

Special Meeting of Public Realm Plan and Sub Budget December 2008

Minutes of Special Meeting of Youghal Town Council held on the 15th December, 2008 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber, The Mall House, Youghal.

Present: Mayor Oliver Casey presided.

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

Officials Present: Mr. Liam Ryan, Town Clerk. Ms. Katherine Donoher, Act. Staff Officer.

Opening Prayers: The members and officials recited the opening prayers.

Youghal Historic Walled Port Public Realm Plan:

The Town Clerk informed the members that he was now presenting the final Draft of the Youghal Historic Walled Port - Public Realm Plan for adoption by the members. It is anticipated that the theme will remain the same as what is currently in St. Mary's Enterprise Centre. Works will be consistent throughout the town and carried out over a phased basis. The Town Clerk informed the meeting that he was confident that the works would be completed in full by Easter on Church Street. The Town Clerk also wanted to thank the residents of Church Street for their continued co-operation and patience on the matter.

The Town Clerk informed the members that works could be funded through development contributions and Dept of Environment road grants. The level of funding available would determine the roll out time frame. The Town Clerk stated that the fund would have to be built up gradually with the possibility of incorporating Rapid funding. Cllr. Burke proposed a vote of congratulations to Catherine Desmond and Lucy Heaphy on all their hard work throughout the year.

The Youghal Historic Walled Port - Public Realm Plan was adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Linehan Foley, seconded by Cllr. Burke and unanimously adopted by the members of the Council.

Finance and Draft Budget 2009:

1. Finance:

A) Department of the Environment letter dated 28/07/2008 and Town Clerks response dated 12/08/2008: The Department of the Environment, following auditor's report on the AFS 2006 requested clarification on how funding arrangements were to be implemented to deal with over expended balances on:

1. Millennium Garden,
2. Sea Weed Baths and

3) Sacred Heart Convent. The Town Clerk informed the Department that:

1. Millennium Garden: deficit is to be funded from the sale of land at Knockaverry.
2. Sea Weed Baths: It is proposed to offset this deficit against the proceeds of either selling or developing the 1 acre site in the ownership of Youghal Town Council.
3. Sacred Heart Convent: The deficit on this site represent the outstanding purchase price monies. €20,000 was provided in the 2008 budget and will be revisited again in the 2009 Budget. The entire property was purchased in 2002 for £550,000, it's current value is in excess of €3m.

B) Annual Financial Statement 2007 and Auditors Report on same.

The Town Clerk circulated to the members for their consideration the Auditors Report and Annual Financial Statement for 2007. The Town Clerk summarised the Audited AFS 2007 paying particular attention to the Income and Expenditure Account Statement for year ending 31st December, This table gave details of the total expenditure and income of Youghal Town Council showing an overall surplus gained for the year of €27,181. In relation to the Auditors Report on the AFS Cllr. Burke queried the outstanding €98,000 for the Youghal Main Drainage Scheme. The Town Clerk informed the members that this was monies outstanding for the cost of the preparation of the preliminary report by Atkins. However, the Town Clerk has received confirmation from Cork County Council that this outstanding amount will be offset against sewerage development contributions, which are under the control of Cork County Council thus eliminating this negative balance in the 2008 accounts

. a) On the proposal of Cllr. Revins which was seconded by Cllr. Linehan Foely the members approved of the Annual Financial Statement for 2007.

b) On the proposal of Cllr. Linehan Foley which was seconded by Cllr. Casey the members approved the Auditors Report in respect of the Annual Financial Statement for 2007.

Draft Budget 2009:

The Town Clerk circulated a copy of the Draft Budget for 2009. He informed the meeting that he had prepared the draft in conjunction with motions passed during the year. The following items were discussed:

1. Cllr. Casey requested that the Town Clerk again request a copy of the County Demand as issued by Cork County Council.
2. The Local Government fund has been reduced by approx. €80,000 on the 2008 figure.
3. The Town Clerk reiterated that 2009 was going to be a difficult year for the Council and the outturn figures for 2008 would result in a deficit for the first time in 7 years.
4. E.S.B charges to increase by 17.5% (estimated cost of public lighting for the town in 2009 would be €132,000).
5. Insurance charges to increase by 10%. Estimated cost of Council's Insurances for 2009 is approx. €280,000.
6. Possibility of retail deflation by Spring 2009.
7. All direct and related pay roll costs are to be reduced by 6%.
8. However, funding in the amount of €120,000 for a period of 5 years has been approved by Rapid.
9. Heritage Grant Aid totals 90%. Balance of 10% from Council's own funds.
10. Any groups who received funding in 2008 have been allocated the same amount for 2009.
11. The Draft Budget was prepared with the provision for a 0% increase in Commercial Rates thus endeavouring to try to protect local retail jobs and for the deferral of any rent increases for Council tenants from 2009 to 01st January, 2010.

Other items:

a) The Town Clerk brought the members attention to a letter received from Brendan Aherne re the outdoor screening of 'The Sea, the boat and me, The continuing storey of the Kathleen and May.'

Cllr. Revins informed the meeting that there was currently funds in the Kathleen and May fund and enquired if this could be used towards the screening. The Town Clerk asked the members to consider holding the event in the Mall Arts Centre over 7 days to reduce the overall cost and have a minimal charge or donation box for the event. The members unanimously agreed that the Town Clerk write to Mr. Aherne detailing the venue and the possibility of holding it in the Mall Arts Centre.

b) A brief discussion ensued in which the members raised areas where they felt additional monies may be sourced eg. Advertising on the back of parking disks or the possibility of pre paying for your parking around the town.

c) The full budget meeting would take place on Wednesday 7th January, 2009.

This concluded the business of the meeting.