

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Youghal Town Council held on the 8th of January 2007 at the Mall House, Youghal at 8.00 p.m.

Present:

Mayor Sammy Revins presided.

Cllrs. Linehan Foley, Savage, Casey, Burke, McLellan, Hennessy, Beecher and Murray.

Officials

Mr. Declan Daly, Substitute Asst. County Manager, Mr. Liam Ryan, Town Clerk, Ms. Katherine Donoher, Act. Staff Officer, Mr. Ger Lupton, Town Foreman, Mr. Paul Murray, Town Engineer and Mr. Des Heffernan, Senior Architect.

Present:

Opening Prayers:

The members and officials recited the opening prayers.

Town Development Plan 2003-2009 Review:

Des Heffernan circulated his report on the review of the Council's performance in relation to the objectives of the plan. He informed the members that the next plan was to be adopted in 2009. Youghal Town Council will commence the process shortly starting with publishing of its notice of intention to prepare a new plan. Mr. Heffernan, informed the meeting that it is a long process but that its one that cannot be rushed.

Cllr. Casey raised three issues with the Architect

1. Carry out repairs to Quay Walls,
2. Carry out flood relief measures,
3. Upgrade Front Strand Promenade.

Cllr. Casey informed the meeting that these were issues that need to be addressed immediately.

Cllr. Murray raised the issue of lands at the Mudlands that was currently zoned open space. Cllr. Murray asked Mr. Heffernan if it would be possible to re-zone this area and put forward new objectives for same. Mr. Heffernan informed the member that re-zoning of lands was a matter for the elected members.

Cllr. Murray also enquired as to the feasibility of preparing a retail strategy for the main street with the possibility of a tax incentive scheme to attract investment to the town and preserve the streetscape throughout the town. Mr. Heffernan informed the member that the main street is contained within a Architectural Conservation Area and that the streetscape etc. cannot be changed without the consent through planning of the Local Authority.

Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 11th December 2006:

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on 11th December 2006 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Linehan Foley and seconded by Cllr. McLellan.

Town Clerk's Report on Matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th December 2006:

The Town Clerk gave a report to the Members based on the minutes of the meeting held on 11th December 2006.

HOUSING & BUILDING:

1. I have just received confirmation in the last week from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Housing Estate Management Section that they have approved the appointment of a Tenant Liaison Officer on a twelve month contract for Youghal town for 2007. The amount of the grant approved by the Department is a maximum of €41,000 which includes salary expenses and training for both the proposed Tenant Liaison Officer and Residents Associations. I have formally written to the Personnel Officer of Cork County Council to commence the advertisement process as quickly as possible. When I have more news of same I will revert back to the members in due course.

2. Heatwave Plumbing and Heating Services have commenced work on the installation of the oil fired central heating in approximately 20 houses in Dermot Hurley Estate. It is anticipated that this work will take the best part of three months to complete and we anticipate that the heating systems in all houses should be up and running by the end of March 2007.

3. As the members are aware Ms. Lorraine Hogan, Rapid Coordinator for Youghal is currently on maternity leave until approximately August 2007. The Cork County Development Board have appointed Ms. Ciara McGee to replace Ms. Hogan during this period. Ms. McGee will be starting work as the replacement Rapid Coordinator on today Monday January 08th.

ROADS & TRANSPORTATION:

1. Roadworks in respect of the provision of 12 extra car parking spaces in the middle centre of Blackwater Heights have been completed. They have included footpath restoration and the tarmacing of an area suitable to accommodate 12 new car parking spaces. These spaces will be lined during the Spring period when the weather is suitable for so doing and safety signs will be erected at that time as well. There is a certain amount of planting which will be required and this will be carried out during the February/ March period once the weather improves.

WATER:

1. The reservoirs are at full storage capacity currently with a daily average consumption over the Christmas period ranging from between 570,000 and 585,000 gallons per day.

SEWERS:

1. All sewers and pumping stations are currently running without any restrictions.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT:

1. Three significant planning applications were received by Youghal Town Council during the month of December. They are namely:

a. An application from the Health Services Executive South for a thirty bed singly storey residential unit of five dwellings with shared service areas and associated site works including a boiler house, oil storage tank, ESB Sub Station and switch room, bin room, generator and sub

station at St. Raphael's Centre, Magner's Hill, Youghal. The works also include an upgrade of part of the boundary fencing and an alteration to the existing bungalow entrance to form a new entrance off the main road with a new low stone wall. Works to be carried out to the protected structure include a new entrance gateway and removal of part of the existing ditch and rubble stone wall and upgrading this to vehicular access.

b. An application from Murphy Construction for the construction of 109 residential units comprising 8 no. apartments in a four storey block, six no. 2 storey three bed semi detached houses, 16 no. two storey three bed town houses, five no. two storey four bedroom town houses and 74 no. two bed duplex town houses apartments in two storey blocks over a partial lower ground level. It also comprises a new access roadway, connections to the relevant public services, landscaping and ancillary works at Bawnmore, Magners Hill, Youghal.

c. An application from McInerney Homes Ltd. for the first phase of a residential development comprising of site clearance to include the demolition of Whitebarn House and its existing out buildings and the construction of 298 no. residential units consisting of 3 no. detached 122 no. semi-detached, 101 no. terraced, 38 no. apartments and 34 no. duplex units together with the provision of a 675m² crèche and the construction of a new vehicular entrance and access road at Upper Cork Hill. It also involves the reservation of lands for future commercial/residential and open space uses and includes all necessary car parking, play areas, landscaping and site development works at Sweetfields, Whitebarn, Youghal. A presentation was made to the members of Youghal Town Council on this development by McInerney Homes at the Mall House, Youghal on the 04th January last.

OPEN SPACES:

1. Youghal Town Council Staff carried out the following works in the month of December:

a) The decorating and reorganisation of offices in the Sacred Heart Convent to facilitate the commencement of construction on the Enterprise Centre there.

b) Cut back all the gardens to the rear of the flats in the centre of Dermot Hurley Estate.

c) Repaired kerbs at the junction of Spa Hill and Dermot Hurley Estate which are constantly being damaged by heavy vehicular traffic in that area.

2. Continued on the stone facing of the boundary wall at Claycastle Leisure Centre and it is anticipated that this work will be completed by the first week of February and that our staff will then move on to the Town Walls where they will start work on the provision of the Sally Port entrances and the heritage walks through St. Mary's College Gardens and St. Mary's Collegiate Church.

3. A further submission has been made to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government on the details of the new railings and gateways for the Sally Port for their approval. As the members are aware the Department have already approved the concept in general and are now just approving the design of the gates and railings etc.

MISCELLANEOUS:

1. The full Manager's Report and Draft Budget has been prepared and is set for debate and formal approval at the Budget Meeting being held on January 08. (tonight). As soon as formal approval is given for this budget then orders can be placed for the new toilet provision at the Market Square and the tendering process for the construction of the Enterprise Centre at St. Mary's College can commence.

Votes of Congratulations:

There were no votes of congratulations.

Votes of Sympathy:

The members proposed a vote of sympathy to the following:

1. Cora Barrett on the death of her husband Eddie.

Cllr. Burke thanked the members for the wreaths received and the attendance of the members at the removal/funeral of his late mother.

Town Foreman's Report:

The Town Foreman's Report on works carried out from December 07th 2006 to January 8th, 2007 was brought to the attention of the members and noted. Arising from the report the following items were raised:

1. Pothole at the Entrance to Ardan Na Mara, Seafield. The Town Foreman informed the meeting that this issue had been addressed.
2. Paving works at Church Street and parking arrangements for residents.
3. Derelict appearance of Collins Bakery site (library site).
4. Diving rocks, railing needs to be addressed.
5. Possibility of additional lighting for North Abbey Cemetery to combat anti-social behaviour.
6. Additional lighting at Barrack Road, opposite Woodview Court.
7. Tree that was dug up in Sweetfield Estate needs to be removed.
8. A lot of problems being encountered by residents of Sweetfield Estate at the turning area in the estate. The Town Clerk informed the member that this is an ongoing problem on which he has spoken to the residents on numerous occasions.
9. Disabled parking space at Raheen Park.
10. Taxi Ranks for Youghal.
11. Stone at Seaview Place no numbers on it.

12. Double yellow lines at Raheen Crescent and Raheen Park need to be repainted.
13. Yellow box at Carlton Place.
14. Potholes at the bottom of Cork Hill.
15. Possibility of putting double yellow lines on right hand side of Hillview Estate.
16. Boundary between Sweetfield Estate and Oakhill needs to be tidied up. The Town Clerk informed the member that no work can be done until the estate is taken in charge.
17. Life buoys on the quays need to be checked.
18. A brief discussion ensued on the dangerous condition of Poison Bush. The Town Clerk informed the meeting that this was a private lane and responsibility rests with the owners.
19. Stop sign at road leaving Ardan Na Mara in Seafield.

County Council Items:

Report by Cllr. Murray:

Cllr. Murray informed the members that Youghal and surrounding areas experienced a lot of flooding over the past few months. The member informed the meeting that the NRA had been made aware of the flooding issues on the Bye-Pass and that she was confident it would be addressed in the short term.

Cllr. Murray informed the members that a development meeting to decide on a spend programme for 2007 was to be held on 19th January, 2007 and €100,000 had been secured for the Enterprise Centre at St. Mary's College.

The new Manager, Martin Riordan would be taking office on 19th February, 2007.

Cllr. Casey expressed his thanks to Cllr. Murray for securing the funding for the Enterprise Centre.

County Council Items:

1. Outfall at Front Strand.
2. Blue flag status for Redbarn beach.
3. Sign for Summerdale Lawn – The Town Engineer informed the meeting that this sign was with the developer.
4. Footpath from Summerfield Cross to the Swimming Pool.
5. Any update on the library site. The Manager informed the member that he would have a report for the next meeting.

6. Recycling of plastics at the Landfill. The Manger informed the meeting he had no update and did not think the service would be recommencing any time soon.

7. Speed limit at Cock and Bull/Quarry Road. The Town Engineer informed the meeting that this was being reviewed on a county wide basis.

8. There's a sign currently at Cock and Bull for Dungourney. Can this be replaced with a sign for Mount Uniack/Inch.

9. Have the owners been identified for the trees at Kilnatoora.

10. Seepage at Moll Goggins Corner, coming out from Harbour View. The Engineer informed the meeting that a sample had been taken and that he was awaiting a report on same.

Managers Orders:

Managers Orders nos. 313/06 and 330/06 were brought to the attention of the Council and noted.

Cllr. Linehan Foley raised the issue of Manager's Order no. 324/06 – Enforcement Notice issued on Mr. Sean Twomey for the unauthorised development at 72 North Main Street – use of premises as a fast food takeaway. Cllr. Linehan Foley enquired as to the opening hours of fast food takeaways. The Town Clerk informed the member that this was an issue that was determined by the granting of planning permission.

Planning Applications:

Planning application nos. P58072/06, P58073/06, P58074/06 P58075/06, P58076/06, P58077/06, & P58078/06 were brought to the attention of the Council and noted.

Further Information:

No further information was received.

Mayor's Business:

No Mayor's business.

Disposal of Properties:

No Disposal of Properties.

Archaeological and Geographical Assessment Of the College Gardens:

The Town Clerk circulated a copy of the Archaeological and Geographical Assessment of the College Gardens that was prepared by Mr. Daniel Noonan, Archaeologist to the members of the Council for their observations and information. Youghal has been widely recognised as having a rich and varied heritage resource. With this in mind Youghal Town Council commissioned the drawing up of a Heritage Led Regeneration Strategy in 2005 as a way of addressing issues of concern regarding the economic and physical rehabilitation of the historic core of the town. One of the key objectives identified in the strategy is the necessity to improve the quality of the public realm, particularly providing appropriate access to and promotion of important historical and archaeological sites. The College and Gardens at Emmet Place are in the care and ownership

of Youghal Town Council and the Council has taken a major lead in promoting this site of major local, national and international importance. Youghal Town Council is to erect appropriate signage at relevant historical sites including the Gardens.

Cllr. Casey expressed his thanks to Mr. Noonan for this detailed report which was concurred with by the members of the Council.

Cllr. Burke informed the meeting that he believed the recommendation for the compilation of a Strategic Management Action Plan needed to be proceeded with immediately.

Mr. Noonan recommended the following:

1. Strategic Management/Action Plan,
2. Research, Analysis, and Publication,
3. Further investigation,
4. Tourism and Marketing,
5. Avenues of Support and Funding (internal and external).

The recommendations and report as submitted by Mr. Noonan for the Gardens was adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Linehan Foley and seconded by Cllr. Burke. It was recommended that these recommendations were brought up at the Budget Sub Committee meeting for 2008 for funding.

Correspondence:

1. A letter received from Bus Eireann in relation to the motion submitted by Cllr. Revins.
2. Letter from IBAL and a certificate in relation to obtaining the litter free status for Youghal in the 2006 Anti Litter League.
3. An appreciation card from the family of the late Eamonn Keane.
4. The following motion was received from Cobh Town Council:
"That money be made available for the purchase of a gum removing machine in the forthcoming Budget to improve the façade of our town".
5. The following motion was received from Letterkenny Town Council:
"That before engaging outside contractors or any other external personnel to carry out work for, or on behalf of this Council in future, that a written guarantee confirming that all employees engaged or sub-contracted by these companies while working for or on behalf of this Council, are being afforded their full statutory labour rights and entitlements, and that these are sought and obtained before signing contracts in the same way as the Council demands proof of insurance cover, tax clearances etc."

6. A letter from Cork County Council in relation to the production of a CD ROM in relation to the 2nd edition of the County Development Plan 2003, the 10 no. Local Area Plans, 3 no. Special Local Area Plans and the Cork Rural Design Guide.

7. A letter from the National Building Agency in relation to their Annual Report and Accounts 2005.

8. A letter from Cork County Council in relation to amendments to A) Electoral Area Local Area Plan; and B) Variation to the County Development Plan 2003.

9. Brochures from cedce in relation to their International Conference 2007.

Circularised Correspondence:

1. National Building Agency Review of 2006, Annual Report and Accounts 2005

2. LAN Local Authority News Volume 27.

3. Eurolink Newsletter.

4. Action on Poverty Today Brochure.

5. Construction Magazine December 2006/January 2007.

6. Spectrum Issue 13.

Any Other Business:

1. The members asked the Town Clerk if there was any update on the re-opening of Youghal Garda Station. The Town Clerk informed the meeting that no decision could be made until the appointment of a new Superintendent for the Area.

This concluded the business of the meeting.