

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Youghal Town Council held on 11th February, 2014 in the Mall House, Youghal at 10.00 a.m.

Present:

Mayor Sammy Revins presided.

Cllrs. Linehan-Foley, Revins, Burke, Flanagan, O'Sullivan, Beecher & Murray.

Officials Present:

Mr. Derek O' Gorman, Town Manager.

Mrs. Helen Mulcahy, Town Clerk.

Mrs. Geraldine O' Connell, Clerical Officer.

Mr. Paul Murray, Town Engineer.

Mr. Ger Lupton, Town Foreman.

Opening Prayers:

The members and officials recited the opening prayers.

Suspension of Standing Orders:

The Mayor called for a suspension of Standing Orders to allow Cllr. Linehan Foley give the following statement:

I wish to inform the people of Youghal and the surrounding area of my position, as of Tuesday, 11th February, 2014. They need to know as they are the people who have supported me and voted for me since 1999.

I did not get a party nomination to go forward to the Fianna Fail selection convention on Monday 27th January, 2014. I had hoped to receive a nomination. Indeed as late as the Thursday (23rd) before convention, I was told that I had a nomination. However, I got a phone call from Fianna Fail HQ at 3.30 p.m. on the day of the convention, during which, I was told that there were only two nominees going forward for convention and I was not one of these. There was to be no vote at convention and the two chosen candidates would be nodded through.

Once I heard this, I decided not to attend convention. There was no point, except to go through the motions of signing party pledges and so on. As someone who was elected by the people three times since 1999. I could not and cannot see anything Democratic about this process. I have to admit that I am bitterly disappointed that anyone - let alone me – would be treated in such a way by Fianna Fail, having served the people for the last 15 years, three times as Mayor of our town.

The last five years were the toughest years ever for the Fianna Fail party, but I never flinched in my commitment. Not once. I was loyal, even though it was often difficult not to speak out.

I am still loyal. Loyal to the people of Youghal and East Cork. The same people who returned me as a member of Youghal Town Council on three successive occasions. It has been an honour to serve the people and to be their voice.

Over the past two weeks, I have consulted widely with many of my supporters, my friends and of course, my family. They have all assured me that whatever decision I make, they will be right behind me. Those assurances and that support have made my decision an easy one.

I have decided today, 11th February to announce my resignation as a member of the Fianna Fail Party.

I will continue to serve on Youghal Town Council until the forthcoming elections, as an Independent Member. I will contest the local elections in May as an Independent Candidate. I and my small team will canvass and I will continue to work hard for the people of Youghal and the East Cork area, as always. I hope that, with their support, I can be elected as an Independent Councillor. In the end, it won't be up to a political party to decide that. The people will decide my future. I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their support, not just now, but over many years. I wish them and all the other candidates well in the forthcoming elections.

I am grateful to all of the people who have contacted me in recent weeks, to express their disappointment at the recent turn of events. I would not be human not to feel hurt, but their support leads me to believe it is worth putting my name before the people again. I am a firm believer in new, energetic candidates, but at just 47, I feel I still have a great deal to offer the people of Youghal and East Cork. I know that I have the energy to work as hard as ever on their behalf.

The people will decide on the 23rd May next. I look forward to the challenge ahead.

Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 10th January, 2014:

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on 10th January, 2014 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Linehan Foley, seconded by Cllr. O' Sullivan and unanimously adopted by the Members.

Minutes of Pre-Budget Meeting held on 10th January, 2014:

The minutes of the pre-budget meeting held on 10th January, 2014 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Linehan Foley seconded by Cllr. Hennessy and unanimously adopted by the Members.

Minutes of Special Meeting held on 24th January, 2014:

The minutes of the Special Meeting held on the 24th January, 2014 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. O' Connell seconded by Cllr. Revins and unanimously adopted by the Members.

Cllr. Burke requested that an amendment be made to the first paragraph on page 2 of the minutes relating to a full stop being placed before the last three lines of the paragraph to state that Cllr. Burke reported seeing a rush of water the break of the waves and jets of spray being thrown in between each joint of the Boardwalk causing the entire decking panel to lift. The Members were in full agreement with this.

Votes of Congratulations:

The Members proposed a vote of congratulations to the following:

1. Youghal CYMS on their recent success in the Munster Senior B Championships.
2. The Emergency Services and the staff of Youghal Town Council for their contribution during the recent storm.
3. Youghal Pipe Band on their centenary celebration. The Members were in agreement that a reception be held for Youghal Pipe Band after this years St. Patrick's Day Parade.
4. Youghal Intermediate Senior Hurlers.
5. David Revins for his work commitment with the Irish Rugby Team.
6. Cllr. O' Connell requested that a reception be held for all former Councillors after the disbandment of the present Council. The Mayor informed the Members that this item would be discussed under Mayors Business.

Votes of Sympathy:

No vote of sympathy was passed by the Members.

Town Foreman's Report:

The Town Foreman's Report on works carried out from 10th January to 7th February were brought

to the attention of the Council and noted. Arising from the report the following items were raised:

1. Pothole between Telephone Exchange and Bawnmore.
2. Railings at the Diving Rocks.
3. Update on the webcam for the harbour and the plaque for Joe Higgins.
4. Provision of a tap in the upper section of the Graveyard. The Town Clerk informed the Members that she will pass this item onto the Secretary of Youghal Joint Burial Board.
5. Gully at Brehon Road.
6. Gully outside the League of the Cross.
7. Cllr. Linehan Foley thanked the Town Clerk and Council Officials for the works which took place at Buttimer's Quay and asked what the situation was in relation to the mooring rings. The Town Clerk informed the Members that these would put back in place shortly.
8. Lights at the jetty. The Town Clerk informed the Members that there was 3 more lights to be connected and that these should be done by the end of the week.
9. Emptying of sandbags.
10. Provision of a sensor light at Power's Terrace.
11. Provision of barrier at Raheen Court in light of the recent accident.
12. Lights at Oakhill, Ardan na Mara and Spa Hill. The Town Clerk informed the Members that the Estates Department of Cork County Council had met with the Bank who have indicated that they might comply with the terms of the snag list. The Town Clerk stated that she had no update as regards Ardan na Mara and Spa Hill.
13. Condition of apartments at Parklands. Cllr. Linehan Foley stated that these apartments are unsightly and should be demolished with a view to the provision of a green area here. The Town Clerk informed the members that the apartments are in the ownership of O' Neill Bros. who are based in Northern Ireland. The Town Clerk stated that she has written to O' Neill Bros. and the bank in question in relation to a site resolution plan.
14. Covers ripped on 2 umbrellas.
15. Ivy on walls & footpaths at Hazelmere Close.
16. Surface of the road at Copperally.
17. Dog fouling around the town. The Town Clerk informed the Members that she had followed up this item with the Veterinary Department who informed her that there is just 1 Litter Warden for the entire county. The Town Clerk has spoken to the Warden in question who has agreed to be a presence in the area on a part time basis.
18. Overflowing bins at Cromwells Arch.

Cork County Council Items:

Engineers Report on items raised at the January meeting:

1. Report on Seawall at Lighthouse:

In June 2012 the OPW stated that the collapse of the Seawall on Lighthouse Hill in Youghal was not primarily of a coastal erosion protection structure. It stated that the structures were of slope stabilization, facing, retaining nature. It stated that the OPW does not have a role in such slope stabilization, facing, retaining for landslide mitigation.

Following an application by the County Engineer in June 2012 and citing the above view, they refused funding under the Coastal Minor Flood Mitigation Scheme.

Since then funding has been applied for and DoTTS funding has been received, I have dealt with the emergency stabilization of the original 2012 landslide area and subsequently tendered and constructed a permanent solution to that localized area. That part of the problem is now solved.

However, further urgent problems were found in the seawall when we commissioned an ongoing survey throughout 2013. Basically the seawall is slowly bulging in an identified area and we have installed a temporary steel shoring structure to halt the movement whilst we identify funding and

design and tender for permanent works to repair the area.

In this context, I applied to the DoTTS for €1.1 million to complete all required works in the area and have in days received an allocation of €650k from the DoTTS. I am currently working on Design/Tender

Documents to repair the ongoing developing “Bulge” in the wall between the recently completed permanent works and the lighthouse. As you know the regional road will remain under restricted shuttle traffic system (traffic light controlled) until these works are complete. This is a precaution and keeps traffic and pedestrians off the footpath and traffic lane closest to the seawall. I expect the works will be complete by September this year.

The €650k allocation will not enable me to deal with the pedestrian lookout points which have been closed for a number of years and which are in a very poor structural state and an eyesore but will hopefully enable us to deal fully with the “bulge” problem.

Tom Comeford, SEE.

2. Youghal Main Drainage:

Willis Bros. of Foxford, Co. Mayo have been appointed as the main contractor for the new sewer network. The Contractor has set up offices in South Main Street and has arranged a depot for his construction equipment. Work is expected to start within the next week or so. Work is programmed to take approximately 12 months.

As advised at the January meeting Sorenson/EPS are the recommended Contractors for the Design, Build & Operations of the Waste Water Treatment Plant. This Contract cannot proceed until a foreshore licence is granted but this is expected to be shortly.

County Council Items:

1. Footpaths around the town. The Members stated that they were cognisant of the fact that water meters were due to be installed which would cause disruption to some footpaths around town. The Town Engineer informed the members that water meters were not due to be installed until 2015 and stated that a contractor would be appointed to do works on footpaths in areas outside of the Public Realm Plan with the worst areas identified taking priority.
2. Cllr. Murray raised the issue of the road sweeper being used to clear the entrance at Claycastle Car Park and stated that a bucket type loader would be more appropriate for this work.
3. Rubbish at the Matrix Bar. The Town Clerk informed the Members that she had been in contact with the Environment Section of Cork County Council who subsequently passed the matter onto the HSE in relation to this matter. The Town Clerk informed the members that she will follow up this matter with the Environment Department.
4. Cllr. Linehan Foley raised the issue of water being turned off at Upper Cork Hill lately and stated that the public were not notified of the turn off. Cllr. Linehan Foley suggested that the Local Radio be used to inform the public when a situation like this arises. The Town Engineer agreed to investigate same.
5. Update on Na Prapoga. The Town Engineer informed the Members that this item is with the Estates Department, Cork County Council.
6. Traffic Calming measures at the Holy Family Church. The Town Engineer agreed to investigate same.
7. Condition of footpaths at the top of Sarsfield Terrace.
8. New surface on the road at Kenilworth.
9. Holes around stopcock covers at Blackwater Heights. The Town Engineer agreed to investigate this matter.

10. Dangerous bar on the road at Sheehan's Garage.

Managers Orders:

Managers Order nos. 03/14 to 13/14 were brought to the attention of the Members and noted.

Planning Applications:

The Members were informed that planning application no. P58001/14 was received.

Further Information Received:

The Members were informed that no further information was received.

Disposal of Properties:

There was no disposal of properties.

Cllr. Burke raised the issue of disposal of land at Flemings Court and asked The Town Clerk if she could explain the delay with this matter. The Town Clerk informed the members that the delay is with the solicitors as issues had arisen regarding a clear title with this property as there was a lot of historic burdens on the property.

Mayors Business:

1. The Mayor sought permission to host an evening for present Councillors and their partners, management and present council staff to mark the transition of the Town Council in May. Cllr. O'Connell proposed that all former Councillors also be invited. The Mayor was not in agreement with this proposal and reminded Cllr. O'Connell that a reception was held for all former Councillors in 1998.

The Town Clerk reminded the Members budget costs must be kept to a minimum and to extend the invitation to former Councillors would incur further costs to the Council. Cllr. Revins suggested that a proposal be put to his fellow Councillors which resulted in the following;

For Cllr. Revins Proposal

Cllr. Linehan Foley

Cllr. Burke Cllr. Murray

Cllr. O' Sullivan

Cllr. Hennessy

Cllr. Beecher

Cllr. Flanagan

For Cllr. O' Connells Proposal.

As there was no seconder for Cllr. O' Connells proposal the Mayors proposal was carried.

2. The Mayor informed the Members that he was meeting with Christy Cooney to discuss the Civic Reception for the Intermediate Hurling Team.

3. The Mayor thanked Minister Hayes for his visit to Youghal. The Mayor stated he felt the whole event was very fruitful.

4. The Mayor thanked the Heritage Council for their presentation of an award for the Medieval Day which was rated as the best overall event organised by a community group during National Heritage Week 2013. The Mayor stated that this award is a good boost to the town of Youghal.

Non National Road Grant Allocations 2014:

The Town Clerk informed the Members that the Non National Road Grant Allocations for 2014 was €161,300 which was the same amount granted for 2013. The Town Clerk stated that the following certain areas need to be highlighted and would propose same at the March meeting.

1. North Cross Lane.
2. DeValera Street.
3. Golf Links Road.
4. Copperally Road.

Cllr. Linehan Foley requested that the road from Colaiste Eoin to Bawnmore be included. The Town Clerk agreed to investigate costings for this area.

Draft Variation of Youghal Town Development Plan:

The Town Clerk informed the members that she had no update on this matter at present. The closing date for submissions are the 3rd March, 2014 and to date no submissions have been received.

Update/Reconstruction of Boardwalk:

Cllr. Murray informed the Members that she was disappointed that no written report outlining revised specifications, timeline and finish date had been circulated at the special meeting held to discuss the reconstruction of the Boardwalk and suggested that a proper written report be prepared for the Members before the next meeting regarding the Boardwalk. Cllr. Murray also raised the issue of the pricing of €5,000 per set of steps and queried where this figure was derived from.

Cllr. Burke asked if it would be possible to get a report from a County Council Engineer with expertise in Coastal Protection Works. The Manager informed the Members that he will liaise with Niall O' Neill to see what he has to offer regarding the situation.

Cllr. Beecher raised the issue of the provision of groynes to protect the Boardwalk. Cllr. Burke gave the following report in relation to coastal erosion and groynes:

In 1973 the OPW constructed a new seawall and promenade outside the railway station. They replaced the timber groynes with new timber groynes which after about 10 years were washed away.

In 1997 Cork County Council commissioned Malachy Walsh and Partners to carry out a Coastal Study for Youghal. The aim of the study was to assess the effectiveness of the existing groynes and to evaluate the usefulness of groynes as a method of coast protection in this area.

The study found that the process of longshore drifting was a major problem in the removal of sand from the beach.

The recommendation was that 4 groynes each 250 metres long at a spacing of 250 metres should be constructed with a terminal rock groyne at the eastern end (outside Strand Palace) and the other three of timber and rock. Also a programme of beach nourishment to fill the spaces between the groynes with sand.

Cllr. Burke informed the Members that it is of high importance to get the design of the reconstruction of the Boardwalk right before work proceeds.

The Town Clerk stated that as soon as she had a report regarding the reconstruction of the Boardwalk she would arrange a special meeting of the Council in conjunction with the issue of both Bun Scoil Mhuire and Gael Scoil Chorain requesting the use of Green Park for Gaelic Games.

Cllr. Linehan Foley proposed that the reinstatement of the balconies at Moll Goggin's Corner also be discussed at this meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Burke and unanimously agreed by the Members.

Update by Town Engineer In relation to Pedestrian Crossing at Upper Cork Hill:

The Town Engineer advised the Members that there was no point in any works taking place here until the laying of pipes for the Main Drainage was complete. The Town Engineer informed the Members that these works should be complete by the end of the year.

The Members asked if a beacon light could be provided as an interim measure. The Engineer agreed to investigate same.

Cllr. O' Connell asked if the public will be informed regarding the disruption which will take place during the Main Drainage Scheme. Cllr. Murray informed the Members that the Contractors Wills Bros. will hold a public information meeting and a website would be set up for residents to check work in progress. Cllr. Murray also informed the Members that an office will be set up in South Main Street.

The Town Engineer informed the Members that works in Strand Street will take place during school holidays.

Auditors Report on Annual Financial Statement 2012:

The Town Clerk circulated to the Members a copy of the Auditors Report on the Annual Financial Statement 2012. This was unanimously adopted by the Members on the proposal of Cllr. O' Connell and seconded by Cllr. Linehan Foley.

Correspondence:

1. Notice and brochure received from Dundalk Chamber in relation to a Cross Border Tourism Conference.
2. Thank you letter received from Youghal Celebrates History Committee in relation to their recent contribution.
3. Notice from Councillors Conference in relation to a conference on 'An Overview of Jobsbridge and the Back to Work Scheme'.
4. A Notice from Councillors Conference in relation to a conference on 'An Overview of Irish Water and its Functions'.
5. A notice from Superior Training in relation to a conference on Retirement Planning for Councillors.
6. A notice from Superior Training in relation to a conference on 'Seanad Reform and the Councillor'.
7. A notice from Superior Training in relation to a conference on 'Media Skills for Councillors'.
8. A notice from Superior Training in relation to a conference on 'Alternative Energy & Local Government'.
9. Notice of motion received from Ballina Town Council: "That Ballina Town Council calls on the Minister for Finance to revoke the solid fuel carbon tax due to the dependency of the vast majority of Irish families using this source of heating. That this Motion is circulated to all Town Councils for their support".
10. Notice from Kadenza Consultancies in relation to a conference on 'The Councillor Post 2014, a Ballot Box to Council Chamber Module'.
11. A notice from Kadenza Consultancies in relation to a training seminar on 'Public Relations and the Media'.
12. A notice from Avondhu Blackwater Partnership Ltd in relation to a 'Tidier Towns The Way Forward Conference'.
13. A notice from Tgr Seminars in relation to a seminar on 'Poverty and Migration in Ireland Today – Overview of Contemporary Facts and Figures'.

On the proposal of Cllr. Beecher which was seconded by Cllr. Revins the Members unanimously agreed that Cllr. Murray attend the AMAI Conference to be held on 14th to 15th February.

Any Other Business

In relation to the statement given by Cllr. Linehan Foley at the beginning of the meeting Cllr. O' Sullivan informed the Members that Cllr. Linehan Foley had been nominated as a candidate by the Local Fianna Fail Cumann but had withdrew her nomination.

Mayor Revins informed the Members that Cllr. Linehan Foley did not withdraw her nomination and stated that he himself had received a phonecall from head office stating that Cllr. Linehan Foley would not be selected by the party.

The Members stated that they were sorry that Cllr. Linehan Foley has decided to go as an Independent Candidate, they stated that Cllr. Linehan Foley had always been a great Councillor who always worked for the betterment of the town of Youghal.

The Mayor wished all candidates going forward for the forthcoming election the very best of luck.

Thsi concluded the business of the meeting.