

**Minutes of October Meeting of Cashel Town Council held in the Council Chamber,
Civic Offices, Friar Street, Cashel on Monday 6th October 2008 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 Ms. Mairead Ryan, Staff Officer Mr Darby Mullen, Executive Engineer

1. MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 1st September 2008 were adopted on the proposition of Councillor Eddie Bennett, seconded by Councillor Dan Dillon.

It was agreed that Standing Orders would be suspended to allow the Manager to update the members on the former Convent Lands Site. He outlined that the Council had purchased the site in 2001 and a number of uses were considered for it at that time. The site was sold to CMS Developments Ltd in 2006, planning permission was granted for the site in February 2008 but this was refused by An Bord Pleanala in August 2008. He said that the purchasers were not willing to make another planning application on the site so the site is now returning to the possession of the Town Council. He indicated that he could now discuss the site but had been constrained by legal obligations up to this time.

He proposed that the Council take time to reflect on the future use of the site, he suggested that a specialist town planner could be engaged to make the best use of the site, he further suggested that the zoning of the area could get a special designation which would allow both uses of the site in the interim. He was also mindful of the financial obligations of the site where €500,000 approximately has been spent in total.

This statement by the Manager was welcomed by the Mayor who indicated that he would be in favour of an independent planner coming on board and agreed that the Council should take time to decide what to do with the site. Councillor Wood said that he had a motion on the Agenda and felt that Management had no option but to make this statement. He expressed concerns about the debt on the site and the cost of bringing in an independent planner. He asked the Manager to clarify the temporary zoning proposal but suggested that the Council wait until the Town Plan is adopted and see what the zoning is at that time. Councillor Bennett complimented the Manager on his statement. Councillor McCarthy also welcomed the statement and agreed that the Council should not be hasty and should take time to reflect and consider. Councillor Dillon agreed with Councillor Wood and said that

no decision should be taken until the Development Plan is finalised and hoped to have a unanimous decision. Councillor Michael Browne expressed concerns about the financial implications for the Council; he said that he would like to see a town park but has concerns about the operation of the park and the associated expense and maintenance. Councillor O'Donoghue thanked the Manager for his honest statement. Councillor Downey also thanked the Manager but was disappointed that the opportunity for a hotel had gone which he felt would have resulted in an enormous financial boost to the town. He suggested that the ideal place for a town park is in the vicinity of the Rock. He agreed that the Council needed time to discuss and absorb the information and would support getting independent advice. Councillor Moloney indicated that he also supported the Manager and was disappointed that a hotel has not progressed. He highlighted two major developments that had been refused for Cashel, the hotel development and the Theme park. He asked if commercial use was still a possibility for the site.

The Manager indicated that the special designation zoning was suggested to allow space for the future zoning of site be made. This designation would allow for either proposal to be allowed on the site. He indicated that current zoning is Town Centre, which allows for commercial use.

2. DEPUTATION FROM DUALLA ROAD RESIDENTS RE: TRAVELLERS

The Mayor indicated that this issue had been resolved and he thanked the Town Clerk and the Town Engineer for their efforts in the resolution.

3. PRESENTATION BY LIAM KELLY, MUINTIR NA TIRE

Mr. Liam Kelly, National Co-ordinator, Muintir na Tire thanked the Council for allowing this opportunity to make this presentation. He outlined that Muintir na Tire is making a joint interreg application with Carmarthen Association of Voluntary Services, Wales to access funding to develop outreach services and enterprises at a local level for rural communities in Wales and the South East Area of Waterford, Wexford, Kilkenny, Carlow and South Tipperary. He asked the Council for their support for the proposal. Councillor Moloney asked how many centres would be set up in the area. Mr. Kelly indicated that it would be based on the amount of funding they receive and indicated a decision is due in April 2009. On the proposition of Councillor Moloney, seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue, it was agreed to offer the support of Cashel Town Council to the proposal.

4. FARMERS MARKET PROPOSAL FOR CASHEL

Ms. Ann Marie Walsh thanked the members of Cashel Town Council for the opportunity to present her proposal for a Farmers Market for Cashel to them. She indicated that she runs the Holycross Stores in Holycross and is involved in managing the Farmers Market in Templemore and is involved as a trader with the Market in Thurles. She asked for the Council's support for the establishment of a Farmers Market in Cashel. She outlined that there are a number of markets in the Tipperary area and feels that it is surprising that a farmers market has not yet been established in Cashel with its' strong connections to food. She indicated she is suggesting the area at the rear of Feehans Pub, the area known as the back of the pipes. She said that in Templemore the market has added to the local business of the town. She indicated that the market would be properly managed with agreed

parameters and proposed that it would be run by the traders. Councillor Downey thanked Ms. Walsh for her presentation and asked what day was being suggested and how would the traders be selected. Councillor McCarthy welcomed the proposal saying that it would fill a void in the town. Councillor Bennett queried the variety of produce that would be available. Councillor Wood asked who regulates the market and if byelaws would need to be introduced. Ms. Walsh indicated that she would suggest Thursday or Friday as the market day; she indicated that local suppliers would be firstly approached but would seek outside groups if necessary. She said that the products would include bread, vegetables, cheeses, jams, fish and other local produce. The Town Clerk indicated that the area would need to be designated as a Casual Trading Area. Ms. Walsh also indicated that traders would be required to sell 70% of their own produce but could sell 30% of other produce. The proposal was supported by the other councillors. The Mayor indicated that he had received a letter from the Chamber of Trade and Tourism fully supporting this concept.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Councillor Bennett queried if a decision had been made on the Christmas Lights. The Town Clerk indicated that the Council is very supportive of the concept but would need to look at the costings. Councillor Dillon asked about the pedestrian lights at the Cahir Road. The Engineer indicated that it would commence shortly. Councillor Dillon queried the raised area at Deerpark Road.

The Engineer circulated a layout proposal for Wesley Square to the members for their information. Councillor Wood asked that the footpaths at Henrys on Main Street and at the AIB be repaired as soon as possible. Councillor Michael Browne again asked when the walkway at Spafield would reopen. The Engineer indicated that he had been in contact with the Developer and asked that it reopen as soon as possible. Councillor Moloney asked when the Croke Memorial would be moved and the Engineer indicated that it would be moved this week. Councillor Wood asked that the Gardai be written to and asked to monitor the Disabled Parking Bays after hours.

6. TIDY TOWNS REPORT

The Mayor complimented the work of Councillor Downey and his team in the Tidy Towns Committee on the huge improvement in the markings in this years Tidy Town Report. Councillor Wood also paid tribute to the committee. Councillor McCarthy added his congratulations but expressed concerns at the vandalism that had taken place at the weekend. He asked the Town Clerk to write to the Garda asking them to monitor the town at night especially in relation to vandalism. The other members echoed their congratulations to Councillor Downey and his team. Councillor Downey thanked the members for their tributes, he outlined that there are 11 members on the committee and it is very much a team effort. He indicated that there had been great improvements in the last 4 years where the marks had increased by 56. He said that they are moving in the right direction but there is still an amount of work to be completed especially the approach roads. He felt that there are areas where marks can be further improved. He appealed for community spirit around the Town and for new members to join their group. He thanked the Manager, the Town Clerk and Staff and Town Engineer and his staff. He said a special word of thanks to Joe Barry, Fas Supervisor and his team, Cliff Cope, street cleaner, the people who cut the grass, the Mayor and Councillor Bennett, the committee especially their secretary, Maureen Derby and to all in town who had made an effort.

7. CASHEL HISTORIC TOWN TRAILS GRANT AWARD

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that the Town Council was successful in getting grant assistance in the sum of €52,270 from Failte Ireland for the provision of a Historic Town Trail in Cashel. She outlined that the project will commence in the current year and will need to be completed by June 2009.

This announcement was welcomed by all the members.

8. ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

The Town Clerk indicated that the Council had been informed that the Joint Policing Committee could now be established. She indicated that she would be making contact with the Garda Superintendent and arranging a date for the first meeting of this committee. She said that she would notify the members in due course.

9. RENT COLLECTION

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that the rent arrears at the end of September were €9,293.

10. MANAGERS ORDERS

The managers' orders were read.

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

Councillor Tom Wood

“That the Council request management to prepare a plan of work for the development of a Town Park on the former Convent Lands”

A written response was issued as follows:

The section of the former convent site adjacent to the Town Council offices is zoned for Town Centre use (for details of uses open for consideration permitted under this Zoning see Appendix 1 attached) and the garden section to the rear is zoned for Special Opportunity (to provide for new development in line with appendix 9) (See Appendix 2 attached)

At Council Meeting tonight the Town Manager will make a presentation to the members in relation to this matter.

Councillor Tom Wood

“That in welcoming Minister Michael Finneran’s announcement at the recent AMAI conference that Town Councils will retain their annual housing allocations we call on

management to seriously consider the acquisition of vacant new houses in private development and upgrade and allocate existing vacant council houses speedily.”

A written response was issued as follows:

A) Annual Housing Allocation.

Under the Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP) 2008, Cashel Town Council was allocated a sum of €1.5 million by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. These monies will be spent on acquiring Part V Houses at Casieal Na Ri and The Steeples, and commencing work at Spafield Crescent (one unit) and Friar Street (two units).

B) Vacant Local Authority Houses

To Date in 2008, Cashel Town Council has allocated 16 houses and has worked in conjunction with Respond and Cluid in the allocation of 56 houses at Castlegreen Crescent and 40 houses at Windmill Close respectively.

Today at the 6th October 2008 the Town Council has 13 vacant houses of which:

2 houses have recently been offered

- *11 Spafield Crescent*
- *5 Upper Friar Street*

1 house is ready for letting

- *8 Roselawn Close*

3 houses only became vacant on 22nd September 2008,

- *13 Feehans Road*
- *9 Feehans Road*
- *6 Green Court*

1 house is currently being repaired and will be ready for re-letting in 3-4 weeks.

- *126 Spafield Crescent*

6 houses require extensive works, modifications, technical reports done, costings being prepared,

- *62 Spafield Crescent*
- *4 Lacey Square*
- *5 Friar Street, Apartments,*
- *6 The Green,*
- *7 Tracey Villas,*
- *18 Lowergate.*

There are a further 2 houses at Caiseal na Ri which have been acquired under the Part V agreement and will be ready for letting by 31st October 2008.

Councillor Wood accepted this response and asked that the Town Council consider the purchase of houses if it is possible.

Councillor Tom Wood

“That due to the dangerous condition of William Street and other paved areas of the Town, this Council reconsider the use of brick and paving areas as the public at large are only interested in having safe walking areas.”

A written response was issued as follows:

Cashel Town Council are aware of the failure of the brick paving surface at a number of locations around the town including William Street. Because of this, Cashel Town Council have decided that the use of brick paving in the future be used exclusively on pedestrian only routes.

A contractor has been asked to examine William Street and to rectify the surface.

Councillor Wood accepted this response.

Councillor Eddie Bennett

“That Cashel Town Council take immediate action to renovate and allocate the many vacant Council Stock properties in Cashel. On 18th September I counted at least seven vacant properties in Cashel: some of which have been empty for nearly 18 months.”

A written response was issued as follows:

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At today's date the Town Council has 13 vacant houses of which:

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- *18 Lowergate.*

There are a further 2 houses at Caiseal na Ri which have been acquired under the Part V agreement and will be ready for letting by 31st October 2008.

Councillor Bennett accepted this response.

Councillor Michael Browne

“That manager reports to Council on the number of vacant Council houses in Cashel and gives a timescale as to when these will be allocated.”

A written response was issued as follows:

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There are a further 2 houses at Caiseal na Ri which have been acquired under the Part V agreement and will be ready for letting by 31st October 2008.

Councillor Browne accepted this response but expressed serious concerns about the recent allocation to No. 11 Spafield Crescent.

12. CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS:

The list of conferences and seminars were circulated and noted. Councillor Wood emphasised the importance of setting up a group/committee in the New Year to plan for staging of the EU Charter Meeting in 2011. He suggested that 2 sub-groups could be formed.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence was noted and supported.

14. VOTES OF SYMPATHY:

Votes of sympathy were extended to the following: -

Mr. Winifred Cavanagh, Conors Close on the death of her husband Thomas.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Moloney expressed concerns about the Bord Gais works and the taking up of car parking spaces with materials at various locations in Ladyswell Street, Cahir Road and at Bank Place.

The Meeting then concluded.

Signed _____
Mayor

Dated: _____ 2008

Signed _____
Town Clerk

Dated: _____ 2008