

Minutes of Youghal Town Council held on 15th May, 2012 in the Mall House, Youghal at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Mayor Eoin Coyne, presided.

Cllrs. Linehan Foley, Revins, Burke, Hennessy, O' Connell & Murray.

Apologies were received from Cllr. Flanagan & Cllr. Beecher

Officials Present: Mrs. Patricia Power, Town Manager.

Mr. Liam Ryan, Town Clerk.

Mrs. Helen Mulcahy, Staff Officer.

Mr. Paul Murray, Executive Engineer.

Opening Prayers:

The members and officials recited the opening prayers.

Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 10th April, 2012:

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on 10th April were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Hennessy and seconded by Cllr. Linehan Foley and unanimously adopted by the Members.

Report of the Town Clerk on matters arising since the Meeting of 10th April 2012.

Seawall Collapse at Moll Goggin's Corner, Youghal:

At approximately 1pm on Wednesday 9th May 2012 there was a wall collapse at Lighthouse Road, Youghal. This wall is situated on the East side of the Regional Road R634 into Youghal just north of Moll Goggin's Corner. The wall supports and protects the R364 and footpath, a Regional Road under the responsibility of Cork County Council. The wall varies in height from 10.5m to 14m above High Water level. The parapet wall constructed on top of the retaining wall also collapsed. The footpath adjacent to the retaining wall remained intact but has been partially undermined.

Cork County Council and Youghal Town Council personnel were immediately on hand and secured the area. The footpath has been closed and pedestrians and traffic moved away from the collapsed wall section. An Garda Síochána assisted with traffic control during the setting up of the traffic management controls and security fencing. It is very fortunate that no one was injured in the collapse.

The wall is of stone masonry construction. The section that collapsed measures 8m long by 13m high and this collapsed onto the rocks below leaving the medium dense brown sandy gravel behind exposed to the elements. This wall did form a protective parapet of approximately 1.05m above the adjacent public footpath. This public footpath has been undermined by up to 700mm and has been closed. Alternative protected walking arrangements have now been provided on the roadway with the appropriate Traffic Management in place.

In 2009 JODA Consulting Engineers were commissioned to do a report on the two adjacent viewing balconies and the intermediate wall and some of the conclusions in their Report are as follows:-

“It was found that that the stone masonry retaining walls in the study area are in relatively good condition and do not exhibit any signs of major structural distress. There are some areas of localised damage from the effect of the sea and remedial measures have been proposed. A stability analysis indicated that the factors of safety against failure of the walls were very low and generally less than one. The wall along the Front Strand Road is of poorer original construction than walls in other sections of the study area and proposals for strengthening this wall by soil nailing/rock anchoring and shotcreting were given.

The effect of erosion on the small headlands of rock and overburden soil embankments between the stone masonry walls, were gradual. In some areas the overburden embankments have very steep slopes and are relatively close to the road. Therefore any large failure of the embankments may affect the road. In areas where this is possible remedial measures have been proposed consisting of new retaining sea walls, use of rock armour and re-grading of slopes.

There are two viewing platforms within the study area and both these have suffered structural damage. The platform near Moll Goggin’s Corner could be repaired once the embankment below the platform was stabilised. However a better long term solution would be to reconstruct the platform on more secure foundations. The platform nearer the lighthouse should be demolished and replaced with a new structure.

The assessment of the roadside stone masonry wall has indicated that the wall is only suitable for a low level of containment. Given that the height of the road above the beach level constitutes a significant hazard, a larger level of vehicle containment is required. The most cost effective way of achieving this would be to construct a new separate vehicle safety barrier along the edge of the footpath: this may involve a relocation of the road carriageway to the west. Alternative solutions would include rebuilding or strengthening the existing wall but these would be expensive and disruptive.

Repairs to the erosion of the concave sections of wall located at the base of the masonry retaining wall should be carried out immediately”. Regrettably no funding was available at the time to Cork County Council to carry out these repairs.

Cork County Council have appointed JODA, John O’ Donovan & Associates, Engineering Consultants, Model Farm Road, Cork on an emergency contract to provide the necessary geotechnical and structural engineering advice on the ongoing stability of the road adjacent to the collapse and safety for road users until a new retaining wall is constructed. The reconstruction of the wall will be a challenging engineering project given the location and restricted access to the base of the wall. Cork County Council has previously sought funding from the Office of Public Works for works to combat coastal erosion along this area. Following the collapse the Council has been in contact with the OPW and will now be seeking funding for an emergency contract to address the situation caused by coastal erosion. The Council will continue to monitor the situation carefully.

The Council would advise the public not to approach the area on the beach below the wall collapse in the meantime.

The Members spoke at length in relation to the collapse of the wall and expressed their concern and disappointment that problems which were highlighted as far back as 2009 were not taken more seriously and dealt with back then and such a disaster prevented.

The Manager stated that JODA had been commissioned to prepare a preliminary report including a traffic management plan and also monitor the area. An application will then be made to the OPW for emergency funding. The Manager also reported that the OPW have indicated that they are amenable to providing emergency funding.

The Members also agreed to write formally to the OPW to support the application for funding.

Votes of Congratulations:

The Members proposed a vote of congratulations to the following:

1. High Spirits on their recent show.
2. The Irish & HM Coastguard Organisations on the recent two day event.
3. To Cllr. Murray who has been nominated by Fine Gael to be Cork County Council's next Mayor.
4. Youghal4All & Youghal Tidy Towns on the recent beach clean-up.

Votes of Sympathy:

The Members proposed a unanimous vote of sympathy to Agnes Kenefick on the death of William 'Nooche' Kenefick a former Councillor and Chairman of Youghal Urban District Council. A minutes silence was observed by the members for the late William 'Nooche' Kenefick.

Votes of sympathy were also passed to the following:

1. Mary O'Donoghue, Dominic Collins Place on the death of her sister Teresa.
2. Alice Mangan, Dominic Collins Place on the death of her husband Sonny.
3. The Lane Family, Dermot Hurley Estate on the death of Paddy Lane.
4. Paul Curley, Quarry Road on the death of his wife June.
5. Liam Power, Dermot Hurley Estate on the death of his wife Dolly.

Town Foreman's Report:

The Town Foreman's Report on works carried out from 6th April to the 10th May was brought to the attention of the Members and noted. Arising from the report the following items were raised:

1. Provision of bollards at top of promenade. The Members agreed to defer this matter to the June Meeting for further consideration.
2. Overgrown shrubbery at the Mill Road Roundabout.
3. Re-location of parking sign outside 'Team Bailey'.
4. Damaged Telecom Cover outside Conn Keoghs.
5. Cracks in sections of the Promenade footpath at the Front Strand.
6. Missing stopcocks at top of Blackwater Heights.
7. Smell coming from pumping station in Raheen Road, Youghal.
8. Metal spikes on railing at the Mall Beach.
9. Commencement date for works on Diving Rocks – 2 weeks.

County Council Items:

Engineer's Report on Items raised at April Meeting:

1. A recommendation has been made to the Town Clerk with regard to the appointment of a Contractor for works to the Diving Rocks. Work is expected to start shortly and take about 3 weeks.
2. The water leak at Chapel Lane has been repaired by the dwelling owner.
3. Report on the wall collapse at the Lighthouse Road. Following the wall collapse at Lighthouse Road, Consulting Engineers, JODA have been commissioned to carry out the following:
 - a. Inspect and evaluate the collapsed area.
 - b. Determine the stability of the un-retained ground to support the road above and advise on the ongoing safe maintenance of pedestrian and vehicular traffic past the area.
 - c. Determine emergency measures to address the risk of further collapse in the short-term until permanent works can be carried out.
 - d. Develop a monitoring programme and procure and supervise a surveying company to carry this out.
 - e. Prepare an addendum report to the 2008 Preliminary Report, highlighting areas of further erosion and reporting on the current collapse. This report should include prioritisation and preliminary cost estimates for priority works. (The 2008 report was commissioned for the 2 no. adjacent viewing balconies and the intermediate wall).
 - f. Assist in the application for funding to the OPW.
 - g. Design of further Temporary Traffic Management Plans (if required).
 - h. Additional site inspections as required.
 - i. Act as PSDP.

Once JODA have reported back (target is end of this week) Cork County Council will then be in a position to make a decision how to proceed with procuring the design of works etc.

Also on foot of the recommendations from the Consultant Engineer, an application for the emergency works will be submitted immediately to the OPW – it is envisaged that this will also be submitted by the end of this week.

Please note that JODA have assessed the traffic situation and a temporary traffic management plan has been put in place for pedestrians and road users.

The following items were also raised:

1. Move Hackney Space at South Main Street.
2. Double yellow lines for Copperalley Close.
3. Remove car parking space outside Broderick's Hardware.
4. Damaged stone wall at Railway Bridge.
5. Defaced roadsign on the New Line.
6. Flooding on Mill Road – The Town Engineer stated that this matter had been rectified.

Managers Orders:

Managers Order no's 56/2012 to 72/2012 were brought to the attention of the Council and noted.

Planning Applications:

The Members were informed that no planning applications were received.

Further Information Received:

The Members were informed that no further information was received.

Disposal of Properties:

The Members were informed that there were no disposals.

Mayors Business:

The Mayor informed the Members of the following:

1. The AGM would be held on Tuesday 19th June, 2012.

Draft Casual Trading Bye-Laws 2012:

The Town Clerk circulated the Members with Draft Casual Trading Bye-Laws 2012.

On the proposal of Cllr. Linehan Foley which was seconded by Cllr. Revins the Members unanimously agreed to proceed to the public consultation process.

Active Travel Towns Initiative:

The Town Clerk circulated the Members with information in relation to this initiative. The Members welcomed the Scheme and hoped that the application for funding the strategy would be successful

Historic Towns Initiative:

The Town Clerk circulated the Members with information in relation to this initiative. The Members again welcomed the Scheme, particularly the fact that Youghal was chosen as one of these towns Nationally to pilot the initiative.

Youghal Heritage Trail:

The Town Clerk circulated the Members with a copy of the Heritage Trail Booklet produced by Kieran Groeger. The Members extended a Vote of Congratulations to Kieran Groeger on his hard work and congratulated him on the booklet.

Funding Allocations:

- 1) Phase IV of works to Town Walls – the Town Clerk advised the Members that €30,000 had been allocated to this project by The Heritage Council.
- 2) Youghal Medieval Festival 2012 - the Town Clerk advised the Members that €8,000 had been allocated to this project by The Heritage Council.

Youghal Lighthouse and Light Keepers Cottage:

The Town Clerk circulated to the Members details of an independent valuation which was obtained in respect of the Light Keepers Cottage. The Members asked the Town Clerk if he would negotiate further with the Commissioner of Irish Lights and revert back to them in due course.

The Grid Link:

The Town Clerk circulated to the Members details of the public consultation process in relation to the Grid Link Project.

Rapid Report:

Cllr. Revins informed the Members of the following updates in relation to RAPID:

1. All applications endorsed for Sports Capital Funds.
2. Care worker in place in the coming weeks – will assist with family support group and homework club.
3. FAS have announced 6 new courses for Youghal.
4. Training Days announced for Residents Network.

Youghal Pipe Band Letter:

It was agreed that a Member of Youghal Town Council would sit on the organising committee for the St. Patricks Day Parade. This would be decided at the AGM and the nominated Councillor would sit on this Committee for the remaining term of the Council.

Correspondence:

1. Letter from IBAL in relation to the 2012 IBAL Anti Litter League: Special Business Award.
2. Notice from TJK Conferences in relation to Planning Seminar for Councillors.
3. Notice of Motion received from Skibbereen Town Council. "That this Council call on Phil Hogan, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government to withdraw any plans to abolish Town Councils".
4. Notice from Kadenza Consultancies in relation to a Seminar in relation to the Syndrome of Cash for Gold.
5. Notice from Kadenza Consultancies in relation to a Seminar on "Bord Gais to Reform the Water Sector in Ireland".
6. Letter from the Queen of the Sea Committee thanking Youghal Town Council for their support with the recent Donkey Derby.
7. A letter from Youghal Community Centre thanking Youghal town Council for their recent grant.
8. Letter from The Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in relation to the observation of a minute of silent reflection in memory of all those who suffered loss during the Great Famine.
9. Letter from An Taisce in relation to the IBAL Anti Litter League 2012.
10. A letter from Veronica Condon in relation to the services provided by the Department of Social Protection.
11. A notice from TGR Seminars in relation to a Development Seminar for Councillors.
12. Motion received from Donegal County Council: "Can this Council call on the Minister for Social Protection to allow for Unemployed Self Employed Individuals to gain social welfare payments from the date of non-employment thus helping stop the unemployed entrepreneur brain drain from our County and Country".
13. Motion received from Donegal County Council: "That this Council requests the Department to allocate the necessary Funding to meet the demand for Pensions and Redundancy caused by implementation of Government Policy".
14. Motion received from Donegal County Council: "Given that presently we are experiencing the highest ever prices of fuel in Ireland and the fact that 57% of this cost is duty, we call on the FG/LAB Government to reduce this tax immediately and introduce a fuel stabiliser which would reduce duty as oil prices rise into the future".
15. Notice from TGR Seminars in relation to a Seminar on Development Workshop for Councillors.

16. Motion received from Nenagh Town Council: “Nenagh Town Council calls on minister Shatter to roll out a National Programme of Restorative Justice expanding the work currently taking place in the Nenagh and Tallaght projects. The existing adult projects provide an alternative method of dealing with certain categories of offences and offenders and have proven results in terms of cost effectiveness and rates of reoffending”.

17. A notice from Superior Training in relation to a Seminar for The Councillor and Local Government Reform.

18. A notice from TGR Seminars in relation to a Development Seminar for Councillors. 19. An e-mail from Superior Training in relation to seminars on

1) The Councillor and Local Government Reform and

2) The Councillor and the Environment.

20. Motion received from Bandon Town Council: “That Bandon Town Council would write to the Minister for the Environment and ask for a public review of the legislation with regard to use of Fluoride in the Irish Public Water System”.

Any Other Business:

The Members sought an update in relation to the ALDI planning. A decision on his appeal to An Bord Pleanala has been deferred by the Bord to the 23rd June.

The Town Clerk reminded the Members to hand in the completed petition forms in respect of the Boardwalk – the Members agreed that they were given great support . This concluded the business of the meeting.