

**Minutes of January Meeting of Cashel Town Council held in the Council Chamber,
Civic Offices, Friar Street, Cashel on Monday 12th January 2009 at 7.30pm.**

Mayor:	Councillor Martin Browne
Members Present:	Councillor Eddie Bennett Councillor Michael Browne Councillor Dan Dillon Councillor Patrick Downey Councillor Sean McCarthy Councillor Joe Moloney Councillor Maureen O'Donoghue
Officials Present:	Mr. Sean Keating, Town Manager Ms. Marie McGivern, Town Clerk Mr. Darby Mullen, Executive Engineer Ms. Mairead Ryan, Staff Officer

1. MINUTES OF DECEMBER MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 1st December 2008 were adopted on the proposition of Councillor Sean McCarthy, seconded by Councillor Dan Dillon.

2. MINUTES OF ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING OF 16th DECEMBER 2008

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 16th December 2008 were adopted on the proposition of Councillor Michael Browne, seconded by Councillor Patrick Downey.

DEPUTATION FROM ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST BOYS SCHOOL

The Mayor agreed to suspend standing orders to allow a deputation from St. John the Baptist Boys School to discuss the difficulties they have experienced in relation to traffic matters. The two speakers were Mr. Martin Patwell, Principal and Mr. Sean Murphy, Chairman of the Parents Association.

Mr. Murphy said that the main aim is to have a better safer environment for the children at the School. He said that the main concern is the speed of traffic passing the school and he said that there have been some minor accidents but there are fears that there will be a serious accident outside the school. He said that parking is another major issue with about 20 teachers parking on the road outside the school on a daily basis. He indicated that there is a piece of land beside the school which is owned by the parish that may be suitable for a car park and asked the Town Council to consider this as the school are not in a position to develop it. He also expressed concerns about vandalism at the school, 5 windows have been broken over the Christmas period, and it is felt that poor lighting is a factor; trespass through the school is also a problem whereby residents from the neighbouring estates Rockwood and Castlegreen are using the school as a shortcut. He thanked the Town Engineer for the upgrade of the footpaths outside the school and said that this had improved the safety of pedestrians going to the school.

Mr. Patwell summarised the main concerns of the group

- Speed of Traffic at the School
- Congestion at the School especially at 3pm
- Inadequate Public Lighting at the School
- Trespass across the school – he asked the Town Council to check if the housing estates are in compliance with their planning permission
- Inadequate Parking at the School

He asked the Council to look favourably on their requests and looked forward to the Council response.

Councillor O'Donoghue asked who owned the green space adjacent to the school and it was stated that it is in the ownership of the parish. Councillor Dillon asked if they had looked at getting CCTV for the school and it was stated that the system would cost in the region of €20,000 and the school did not have funding for it. Mr. Patwell said that the school does employ a security firm to patrol the school at holiday periods. Councillor Downey asked if the school could do without this area that they are currently using as a play area and Mr. Patwell agreed that they would be able to manage without it. Councillor Moloney said that cars are being almost abandoned around the school and he asked if this had been discussed with the parents. Mr. Patwell agreed that this had been discussed but it is felt that traffic-calming measures are required.

The Mayor thanked the members of the Deputation and told them that a response would be issued to them. The Deputation then withdrew from the meeting.

3. AIMSIR BIA

The Mayor welcomed Ms. Mary Barron, Chairperson of Aimsir Bia to the meeting. Ms. Barron thanked the Mayor for the opportunity to talk to the Town Council and said that she would give a short presentation on the group. She said that the group was formed in October 2008 and they have meetings on a weekly basis. The group was formed due to an awareness of the shortcomings of current methods of food production and their aim is to harness the skills of the group and grow their own food in the community. She explained that they are working on projects with the Girls Primary School and the Nagle Centre and would like access to public lands if the Council could facilitate this with areas of land that are not in use. The Group aims to facilitate education, have a hands on approach, provide outreach facilities and aim towards social enterprises where possible. The Group's longterm plan is to have town vegetable plots, community gardens, encourage domestic gardens, promote biodiversity and recycle green waste. She said that the next step forward is to acquire 1-2 acres with a water supply and create 5m x 10m or 10m x 10m plots on a longterm basis. She said that they were investigating the possibility of getting funding from LEADER and also said that they would be willing to work on more than one site.

Councillor Wood complimented the presentation which he said was very good and suggested that there may be suitable pieces of land adjacent to the bye-pass. He also suggested that a subgroup could be set up to consider and advance the proposal. Councillor McCarthy complimented the presentation and agreed that this is a very worthwhile project. This was echoed by the other members and the group was wished success for the future.

The Mayor thanked the group for the presentation and said that the Town Clerk would respond to them.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE DECEMBER MINUTES

Councillor Wood referred to his motion on Cormac’s cemetery and requested

- The gates be closed from evening to morning
- Sergeant Lynch would contact the representative group and explain the concerns
- Kerbing would be placed around the cross and the plots

The Mayor indicated that he was not in favour of kerbing and would suggest bollards instead. It was agreed that the Town Engineer would look at the options for the next meeting.

There was a lengthy discussion on the closing of the cemetery gates in the evening. Councillor Tom Wood proposed that “The cemetery gates are closed from 4.30pm in the evening and opened each morning (Monday to Friday) and this arrangement would be subject to review in 2 months”. This was seconded by Councillor Dillon. The following vote was taken:

	For	Against
Councillor Bennett	Y	
Councillor Martin Browne		Y
Councillor Michael Browne		Y
Councillor Dillon	Y	
Councillor Downey		Y
Councillor McCarthy		Y
Councillor Moloney		Y
Councillor O’Donoghue	Y	
Councillor Wood	Y	

The motion was defeated by 5 votes to 4.

Councillor McCarthy referred to the comments made by a representative of Cashel Chamber of Commerce at workshop held on 24th November 2008 with the Chamber. He expressed serious concern regarding comments made by the Chamber Representative which he said were “untruths”. He said that Cashel Town Council had a long and close association with the Chamber and hoped that this would continue into the future.

4. RENT COLLECTION

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that the rent arrears at the end of December were €1,143.

5. MANAGERS ORDERS

Councillor Michael Browne asked if Council tenants had been notified regarding the facility whereby they could pay their refuse charge on a weekly basis. The Town Clerk confirmed that this would be done.

He also queried what rent increases there would be in 2009 for tenants. The Town Clerk indicated that rents are based on household income and charged in accordance with the Differential Rent Scheme a copy of which she would send to him.

6. NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor Tom Wood

“That Cashel Town Council seek an immediate meeting with the H.S.E. to clarify all aspects of development at Our Lady’s and to get an update on developments at St. Patrick’s”

Councillor Wood said that he had concerns about the works being completed at Our Lady’s and also wanted to query the capacity available at St. Patrick’s Hospital. He asked that an immediate meeting be requested with the HSE to discuss these issues and there should be two meetings if necessary. This motion was seconded by Councillor O’Donoghue. The Town Clerk agreed to write to the HSE to arrange the meeting.

Councillor Tom Wood

“That the traffic calming and road improvements agreed with the Oliver Plunkett residents in lieu of the adjacent private housing development be immediately implemented.”

A written response was issued as follows:

The County Council’s negotiations with the developer in this case are almost at a conclusion and the contribution required will be applied to the required works. This matter is being progressed by the Planning Section.

Councillor Wood was pleased with this response and hoped that it is coming to a conclusion. Councillor Bennett said that he was disappointed that it has taken this long to conclude. Councillor Michael Browne queried the amount required as the contribution. Darby Mullen indicated that it was in the region of €70,000. The Town Clerk said that if this is not concluded then enforcement proceedings will be the next step.

Councillor Tom Wood

“That a new scheme of traffic calming measures be prepared for additional areas of the town.”

A written response was issued as follows:

The Town Council will examine various areas of the town with regard to the installation of traffic calming measures and prepare a report for the consideration of the members at the February Meeting. The implementation of the scheme will be dependent on the extent of the available resources.

Councillor Wood welcomed that a programme is being prepared. Councillor Bennett was concerned that traffic calming measures may not be possible on a bus route and the Town Engineer agreed to check this.

Councillor Michael Browne

“That road ramps be installed throughout Spafield Estate.”

A written response was issued as follows:

The Council are currently finalising the preparation of Contract Documents for the refurbishment of Spafield estate. The scheme involves environmental improvements to the estate together with traffic calming measures and junction improvements. The Council will advertise this contract shortly.

Councillor Michael Browne

“That a yield right of way sign be installed at Spafield Crescent with respect to downhill motorists (at far end of estate when turning right at top of Cahir Road access road).”

A written response was issued as follows:

The proposed refurbishment scheme for Spafield estate includes measures to improve the junction referred to. The scheme will be implemented in the current year and should address your concerns.

Councillor Michael Browne

“That a barrier be installed at Agar’s Lane.”

A written response was issued as follows:

The Council will install a removable bollard at this locus in consultation with the local residents. This should eliminate the attempted use of the lane by motorists.

Councillor Browne accepted the above responses.

7. CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS:

The list of Conferences and Seminars were noted.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence received was noted and supported.

The Mayor asked that the Manager and Town Clerk prepare a response to the Deputation from the Boys School. He also asked that a response be considered for the Aimsir Bia presentation.

9. VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS/SYMPATHY:

A vote of congratulations was extended to Barrack Obama on his election as President of the United States of America.

Votes of sympathy were extended to the following: -

Councillor Jack Crowe of the death of his sister
The Hickey Family, Boherlahan on the death of Anna Hickey
The O’Gorman Family, Dominic Street on the death of Anna Hickey
Eamon & Dolores Morrissey, Kilsallagh, Fethard on the death of their mother Bridie

Mayor & Members of Limerick City Council on the loss of 2,000 jobs at the Dell Plant

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Sean McCarthy expressed concerns about dog fouling around the town. It was suggested by Councillor Wood that the litter wardens would monitor the situation, let people know that pooper-scoopers are available and issue fines where necessary. The members asked that the Chamber be thanked for their work in putting up the Christmas Lights.

The Meeting then concluded.

Signed _____
Mayor

Dated: _____ 2009

Signed _____
Town Clerk

Dated: _____ 2009