footpaths without cleaning up after them. It was agreed to issue a press release with the County Council notifying the public of the fines and penalties incurred for those found guilty of this offence.

The members unanimously supported a notification from "World Harmony" who is planning to hold a torch run through the town on the 27th of February, 2010.

The Town Manager informed the members that for Carrickmacross to be included in the Kelvin Project, to upgrade broadband for the area, it would cost in region of €1 million. He agreed to investigate alternative telecom projects which would cost substantially less, such as connecting to ESB telecoms facility in Louth village.

The Town Manager informed the members that he had met that morning with the Contractors for the new Council offices at Convent Lands and stated that it was expected that a planning application would be submitted in January, 2010 and they hoped to begin works in March/April. He urged local sub-contractors to contact Sisk, the successful tenderer, if they were interested in securing sub-contracting works.

Meeting concluded at 4:00p.m.

Meara Bhaile

Town Clerk

11th January, 2010.

Date