

Minutes of May Meeting of Cashel Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Friar Street, Cashel on Monday 12th May 2008 at 7.30pm.

Mayor: Councillor Eddie Bennett

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

Officials Present: Mr Sean Keating, Town Manager
Ms. Marie McGivern, Town Clerk
Ms Mairead Ryan, Staff Officer
Mr Tom O'Reilly, Town Engineer
Mr Darby Mullen, Executive Engineer

Apologies: Councillor Maureen O'Donoghue

1. MINUTE SILENCE

A Minute silence was observed as a mark of respect to the late Catherine Browne, wife of Councillor Michael Browne.

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2. MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING:

The Minutes of the Special Meeting held on Wednesday 25th March 2008 were adopted on the proposition of Councillor Martin Browne, seconded by Councillor Dan Dillon.

3. MINUTES OF APRIL MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting held on 7th April 2008 were adopted on the proposition of Councillor Patrick Downey, seconded by Councillor Dan Dillon.

4. DEPUTATION

The Council had agreed to receive a deputation to address the meeting in relation to Cormac's Cemetery. The Deputation consisted of Messrs Sean Murphy, Ned O'Toole, Ms. Caroline Nagle, Jane Doyle and Donald Walsh. Mr. Murphy asked that kerbing be allowed in the Y section of the cemetery. He outlined that there are currently 16 families affected by the rule which prohibits kerbing and stated that they have serious concerns regarding the cemetery and want to have kerbs to allow them to have some privacy at their graves. He emphasised the strong feelings that the families have on this issue.

Mr. O'Toole asked the Council to take some measures at the turning point in the graveyard to prevent vehicles driving onto graves.

Councillor Michael Browne agreed that there should be a raised kerb allowed around each grave in the "Y" part of the Cemetery. The members informed the deputation that they supported them in their request.

The deputation then withdrew from the meeting.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

6. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

At the request of Councillor Michael Browne it was agreed to have Standing Orders suspended to discuss the TESCO development on the Cahir Road. He raised the following matters

- volume of traffic in the Spafield Crescent area due to TESCO development and the need to make submissions to the Part VIII proposal now on public display
- closing of the pedestrian walkway from Spafield Crescent to Cahir Road

He asked that the walkway be opened as soon as possible. He felt that it would be unnecessary to have the walkway closed until November 2008. Councillor Dillon said that he had raised this point in April and asked that the parking on the roadway be addressed. Councillor Wood agreed and also expressed concerns regarding the inconvenience being experienced by staff and children from Scoil Aonghusa coming down the Cahir Road.

7. RENT COLLECTION

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that the rent arrears at the end of April amounted to €14,582.

8. MANAGER'S ORDER

The Managers Orders were noted.

9. FIX DATE FOR ANNUAL MEETING

It was agreed that the Annual Meeting would be held on Monday 23rd June 2008.

10. DRAFT BURIAL GROUND BYELAWS

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that the legal opinion sought as to whether or not the installation of kerbing around graves was in compliance with Health and Safety legislation had not yet been received. Therefore, it was agreed that further discussion on these byelaws would be deferred until this opinion was received.

11. NOTICES OF MOTION:

Councillor Sean McCarthy

“That the Council should procure and provide a “Mad Vac” manually operated machine to help clean the streets and footpaths of Cashel.”

A written response was issued as follows:

“The Town Council are currently investigating the replacement of the suction sweeper. Due to the recently provided local disposal facilities the Council are now in a position to investigate the provision of smaller sweepers including the “Mad Vac” machine.

The Council will hope to reach a conclusion on this matter in the coming weeks.”

Councillor McCarthy said that he had put forward this notice of motion as he felt that it was important for a tourist town to portray a clean image. This motion was supported by the other councillors.

Councillor Tom Wood

“That while encouraging dog owners to exercise their loyal pets, this Council would promote a pooper scooper campaign as a means of keeping our footpaths clean”.

A written response was issued as follows:

“The Town Council will liaise with the Environment Section of South Tipperary County Council to promote all initiatives they undertake.

The County Council currently inform dog owners with each dog license renewal notice issued of the availability of “pooper scoopers” at their offices. I am arranging to order a supply of “Pooper Scooper” and they will be available free of charge in the coming weeks at the reception desk of these offices.”

Councillor Wood accepted this response and said that it would be important for the Town Council to highlight the availability of the pooper scoopers.

Councillor Tom Wood

“That the Manager outline what if any measures can be taken to relieve small business premises of the exorbitant water charges”.

A written response was issued as follows:

“Government policy requires local authorities to recover the cost of providing water services from all non-domestic users. This is in accordance with the polluter pays principle and the requirements of Article 9 of the EU Water Framework Directive. The remainder of the costs are met from the Local Government Fund.

The County Council is the Sanitary Authority for all of South Tipperary and Cashel Town Council charges are fully in line with those of the county.

The consolidated wastewater charge was introduced in 2003. Since then, the Council is moving towards recovery of the full costs of providing water services on a phased basis. The current water charges in the South Tipperary Authorities, including Cashel Town Council, formed part of the 2008 budget and are well below the national average. Consequently, this Council cannot afford to reduce water charges in the current year.”

Councillor Wood said that small businesses were finding it more difficult to pay these charges. He felt that this is now a serious problem and highlighted the number of vacant

properties that are in town. Councillor Martin Browne supported this motion. He agreed that there is a downturn in business for the first time in several years. Councillor Moloney queried premises getting more than one bill and also the number of unmetered properties in town.

Councillor Tom Wood

“That the Council apartments in Friar Street be painted as they are very unsightly at present”.

A written response was issued as follows:

“The Town Council will carry out repainting of these apartments in the coming months.”

Councillor Wood accepted this response. The Mayor asked if these houses could be considered for double glazed windows. They currently have single glazed and all noises from the street are heard in the houses.

12. CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS:

The Conference list was noted.

13. CORRESPONDENCE:

Councillor Wood welcomed the grant of €100,000 for Capital Works on the City Walls.

14. VOTES OF SYMPATHY:

Votes of sympathy were extended to the following: -

Liam Campion, Old Road on the death of his brother

Pat O'Donoghue on the death of his mother

John Hanley & Family on the death of Mary Hanley and Bridget Quirke

Dean Knowles on the death of his sister

Shay Fitzgerald, 90 Spafield Crescent on the death of his mother

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that the inaugural meeting of the Joint Policing Committee will be held on 16th June 2008 at 3pm in the Council Chamber.

The Town Clerk also informed the meeting that it was proposed to hold a Workshop for members on “the Promotion of Cashel”, the date being considered was Tuesday 24th June 2008 in the morning.

The Town Engineer informed the members that the digging works at the Green was being carried out by Bord Gais. He indicated that he has not received a work programme from Bord Gais as yet but would circulate it to the members when it was received.

Councillor Moloney was unhappy with the reinstatement work completed by Eircom.

Councillor Wood queried if a survey could be completed on cabling in the town especially around the Main Street area.

The Town Clerk informed the members that there was 4 applications received under the Recreational & Amenity Grant Scheme 2008, these are as follows:

1. Spafield Family Resource Centre
2. Cashel Rugby Club
3. Cashel Hanball Club
4. South Tipperary Scouting Ireland

She stated that these applications were currently being assessed and that it is anticipated the funding of the assessment would be brought before the members at the July Town Council Meeting.

There was a lengthy discussion on the activities in the graveyard especially regarding the large numbers of travellers who gather in the graveyard from time to time. Councillor Wood said that people feel intimidated visiting the graveyard. Councillor Wood asked if side kerbs could be considered. Councillor Downey asked if wider footpaths could be considered from now on between the gravespaces. Councillor Downey and Councillor Martin Browne also expressed concerns about the numbers of caravans parked on the approach roads to the Town.

The Meeting then concluded.

Signed _____
Mayor

Dated: _____ 2008

Signed _____
Town Clerk

Dated: _____ 2008