

**Minutes of March Meeting of Cashel Town Council held in the Council Chamber,
Civic Offices, Friar Street, Cashel on Monday 2nd March 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
Councillor Tom Wood

Officials Present: Mr. Sean Keating, Town Manager
Ms. Marie McGivern, Town Clerk
Mr. Willie Corby, Town Engineer
Ms. Mairead Ryan, Staff Officer

1. MINUTES OF FEBRUARY MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 9th February 2009 were adopted on the proposition of Councillor Patrick Downey seconded by Councillor Maureen O'Donoghue.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Councillor Wood referred to works on the slit trenches on the Main Street and said that these works had been progressing well. Councillor Moloney expressed concerns that Supervalu would not be accessible on Wednesday 4th March and queried this with the Town Engineer. The Town Engineer said that the works would need to be done but the Town Council would maintain access to the Supermarket.

The Town Engineer circulated the proposed Road Works Programme for 2009 which are as follows:

1. John Street at Marie O'Dwyer's house

It is proposed to introduce horizontal deflection traffic management on John Street. The works propose building out the footpath to allow only one vehicle through at a time. This is effectively the case at the present as the street can only safely accommodate a single vehicle at the narrowest spot. The works will introduce a give way system and allow for traffic queuing. Some bollards will be used to prevent traffic mounting the footpath on east side.

2. Old Road, St. John the Baptist Primary School

It is proposed to introduce traffic calming in the form of improved signage/roadmarkings on the Old Road in the proximity of the school. As previously advised, a speed survey will be undertaken to assess the need for further measures.

3. Main Street, Phase 2 of Town centre improvement scheme including Wesley Square;

Works will include improved pedestrian access, improved lighting and improved parking facilities

4. Spafield Crescent Improvement Scheme

The proposed traffic calming to be carried out as part of the Spafield Crescent Improvement Scheme will include improved signage, lighting, pedestrian access and horizontal deflection measures such as roundabouts and kerb build outs to reduce traffic speeds.

5. St. Oliver Plunkett Park Road Surfacing and Traffic Calming

It is proposed to carry out improvements to the road surface at St. Oliver Plunkett Park in 2009. Proposed works will also include traffic calming using horizontal deflection measures and improved signage and roadmarkings.

Councillor Michael Browne queried as to whether or not car parking would be affected on John Street and the Town Engineer indicated that it would not. Councillor Moloney welcomed the widening of the footpath at John Street/Main Street junction but did have concerns about the proposal.

Councillor Wood welcomed the Programme and Councillor O'Donoghue concurred.

The Mayor indicated that he had received a number of complaints from people exiting John Street where their view was obstructed by vans parked on Main Street. The Town Engineer agreed to examine this problem. In response to a query from Councillor Michael Browne, the Town Engineer indicated that he intended to start the works at Oliver Plunkett Park as soon as possible. Councillor O'Donoghue asked that Disabled Parking Bays be installed in housing estates where they are needed.

2. RENT COLLECTION

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that the rent arrears at the end of February were €14,005.

3. MANAGERS ORDERS

The Managers Orders were noted.

4. NOMINATIONS TO EU CHARTER 2011 COMMITTEE

It was agreed that all members of the Town Council would be on the Committee for the EU Charter 2011. The Town Clerk said that she would arrange a meeting of the Committee and would notify the members.

5. NOTICES OF MOTION

Councillor Tom Wood

“That the Manager advises the members as to the outlook re availability of housing for 2009, numbers of approved or otherwise and what measures are available to facilitate those interested in securing their own accommodation.”

A written response was issued as follows:

In 2009, the Council will be constructing 1 four-bedroom house at Spafield Crescent, 2 two-bedroom houses at Friar Street and proposes to acquire 6 houses under the Part V Agreement at Caiseal Na Ri. The Council will also be filling casual vacancies as they arise. The housing applicants approved on financial grounds will be facilitated in many cases through the Rental Accommodation Scheme.

The Council has approved housing applicants as follows:

- *7 three bed approved*
- *8 two bedroom approved*
- *10 one bed approved applicants*
- *25 in Total*

The Council is currently allocating 3 three-bedroom houses and 1 two-bedroom house which is included in the 25 approved applicants.

There are a further 28 applicants being investigated for Council Housing.

There are a number of measures available to those interesting in securing their own accommodation as follows

- *Tenant Purchase Scheme*
- *Housing loans*
- *Shared ownership loans*

- *Mortgage allowance scheme*
- *Affordable housing*

The Town Council administer the Tenant Purchase Scheme, while the County Council administer the other schemes to eligible applicants.

Councillor Wood asked if the Council had received notification of funding for 2009 and the Town Clerk indicated that the Town Council is awaiting notification of its capital allocation for 2009. He accepted the response to the motion.

Councillor Tom Wood

“That the adverse effects of not having a gritting programme for our footpaths and streets over the past few weeks be seriously examined with a view towards ensuring this will not happen in the future”

A written response was issued as follows:

A stock of salt will be stored for use as and when required. Particular attention will be paid to town centre footpaths/streets.

Councillor Wood accepted the response and suggested that salt could be given to local people to distribute themselves. This motion was supported by the other members.

Councillor Tom Wood

“That the Manager provide a report on the present status of our Housing Repair Programme”

A written response was issued as follows:

The Town Council’s Budget for 2009 provides the sum of €114,594 for the maintenance and repair of the Town Council houses; this is inclusive of €41,000 for materials and €15,000 for insurance while the remainder of the Budget is for direct labour costs. This is a very limited budget and the monies will be expended on

- *Day to Day Maintenance on the Town Council Housing Stock*
- *Repair of Vacant Houses*
- *Housing Maintenance Programme*

The priority for day-to-day maintenance is Electrical and Plumbing Works and these will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. The Council will endeavour to ensure repairs are completed as quickly as possible but this will be dependent on the budget available at the time.

The members will also be aware that the Town Council has 6 vacant houses, which will require significant works to render them suitable for re-letting. The Council is in the process of assessing the cost of repairs for these houses and it is anticipated that this will be substantial in some cases. The Town Council has requested approval from the

Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government to fund these works through Capital Funding.

The Town Council's Housing Maintenance Programme subject to the availability of finance will allow works to be carried out on the following houses:

- 1. 47 Oliver Plunkett Park*
- 2. 19 Oliver Plunkett Park*
- 3. 45 Oliver Plunkett Park*
- 4. 57 Spafield Crescent*

Councillor Wood welcomed this lengthy reply. He also suggested that the Manager consider the disposal of some of the vacant houses if they prove to be very costly to repair.

6. CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS:

The list of Conferences and Seminars were noted.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

The Members again expressed concerns regarding the Health Service Executive unwillingness to meet with the Town Council. The Town Clerk indicated that she would again contact the Health Service Executive regarding this matter.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Moloney expressed concern regarding a sewerage problem at Cathal Brugha Street, he said that it is a serious problem and a solution needs to be found as soon as possible.

The Members reported lights out at Cathal Brugha Street, Feehans Road and Oliver Plunkett Park. The Mayor expressed concerns that the public lighting in town is dim. The Town Manager informed the meeting that in the South Tipperary Tidy Towns Grant Competition, Cashel had come 2nd and this was a fantastic achievement. The winner of the Grant for 2009 was Emly.

9. VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS/SYMPATHY:

Votes of sympathy were extended to the following: -

The Thornton Family, Mocklershill

The Wallace Family on the death of Teresa

The Murphy Family, Boherclough Street on the death of Tommy
Maurice Forristal, Ardmayle

The Meeting then concluded.

Signed _____
Mayor

Dated: _____ 2009

Signed _____
Town Clerk

Dated: _____ 2009