

Minutes of February Meeting of Cashel Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Friar Street, Cashel on Monday 4th February 2008 at 7.30pm.

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

Officials Present: Mr Sean Keating, Town Manager
Mr Seamus Maher, Town Clerk
Mr Darby Mullen, Executive Engineer

Mayor: Councillor Eddie Bennett

Apologies: Mr Tom O Reilly, Town Engineer,
Ms Mairead Ryan, Staff Officer

MINUTES OF JANUARY MEETING:

The Minutes of the January Meeting were proposed by Councillor Dan Dillon and seconded by Councillor Paddy Downey and adopted.

RENT COLLECTION

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that the rent arrears at the end of January amounted to €15,550

MANAGER'S ORDER

A query was raised in relation Managers Order Number 17946, the Town Clerk responded by indicating that arrears had been reduced substantially in this case.

Councillor Michael Browne raised a query in relation to Managers Order Number 17957 in relation to planning permission under PLR/07/1143 at Chapel Lane in relation to opening doors onto footpath/street.

The Town Clerk replied by indicating that there was no footpath on that side of Chapel Lane and on account of a recess in the front of the proposed building doorways would not interfere with pedestrians.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

The Town Clerk had circulated a letter with decision and conditions in relation to the application for the planning permission by CMS Developments Ltd for a hotel and commercial development at St Francis Abbey Cashel, it was noted that a decision to grant permission was issued on the 1st February 2008.

Councillor Wood indicated that he was disappointed to hear that the decision had already been made. Councillor Martin Browne recollected that an indication had been given previously that the matter would come before the members prior to the decision being issued. The Manager replied stating that the application had been received in December 2006, further information had been requested, and further clarification of that further information was sought after. This final piece of information was received on 11th January and the council were required to make a decision within 4 weeks of that date. The public were given an opportunity to make submissions at each stage and the Members were kept informed of the progress. He indicated that he could not elaborate any further in relation to this decision as the appeal period is now active.

Councillor Martin Browne was annoyed that the matter did not come before the Members as previously indicated. The Manager replied that the decision was made on the basis of the development plan, in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development. The Manager stated this applies to all planning applications.

EU CHARTER DELEGATION

It was proposed that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor would attend the EU Charter Meeting in Lefkara, Cyprus between the 14th and 18th May 2008.

PUBLIC REALM PLAN

The members received a hand delivered copy of the Public Realm Plan on Thursday 31st January 2008, as it was unavailable to be issued with the Agenda by post on Wednesday 30th January.

The Town Clerk stated that the amendments suggested by the members were taken into consideration and included in the Public Realm Plan when it was discussed at the January Meeting.

The Town Clerk Stated that this was an aspirational plan, which looked at the Public Realm space in Cashel, set out objectives for achieving the best use of those spaces. Councillor Wood indicated he was not happy with the plan as revised and Councillor Martin Browne indicated that there was insufficient direction for undertaking specific works and he could not support the plan. The Manager stated that this was not the Town Development Plan as another process was underway to review that plan but by endorsing the Public Realm Plan the Councillors would be setting out to achieve the broad objectives. It would also be a useful plan for discussions with other agencies who are involved in the Development of the Town. Furthermore the plan would open the way for accessing funding from the Heritage Council who have sponsored this plan and the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government to carry out and undertake objectives set out in the Public Realm Plan. The Manager therefore encouraged the members to support and accept the plan.

Councillor Joe Moloney stated the plan was quite acceptable and he proposed it be accepted by the council.

This proposal was seconded by Councillor Paddy Downey, who stated that if we do not have a plan the likelihood of accessing funding for the Development of the areas etc., may be negligible.

A vote was therefore taken on the proposal to accept the Public Realm Plan:

	For	Against
Councillor Bennett	Y	
Councillor Martin Browne		Y
Councillor Michael Browne		Y
Councillor Dillon		Y
Councillor Downey	Y	
Councillor McCarthy	Y	
Councillor Moloney	Y	
Councillor O'Donoghue	Y	
Councillor Wood		Y

The proposal was therefore carried by 5 votes to 4.

TAXI METER AREA

The Town Clerk circulated a letter at the meeting with an accompanying map identifying a location for a Taxi Stand, that is one space for Taxi's in Cashel. Several Councillors indicated that there are least two taxis' now in Cashel and that arrangement should be made to accommodate those taxis. On further discussion it was agreed that the members would look at the map which was submitted and see if it was possible to identify other locations as suitable Taxi Stands prior to the March Meeting.

BROADBAND

The Town Clerk had circulated a letter enclosing a copy of the notice proposing that Main Street be closed from Monday 18th February 2008 to 21st February 2008 both days inclusive to enable works to be carried out to relay ducting along a section of Main Street for approximately 150 meters from Feehans to Cantwells.

After a long discussion in relation to how this ducting became defective, Councillor Wood stated that there should be no obstacle to people moving around Main Street and that if it was possible traffic flow should be put in place either by using lights or manual stop/go system. Councillor Dan Dillon inquired if it would be possible to have one-way traffic, however Mr Mullen Executive Engineer indicated that the ducts were laid in the centre of the roadway and it would be unlikely that traffic would have room to manoeuvre during the replacement process.

Councillor Martin Browne stated that the business people of the Town had put up with a lot of inconvenience during Phase 1 of the Town Centre Strategy and also with the Broadband, and he proposed the works to replace the ducting be carried out at nighttime. Councillor Moloney

seconded this proposal stating that a large number of complaints were received by him, from business people who are not at all happy with the situation.

It was noted that night time excavation would be likely to give rise to nuisance and other difficulties concerned with Health and Safety which may not be acceptable either. Councillor McCarthy enquired to who was responsible for this error and who was going to pay for it. Mr Mullen replied indicating that monies had been withheld from the Main Street Contract and also funding could be provided from South Eastern Region Authority. The proposal was therefore put to the meeting that the works be carried out at nighttime and a vote was taken as follows:

	For	Against
Councillor Bennett	Y	
Councillor Martin Browne	Y	
Councillor Michael Browne	Y	
Councillor Dillon	Y	
Councillor Downey	Y	
Councillor McCarthy	Y	
Councillor Moloney	Y	
Councillor O'Donoghue	Y	
Councillor Wood	Y	

The motion was carried by 9 votes to nil.

FIX DATE FOR BURIAL GROUND MEETING

It was proposed to discuss the question of the situation at the Burial Ground and revision of burial ground rules on Monday 11th February 2008 at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber.

FIX DATE FOR WORKSHOP MEETING ON MANAGERS REPORT

It was proposed to hold this meeting on Tuesday 19th February 2008 at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Friar Street, Cashel.

NOTICES OF MOTION:

Councillor Tom Wood:

“That the ‘great plan’ for Dominic Street announced some years ago but put on hold until the Dominic Court development was completed be instigated this year as its now a matter of Health & Safety due to dangerous footpath and road conditions.”

The following written response was issued.

“The elected members are committed to the installation of the following in the current year’s Footpath and Roads Programme; -

- a) The installation of weight restrictions on Main Street.

- b) The installation of speed control devices at selected locations about the town.
- c) The upgrading and improvement of Bohereenglas.

The Council also intends to complete our 2007 works which includes footpaths at John Street and the resurfacing of Cathal Brugha Street. The Council has further examined the road structure at Cathal Brugha Street and find that what is required here is complete reconstruction rather than resurfacing and consequently any balance of funds on the 2008 Programme will be required for this project.

The Council are also awaiting the outcome of our application to the EU Co-financed Scheme for funding for Cashel streets and should this application be successful the project will be in a position to proceed otherwise the scheme will have to be programmed into the future.”

Councillor Wood indicated he was not happy in relation to his reply to his Notice of Motion as some years ago the sum of £30,000 was put aside to have this work carried out. He urged the Manager to reconsider this situation as this area had been promised repairs and refurbishment for quiet a long time. The Manager agreed to review the situation.

Councillor Dan Dillon

“Following the meeting between Council officials and representatives from the E.S.B on 9th January 2008 what report, if any, was submitted to the Council by the E.S.B. outlining the reason why so many of the street lights in Cashel have been non effective for extremely long periods recently and what steps are being taken to rectify the situation.”

The following written response was issued

“At the meeting of the 9th January 2008 the following items were discussed;-

- i. Vandalism problem at Spafield.
- ii. Broadband underground cable damage at Spafield.
- iii. Lights at pedestrian access.
- iv. Old decaying lighting fixtures at Main Street.

The following is the position;-

- i. Ten lights need replacement as a result of continued vandalism. These lights have been replaced many times in the past some no longer than six months ago. Because of the level of vandalism here (the worst in the E.S.B. area) the only solution is to replace them with a new type of anti vandal light and column. The E.S.B.’s quote in the sum of €1,050.00 for these was accepted by the Council and arrangements are in hand to have them erected. The Council will undertake all necessary civil works which is expected to be in the region of €2,000.00.
- ii. Three lights on the main access were out due to underground damage to the cable, and this has since been resolved by the E.S.B. and the Broadband contractor.

- iii. The lights out at the pedestrian access required upgrading to meet standard, this work will be carried out shortly.
- iv. The existing traffic route lighting at Boherclough Street, Main Street, Canopy Street, etc., is extremely old and decayed and is in urgent need of replacement. The County Council will put in place a programme of replacement commencing in the current year.

The Town Council intends to set up a monitoring system for the follow up of lighting repairs where regular checks will be carried out to evaluate the time lag in carrying out the repairs. “

A discussion followed the response of Councillor Dillon’s Notice of Motion, in relation to the extremely poor service the Council are getting from the ESB, a number of councillors outlined the number of lights remaining out of order. Furthermore the lights on Main Street will require to be replaced and as they are the responsibility of South Tipperary County Council, they felt that the Council should proceed to have this work carried out forthwith and not to have it extended over a number of years.

Councillor Dan Dillon

”Following a most enlightening meeting between Council Officials and Residents of Spafield Crescent about Traffic Calming Measures being proposed by Cashel Town Council for the area the residents were led to believe that these Measures would be carried out as early as possible. What is the proposed date with the Council propose to commence these works.”

A Written response was issued as follows:

“The final report for improvements works for Spafield Crescent, which, not only included traffic calming, but also included additional residential accommodation, playground area etc, was received from the consultant Deaton Lysaght Architects on the 10th January 2008.

This report is currently being costed so that an application can be made to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government to secure funding to carry out the works.

I intend to meet with representatives of the resident association to discuss the final report so that they are fully aware of what is proposed.

When the above procedure is carried out I will then be in a position to provide you with a commencement date for the above-mentioned works.”

Councillor Dan Dillon was happy with this response.

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS:

The Conference list was noted.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The correspondence was noted.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY:

Votes of sympathy were extended to the following: -

The Cawley Family,
The Hickey Family,

ITEMS RAISED

Councillor Dan Dillon referred to an unauthorised development at Deerpark Road and requested that this situation be attended to immediately.

Councillor Martin Browne referred to the unfinished footpath on the Golden Road adjacent to Scoil Chormaic, and asked if this matter be completed as soon as possible.

The Meeting then concluded.

Signed _____
Town Clerk

Dated: _____ 2008

Signed _____
Mayor

Dated: _____ 2008