

Minutes of Budget Meeting of Youghal Town Council held on 10th January, 2014 at 10.00 a.m. in the Mall House, Youghal.

Present:

Mayor Sammy Revins presided.

Cllrs. Linehan Foley, Revins, O'Connell, Flanagan, O' Sullivan and Murray.

Officials Present:

Mr. Derek O' Gorman, Town Manager.

Mrs. Helen Mulcahy, Town Clerk.

Mrs. Geraldine O' Connell, Clerical Officer.

Opening Prayers:

The members and officials recited the opening prayers.

Suspension of Standing Orders:

The Mayor called for the suspension of Standing Orders to discuss the damage to the Boardwalk.

Cllr. Murray stated that while it is very evident that the most expensive part of the Boardwalk (the piles) were still in place it would still prove to be very expensive to reinstate same and as the Boardwalk is a fantastic amenity to the town the Council would have to move as quickly as possible to replace same.

Cllr. Burke informed the Members that he was appalled by the damage caused in the aftermath of the storm and stated that some serious questions have to be raised in relation to the screws used to secure the top decking to the substructure of the Boardwalk. Cllr. Burke questioned the adequacy of the design and protection of the Boardwalk as the front and back beams were not bolted into the concrete piles. Cllr. Burke also stated that the 3 or 4 sections of the Boardwalk that are still intact were protected by timber steps which stopped the waves from going underneath and felt the only way for protection of the whole project was the installation of rock armour.

The Town Clerk informed the Members that no blame was to be apportioned to anybody for the damage caused by the atrocious weather conditions. The Boardwalk had been designed and built to the highest specifications and approved by Failte Ireland. The Town Clerk stated that the following 4 factors contributed to the demise of the Boardwalk:

1. Combination of strong winds.
2. Low pressure
3. Tidal surges
4. Massive lateral movement of sand.

The Town Clerk stated that the overall design would be revisited and improved on where, and if, possible. The Town Clerk also informed the Members that the economic & social benefits of the Boardwalk were immeasurable to the town of Youghal and it would be detrimental to the Town not to consider replacing it.

The Manager informed the Members that he had inspected the Boardwalk on Wednesday last and stated that Cork County Council are fully committed to seeing the project through to full completion. The Manager also informed the Members that he would be liaising with the Coastal Protection Unit for their assistance and advice as to what could be done to protect the Boardwalk.

The Town Clerk informed the members that the cost of the reinstatement of the Boardwalk could be

in the region of €90,000. The Town Clerk stated that some reserves were available in the Capital Account could be used to fund this – subject to the approval of the Members.

On the proposal of Cllr. Murray which was seconded by Cllr. Burke the members unanimously agreed to use the reserves in the Capital Account for the reinstatement of the Boardwalk.

The Town Clerk informed the Members that she will arrange a special meeting with the Engineers concerned and revert back to the Members with a date for same.

#### MANAGERS REPORT ON THE 2014 DRAFT BUDGET

The Manager presented the following report on the 2014 Draft Budget to the Members of the Council.

Dear Councillor,

It is with great sadness that I present to you the Draft Budget for 2014 for your consideration – the last ever Budget to be considered by Youghal Town Council prior to its transition to Cork County Council on the 1st June, 2014. Since its formation in 1899 Youghal Town Council has been the principal driving force behind the promotion and development of Youghal Town and its heritage, culture, tourism.

In our own right Youghal Town Council has been a significant employer within the Town and also a major contributor to employment in the Town and surrounding areas through its utilization of local businesses and contractors – we have always been one of the principal economic drivers. 2013 has been yet another year where so much has been achieved and many significant projects have been completed and progressed. To name but a few:

- a) The redevelopment of Nealons Quay Car Park and installation of the tulip umbrellas.
- b) The renovation of the Clock Gate
- c) Paving of the front of the Court House and Market House and Fire Station.
- d) New paving and footpaths at Emmet Place.
- e) Restoration of Section M of the Town Walls
- f) Repair of roof at St. Mary's Collegiate Church.
- g) Installation of Heritage Trail Signs at St. Marys Collegiate Church
- h) Re-branding of Raleigh Quarter and new heritage signs.
- i) Restoration of McDonalds Quay/Buttimer's Quay
- j) Resurfacing at St. Raphael's Cross, Chapel Lane & Raheen Park.
- k) Construction of Pitch & Putt Club house in partnership with Claycastle Pitch & Putt Club.
- l) Progression of Phase 1 of Motorhome Park at Claycastle.
- m) Landscaping and stone flower beds on the Breton Road.

None of these projects would happen without the dedication of Youghal Town Council staff, the support of its Town Councillors and the co-operation, support and generosity of so many Government Agencies – it is important that we maintain this momentum for the remainder of our tenure and continue to work hard to promote and develop Youghal for the remainder of 2014 and beyond.

I do not want to dwell too much on the negative of all of the above, I would rather focus on the positives of the draft Budget for 2014. Despite the challenges facing us and the ongoing difficulties in relation to finance, the proposed Budget will allow Youghal Town Council to at least maintain the same level of services it provided last year and complete a number of projects that have been ongoing.

To this end, particular provisions are being made for the following:

a) Seaview Place Refurbishment:

A total of 7 houses remain to be refurbished as part of this Scheme. Sufficient capital funds were available to commence the next three houses only. Provision is now made in the 2014 Budget to ensure the completion of the Scheme before June 2014.

b) Sea Wall at Nealons Quay:

As you are aware a sea wall was constructed around the South & East boundaries of the Nealons Quay Car Park – this wall has already been tested to the limit by the recent storms and prevented severe flooding of the car park and surrounding areas. The remaining section was omitted for cost reasons but the construction of same is now provided for in the 2014 Budget. This will ensure increased protection for the car park and surrounding areas from the elements.

As you are all aware the corners of the Market Dock and Buttimer's Quay are gateways for tidal surges which flood the Grattan Street, Catherine Street and Market Place areas. As a first phase of proposed works provision is now made for the construction of a small sea wall at the corner of the Market Dock and it is hoped that Cork County Council will deal with the corner of Buttimer's Dock in late 2014 or early 2015 to further alleviate the problems here.

The Members will recall that back in 2011 Youghal Town Council engaged the services of Jermyn Daly prepare a design plan for the landscape and development of the R634 from Greencloyne to the Rhincrew Roundabout. The works would involve both Waterford County Council and Cork County Council as well. To date Waterford County Council have carried out some landscaping works and in 2013 Youghal Town Council completed the first section of footpaths and also some landscaping works. Provision is also made in the 2014 Budget for the next tranche of works.

General Promotion & Tourism Development

Whilst it is not possible to increase contributions to the various voluntary and community groups, every effort has been made to maintain the 2013 levels. This Council has always acknowledged the tremendous contribution to society that each group makes and if at all possible will continue to acknowledge and fund same well beyond 2014.

The following are allocations proposed under the heading 'General Promotional & Tourism Development Work':

Youghal Socio Economic Development Group	7,000
Youghal Chamber of Commerce	13,000
Community Radio Youghal	3,000
Youghal United AFC	500
Youghal Rugby Football Club	500
Youghal Athletic Club	500
Meals on Wheels	750
Youghal Community Centre	700
Youghal Men's Social Club	300
Youghal Indoor Bowling Club	300
Cork Water Safety Group	300
CASA	300
Youghal Cycling Club	300

Youth Reach	300
Youghal Pigeon Club	300
Youghal4All	3,000
Family Fun Festival	2,000
Chernobyl Children Youghal	300
Youghal Community Bus	300
Youghal Celebrates History	300
East Cork Tourism	5,000
Motor Home Park	5,000
Lamour Plage Town Twinning	3,000
New Bedford Twinning	3,000

The following are allocations proposed under the heading 'General Contributions to other bodies':

Youghal Tidy Towns Committee	8,000
Pitch & Putt Club Project	10,000
Residents Associations	7,000
Residents Network Lawnmower	1,000
Youghal Pipe Band	700
Comhaltas	700
High Spirits	700
Choral Society	700
Musical Society	700
St. Patricks Day Parade	800

#### HISTORIC TOWNS INITIATIVE

Youghal has always been steeped in history and heritage and for the last number of years this is an area which we have focused on. The importance of Youghal as a Heritage Town and its potential to grow significantly in popularity as a major tourist/heritage attraction has also been recognised by Failte Ireland, The Heritage Council and the Department of Arts, Heritage, Culture & The Gaeltacht who have contributed very generously to the promotion and development of Youghal as a Heritage Town.

The inclusion of Youghal as one of only three pilot towns in Ireland to take part in the Heritage Towns Initiative reflects the esteem in which Youghal is held nationally. Funding was provided by all of the above mentioned Government Bodies which contributed to the redevelopment & promotion of areas such as the Market Square, Nealons Quay, St. Mary's Church, The Raleigh Quarter, The Town Walls, Emmet Place – the list is endless. The Heritage Council, The Department of Arts Heritage, Culture & The Gaeltacht and Failte Ireland have again expressed their willingness to continue to work with Youghal Town Council in 2014 to complete what the HTI set out to achieve. Provision has been made in the Budget for the progression of the redevelopment of the Barry's Lane/Market Square area in conjunction with Failte Ireland and The Heritage Council. The Pilot Programme ironically ends on the 31st May, 2014.

As the Members are aware the Clock Gate has been totally renovated – a project which has been very generously funded by SECAD. The progression of Phase II of the project which involves the fitting out of the Clock Gate was in serious doubt due to the reduction of government funding to Development Bodies such as SECAD. However, SECAD have advised us that they will be in a position

to fund this next phase – subject to match funding from Youghal Town Council – provision is now being made for this. I think everyone will agree the completion of the Clock Gate Project and the completion of the Market Square/Barry’s Lane redevelopment will transform the town centre.

#### Conclusion

I am sure the Members will appreciate that given the continuing very difficult financial climate and ongoing challenges facing Local Authorities - the draft Budget presented for your consideration is both fair and generous. Provision has been made for the completion or progression of many projects and for the most part the level of provision of essential services will remain at 2013 levels.

I would like to thank most sincerely, the Mayor & Members for your co-operation, understanding and support in these difficult times. I would also like to thank the Town Clerk and staff for all their assistance. Certainly Youghal Town Council works very well as a unified force, working for the advancement of Youghal and all its citizens. This is reflected in our continued levels of service and project delivery.

Cllr. Revins thanked the Manager for his report and for being so positive in the current economic climate. The Mayor also thanked the Town Clerk for her contribution towards the preparation of the 2014 Budget.

Cllr. Murray raised the issue of the Medieval Festival and asked if Youghal Town Council contributed any funding towards this festival. The Town Clerk informed the Members that this festival is funded in full by the Heritage Council but Youghal Town Council fund the labour side of the festival.

Cllr. Linehan Foley raised the issue of the Local Property Tax and asked what same would cost Youghal Town Council. The Town Clerk informed the Members that €32,000 was taken out of the 2014 Budget to cover same.

Cllr. Murray asked if any provision was made for the painting scheme. The Town Clerk informed the Members that no provision was made for same.

Cllr. Burke raised the issue of rates strike off and asked if any small element be retrieved from previous years. The Town Clerk informed the members that rate decrees are pursued on a monthly basis with a certain amount of rates recouped.

In accordance with the provision of the Local Government Act, 2001, The Manager presented the Budget showing the amounts which he considered necessary to meet the expenses and provide for the liabilities of the Council for the financial year ending 31/12/2014.

The Members unanimously adopted the following Programme Groups;

	Expenditure	Income
	€	€
A: Housing & Building:	383,858	1,061,020

Proposed by Cllr. Burke, Seconded by Cllr. O’ Sullivan and unanimously adopted by the Members.

	Expenditure	Income
	€	€
B: Road Transportation & Safety:	557,154	268,300

Proposed by Cllr. Murray, Seconded by Cllr. Linehan Foley and unanimously adopted by the Members.

	Expenditure	Income
	€	€
C: Water Services:	157,069	5,000

Proposed by Cllr. O' Sullivan, Seconded by Cllr. Revins and unanimously adopted by the Members.

	Expenditure	Income
	€	€
D: Development Management:	300,137	39,500

Proposed by Cllr. O' Sullivan, Seconded by Cllr. Revins and unanimously adopted by the Members.

	Expenditure	Income
	€	€
E: Environmental Services:	70,194	43,835

Proposed by Cllr. Murray, seconded by Cllr. O' Connell and unanimously adopted by the Members.

	Expenditure	Income
	€	€
F: Recreation & Amenity:	539,680	13,200

Proposed by Cllr. Hennessy, seconded by Cllr. Linehan Foley and unanimously adopted by the Members.

	Expenditure	Income
	€	€
G: Agri, Educ, Health & Welfare:	19,029	12,000

Proposed by Cllr. Linehan Foley , seconded by Cllr. Hennessy and unanimously adopted by the Members.

	Expenditure	Income
	€	€
H: Miscellaneous Services:	881,700	153,421

Proposed by Cllr. Murray, seconded by Cllr. Linehan Foley and unanimously adopted by the Members.

The Draft Budget 2014 for Youghal Town Council as presented by the Manager was adopted on the proposal of Cllr. O' Connell, seconded by Cllr. Burke and unanimously agreed by the members of the Council.

The General Annual Rate on Valuation in the sum of €65.31 was adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Revins, seconded by Cllr. Linehan Foley and unanimously agreed by the members of the Council.

Any Other Business: The Members unanimously agreed that a Special Meeting to discuss the reinstatement of the Boardwalk be held on Friday 24th January next at 9.30 a.m.

On the proposal of Cllr. Linehan Foley which was seconded by Cllr. Murray the members unanimously agreed that Cllr. Hennessy attend a conference on Political Reform to be held in Bewleys Hotel, Dublin to be held on the 10th to the 12th January, 2014.

On the proposal of Cllr. Hennessy which was seconded by Cllr. Burke the Members unanimously agreed that Cllr. Flanagan attend a conference on Political Reform to be held in Bewleys Hotel, Dublin to be held on the 10th to the 12th January, 2014.

On the proposal of Cllr. Hennessy which was seconded by Cllr. Burke the Members unanimously agreed that Cllr. Linehan Foley attend a conference on CAP Reform to be held in Bewleys Hotel, Dublin to be held on the 24th to the 24th January, 2014.

On the proposal of Cllr. Linehan Foley which was seconded by Cllr. Hennessy the Members unanimously agreed that Cllr. Murray attend the conference on Media Skills for Councillors to be held in Clifden, Co. Galway to be held on the 23rd to the 25th January, 2014.

The Mayor thanked the Town Clerk and the Staff of Youghal Town Council in relation to the preparation of the Budget.

This concluded the business of the meeting.