

Minutes of Youghal Town Council held on 15th November, 2011 in the Mall House, Youghal at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Mayor Eoin Coyne, presided.

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

Officials Present: Mrs. Patricia Power, Town Manager.

Mr. Liam Ryan, Town Clerk.

Mrs. Geraldine O' Connell, Clerical Officer.

Mr. Paul Murray, Executive Engineer.

Opening Prayers:

The members and officials recited the opening prayers.

Presentation by Former Mayor, Oliver Casey on New Bedford:

The former Mayor, Oliver Casey gave a presentation to the Members on his recent trip to New Bedford and presented the Members with a framed cover of Time Magazine and Theatre Ticket in relation to New Bedfords production of "Moby Dick", a copy of the book "Why Read Moby Dick" and a Certificate of Congratulations to Youghal Town Council from the Mayor of New Bedford.

Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 11th October 2011:

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on 11th October were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Hennessy, seconded by Cllr. Linehan Foley and unanimously adopted by the Members.

Minutes of Special Meeting held on 24th October 2011:

The minutes of the special meeting held on 24th October 2011 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Linehan Foley seconded by Cllr. Beecher and unanimously adopted by the Members.

Report of the Town Clerk on Matters Arising since the Monthly Meeting of Youghal Town Council held on 11th October, 2011.

Financial Management.

The Local Government Auditor has just completed his Audit of Youghal Town Council for 2010. He will now send the audited Annual Financial Statement plus his Report to the Department of the Environment & Local Government for review. The AFS and Auditors Report will then be forwarded to you by the Department in turn for final adoption by Council. Gross expenditure for 2010 amounted to €4,457,133 while total accrued income came in at €4,459,518 resulting in a small surplus of €2,385. Considering the nature of the economic climate which existed in 2010 this was indeed an excellent outcome and consolidates the financial stability of the Council in these turbulent times.

However because the system of accounts is based on accrual accounting (i.e. all income is accounted for irregardless of when it is collected, or maybe in some cases not collected) it masks some significant underlying problems particularly centering on commercial rate collection. Here is a summary of the 2010 Rate Collection Account:

Arrears of commercial rates on 1st January 2010 €189,587

Demand for Commercial Rates for 2010 €1,418,781

Total for collection €1,608,368

Amount collected in 2010 €1,021,557

€586,811

Amount written off for 2010	<u>€321,338</u>
Amount carried forward as arrears into 2011	€265,473

As you can see from these figures a very significant sum of €321,338 was struck off, as either refundable if collected, or just not collectable. Equally the closing arrears figure for rates carried forward rose by €75,886 year on year. Collected commercial rates in 2010 accounted for just 22.91% of the Town Councils expenditure. Most towns would expect a budget/rates ratio of between 35% to 45% and that would be with a much higher rate in the Euro. For example the commercial rate charged to businesses outside the Town boundary in Millennium Court, Summerfield or Springfield Commercial Park by Cork County Council would be €74.75 in the Euro while businesses within the Youghal Town Council boundary would pay €65.31 in the euro resulting in a subsidy of 12.6% to Town Business.

Every effort is being made to accommodate easy payments plans for ratepayers who are encountering trading difficulties. Early intervention in most of these cases results in more sustainable businesses going forward together with better job security for the staff of those businesses. However we find that in most cases commercial rates are not the issue causing the most concern, normally it is either commercial rent or Revenue and then general business expenses such as ESB, rates, telephone, heat, etc. Each rate account is being monitored on a weekly basis.

There will be a number of procedural changes for the 2011 financial year end. For the close of 2011, based on the latest Local Government (Financial Procedures and Audit) Regulations, the Town Manager will submit a Rate Report together with the Final Rate Arrears sheets to the Members of the Council at the earliest meeting available for same in 2012. Arising from that Meeting the Council can decide if they so wish to publish on one or more newspapers circulating in the administrative area of the Authority a list of uncollected rates and ratepayers related thereto at the close of the financial year.

Mall Lane Temporary Closure;

The condition of Mall Lane had deteriorated considerably over the last year, resulting in one public liability claim to date with possible future claims if the surface remained as it was. If you remember correctly the original design in 2004 was for a pedestrianised surface which was installed. The lane was then subsequently re-opened to vehicular traffic resulting in a considerable deterioration in that surface. In point of fact the Lane should possibly have been closed during the summer under Health & Safety such was the decline in the surface.

Back in February and March last, the Members of the Council made the resurfacing of Mall Lane a priority in 2011 subject to the availability of funding. Some monies were made available in 2011 which had to be spent by November 21st with further monies available in January 2012. As a direct consequence of same the Project has to be staggered over the remainder of 2011 and into January of 2012. Regrettably the process in relation to the draw down of funding necessitates this and cannot be altered. While the closure of the Lane for this period may be inconvenient for members of the public, it will not in our opinion, be detrimental to business for this short period.

The Lane will open again by the end of January in pristine condition suitable to take vehicular traffic, in the meantime Youghal Town Council do regret any temporary inconvenience to the public and traders alike. Regrettably times dictate that monies are spent when available. However having received considerable representations and consequently in an effort to facilitate Christmas trade the Lane will re-open on Monday 12th December for 2 weeks on a temporary surface. This will

result in an extra cost of €2,000 which will be added to the overall cost of the project.

E-mail received from Liam Mannix of the Heritage Council:

The Town Clerk informed the Members that he had received an e-mail from Liam Mannix of the Heritage Council in relation to a press release regarding the possible disbandment of the Heritage Council.

Votes of Congratulations:

The Members proposed a vote of congratulations to the following:

1. The Camogie Minor Team on their recent championship win.
2. Adrian Hyde and the Members of Youghal Concerned Citizens on their recent very successful Halloween Fest.
3. Joyce Hosford and all involved in the recent production of the Phantom of the Opera held in St. Mary's Collegiate Church.
4. The members requested that a thank you letter be sent to the former Mayor, Oliver Casey on his very successful trip to New Bedford.

Votes of Sympathy:

The Members proposed a vote of sympathy to the following:

1. Catherine O' Connell on the death of her husband Tony O' Connell.
2. The McCarthy Family on the death of Tom McCarthy.
3. The Rusk family on the death of Dick Rusk
4. John Foley on the death of his wife Cecilia Foley.

Town Foreman's Report:

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

1. Potholes at Island View, Ballyclamassey.
2. Potholes at the top of Windmill Hill and entrance to St. Raphaels.
3. Cllr. Linehan Foley requested a full report in relation to on street car parking. The Town Clerk informed the Members that since the Traffic Warden was out on sick leave the parking situation within the town had deteriorated. The Town Clerk also informed the members that a number of complaints had been received by both the Town Clerk and The Manager from members of the public in relation to the availability of parking spaces within the town centre. It was agreed that a member of staff be assigned to parking duties thus resulting in the issuing of the following parking fines over a two week period.

3 tickets for parking in a disabled parking space.

3 tickets for parking in a loading bay.

3 tickets for parking on double yellow lines.

1 ticket for non display of tax.

1 ticket for parking in a bus space.

The Manager informed the Members that the parking system within the town was being abused which was resulting in a loss of parking for customers wishing to use the retail businesses in town and also stated that one of the primary aims of the Council is to support business within the town.

4. Possible temporary resurfacing of Nealons Quay.
5. Anti Social behaviour in Medieval Gardens.
6. Illegal dumping at Jail Steps.
7. Provision of "Town Centre" sign at the island at the Grotto.
8. Dog fouling signage at the Lighthouse Hill.
9. Free Parking period for the Christmas Period.

County Council Items:

Engineers Report:

1. Overlay work at Raheen Road & Knockaverry Estate is complete except for road markings.
2. Old Collins Bakery Building has been repainted.
3. I am awaiting a priced breakdown for proposed work to Diving Rocks from Contractors.
4. A Bill of Quantities has been received from Contractors for proposed work to Radharc na Mara.
5. Proposed Waste Water Treatment Plant for Youghal is awaiting approval from the Department of Environment.

County Council Items:

1. Double yellow lines at Cumann na Daoine, Catherine Street.
2. Pothole at Strand Street.
3. Update on the diving rock. The Town Clerk informed the members that this project is currently going to tender with the possibility of a contractor being on site once the winter weather is over. The Town Clerk stated that the Diving Rocks should be open around the Easter Period, but without the Diving Board.
4. Ponding at Radharc na Mara. The Engineer informed the Members that this Estate is currently in the process of being taken in charge and that works should commence here shortly after Christmas with the issue of ponding being included.
5. Removal of bins at Claycastle and the Front Strand.
6. Checking of gullies around town.
7. Fencing of area and right of way access at Tides Car Park and the Railway Line. The Town Clerk informed the Members that Iarnroid Eireann were fully entitled to close the access route as no right of way exists over a railway line. The Town Clerk stated that he would like to thank Iarnroid Eireann for the repair of the fence and the cleaning up of the site at the Railway Station.
8. Ponding at Springfield Court. The Engineer agreed to investigate same.
9. Removal of parking space below the Band Room at Cork Hill.
10. Condition of wall at Blackwater Heights.
11. Pothole at Blackwater Heights.
12. Condition of road at entrance to Dun Coran.
13. Ponding on roads at Clonpriest and Ballymadog.
14. Lighting at Yewwood. The Town Clerk informed the members that this was a private estate.
15. Provision of disabled parking spaces around town. The Engineer informed the members that the road liners were due back in town.
16. Old toilet wall at the 49 Steps. The Engineer informed the Members that he will investigate same.
17. Outfall at the Front Strand. The Engineer informed the Members that this was working very successfully.
18. Broken footpaths around town.
19. Provision of a yellow box at the entrance gates to The Monastery.

Managers Orders:

Managers Order no's 170/11 to 182/11 were brought to the attention of the Council and noted. Cllr. Hennessy raised the issue of Managers Order no. 182/11 in relation to the increase of Harbour Rates. The Town Clerk informed the members that this was the first increase in rates since 1990.

Planning Applications:

The Members were informed that no planning applications were received.

Further Information Received:

The Members were informed that further information was received in relation to planning application nos. P58004/11 & P58005/11.

Disposal of Properties:

The Members were informed that there was no disposal of properties.

Mayors Business:

1. The Mayor read an e-mail from the Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport, Leo Varadkar in relation to Irelands 2013 Tourist Initiative titled "The Gathering" and informed the members that there would be an information meeting to discuss this item at the Mall Arts Centre on the 30th November next at 7.30 p.m.
2. The Mayor informed the Members that a Community Alert Meeting was taking place in the Nook Bar on Wednesday 16th November 2011 which would focus on drug awareness.
3. The Mayor conveyed a word of thanks to Cllr. Revins, Deputy Mayor for deputising at the annual Fire Brigade Mass.
4. The Mayor informed the Members that the following 3 tenders had been received in relation to an extension to 60 Dermot Hurley Estate:
 1. Clonpriest Construction.
 2. Hill Construction.
 3. McDermott Goggin.
5. The Mayor informed the Members that the following 3 tenders had been received in relation to the refurbishment of 18 Blackwater Heights.
 1. Breckridge Construction.
 2. Clonpriest Construction.
 3. Kieran Foley.

Report by Cllr. Linehan Foley on the Tidy Towns Task Force:

Cllr. Linehan Foley informed the Members that at a recent meeting of the Tidy Towns Task Force the members were informed that a report of the 2011 Tidy Towns Competition Youghal were shown to be just 26 points behind the overall winners.

Cllr. Linehan Foley informed the members that an extra €7,000 had been allocated to the Committee which was used to fund the following: Provision of the boat feature at Millennium Court. Raised beds in Summerfield. Provision of 8 extra beds at the Lighthouse Hill. 12 new flower boxes at New Catherine Street.

Cllr. Linehan Foley informed the Members that Trojan work had been done throughout the summer by the Tidy Towns Committee. Cllr. Linehan Foley raised the issue of boards painted by members of Youthreach which could be used for the Catherine Street Car Park or Greenpark.

The Town Clerk paid tribute to all involved in achieving the Bronze Medal Award and in particular the Tidy Towns Group.

Traffic Management Plan For Ashe Street, DeValera Street, Emmet Place and Church Street:

The Town Clerk suggested 2 dates for a Special Meeting to be held in relation to the Traffic Management Plan for Ashe Street, DeValera Street, Emmet Place and Church Street. On the proposal of Cllr. Coyne which was seconded by Cllr. Burke the Members unanimously agreed that this meeting would take place on 29th November 2011 at 10.00 a.m. and that it would be held "In Committee" in an effort to seek a solution to the difficulties encountered.

Report on Works Carried out to Part of Section M of Youghal Town Walls:

The Town Clerk circulated to the members a report compiled by David Kelly Partnership in relation to works carried out to part of Section M of Youghal Town Walls and informed the Members that The Heritage Council had granted €60,000 to Youghal Town Council under the Irish Walled Towns

Network Capital Fund 2011.

The Members congratulated the Town Clerk on this report and the works carried out at the Town Walls. This report was adopted by the Members on the proposal of Cllr. Burke and seconded by Cllr. Linehan Foley.

Local Authority 2012 Budget Meetings:

On the proposal of Cllr. Beecher which was seconded by Cllr. Coyne the members unanimously agreed to hold the Joint Burial Board Budget Meeting on Tuesday 13th December before the monthly meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr. Beecher which was seconded by Cllr. Revins the members unanimously agreed to hold the Budget Sub Committee Meeting on 6th December 2011.

Submission for Tourism Funding from Youghal Chamber of Tourism & Development:

The Town Clerk circulated to the members 2 letters received from Youghal Chamber of Tourism & Development. The first letter sought an increase of €15,000 on normal allocation of funding and the second letter sought a 15% decrease in rates. The Town Clerk informed the Members that in the current climate a decrease of 15% in rates would cost Youghal Town Council €212,817.

The Members requested the Mayor to organise a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce to discuss these issues. The Mayor volunteered to organise same and agree an Agenda for that meeting.

Funding Applications:

The Town Clerk informed the Members that funding applications had been received from the following;

1. Queen of the Sea Festival.
2. Youghal Methodist Church Pipe Organ.
3. Youghal Pigeon Club.
4. Youghal United AFC.
5. CRY.
6. Youghal Musical Society.
7. Youghal Choral Society.
8. Youghal Men's Social Club.

These were referred to the Budget Sub Committee Meeting.

Proposed Transfer of Youghal Lighthouse to Youghal Town Council:

The Town Clerk circulated to the Members letter & map from the Commissioner of Irish Lights in relation to the transfer of Youghal Lighthouse to Youghal Town Council with a suggested date of a presentation of this item to take place on December 13th 2011. The Members were in agreement with this.

Report on Youghal Main Drainage Scheme:

The Town Clerk circulated to the Members the following progress report on the Youghal Main Drainage Scheme:

1. Finance:

The Scheme is included on the Water Services Investment Programme 2010 – 2012 as Network €8,000,000 and Wastewater Treatment Plan – DBO €10,000,000. The non-domestic marginal capital cost for the scheme has been calculated as 32%. Should the Tenders be returned at the budget estimate of €18M. Cork County Council will be required to fund €5.76M.

2. Planning:

Planning Permission has been granted by Youghal Town Council for the Pumping Stations. Planning Permission is not required for the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

3. Land Acquisition/Wayleaves:

Cork County Council has purchased the site for the Waste Water Treatment Plant. An agreement has been made in relation to the land required for the access road to the plant. Contracts are currently being prepared. Wayleaves are not required.

4. Foreshore Licence:

Cork County Council has applied to the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government for a Foreshore Licence for the proposed main outfall.

5. Waste Water Discharge Licence:

Cork County Council has applied to the Environmental Protection Agency for a Waste Water Discharge Licence. Additional information requested by the EPA in relation to the application has been returned.

6. Archaeology & Ecology:

An Appropriate Assessment for the Waste Water Treatment Plant Site and the discharge to the Blackwater has been completed. There has been no adverse findings. Archaeological monitoring of the investigations contracts did not record anything of significance.

7. Investigations Contracts/Surveys:

All investigation Contracts and Surveys required for the design have been completed. A preconstruction condition survey will be procured to access the condition of building close to routes of the sewers.

8. Design:

Design is now complete. Elements of the scheme have been revised to provide cost savings.

9. Contract Documents:

Comments have been received from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government. Contract Documents have been revised to incorporate redesign and comments and returned.

10. Construction Procurement:

Pre-qualification of Contractor to Tender for the scheme has commenced.

11. Construction:

Subject to funding and approvals it is anticipated that construction will commence mid 2012. The progress report on the Youghal Main Drainage Scheme was adopted by the members on the proposal of Cllr. Murray and seconded by Cllr. Linehan Foley.

Correspondence:

1. Notice of Motion received from Leixlip Town Council.

2. Notice of Motion received from Ballina Town Council.

3. Notice of Motion received from Donegal County Council.

4. Notice of Motion received from Donegal County Council.

5. Notice in relation to conference on "Being Positive in a Negative Climate" from TGR Seminars.

The Members agreed that Cllr. Burke attend this conference on the proposal of Cllr. Linehan Foley and seconded by Cllr. Coyne.

6. Notice from Superior Training Services Ltd in relation to a conference on Training Seminar for Councillors to be held in Bunclody.

The Members agreed that Cllr. Hennessy attend this conference on the proposal of Cllr. Burke and seconded by Cllr. Revins.

The Members agreed that Cllr. Flanagan attend this conference on the proposal of Cllr. Hennessey and seconded by Cllr. Linehan Foley.

7. Notice of Motions received from Donegal County Council.

8. Notice of Motion received from Castlebar Town Council.

9. Notice of Motion received from Castlebar Town Council.

10. Notice of Motion received from Tipperary Town Council.

11. Letter from Cobh Town Council supporting a recent Motion from Youghal Town Council.

12. Appreciation card from the family of the late Kitty Coughlan.
13. Thank you letter from Youghal Indoor Bowling Club for their recent grant.
14. Notice of Annual Subscription 2012 & Estimates 2012 from AMAI.
15. Thank you letter from Youghal Community Centre in relation to their recent grant.
16. Letter from Lismore Town Council in relation to Eras Eco Waste Treatment Facility.
17. Notice of Motion received from Monaghan County Council.

Any Other Business:

1. The Members agreed that a civic reception be held in the New Year for Anthony O' Loughlin.
2. The Manager informed the Members that the Department of the Environment in conjunction with various other departments have set up a website www.winterready.ie which contains information and advice on dealing with problems caused by adverse weather conditions. The Manager also informed the Members that leaflets will also be distributed in relation to same which the Manager would hope to have for the next meeting of the Council. The Manager informed the Members that Twitter and other networking sites will have updates on the location of salt & grit for use by the public.

That concluded the business of the meeting.