

Minutes of November Meeting of Cashel Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Cashel on Monday 2nd November 2009 at 7.30pm.

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
Mr. Willie Corby, Town Engineer
Ms. Mairead Ryan, Staff Officer

Apologies: Councillor Dan Dillon

1. MINUTES OF OCTOBER MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 5th October 2009 were adopted on the proposition of Councillor Joe Moloney seconded by Councillor Sean McCarthy.

Matter Arising from the Minutes

Councillor Michael Browne referred to Planning application ref 08/1178 in the name of Liam Kiely for commercial and residential development at 92, 93 and 95 Main Street, Cashel and enquired as to the appeal to An Bord Pleanala. at the Back of the Pipes The Town Clerk indicated that a decision from An Bord Pleanala is due on 12th November 2009. Councillor Browne queried who had objected to the Development and the Town Clerk indicated that she would provide him with this information..

Councillor McCarthy referred to derelict sites at John Street and Boherclough Street. and asked what progress had been made in relation to same. The Town Clerk indicated that the site at John Street had been the subject of recent pre-planning discussions and she had received assurances from the owner of the site at Boherclough Street that it will be rendered non-derelict in the coming months.

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that following on from the report on the Parking Survey presented at the September meeting; a sub-committee had been set up comprising of both representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and members of the Council. The first meeting of the sub-committee had been held on 8th October 2009 and whilst the report will be subject to ongoing discussions in this sub-committee she indicated that there was one item that was discussed in detail, which was charges for car parking, and there had been a request for 30 minutes free parking in the Town from the Chamber. She said that this request was examined by the management of the Town

Council and it was found that it would not be possible to allow a 30 minute free parking period due to the financial implications however, She said that the Council could allow a period of 20 minutes free on-street parking notwithstanding the fact that this would also have financial implications, which would be dealt with as part of the budgetary process, subject to review in December 2010.

Councillor Quinlan queried how the public would know of this arrangement. The Town Clerk indicated that it could be a formal arrangement, which was notified to the public through signage and the media. Councillor Wood said that she was also proposing that there be two Saturdays free on-street parking prior to Christmas. This was seconded by Councillor Michael Browne and it was agreed that there will be free on-street parking on Saturday 12th and Saturday 19th December in the town. The proposal for 20 minutes on-street free parking was proposed by Councillor McCarthy seconded by Councillor Moloney and agreed. Councillor Lawrence said that he believes it will not have a big impact on the Council revenue from parking. He indicated that other revenue generators had been discussed at the sub-committee.

The Town Clerk told the meeting that it had come to her attention that private waste collection contractors in the County were claiming that the Council are going out of the Waste Collection service and she wanted to say that this was not true. The Council has and will continue to offer a reliable and efficient service to their customers in South Tipperary. This was welcomed by the members. Councillor McCarthy asked that this be circulated in the media. The Manager indicated that a statement had been issued to the local press and it had been discussed on local radio.

The Town Clerk was pleased to announce that the Cashel Recycling Centre, Wallers Lot, had won the National Recycling Centre of the year and she congratulated the centre on this achievement. She indicated that the Chairperson of the County Council would be handing over the award to the Staff at the Centre on Friday 4th December 2009 at 12 noon, all members of the Council are invited to attend this event and they will be given a tour of the facility on the day. Councillor McCarthy said that he would like to congratulate the Management and Staff of the Centre; this was echoed by the Mayor.

The Mayor asked that Standing Orders be suspended and invited Eileen O'Donnell to join the meeting to discuss her role as Community Champion with Tesco, Cashel. Ms. O'Donnell informed the meeting that she is employed by Tesco and has started work with schools and community groups in town. She wants to create awareness of her role in the Community and is available to work with all community groups. She said that she can be contacted at 089-4213105. She outlined the projects that she is involved with at the moment and said that the role is initially for a 6-month trial period, which she hopes, will continue if it is successful. The Mayor thanked Ms. O'Donnell for attending the meeting and wished her every success in her role.

2. RENT COLLECTION

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that the rent arrears to the end of October were €10,443.

3. MANAGERS ORDERS

Councillor Michael Browne referred to the Managers Order regarding PLN04/982 and asked the Town Clerk how much money is outstanding to the Council in Development Contributions. The town Clerk indicated that she would have a report prepared for the next meeting of the Council. She also indicated that a meeting has been arranged regarding this enforcement notice.

Councillor Michael Browne expressed concerns about the finishing of new estates in Town in particular the Caiseal na Ri estate, Golden Road. Councillor Lawrence concurred with Councillor Browne on this issue. The Town Clerk indicated that this estate is in the County Council area and will be dealt with by Planning Section, South Tipperary County Council.

4. FIX DATE FOR BUDGET MEETING

It was agreed that the Annual Budget Meeting would be held on Monday, 7th December 2009 at 7.30pm. It was further agreed that the December Meeting would be held on Monday 14th December 2009.

5. NOTICES OF MOTION

Councillor Maribel Wood

“That the Council gives serious consideration to the formation of a Burial Ground Committee for Saint Cormacs Cemetery which would be representatives of Elected Members, Officials and Representatives of families with a direct interest in the Cemetery”.

A written response was issued as follows:

As the Members will be aware, the Council had prepared Draft Byelaws for the Cemetery which were agreed at the September 2008 meeting of the Town Council.

These Byelaws were subsequently placed on public display inviting submissions from the public. In the interim a County wide Working Group was set up to examine the operation of cemeteries on a countywide basis.

This Group have just recently completed their draft Report and it is currently being considered by Management of County Council and will be brought before this Council in due course. Pending the outcome of this report consideration may be given to the establishment of a Burial Ground Committee.

Councillor Wood said that there is ongoing problems at the cemetery and feels a Burial Committee would be useful in the management of the cemetery. She asked when would the report be finalised; the Town Engineer said it would be completed in the coming weeks.

Councillor Maribel Wood

“That the concerns of residents at McDonagh Court be investigated with a view to making the pedestrian way to the Green safe from those engaged in anti-social behaviour”.

A written response was issued as follows:

Public lighting adequacy at this location will be checked and if necessary consideration will be given to improving same subject to the availability of funding. The Town Council will also examine the possibility of reducing the vegetation around the laneway to improve visibility.

Councillor Maribel Wood

“That the Council take immediate steps to make safe the raised area in Main Street and also give due consideration to the provision of traffic calming on lower Friar Street”.

A written response was issued as follows:

Work is due to commence at this location within the coming weeks. It is proposed to remove the brick paved ramps on either side of the raised area and replace them with a bituminous material.

The Town Engineer indicated that this work would take a half-day approximately to complete.

Councillor PJ Quinlan

“With regard to pedestrians crossing Friar Street and the lack of an official crossing point between Agar’s Lane and the Parish Church, this being one of the busiest crossing points in the Town. This area is used frequently by vulnerable people such as the old (going to Mass) and School Children (attending the Community School). Would Cashel Town Council investigate the possibility of a marked pedestrian crossing in this area”.

A written response was issued as follows:

The Accessibility Audit works programme undertaken by consultants Capita Symonds gave a Priority 2 rating to a proposed pedestrian crossing point on Upper Friar St at Dualla Road Junction.

Cashel Town Council is currently working through the Priority 1 list of works using the available funding. As soon as Priority 1 is completed and subject to available funding we will move on to the Priority 2 works during 2010.

Councillor Quinlan suggested that Agars Lane would be a more appropriate location for a pedestrian crossing.

Councillor PJ Quinlan

“Can Cashel Town Council furnish us with a final and detailed figure for the revenues collected by way of Water Rates for the years: 2004, 2006, 2008?”

A written response was issued as follows:

The regime of charging for water services has evolved over recent years. The EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) requires that member states recover the costs of water services in accordance with the “polluter-pays” principle. Ireland’s response was The National Water Services Pricing Policy (NWSPP) which seeks to ensure that all non-domestic customers are charged the full economic cost of water supply and wastewater services on the basis of their metered usage. This led to a non-domestic metering programme across every Local Authority in the country and the development of a national harmonised water pricing mechanism.

The cost for non-domestic water services have therefore progressively moved from Central Government funding to local charges on individual users. Domestic water service costs are still nominally funded through the annual Local Government Fund allocations to each Local Authority.

As a consequence, local charges for non-domestic consumers have gradually increased as indicated below, to meet the real costs involved in delivering the service.

The Charges, Income and Expenditure for Water and Wastewater for 2004, 2006 and 2008 are as follows;

	2004	2006	2008
<i>Income</i>	€130,905	€139,844	€188,252
<i>Expenditure</i>	€417,320	€436,629	€535,439
<i>Charge per 1,000 litres</i>			
<i>Water only</i>	€0.76	€0.83	€0.95
<i>Water/Wastewater</i>	€-----	€-----	€ 1.75

Councillor Quinlan welcomed this response and said that businesses are finding it very difficult in the current climate. He said that water charges had increased dramatically for his business and feels there needs to be a reduction in water charges of 20%. The Town Manager indicated that the Council income had not increased dramatically during this period. He also said that the cost to the Town Council of water and sewerage costs are

rising in line with the real costs of these services. He indicated the Town Council can only charge the non-domestic customers but this issue is outside the control of the Town Council and is a decision for Central Government.

Councillor Michael Browne

“That Cashel Town Council install speed ramps on the Camus Road in the interests of the pedestrians and motorists”.

A written response was issued as follows:

There are currently no funds available to carry out this work, however, speed control measures will be considered for inclusion in the 2010 programme.

Councillor Browne indicated that he was disappointed with the reply but will await the discussion on the programme for 2010.

6. CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS:

The list of Conferences and Seminars was circulated.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence was read.

8. VOTES OF SYMPATHY/CONGRATULATIONS

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:

The Kevin Family, Nodstown, Boherlahan on the death of their parents Tom and Mairead

Declan Maher, Conors Close on the death of his partner Marie Hoare

Mrs. Mai Coffey, Dearpark Road on the death of her husband Gerry.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Mayor referred to a letter received from Minister John Gormley regarding Ireland's Draft World Heritage Tentative List. He was pleased to confirm that the Rock of Cashel has been included on the list. He said that the Department are inviting comments on this draft Tentative List and the deadline for submissions is 5pm on 23rd December 2009. It was agreed that a copy of the letter would be forwarded to all members of the Town Council for their information.

The Meeting then concluded.

Signed _____
Mayor

Dated: _____ 2009

Signed _____
Town Clerk

Dated: _____ 2009