

**Minutes of December Meeting of Cashel Town Council held in the Council Chamber,
Civic Offices, Friar Street, Cashel on Monday 1st December 2008 at 7.30pm.**

Deputy Mayor:

Councillor Tom Wood

Members Present:

**Councillor Michael Browne
Councillor Patrick Downey
Councillor Sean McCarthy
Councillor Joe Moloney
Councillor Maureen O'Donoghue**

Apologies:

**The Mayor, Councillor Martin Browne
Councillor Dan Dillon
Councillor Eddie Bennett**

Officials Present:

**Mr. Sean Keating, Town Manager
Ms. Marie McGivern, Town Clerk
Ms. Mary Irwin, Assistant Staff Officer**

1. MINUTES OF NOVEMBER MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 3rd November, 2008 were adopted on the proposition of Councillor Joe Moloney, seconded by Councillor Paddy Downey.

MATTERS ARISING

Councillor Sean McCarthy expressed his disappointment at the outcome of the Workshop held with the Chamber of Commerce. He felt that the Members, Officials and Town Planners were being given adverse publicity by the Chamber. He stated that Cashel Town Council always had a good working relationship with the Chamber and he hopes that this co-operation will be re-established.

Councillor Moloney concurred with Councillor McCarthy. He hoped that the Chamber will get their act together for the future of the town.

Councillor Tom Wood welcomed the installation of the ramps in the various parts of town. He requested that consideration be given to the installation of ramps at the lower end of Friar Street and also near the Mart on Camas Road which would be greatly welcomed by the residents of Lower Gate.

Councillor Michael Browne queried why ramps had not been installed in the Housing Estates at Spafield and Oliver Plunkett Park which had been requested by him at previous meetings.

He thanked the Town Clerk for her intervention in having the walkway between Tesco and the Centenary Co-Op reopened.

Councillor Browne also queried the cost of the ramps installed at Deerpark Road and regretted that the Engineer was not in attendance to answer.

Councillor Paddy Downey also welcomed the installation of the ramps and agreed with Councillor Browne on the issue of the installation of ramps at Spafield Crescent and Oliver Plunkett Park.

Councillor Maureen O'Donoghue expressed her thanks to the Town Clerk for her efforts in getting the light repaired outside the Church.

Councillor Moloney requested that the ESB be contacted to repair all lights that are out of order as a matter of urgency in view of the burglaries, which have occurred in the Town in recent weeks. Councillor O'Donoghue agreed with Councillor Moloney as did Councillor Downey.

Councillor Town Wood agreed with previous speakers and proposed that an emergency meeting be held with the Gardai to discuss the spate of robberies that have been occurring in the Town in recent weeks. Councillor Sean McCarthy seconded this proposal and requested that the meeting be held at 7.00 pm. The Town Clerk agreed to arrange the meeting and to contact the ESB to have the lights repaired.

Councillor Michael Browne requested that the footpaths at Lowergate be repaired.

2. RECORDS/ARCHIVES

Councillor Tom Wood welcomed Roisin O'Grady, County Archivist who made a presentation on the preservation of the Archives and Records of Cashel Town Council. Ms. O'Grady stated that she would look at the records in the New Year and see what is archival. She stated that 2 of the volumes were in a bad condition and would not be available to the public unless they were looked at by a Conservator.

The Councillors thanked Ms. O'Grady for a very detailed and informative presentation and after much discussion, it was agreed by the members that the archives be stored in Clonmel as they have the expertise to preserve these volumes. Councillor Michael Browne enquired whether it was possible to photocopy the records and have them bound and the copies kept in Cashel. Ms. O'Grady stated that photocopying can damage the paper but she agreed to look into it.

Councillor Tom Wood requested that an exhibition of all major volumes and documentation be put on display in the Library before being stored in Clonmel.

The Town Clerk asked if Archivist would prepare an Inventory of all relevant Documentation and thanked her for her presentation.

3. RENT COLLECTION

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that the rent arrears at the end of November were €9,595.10.

4. MANAGERS ORDERS

Councillor Tom Wood raised a query on the Notices to Quit issued to tenants who are in rent arrears and requested that court proceedings be avoided and discussions held with the tenants. The Town Clerk informed Councillor Wood that no agreements had been entered into by the Tenants in question but that tenants who have difficulty paying their rent can approach the Revenue Collector or come directly to the Office and discuss their situation.

Councillor Michael Browne raised a query in relation to the notice issued for disconnection of water supply. Councillor McCarthy asked if there was a reminder system in place. The Town Clerk confirmed that reminders are issued on all outstanding accounts and the Revenue Collector also visits.

5. DRAFT TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PLAN 2009 – 2013

The Town Clerk informed the Meeting that the Draft Traveller Accommodation Plan for 2009 – 2013 is on public display and submissions can be made on or before the 2nd January, 2009. A discussion then took place on the problems associated with the travelling community in relation to dogs and horses being allowed to run wild with nothing being done to prevent this situation. The Town Clerk urged members if they have concerns to put it in writing before the 2nd January, 2009 to the Director of Services for Housing.

6. EXCESS EXPENDITURE

The Town Clerk outlined to the members the details of the proposed excess expenditure for 2008. It was proposed by Councillor Joe Moloney and seconded by Councillor Michael Browne and resolved:-

“ That in accordance with Section 104 of the Local Government Act, 2001, excess expenditure in respect of the financial year 2008 be and is hereby approved as follows:-

PROGRAMME	AMOUNT
1.1 Local Authority Housing	€25,000’

7. FIX DATE FOR JANUARY MEETING

The Town Clerk proposed that the January Meeting be held on the 12th January, 2009 and the February Meeting be held on the 9th February, 2009. The Members were agreeable to this and these dates were adopted on the proposition of Councillor Sean McCarthy, seconded by Councillor Maureen O'Donoghue.

8. FREE BLANKET SCHEME

The Free Blanket Scheme for 2008, details of which had been circulated to the members was adopted by Councillor Joe Moloney and seconded by Councillor Maureen O'Donoghue.

9. REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME.

It was agreed to hold a Workshop on Thursday, 8th January, 2009 to discuss the review of the Development Contribution Scheme which will be on public display from the 6th December, 2008 to the 28th January, 2009.

In reply to a query raised by Councillor Joe Moloney on the Town Development Plan, the Town Clerk informed Councillor Moloney that the Manager's Report will be circulated to the Members in December and a Workshop will be arranged.

10. NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor Tom Wood

“That Cashel Town Council as a means of protecting the sacredness of St. Cormac's Cemetery either close the gates or install other necessary measures to prevent a continuation of the abuse and danger to peoples graves and property”

A written response was issued as follows:

The gates of Cormac's Cemetery remain open in accordance with the majority wish of the elected members of the Council. The Council would be delighted to lock securely the gates thereby allowing pedestrian access only except on special request should the members wish.

Councillor Wood accepted the reply. However, he urged the members to rescind the previous decision and agree to the closure of the gates, having them opened on request from the Public. After much debate by the Councillors on the advantages and disadvantages of having the gates locked and with no decision being made, Councillor Wood withdrew the Motion and on the suggestion of the Manager agreed to defer to the January Meeting for further discussion.

Councillor Tom Wood

“That bollards similar to those recently erected around town be placed on the path outside Marie O’Dwyer’s house, John Street, so as to protect property and limb”

A written response was issued as follows:

The Council has examined this possibility on a number of occasions in the past, however, the opinion is that the footpath is too narrow to accommodate them. Should bollards be erected here pedestrians with buggies, prams or wheelchairs will be forced to use the road or the path on the opposite side.

In view of the foregoing the Council are not in a position to provide same.

Councillor Wood did not agree with the response. He stated that the footpath is not wide enough to facilitate buggies, prams or wheelchairs. Vehicles are driving up on the footpath and the front door of the house in question has been damaged. He requested that the situation be examined again. Councillor Maureen O’Donoghue seconded this request and the Town Clerk agreed to same.

Councillor Tom Wood

“That Cashel Town Council take immediate steps to resolve the flooding problems in the vicinity of Cashel Folk Village.”

A written response was issued as follows:

The Council is currently laying a new surface water sewer commencing at the rear of Feehans Pub extending as far as the Folk Village in order to relieve the flooding at this area.

The work at this location has now been substantially completed.

I trust the foregoing is satisfactory.

Councillor Wood accepted this reply as the work has now been completed.

11. CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS:

There was no list of Conferences and Seminars to circulate to the members for December.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence received from Clones Town Council and Tipperary Town Council was noted and supported.

Councillor Moloney voiced his objection to the correspondence received from the Health Service Executive and did not support their intention to close the catering facilities at Our Lady's Hospital to facilitate refurbishment works which are taking place at the site.

Councillor Wood supported Councillor Moloney and asked that the HSE be written to and requested to secure a premises in Town and have the cooking equipment installed on a temporary basis in this premises.

13. VOTES OF SYMPATHY:

Votes of sympathy were extended to the following: -

The Carew Family, Boherlahan on the death of their Mother
Pat O'Donoghue, Golden Road on the death of his sister.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cashel Community Garda Scheme

Councillor Tom Wood requested a presentation for the January Meeting and this was agreed.

The Meeting then concluded.

Signed _____
Mayor

Dated: _____ 2009

Signed _____
Town Clerk

Dated: _____ 2009