

**Minutes of June Meeting of Cashel Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Cashel on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2010 at 4.00pm.**

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

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The Manager opened the meeting by reporting that the recent Industrial Action taken by the Impact Union has now ended and he is awaiting a response from the SIPTU Union. This was welcomed by the members. On the proposition of Councillor Joe Moloney, seconded by Councillor PJ Quinlan, it was agreed that the Annual Meeting would be held at 7.30pm on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2010.

**1. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THE 13<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2010**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2010 were adopted on the proposition of Councillor Michael Browne, and seconded by Councillor Eoghan Lawrence.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Councillor Maribel Wood enquired whether the Town Council had received a reply from the HSE regarding recent notice of motions. The Town Clerk circulated the reply received in respect of St. Patrick's Hospital and indicated that the Town Council were still awaiting a reply in respect of Our Lady's Hospital. Councillor Wood said that she has fears for the future of the Assessment Unit at St. Patrick's Hospital. She asked that the Town Council clarify this with the HSE. Councillor Joe Moloney supported this request and said that staff are fearful for their jobs in the hospital. He asked that the HSE be requested to meet the Council or that a deputation of the Council go to meet the HSE. Councillor Martin Browne said that this is an urgent issue and asked that the HSE be requested to meet a deputation of the Council within one week of the meeting. The Town Clerk agreed to contact the HSE to arrange this meeting.

## **2. MAYORAL RECEPTION**

On the proposition of Mayor Eddie Bennett, seconded by Councillor Maribel Wood it was agreed to hold a Mayoral Reception for the visitors from Holmegard, Denmark on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2010 at 10am in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices.

## **3. CASHEL POSITIVE AGEING TOWN – NOMINATION TO COMMITTEE**

On the proposition of Councillor Joe Moloney, seconded by Councillor Michael Browne, it was agreed that the Mayor would be the Town Council's representative on this committee

## **4. LOCAL AUTHORITIES – VAT (DETAILS ATTACHED)**

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that following a European Court of Justice ruling against Ireland, the VAT regime will now extend to include public bodies. She said that this will become effective from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010 following the enactment of the Finance Act 2010. This will require Cashel Town Council to charge VAT on

- Refuse
- Off Street Parking
- Burial Ground Fees

Councillor Martin Browne said that the Council should be considering reducing charges instead of putting up charges in the current economic climate. He said that the Council would have to consider absorbing the VAT element. He had serious concerns about the knock-on effect on business on these increases. The Mayor said that he agreed with this view.

On a query from Councillor Martin Browne, the Town Clerk confirmed that it was the Minister for Finance who had introduced this measure.

Councillor Eoghan Lawrence said that he is totally opposed to any increase in charges at this time. He agreed that the Council will have to consider absorbing the increase.

Councillor Martin Browne expressed concerns about the numbers already moving away from the Council's refuse collection service and said that the Council will lose further customers with these increases, he feared that ultimately the Council will no longer have a refuse collection business. The Town Manager said that the Town Council had adopted an Annual Budget based on the anticipated income and expenditure for 2010. He stated that the Town Council cannot afford to absorb the VAT payable on these services at this time. He stated that the County & City Managers Association had looked at this issue in detail to ascertain what charges would be liable for VAT and those that would not, following this a list of services subject to vat was drawn up, this list was circulated list with the Agenda. He indicated that the refuse standing charge for 2010 would be exempt from VAT as the bills were issued prior to the 1st July 2010 but the other items would be liable for VAT.

In response to the loss of refuse customers from the Council, the Manager indicated that the Council had introduced a number of changes to the refuse system to attract new customers such as

- Annual Standing Charge billed twice yearly
- Draw for customers who pay in full
- Once off charge of €150 for new customers

Councillor PJ Quinlan echoed the request that the Council absorb the cost of the VAT for the current year. Councillor Maribel Wood said that the Council's hands are tied in this matter, the Council have to provide the service and if VAT is payable then it has to be charged. She suggested that the Councillors discuss this issue with their TDs and the Department.

The Manager told the meeting that this issue will be looked at during the preparation of the next Annual Budget. Councillors Lawrence, Martin Browne and Quinlan said that they were not prepared to wait until the next budget and wanted immediate action. They said that the Council have to try to save the businesses in difficulty and extra charges cannot be imposed at this time.

Councillors Martin Browne, Eoghan Lawrence and PJ Quinlan then left the meeting in protest.

## **5. RENT COLLECTION**

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that Rent Arrears at the end of May amounted to €13,498.

## **6. MANAGERS ORDERS**

On a query from Councillor Michael Browne, the Town Engineer confirmed that it is necessary for the Town Council to employ an Architect for the preparation of plans and documents for the Town Council.

## **7. FINANCE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2009**

The Town Clerk reported to the meeting that the Annual Financial Statement for 2009 had been prepared and submitted to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government. She indicated that overall the Town Council had a revenue surplus of €16,148 for the financial year 2009.

## **8. NOTICES OF MOTION**

**Councillor PJ Quinlan**

- 1. Request the Manager take the necessary steps to restore the temporary halting site at Wallers Lot on the Clonmel Road to a condition that is acceptable to the general public***

***particularly those visiting the St Cormacs Cemetery and the GAA Pitch and in particular to support the sterling efforts made by Cashel Tidy Towns***

- 2. That Cashel Town Council erect an appropriate sign post on the junction of Main Street and Chapel Lane to direct pedestrian traffic to the Rock of Cashel as tourists who arrive in the centre of Cashel find it difficult to get directions to the Rock of Cashel. At present we have no signage directing tourists from Main Street to the Rock of Cashel.***
- 3. That Cashel Town Engineer consider resurfacing works on Haigh Terrace with the junction at Windmill Close as the roads have fallen into serious disrepair.***

In the absence of Councillor Quinlan, the above notice of motions were not moved.

### **Councillor Maribel Wood**

***“That the Council would seriously consider erecting “stop and go” traffic lights at Main Street as many motorists ignore the existing pedestrian crossing”***

A written response was issued as follows:

*The existing zebra crossing at Main Street was designed not only with pedestrian safety in mind but also to facilitate the relatively free-flow of traffic on the street. The pedestrian crossing includes a ramped “speed table” to slow vehicles. If it was changed back to a pelican crossing (stop and go traffic lights), it is considered that this would add to congestion on Main Street particularly during busy periods.*

*It should be borne in mind that two additional pedestrian crossings at Canopy Street and Boherclough Street are to be installed as part of the 2010 Roads Programme. If all three crossings have stop-go traffic lights, it is considered that this would have a detrimental effect on traffic flow in the town and would add to traffic congestion at Friar Street Junction. Therefore, it is proposed to have all three crossings operate as zebra crossings with improved road markings and signage. The matter will be kept under review.*

Councillor Wood said that she was concerned about pedestrians in the town centre. She asked that the road markings be improved; the Mayor also requested that the loading bays be refreshed. Following a discussion on the crossing, the Manager suggested that the Gardai might further monitor the situation.

## **Councillor Maribel Wood**

***“That the Manager would clarify what improvements are envisaged for the Dominic Street area under this years roads programme”***

A written response was issued as follows:

*It is proposed to complete works along the central corridor of the street (footpaths and resurfacing at green area). Dropped kerbs etc. to be installed as per the Capita Symonds Access Audit and a single yellow line from Folk Village towards green area.*

Councillor Wood accepted this response.

## **Councillor Maribel Wood**

***“In recognition of the work carried out by this Council, the town gardeners, tidy towns committee and civic minded citizens, this local authority takes whatever means are deemed necessary to get a minority of property owners to tow the line and improve the exterior appearance of their premises as they seriously detract from the overall presentation of our town.”***

A written response was issued as follows:

*You might kindly identify to me the properties to which you are referring.*

*As you are aware, the Town Council take appropriate action when it is deemed necessary under relevant legislation i.e. Derelict Sites Litter Act.*

*The Town Council in partnership with the Tidy Towns Committee and Cashel Chamber of Commerce will continue to strive to ensure Cashel is an attractive place to visit.*

Councillor Wood indicated that she referred to the four properties at the back of the pipes. The Town Clerk confirmed that she had served notices to the owner under the Derelict Sites Legislation.

## **10. CONFERENCES/SEMINARS**

The list of Conferences and Seminars were circulated.

## **11. CORRESPONDENCE**

The correspondence was read.

## **12. VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

A vote of sympathy was extended to:

The Prendergast Family, Rock Villas on the death of their mother  
The family of Tommy Bresnahan, Boherclough Street  
The Family of Nicholas Tompkins, Oliver Plunkett Park

There being no other business the meeting then concluded.

Signed/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Dated/ \_\_\_\_\_ June 2010.

Signed/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk

Dated/ \_\_\_\_\_ June 2010