

Minutes of April Meeting of Cashel Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Cashel on Tuesday 13th April 2010 at 4.00pm.

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

1. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THE 1ST MARCH 2010

The minutes of the meeting held on the 1st March 2010 were adopted on the proposition of Councillor Michael Browne, and seconded by Councillor Sean McCarthy.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Councillor Maribel Wood proposed that standing orders be suspended to convey a vote of sympathy to the Polish people of Cashel on the death of their President in the recent air crash. This was seconded by Councillor Joe Moloney.

DEPUTATION FROM JOHN STREET RESIDENTS

A deputation was received from the John Street Residents, which included Wally Ryan, James Devitt and Anne Maher. Mr. James Devitt and Ms. Anne Maher spoke on behalf of the group.

Mr. Devitt informed the meeting that the deputation was regarding the derelict house opposite the entrance to the Cathedral on John Street. He said that John Street is a very important street in Cashel, it is an old street and attracts a large number of tourists who visit the Bolton Library and the Cathedral.

He outlined that the group have serious concerns about the security and safety of the house. He indicated that the house has been used by squatters, neighbours have been threatened, there were 2 fires at the premises most

recently on 5th March 2010. He continued to say that he feels that there is a danger to the adjoining houses and there is also a danger to the public with the possibility of debris falling on the street. He said that the house needs to be boarded up and fully secured. He finished by saying that the residents are “sick and tired of the condition of this house on their street” .

Anne Maher explained to the meeting that she lives beside this house. She expressed her concerns about health and safety issues with the house. She indicated that the fires had affected her house and is fearful of it happening again. She also echoed the fear that a loose slate may cause injury to a member of the public. She said that she hoped they would get a favourable response from the Town Council.

Councillor Eddie Bennett asked the deputation if boarding up the house would be enough for the residents of the street. James Devitt indicated that the residents wanted to see the house secured in the short term but it does need a permanent solution. In response to a query from Councillor PJ Quinlan, Wally Ryan indicated that a lock had been placed on the house that morning.

The deputation then withdrew from the meeting.

Councillor Seam McCarthy indicated that he was also living beside this house and described it as a horrible, dirty, filthy hovel. He said that this house gives a poor image of the town. He felt that boarding up the house would be an inadequate response.

Councillor Maribel Wood enquired what powers the Town Council have to deal with this house. The Town Clerk indicated that the house is currently being dealt with under the Derelict Sites legislation and she circulated a report to the members outlining the details of the actions to-date by the Town Council under the Derelict Sites Act 1990. Following on from the comments of Councillor McCarthy, she indicated that the house will need to be investigated to ascertain whether or not it would be deemed a “dangerous structure” as defined in the Dangerous Structures legislation.

Councillor Michael Browne asked how many properties are on the derelict sites register; he said that it appears that the Council is powerless in this case. He said that it is now time for action, the house needs to be made safe or demolished.

Councillor Joe Moloney asked how long does the owner of the property in John Street have before the Council can take further action. The Town Clerk indicated that the owner has a 3-4 week period to complete the works as outlined to them on the 18th March 2010.

The Manager told the meeting that from his experience there usually other issues involved in these case. He informed the meeting that in order to use the dangerous structures legislation, the property would need to be investigated and found to be in a dangerous condition. He agreed that an inspection of the property would be undertaken by the Council.

2. DRAFT CASUAL TRADING BYELAWS

The Town Clerk circulated a map to the members indicating the proposed amended area at the back of the pipes to be designated as the trading area. She indicated that at present there is no proposal from the Farmers Market to trade in town but she said that it would be important that the Council is ready should an application be submitted to the Council.

Anne Marie Walsh who represents the Farmers Market joined the meeting and indicated that business had changed in the Farmers Market area and they are not looking to locate in Cashel at this time. She told the meeting that the group had previously looked at the Plaza area and felt that it was an unsuitable location on a windy day, she also said that it overshadowed the shops at the back of the plaza.

Councillor Sean McCarthy said that he had felt that the plaza was the best area for the market but felt that Ms. Walsh's view are very important and he would be supportive of the change to the back of the pipes location. He also asked her to progress the farmers market in Cashel if at all possible. Councillor Martin Browne said that he thought the back of the pipes area was a waste of time and he was personally opposed to this change and said that the plaza is the obvious place. This view was echoed by Councillors Lawrence and Quinlan. Councillor Maribel Wood said that the Back of the Pipes is very near the plaza and is the most sensible area to locate the market, She hoped that there would be good quality produce to attract people to the market.

On the proposition of Councillor Sean McCarthy, seconded by Councillor Michael Browne, it was resolved

“That revision 1 of the Casual Trading Byelaws as amended be and is hereby adopted”

3. RENT COLLECTION

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that Rent Arrears at the end of March amounted to €10,583.

4. MANAGERS ORDERS

Councillor Joe Moloney expressed his disappointment at the awarding of a tender to Munster Joinery in Co. Cork when Cashel has a fine joinery business in town. He was unhappy that local businesses are not being supported. This was echoed by Councillor Martin Browne. Councillor Michael Browne enquired if there was much of a difference in the tender prices.

The Town Clerk informed the members that the Town Council as a public authority are bound by the public procurement procedures and are required to take the lowest tender submitted for works. This was echoed by the Manager who said that the public procurement procedures are framed to ensure that the Council get the best value for money and the Council must accept the lowest tender for works. Following a query from Councillor Michael Browne,

he indicated that the Councillors approve the Annual Budget for the Town Council and this budget is managed by the staff of the Town Council. Councillor Martin Browne said that he feels he has no say in any decisions of the Town Council and feels that the Councillors should be shown more respect.

5. ROADS PROGRAMME 2010

The Town Engineer circulated the 2010 programme of works to the members of the Town Council as follows:

With regard to the 2010 Block Grant of €139,000.00, the following road works are planned.

1. Main Street -
 - Loading bay and road repairs at Cashel Palace Hotel.
 - Bollards on kerb line at Daverns Shop.
2. The Green -
 - Footpath repairs at hospital opposite Ely's shop.
3. Friar Street –
 - Footpath repairs; Agars Lane – Feehans Road.
4. Dominic Street -
 - Completion of footpath repairs and surfacing near green area.
5. Signage & road markings at various locations including Scoil Aonghusa, (Golden Road), Main Street, Friar Street.
6. Replacement of street nameplates at various locations.
7. New pedestrian crossings at Canopy Street and Boherclough Street.

The members welcomed the programme and looked forward to the works being completed in 2010.

6. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDITORS REPORT ON ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2008

The Town Clerk referred to the report circulated to the members with the Agenda. She indicated that this was for the information of the members.

7. NOTICES OF MOTION

Councillor Maribel Wood

“That Cashel Town Council calls on the Health Service Executive to update the members (a) what elements of the 1996 agreement have so far been provided on Our Lady’s Hospital complex, (b) what outstanding services have still to be developed, (c) what is the update on the Day Care Centre, (d) when will all the elements of the agreement be completed?”

Councillor Maribel Wood asked that the Town Clerk would write to the HSE on this motion. This was agreed.

Councillor Maribel Wood

“That the Management would consider relocating the goods delivery bay outside Daverns premises on Main Street to the area adjacent to the telephone kiosks on the opposite side of the street”

A written response was issued as follows:

Following construction of Phase 1 of the Town Centre Strategy, 2 no. loading bays were provided along the south side of Main Street, one opposite Feehans Pub and one at Daverns Shop. The loading bay at Daverns is relatively short and trucks have been mounting the kerb to gain access to it. The alternative location being suggested is to make a “drive through” loading bay on the opposite side of the street at the telephone kiosk between the entrances to Main Street car park and the Cashel Palace Hotel. This would involve removal of two parking spaces and transferring them back to Daverns side. In order to maintain sightlines for vehicles exiting the car park and hotel, it would be necessary to retain a bricked island outside the new loading bay.

It is proposed to undertake the works as part of the 2010 Road Works Programme and review the situation in 12 months time. It is also proposed to install some extra bollards on the Phase 1 footpaths to protect them from damage.

Councillor Wood accepted this response.

Councillor Joe Moloney

“That Cashel Town Council fully supports all efforts to maintain and sustain all essential services of South Tipperary General Hospital now and in the future”

“That Cashel Town Council request the Health Services Executive to progress phase two development of Our Lady’s Hospital, Cashel and also seeks a full report and update from the H.S.E. on the

progress to date of Our Lady's Hospital, Cashel of these developments"

"That Cashel Town Council request a full report from the H.S.E. on the care services being provided at present at St. Patrick's Hospital, Cashel including the number of beds available for elderly long term care and the number of beds available in the assessment unit of St. Patrick' Hospital, Cashel and also the number of respite beds available"

Councillor Moloney asked the Town Clerk to write to the H.S.E. to address the issues raised in the motions. He wanted to stress the importance of South Tipperary General Hospital to the people of Cashel and the surrounding areas. He expressed the hope that the hospital in Clonmel would not close. This was echoed by the other members. Councillor McCarthy supported this motion and informed the meeting that a deputation had met with the Minister for Health and had made a good presentation to her on the hospital.

Councillor PJ Quinlan

"That the Council apply to the relevant authorities to designate Cashel Town on a pilot basis to provide a moratorium on the payment of Commercial Rates for 2 years after establishing or opening a New Business, in Cashel Town with a closing date of before December 31st 2010. This will have effect of creating employment and widening our Rates base for Cashel Town Council in 3 years time"

A written response was issued as follows:

*The Town Council will arrange to contact the relevant authorities to ascertain whether or not such a proposal may be considered.
I will revert to you with the outcome of our investigations.*

Councillor Quinlan said that he felt this would be important for businesses in the current economic climate and looked forward to a response.

Councillor PJ Quinlan

"That the Town Engineer replace or repair footpaths at Ashwells Lot Deerpark as they have gone onto a dangerous state of disrepair as a number of residents are old and vulnerable."

A written response was issued as follows:

Repairs to footpaths at this location will be undertaken as part of the 2010 Road Works Programme.

Councillor Quinlan accepted this response.

8. CONFERENCES/SEMINARS

The list of Conferences and Seminars were circulated.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence was read.

10. VOTES OF SYMPATHY

A vote of sympathy was extended to:

Geraldine Hickey, Cathal Brugha Street on the death of her husband John
Helen Gleeson, Rockwood on the death of her husband William
Noeleen Ryan, The Weir, Camas on the death of her husband Gussie

11. GET WELL WISHES

The members requested that get well wishes be sent to former councillor,
Maureen O'Donoghue who is in hospital at this time.

There being no other business the meeting then concluded.

Signed/ _____
Mayor

Dated/ _____ April 2010.

Signed/ _____
Town Clerk

Dated/ _____ April 2010