

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Youghal Town Council held on 12th November, 2013 in the Mall House, Youghal at 10.00 a.m.

Present:

Mayor Sammy Revins presided.

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

Apologies were received from Cllr. O' Sullivan.

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.

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 15th October, 2013:

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 15th October, 2013 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Linehan Foley seconded by Cllr. O' Connell and unanimously agreed by the Members.

Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 22nd October, 2013:

The Minutes of the Special Meeting held on the 22nd October, 2013 in relation to the consideration of presentation of Retail Strategy by Cunnane Stratton Reynolds were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Linehan Foley seconded by Cllr. Beecher and unanimously agreed by the Members.

Report of the Town Clerk on matters arising since the Monthly Meeting of Youghal Town Council held on 15th October, 2013.

NEALONS QUAY:

Work on the development of Nealons Quay is almost complete. The laying of the limestone paving has commenced and resurfacing will be finished by Friday. Public lighting will take a further 4 weeks. The tulip umbrellas have been installed and look spectacular when open.

There has been a lot of negative opinion in relation to the umbrellas and the car park. I would like to clarify a number of things and make sure the right information is out there. The umbrellas cost approx €150,000 to supply and install. The funding for these was secured by Youghal Chamber of Tourism and Commerce through SECAD. The car park will be resurfaced at a cost of approx. €80,000 – the funding for this came through the NNR Grant for 2013 which was ringfenced by the members in 2012. The Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht provided a further €60,000 through the Historic Towns Initiative. The remainder of the funding comes from Youghal Town Council. The redevelopment of the car park and indeed all of the surround area has rejuvenated the town centre. The car park will provide a superb location for festivals, entertainment and all kinds of special events. Over the last decade or so Youghal has lost almost all of its industry and hundreds of jobs, and the focus is now on tourism and heritage.

This is apparent to Failte Ireland and the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht who selected Youghal for the Historic Towns Initiative. They both recognize the potential in Youghal and we must do everything we can to build on that. A survey carried out by YSEDG estimates the

economic benefit of the Queen of the Sea Festival to be €2.6million. The potential to build on this is great. This project is a step in the right direction.

The Members stated they were very disappointed with the negative press and misinformation with regard to the development of the Quay and the erection of the tulip umbrellas especially as the project is unfinished at present. They also stated that a lot of hard work and funding has gone into rejuvenating the town at the moment and commented on how the public do not realise that funding is applied for projects under different streams and each amount of funding granted must be spent on the project to which it is allocated to. They congratulated the Town Clerk on her response to the negativity of the project.

Cllr. O' Connell asked the Town Clerk to verify the reason why the project could not have been located on Barry's Lane. The Town Clerk informed the Members that Barry's Lane is in close proximity to The Clock Gate which is a National Monument. The Town Clerk also informed the Members that everything was being done to have the car park open in time for the Christmas Market.

EMMET PLACE:

Works are 90% completed – contractors will be off site by the end of the week.

BUTTIMERS QUAY:

The work on the quay has been complete and are 75% funded by the Department of Food, Agriculture and the Marine.

ST. MARYS COLLEGIATE CHURCH:

Repairs to St. Mary's Church have been completed – these works are almost fully funded by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

TOWN WALLS:

Work on Section M of the Town Walls has been completed. This is almost fully funded by the Heritage Council.

Votes of Congratulations:

The Members proposed a vote of congratulations to the following:

1. Seamus Harnedy on winning an All Star Award. The Members agreed that a civic reception be accorded to Seamus Harnedy and could be tied in with the reception for both the Youghal Intermediate Hurling Team and the Youghal Camogie Team.
2. Michael De Buitleir on the organisation of the Cork Rebel Week.
3. Pauline Neville on her recent Art Exhibition.
4. Youghal 4 all on the very successful Halloween Spooktacular.
5. Youghal C.Y.M.S. on the International Snooker Championship Success.
6. Brendan Cooney on the organisation of the International Snooker Championship. Votes of Sympathy:

The Members proposed a vote of sympathy to the following:

1. Caroline Kemp on the death of Sean Keane.

Town Foreman's Report:

The Town Foreman's Report on works carried out from 10th October to 7th November 2013 were brought to the attention of the Members and noted. Arising from the report the following items were raised:

1. Regular cleaning of Ashe Street.

2. Provision of pedestrian crossing at the Holy Family Church.
3. Binding of Minutes and Managers Orders.
4. Hedging at wall between Raheen Park and Crestfield.
5. Dog fouling around the town. The Manager suggested that the Veterinary Department of Cork County Council be contacted in relation to this item as their work programme could give the provision of a dog warden to patrol the town for a certain amount of time weekly.
6. Trimming of overhanging trees on private properties on Ashe Street.
7. Pothole outside no. 15 Sarsfield Terrace.
8. Dredging of Quay at the Credit Union.

Cork County Council Items:

Engineers Report on Items Raised at the October Meeting:

1. Sea Wall Stabilisation Works.

Work has commenced on the design of next phase of the above. Due to the size of these works Government Procurement Procedures must be followed, The Consultant hopes to have the works tendered again shortly with a Contractor expected on site early in the new year.

Cllr. Linehan Foley raised the issue of the seawall at the Lighthouse Hill and the cordoning off of the viewing platforms and stated that this whole area needs to be investigated.

The Town Engineer informed the Members that the initial wall collapse went to tender and a contractor appointed to do the works. The contractor discovered another bulge further up towards the Lighthouse. The Engineer stated that they would have to revert back to the Department for funding for these works.

Cllr. Murray informed the members that she had spoken to Mr. Tom Stritch, Director of Services in relation to the two viewing balconies and that whilst in an ideal world she would love to see them both reinstated, this was not possible due to lack of funding in the current economic climate. Cllr. Murray suggested that it might be more appropriate at this stage to remove the viewing balconies as they had not been used for many years and were unsightly – once removed the area could be finished in an appropriate manner and it would improve the overall appearance of the area. The members were in general agreement with the idea. The Engineer informed the Members that he will make proposals regarding this item, but also informed the Members that as a precaution the traffic lights will remain in place for the foreseeable future.

2. Youghal Main Drainage:

Approval is awaited from the Department for the appointment of the recommended Contractors for both the Network Contract and the Design & Build Treatment Plant Contract.

Cork County Council Items:

1. Update on wall at Strand Church/Tennis Club. The Town Engineer informed the Members that this wall was of private ownership and that he was awaiting a report from the owner.
2. The Members congratulated all concerned on the new footpaths at Greenloyne.
3. The Members requested an updated progress report from the Manager on Phase II of the Boardwalk for the December meeting.
4. Cllr. Burke raised the issue of various footpaths around the town and asked the Engineer if there was any source of funding identified for same. The Engineer informed the Members that no funding was available at present, but a plan will be put together in the New Year and that repairs will take place where necessary.
5. The Members raised the issue of the public lighting on Spa Hill and requested that the developer be written to on this matter. The Town Clerk informed the members that there is a Bond in place for

The Estuary Estate and the Developer is aware of his obligations in relation to works within the estate. The Town Clerk informed the Members that the Estates and Development Department of Cork County Council are at present liaising with the developer regarding a site resolution plan. 6. Cllr. Revins raised the issue of the traffic lights at the Lighthouse Hill and asked if there was any resolution to this matter. The Engineer informed the Members that as a precaution the traffic lights will remain in place.

Managers Orders:

Managers Orders Nos. 222/13 to 233/13 were brought to the attention of the Members and noted.

Planning Applications Received:

The Members were informed that Planning Application nos. P58008/13 & P58009/13 were received.

Further Information Received:

The members were informed that no further information was received.

Disposal of Properties:

The Members were informed that there were no disposals of properties.

Mayors Business:

1. The Mayor congratulated CRY on their very successful Official opening of their new premises at Nagle House.
2. The Mayor congratulated the Youghal Intermediate Hurlers on their recent success.
3. The Mayor reminded the Members of the reception for the Mayor of New Bedford which is taking place at The Mall Arts Centre on Saturday 16th November next.

Seaview Place Phase II

The Town Clerk informed the Members that David Kelly, Consulting Engineers have completed a survey of the remaining houses in Seaview Place and that she was awaiting a report on same. The Town Clerk informed the Members that there are 7 houses in total to be upgraded and that 3 houses would be done immediately pending the report.

Revised Forms and Guidelines in Connection with Annual Reporting Requirements on Political Donations for Elected Members of Local Authorities and Third Parties:

The Town Clerk circulated to the Members the Revised Forms and Guidelines in Connection with Annual Reporting Requirements on Political Donations for Elected Members of Local Authorities and Third Parties for their information.

Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014 – 2018:

The Town Clerk circulated the Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014 – 2018 and informed the Members that the closing date for submissions is the 23rd December, 2013.

Planning & Development Act 2000 (Sections 18-20) (As Amended) Draft Tramore, Lismore & Portlaw Local Area Plans 2013-2019 Material Amendments:

The Town Clerk circulated to the Members the Planning & Development Act 2000 (Sections 18-20) (As Amended) Draft Tramore, Lismore & Portlaw Local Area Plans 2013- 2019 Material Amendments and informed the Members that the closing date for receipt of submissions is 2nd December, 2013.

Research Results Youghal “Queen of the Sea” Festival:

The Town Clerk circulated to the Members the Research Results of the Youghal “Queen of the Sea” Festival and informed the Members that it made for very interesting reading. It highlights the huge economic benefits of The Queen of the Sea Festival and indeed any similar type festivals. The Town Clerk informed the Members that the report was very kindly supplied by Aileen Murray of the YSEDG

Group.

Cllr. Linehan Foley stated that the analysis of the report regarding who is coming to visit the town and what brought people to the town is very interesting. Cllr. Linehan Foley informed the members that radio advertising was proving to be hugely successful and that 96FM KLM & TIPP FM were the main radio stations advertising Youghal.

Cllr. Murray stated that an analysis and evaluation report should be done for each Festival which takes place in Youghal.

Date for Pre-Budget Meeting:

The Members agreed that the Pre-Budget Meeting be held on Tuesday December 3rd at 10.00 a.m.

Correspondence:

1. Notice of Motion received from Kilrush Town Council:

“That this Council would request An Taoiseach to hold a national referendum before Christmas on the proposed abolition of Town Councils”.

2. Notice of Motion received from Ennis Town Council:

“That Ennis Town Council request the Minister for Education to provide additional posts for Special Needs Assistants and increased Resource Teaching Hours in Primary and Post Primary Schools for children with special needs throughout Ennis and Clare.

3. Notice of Motion received from Carrick on Suir Town Council:

“That Carrick on Suir Town Council would write to the Minister of Justice requesting recognition of Irish Sign Language as an official language of this state and make it the third official language of the Republic of Ireland thus ensuring inclusion of deaf people in Irish society. That a copy of this motion be circulated to all Councils for support”.

4. Notice of Motion received from Ballina Town Council:

“This Council calls on the Minister for the Environment when introducing legislation for the new Municipal District Councils to ensure that all funds raised in a particular area are retained in that area”.

5. Notice from Tgr Seminars in relation to a Seminar on “Contemporary Overview of Immigration into Ireland”.

6. Notice from Tgr Seminars in relation to a Seminar on “Putting People First – Update on Local Government Reform to Date”.

7. Notice from LAMA in relation to the Spring Seminar.

8. Notice from Clare Tourism Conference on their 25th Anniversary Tourism Conference.

9. Notice of Motion received from Buncrana Town Council:

“That Buncrana Town Council write to An Taoiseach, Mr. Enda Kenny and Mr. Phil Hogan, Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government requesting that the decision to abolish Town Councils should be re-considered in light of the outcome of the recent referendum on the abolition of Seanad Eireann.

10. Letter from Carrickmacross Town Council acknowledging the response from the Minister for Environment, Community & Local Government in relation to a motion sent to the Minister.

11. Notice of Motion from Kinsale Town Council:

“That Kinsale Town Council calls on the Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government and the Oireachtas to postpone consideration of the Legislation initiated in draft form on October 17th, 2013 and to refer the issue of Local Government Reform to the Constitutional Convention or to an Independent or Representative new body so that there can be meaningful Local Government Reform devolving powers to the lowest levels of democracy in our community, the same to comply with the spirit and intent of the European Charter for Local Self Government ratified by Ireland on May 14th, 2002”

12. Notice of Motion received from Kinsale Town Council:

“That this Council recommend all schools work on reducing school uniform costs”.

13. Notice of Motion received from Balbriggan Town Council:

“Balbriggan Town Council call on the relevant Government Department to reverse the decision to abolish the Bereavement Grant or put in place an alternative for those who would need assistance to bury their dead with some dignity and respect and that such assistance be explained clearly to the public”.

14. The Mayor informed the Members that he had received a letter from Cumann na Daoine seeking funding towards a Building Co-ordinator. The Members agreed to discuss same at the Pre-Budget Meeting.

15. Notice from Tgr Seminars in relation to a Seminar on Accessing EU Sports Funding for Irish Communities in Ireland.

16. Notice from Celtic Conferences on a Conference on Public Presentation and PR Management.

On the proposal of Cllr. Burke which was seconded by Cllr. O’ Connell the Members unanimously agreed that Cllr. Linehan Foley attend the Local Government Bill 2013 Conference in Bunclody.

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On the proposal of Cllr. Linehan Foley which was seconded by Cllr. Revins the members unanimously agreed that Cllr. Burke attend the Clare Tourism conference. On the proposal of Cllr. Linehan Foley

which was seconded by Cllr. O’ Connell the Members unanimously agreed that Cllr, Revins attend the Clare Tourism Conference. On the proposal of Cllr. Beecher which was seconded by Cllr. Linehan Foley the Members unanimously agreed that Cllr. Murray attend the Clare Tourism Conference. On the proposal of Cllr. O’ Sullivan which was seconded by Cllr. Linehan Foley the members unanimously agreed that Cllr. Beecher attend the Conference on Public Presentation & PR Management in the Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery.

On the proposal of Cllr. Linehan Foley which was seconded by Cllr. O’ Sullivan the Members unanimously agreed that Cllr. Beecher attend the Professional Development Seminar for Councillors in Bunratty, Co. Clare.

Any Other Business:

Cllr. Murray raised the issue of the possible closure of Foxes Lane Museum. Cllr. Murray stated that this was a fantastic tourism project and that it would be very sad to see it lost. Cllr. Murray asked if the possibility of incorporating the collection of items from the Museum with the Clock Gate as part of the Heritage Towns Initiative could be looked into.

This concluded the business of the meeting.