

**Minutes of December Meeting of Cashel Town Council held in the Council Chamber,
Civic Offices, Friar Street, Cashel on Monday 3rd December 2007 at 7.30pm.**

Members Present: **Councillor Martin Browne**
 Councillor Michael Browne
 Councillor Patrick Downey
 Councillor Sean McCarthy
 Councillor Joe Moloney
 Councillor Maureen O'Donoghue
 Councillor Tom Wood

Officials Present: **Mr Sean Keating, Town Manager**
 Mr Seamus Maher, Town Clerk
 Mr Tom O'Reilly, Town Engineer
 Mr Darby Mullen, Executive Engineer
 Ms Mairead Ryan, Staff Officer

Mayor: **Councillor Eddie Bennett**

Apologies: **Councillor Dan Dillon**

CLUID HOUSING DEVELOPMENT, WINDMILL

The Mayor welcomed Tim Porter, Cluid Housing to the meeting. Mr. Porter outlined to the meeting that Cluid Housing Association are in the process of constructing 40 houses at Windmill, Cashel which would be allocated to people from the Council housing waiting list. He said that they are now starting their allocation process and will be meeting with approved applicants over the coming months. He hoped that the development would be completed in late February 2008. There were a number of queries from the members in respect of rent, allocations and the right to buy the property. The Mayor welcomed the development and looked forward to it.

ST. PATRICK'S FESTIVAL PRESENTATION

The Mayor welcomed Donal Shiels of St Patrick's Festival to the meeting to outline their proposal to hold an event in Cashel over St. Patrick's weekend. Mr. Shiels began by outlining the background to his organisation. It is a limited company registered as a charity with a board of directors and the Chairman is appointed by the Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism. He said that they are planning to hold an event at the Rock of Cashel on Saturday 15th March 2008. This would be a spectacular event with Lighting Illumination, Fireworks, Music and Outdoor Scenes. The event would be free but would be a ticket event for control purposes. He said that a licence application had been made to South Tipperary County Council. Councillor McCarthy thanked Mr. Shiels for his presentation and welcomed the event. Councillor Wood also welcomed the event but advised that that the scaffolding at the Rock be looked at, at an early stage. Councillor Martin Browne welcomed it and as a member of St. Patrick's Day committee looked forward to working with the group. The Mayor welcomed it along with the other councillors.

TOWN CENTRE STRATEGY PHASE 2

The Mayor welcomed Nic de Jong to the meeting to discuss the options for Phase 2 of the Town Centre Strategy. Mr. de Jong began by speaking about Phase 1 of the works and said that the plaza had now become the focal point of the town centre. He outlined the options for rest of the town centre as follows

- Continuation of Main Street from centre to Lowergate Square (A)
- Lowergate Square (B)
- Wesley Square (C)

He presented drawings to the meeting of the 3 options (A, B & C) giving details of the works involved in each part. The Town Clerk indicated that it would not be possible to undertake all 3 options together and they would need to be completed on phased basis. He asked the members to look at the options and decide which should be the next phase. There were a number of queries on parking and the detail of each option from the members. Following a discussion Councillor Martin Browne proposed that the next phase of the Town Centre strategy be undertaken to consist of option A & C. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Downey and resolved that: -

“The Town Centre Phase 2 process be commenced to include option A and C as per the attached map”

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING:

The Minutes were proposed by Councillor Wood seconded by Councillor Downey and adopted.

Councillor Wood queried if there had been a response from the HSE and the Town Clerk indicated that there a response was not received.

RENT COLLECTION:

The Town Clerk informed the Meeting that the rent arrears at the end of November amounted to €15,120.

MANAGER’S ORDERS:

The Managers Orders were noted.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

It was noted that a workshop for Members has been arranged for 18 December at 19:30 to discuss progress on the review of the Town and Environs Development Plan and the issues surrounding a possible change to the criteria for ground floor uses on Main St. The two non-Town Council Cashel area Members are also invited and the proposal for a town boundary extension will also be discussed.

EXCESS EXPENDITURE

The Town Clerk outlined to the members the details of the excess expenditure for 2007. It was proposed by Councillor Michael Browne seconded by Councillor Martin Browne and resolved that: -

“That in accordance with Section 104 of the Local Government Act 2001 excess expenditure in respect of the financial year 2007 be and is hereby approved.

AUDIT REPORT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2006

The Town Clerk referred to the Audit Report circulated with the Agenda and outlined the main points to the meeting. He indicated that the Auditor was satisfied with the procedures of the Town Council. It was proposed by Councillor Martin Browne, seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue and adopted.

TOWN BOUNDARY ALTERATION PROPOSAL

Councillor Wood welcomed this proposal for the Cashel Town Boundary Extension. He said that it is one of the most important documents to come before the Town Council. He thanked the officials for their work in compiling the document and hoped that it would be looked at favourably by the Department. The Town Clerk outlined the process that the document would go through and indicated that it would be on the Town Council Agenda in January. It was also welcomed by the other members.

FREE BLANKET SCHEME

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Browne, seconded by Councillor Downey and agreed that the 6 blankets would be allocated to the applicants who were not allocated a blanket in 2006.

PUBLIC REALM PLAN

The Draft Public Realm plan was circulated to the members and it was agreed that this would be placed on the agenda for the January Meeting.

JOINT NOMINATION OF SOUTH TIPPERARY/BOROUGH COUNCIL'S DIRECTOR TO THE BOARD OF SOUTH TIPPERARY INTEGRATED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

Councillor Martin Browne was proposed by Councillor Downey seconded by Councillor Bennett and it was agreed that Councillor Browne would be the Council's nomination to the above.

NOTICES OF MOTION:

Councillor Tom Wood:

“That Cashel Town Council take whatever steps are deemed necessary to ensure that the Rock is nominated for World Heritage Status next year”

Councillor Wood outlined that there are only two sites in Ireland that have achieved World Heritage Status. He believes that the Rock should be nominated for this status but that the scaffolding on the site is a major barrier to its nomination. He asked that the Town Council make contact with the Department and meet personnel from the Heritage Policy Unit to advance this nomination.

Councillor Tom Wood:

“That Cashel Town Council prioritise the construction of a footpath on the Rock Lands adjacent to the Circular Road this coming year”

A written response was issued as follows:

The estimated cost of providing a gravel walkway at this location is €31,000, which does not include any costs in relation to land purchase, archaeology, public lighting, etc.

The Council will enter negotiations with the Landowner, the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the OPW in a bid to progress this matter and to follow the Part 8 Public Consultation process in due course.

Councillor Wood accepted this response and referred to a scheme within LEADER, which grants 70% funding to projects.

Councillor Tom Wood:

“That Cashel Town Council takes immediate steps to ensure the owner of the former Hanley dwelling house on the Upper Green makes it secure and safe as it is a cause for concern to the residents in that area”

I have notified the owners of this property to secure the building and prevent access.

Councillor Wood expressed his concerns about the building and wanted to put the owners on notice that the situation was being monitored.

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS:

The Conference list was circulated. The report submitted by Councillor Wood on his conference attendance were noted.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The correspondence was noted.

ITEMS RAISED

The following items were raised: -

The issue of one parking permit per household was raised by Councillor Martin Browne. Following a discussion the Town Clerk agreed that the Parking Bye-Laws needed to be reviewed and would commence the process as soon as possible.

The rules of the cemetery were also discussed with issues raised in relation to kerbing and it was requested that they be re-looked at. It was agreed to do this.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY:

Votes of sympathy were extended to the following: -

The Moloney Family
The Barry Family, Coleraine
Pascal Bourke, McCann Street

The Meeting then concluded.

Signed _____
Mayor

Dated: _____ 2007