

Minutes of April Meeting of Cashel Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Cashel on Monday 4th April 2011 at 7.30pm.

Chair:	Councillor Maribel Wood
Members Present:	Councillor Eddie Bennett Councillor Martin Browne Councillor Dan Dillon Councillor Eoghan Lawrence Councillor Sean McCarthy Councillor Joe Moloney Councillor PJ Quinlan
Officials Present:	Mr. Sean Keating, Town Manager Ms. Marie McGivern, Town Clerk Ms. Mairead Ryan, Staff Officer Mr. Willie Corby, Town Engineer
Apologies:	Councillor Michael Browne

1. MINUTES OF MARCH MEETING HELD ON THE 7TH MARCH 2011

The minutes of the meeting held on the 7th March 2011 were adopted on the proposition of Councillor Sean McCarthy seconded by Councillor Eoghan Lawrence.

2. MINUTES OF WORKSHOP HELD ON 28TH FEBRUARY 2011

The minutes of the workshop of the 28th February 2011 were adopted on the proposition of Councillor Eddie Bennett seconded by Councillor Dan Dillon.

3. SOCIAL HOUSING ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS 2011

The Town Clerk introduced the Social Housing Assessment Regulations 2011 to the members which are effective from 1st April 2011. She outlined the main changes to the members which can be summarised as follows: -

- a. Household may apply to one authority only
- b. Assessment to be completed with within 12 weeks (max 26 weeks)
- c. Housing Authority of application carries out the assessment
- d. Household may identify 3 areas of choice
- e. Areas of choice are not in a priority ranking
- f. May not change areas of choice for one year
- g. Eligibility is assessed on Residency, Income limits, Rent Arrears and Availability of Alternative Accommodation

She informed the members that there will be workshop held on these regulations on Tuesday 19th April 2011 at 11am in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Clonmel.

Councillor Eddie Bennett commented that the length of time for the processing of applications is too long. Councillor Joe Moloney said that he is completely opposed to applicants being removed from the housing list where they refuse an offer of accommodation.

4. 2011 FIXED TERM TENANT PURCHASE SCHEME FOR LONG STANDING TENANTS

The Town Clerk referred to the 2011 Fixed-Term Tenant Purchase Scheme for long standing tenants circulated with the Agenda.

The main points of this scheme are as follows: -

- The scheme provides for a maximum of 45% discount on market price based on 3% discount for each year of tenancy up to 15 years
- Applications can be accepted up to 31st December 2011
- Sales will have to be completed by 31st December 2012
- The €3,810 discount in the 1995 scheme does not apply to this scheme
- The outright purchase of the house may be funded by mortgage loan from a commercial loan, County Council loan or tenants' own resources.
- There are some dwellings excluded from the scheme and these are designated in the schedule attached to the scheme.

The scheme was broadly welcomed by the members. Councillor Eddie Bennett queried what the value of the houses would be, the Town Clerk indicated that an independent valuer would be appointed to ascertain the market value of the property. Councillor Sean McCarthy expressed the view that it may be difficult for tenants to get a mortgage from the banks, given the current economic situation.

On the proposition of Joe Moloney, seconded by Eddie Bennett, it was resolved: -

“That the 2011 Fixed-Term Tenant Purchase Scheme for long-standing tenants prepared in accordance with Section 90 of the Housing Act 1966 and in compliance with the Housing (Sale of Houses to long-standing tenants) regulations 2011 be and is hereby adopted by Cashel Town Council.”

5. EUROPEAN CHARTER MEETING 2011 PROGRESS REPORT BY CLLR MARIBEL WOOD

Councillor Wood reported that the launch day had taken place on the 23rd March 2011 and it was very successful. It was attended by Ambassadors from Czech Republic, Estonian and Slovenia along with a senior representative

from the British Embassy. The countdown clock is on the plaza and is creating an awareness of the event. She said that the EU Charter was represented by two youth representatives in Luxembourg and she had received an email from the Ambassador in Luxembourg complimenting the representatives. In addition Niall Gregory had attended a meeting in Bienvenida, Spain and they have expressed an interest in establishing special links with Cashel. She highlighted that accommodation is a critical issue and indicated that the Charter needs a further 150 beds for the event. The Town Clerk said that the event will be a great event for Cashel Town and the host families will have an opportunity to be closely involved in the event. Councillor Wood indicated that the next EU Charter Steering Group meeting will be held on 6th April at 4pm.

6. RENT COLLECTION

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that Rent Arrears at the end of March amounted to €10,932.

7. MANAGERS ORDERS

In response to a query from Councillor Joe Moloney, the Town Clerk indicated that there had been no response to the 3 notice to quits issued to-date.

8. NOTICES OF MOTION

Councillor Maribel Wood

“That the front walls at Cormac’s Cemetery be power hosed, the gates and railings painted and the crumbling Kerbing inside the gate be renewed as soon as possible”

A written response was issued as follows:

Any necessary repairs and cleaning at the entrance to Cormac’s Cemetery will be undertaken shortly

Councillor Maribel Wood

“That due to concerns for safety, a temporary kerbside sign be erected informing drivers approaching from the M8 interchange, that a funeral is in progress at Cormac’s Cemetery”

A written response was issued as follows:

A “Funeral in Progress” sign will be used if considered necessary. However, it should be borne in mind that staff resources are very limited to manage funerals. It is necessary to control the main entrance gate to prevent access for vehicles other than the hearse

Councillor Maribel Wood

A written response was issued as follows:

The EU Charter meeting scheduled to take place from 30th June to 4th July next is a wonderful opportunity for Cashel to showcase and promote itself as a key tourist/business destination. The meeting will be attended by over 300 delegates representing each of the 26 European Union countries.

In order to create a positive impression/image of the town, the Council would encourage all property owners/occupiers to ensure their properties do not detract from the appearance of the town as a whole.

Councillor PJ Quinlan

“That Cashel Town Council consider traffic calming measures to slow down traffic on Lowergate, Camus Road area as speed and joy riders are causing a public danger especially to pedestrians negotiating a road crossing”

A written response was issued as follows:

The elected members were previously advised in Notice of Motion replies that it will be necessary to undertake a speed survey to determine the extent of the problem on Camus Road/ Lowergate Street. The results of the survey to be undertaken by camera over an extended period will be made known to the elected members.

If necessary, kerb build outs will be considered as part of the 2012 Road Works Programme. In the meantime, the Gardai will be asked to monitor the situation.

Councillor PJ Quinlan

“That Cashel Town Engineer improve road markings and signage on junction of Kiln onto Ladyswell Street. Cars turning onto the Rock of Cashel from the Dublin Road may cause traffic accidents with cars coming from Holycross direction as they are not yielding”

A written response was issued as follows:

Improvements of road markings and signage will be undertaken shortly when surfacing works are completed as part of the 2011 Roadworks programme.

9. CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

The list of Conferences and Seminars were circulated to the members. The attendance at Conferences was proposed by Councillor Eddie Bennett, seconded by Councillor Dan Dillon.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence was read.

11. FIX DATE FOR ANNUAL MEETING

This item was deferred to the May Meeting of the Town Council. It was confirmed that the May Meeting would be held on Monday 9th May 2011.

12. VOTES OF SYMPATHY

A vote of sympathy was extended to:

The Kerr Family, Omagh on the death of Ronan Kerr
John Knightly & family, The Green on the death of his wife Eileen
Mrs. Mary Connolly, John Street on the death of her brother

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

On a query from Councillor Martin Browne about the no dumping sign in the cemetery, it was confirmed that this does not apply to old wreaths and flowers.

Councillor Maribel Wood proposed a civic reception for Archbishop Dermot Clifford on the occasion of his Silver Jubilee. This was seconded by Councillor Eddie Bennett and agreed.

There being no other business the meeting then concluded.

Signed/ _____
Mayor

Dated/ _____ May 2011

Signed/ _____
Town Clerk

Dated/ _____ May 2011