

Minutes of December Meeting of Cashel Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Friar Street, Cashel on Monday 14th January 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**

Officials Present:

- Mr Sean Keating, Town Manager**
- Mr Seamus Maher, Town Clerk**

Mayor:

- Councillor Eddie Bennett**

Apologies:

- Councillor Maureen O Donoghue**
- Mr Tom O Reilly, Town Engineer,**
- Ms Mairead Ryan, Staff Officer**

Standing Orders were suspended to allow the Consultant Mr James Hennessy of the Paul Hogart Company, and ERM to give a presentation on the Draft Public Realm Plan to the members.

Mr Hennessey referred to the Draft Public Realm, which, had been circulated to the members. Mr Hennessey and Ms Francis O’Kelly of ERM proceeded to outline the specifics of the Public Realm Plan and to refer to a number of issues, which had been received during the Public Consultation Process. Following the presentation the members questioned various aspects of the Plan:.

- Lack of input by the O.P.W., and their commitment to provide a visitor centre for the Rock.

- Whether it is possible to achieve the initiatives and the practicalities of the plan.

- To consider access to cater for special needs.

- To identify a visitor centre

- To remove certain activities, for example, hotel proposal at Rock Car Park

- To provide for an identifiable walk around the Rock

- To provide for costing on various projects

The Plan was welcomed in general and after a discussion in relation to the adoption of the Plan it was decided to defer the matter to the February Meeting of the Council at which time the various amendments suggested by the members would be taken on board and the plan would come back for adoption.

Councillor Wood requested a meeting be help with the O.P.W. to discuss their situation concerning the visitor centre and the Town Clerk agreed to contact the O.P.W. in relation to this matter.

MINUTES OF DECEMBER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING:

The Minutes were proposed by Councillor Martin Browne seconded by Councillor Joe Moloney and adopted.

Councillor Wood enquired if a response had been received from the HSE and the Town Clerk replied in the negative and indicated he would follow the matter up with the HSE.

Councillor Wood requested that the HSE be contacted concerning information that the orthopaedic and fracture clinic was been removed from Our Lady's Hospital and information should be available on this matter as soon as possible.

Councillor Dan Dillon enquired if the burial ground rules had been examined and the Town Clerk responded that these were under examination at the moment.

Councillor's Dillon, Wood and Martin Browne indicated that there were great concerns with regard to the burial ground and the Council should consider holding a special meeting to discuss the problems associated with it. The Town Clerk indicated that he will arrange a meeting to discuss the matter and to try and resolve the problem.

RENT COLLECTION:

The Town Clerk informed the Meeting that the rent arrears at the end of December amounted to €15,000.

MANAGER'S ORDERS:

Councillor Michael Browne queried Manager's Order Number 17938 in relation to JTP Development, the Town Clerk replied indicating that this referred to a planning application on part of Hanley's Farm, and further information was requested requiring the submission of Traffic Impact Assessment and Retail Impact Assessment.

Councillor Browne also referred to Manager's Order Number 17942 being a refusal of Planning Permission to Centenary Co-Op for 18 Car Parking Spaces at their Cahir Road Development.

The Town Clerk replied that refusal of permission was because the proposal would constitute a Traffic Hazard and this would be contrary to the proper planning and development of the area. A recommendation had been received from the Road Safety Authority that there should be separate and exclusive access for goods/delivery vehicles and shop customers. The Road Safety Audit carried out also indicated that there was potential hazard's created by mixture of heavy goods vehicle's, customer car's and pedestrians within relatively confined spaces.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

These were noted.

TOWN BOUNDARY ALTERATION

The Town Clerk indicated that the members had received a copy of the boundary alteration and it was discussed at the December Meeting of the Council and it was now a matter for the Council to decide the procedure which if the proposal was adopted it would be publicised forwarded to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Commissioner of Valuation and also to South Tipperary County Council for consideration. On the proposal by Councillor Martin Browne, seconded by Councillor Michael Browne the proposed boundary alterations of Cashel Town Council was adopted and that the legal process be followed to pursue the extension of the Town Boundary.

Planning Exemptions for Certain Renewable Energy Technologies

The Town Clerk referred to the distribution of a consultation paper to the members in early November concerning proposed planning exemptions for certain renewable energy technologies across the commercial, industrial, agriculture and public sectors. After a short discussion it was agreed to note the documentation.

CUSTOMER ACTION PLAN

The Town Clerk referred to the Draft Customer Action Plan placed before the members the core object of being to ensure quality of service to our customers setting standards for responsiveness, efficiency and cost effectiveness. During a discussion it was noted that the members did not have an emergency contact number, however the Town Clerk referred to the on-call situation to South Tipperary County Council which, is in operation for the Roads Section, but however discussions are in place with regard to the facility being adopted by the Water Services Section. The Town Clerk indicated that his number is available to all the Councillors and may be contacted at weekends. The Customer Action Plan was agreed.

HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Town Clerk referred to the process, which, has to be undertaken by the 31st March 2008, and that if members are aware of somebody in need of re-housing and have not applied, that they should contact the Civic Offices.

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 this council set up a forum to investigate the feasibility of providing a multi storey car park at Main Street as outlined by the Chamber of Trade and Tourism”

A written reply is as follows.

The submission by the Cashel Chamber of Trade and Tourism of the document to the members prior to the December 2007 Meeting of the Council was a basic proposal to construct a multi-storey car park on the site of the current Main Street Car Park.

The document has been issued to a firm of quantity surveyors to provide an estimate of the cost of the proposal.

It will also be necessary to undertake a thorough assessment of the need for such a car park and a firm of consultants have already been requested to carry out this assessment.

When the above reports are completed they will be brought before the members for their information and attention.

At the moment I consider it premature to establish a forum to investigate this proposal.

Councillor Wood was satisfied with the response.

Councillor Tom Wood:

“ That the Manager outline the situation relating to asbestos as it may pertain to Council properties and the guidelines when dealing with such a material”

A written reply was issued as follows,

The Council’s Safety Statement refers to controls for working with asbestos material. For all planned works with asbestos, the Health & Safety Authority is notified 28 days in advance of the works.

Specialist Contractors are engaged for working with asbestos material and these have personnel with adequate training and experience in this work.

It should be noted that any asbestos, which exists in outbuilding etc., in a solid state does not pose a danger to health.

Councillor Wood was satisfied with the response

Councillor Dan Dillon

“That this Council calls on the Minister of Environment, Heritage and Local Government to ensure that all Borough/Town Council Housing Authorities receive their Annual Housing Capital Allocation directly, based on needs as identified by

those authorities and retain control over all matters pertaining to public housing in their area.”

He stated that Housing Capital Allocations should be made directly to Cashel Town Council and not to South Tipperary County Council, having regard to the fact that Cashel Town Council is itself a Housing Authority. He felt that it was absolutely necessary that the Council are allocated sufficient grants for their housing needs, and he would like the Councillors to support this motion which, should be submitted to the Minister of Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Martin Browne and it was agreed to submit the motion to the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Councillor Dan Dillon

“Following repeated promises that a proper resurfacing job would be undertaken on the public road at Hillview, Old Road, Cashel I am seeking clarification on the reason for the delay in carrying out such work by the Council.”

A written reply was issued as follows,

The Council apologies for the long delay in the commencement of the promised works at this location.

The Contractor who carried out the site works on the nearby private estate is carrying out the work on behalf of the Council and this work commenced today. It is expected that all improvement works should be completed over the next four to six weeks.

Councillor Dan Dillon was delighted to see work had commenced on the Old Road area and would like to see it completed as soon as possible. He referred to an existing Beech Tree adjacent to a footpath and he would like to see this tree retained. It is agreed to pass this information on to Town Engineer.

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.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY:

Votes of sympathy were extended to the following: -

The Fitzell Family,

Tess Hickey,
The Murphy Family, Dominic Street,
Gus McDonnell,
Nancy Higgins,

ITEMS RAISED

Councillor Dillon raised the question concerning Public Lighting and what works are being carried out by the E.S.B to rectify the situation in the Town.

Councillor Joe Moloney indicated that there are a number of lights out in Dominic Street, and this matter should be rectified as soon as possible.

Councillor Martin Browne referred to representations he received concerning the provision of a Taxi Rank and the Town Clerk agreed he would have this matter before the members at the February Meeting.

A number of Councillors referred to the conditions around the bottle banks particularly at the Green, and in view of the unsightly situation and the fact that we have hi-tech waste transfer station and civic community site at Wallors Lot, that the bottle banks should be removed. It was proposed by Councillor Tom Wood, and seconded by Councillor Martin Browne that the bottle banks in town be removed.

Councillor Joe Moloney also referred to the bottle bank on the Cahir Road, which, is blocked in and cannot be used and perhaps this matter could also be looked at.

The Meeting then concluded.

Signed _____
Mayor

Dated: _____ 2008