

Minutes of October Meeting of Cashel Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Cashel on Monday 5th October 2009 at 7.30pm.

Mayor: Councillor Eddie Bennett

Members Present: Councillor Martin Browne
Councillor Michael Browne
Councillor Dan Dillon
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

1. MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 7th September 2009 were adopted on the proposition of Councillor Sean McCarthy seconded by Councillor Dan Dillon.

2. AIMSIR BIA – LEASING PROPOSALS

The Town Clerk updated the members regarding the proposals for Aimsir Bia. She informed the meeting that the County Council had identified three portions of land located in the environs of Cashel and currently owned by the County Council that they are currently considering leasing to the Aimsir Bia Group. She circulated a map to the members identifying the areas at Wallers Lot.

Councillor Martin Browne queried the cost of the proposed lease to Aimsir Bia. The Town Clerk indicated that had not been finalised but it would more than likely be a nominal amount.

The Mayor indicated that he had received a letter from Mary Barron of Aimsir Bia who indicated that she wanted to set up a working group to assist with leasing project and asked two councillors to join this group. The Mayor and Councillor PJ Quinlan volunteered to join this working group. Some concern was expressed regarding the availability of a water supply to serve the locations in question and it was noted that this would be a matter for the County Council. Councillor Michael Browne queried if the period of the proposed lease is excessive, he had concerns about 99-year lease. The Town Clerk agreed to bring all the observations made by the members of the Town council to the attention of the appropriate officials of the County Council.

3. TIDY TOWNS REPORT 2009

The Mayor complimented the Tidy Towns Committee for their efforts, which again yielded an improved overall mark in this competition in 2009. He thanked the Town Council Staff for their efforts and in particular Mr. Joe Barry, Fas Supervisor, and his crew for all their hard work. Councillor Wood also sent her thanks to the committee for their efforts. She asked that signage in the town would be examined as she felt that at some locations there are too many signs and these are confusing in particular to visitors to the town. She requested that this be examined particularly in view of the fact that the Annual EU Charter meeting is scheduled to take place in Cashel in 2011.

4. RENT COLLECTION

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that the rent arrears to the end of September were €10,313.

5. MANAGERS ORDERS

Councillor Michael Browne said that he felt the Development Contributions in respect of PLR08/1178 were excessive and queried whether this development is going ahead. The Town Clerk indicated that the Town Council had not received a commencement notice for this development to-date.

6. NOTICES OF MOTION

Councillor Maribel Wood

“That the Council Members and Officials would visit the Heritage Town of Lismore to see first hand the wonderful town park and the positive impact it has on the town”

A written response was issued as follows:

It is acknowledged that this is a worthwhile suggestion however, due to financial constraints at this present time, I would not propose to arrange an Official visit to Lismore.

Councillor Wood accepted this response but feels that it would be worthwhile for members to visit this park. Councillor McCarthy agreed with this and suggested that the members visit in a private capacity.

Councillor Lawrence fully supported the motion and queried if a further meeting would be held on the proposed uses of the Convent Site Lands. The Town Clerk indicated that she was awaiting the return of Ms. Sonja Reidy, Senior Planner from leave to arrange a further meeting.

Councillor Maribel Wood

“That Cashel Town Council calls on the Government to prioritise areas of need in the upcoming budget and recognise the necessity to provide sufficient financial support to services in Cashel which cater for special needs among children and adults”

This motion was supported by the members

Councillor Maribel Wood

“That in recognition of the varied programme of works carried out by The Spafield Family Resource Centre, this Council calls on Minister Hanafin to ensure the continuation of sufficient financial support for its services”

Councillor Wood complimented the Spafield Family Resource Centre on the important work they do for the community. This motion was supported by the members.

Councillor Eoghan Lawrence

“That due to the very high number of anti social behaviour incidents emanating from one house in Spafield Crescent known to Members and Council Staff and damage to Council property at this address, the Council reports to the Members the steps that have already been taken by the Council in this matter. As the situation at this address has continued to spiral out of control causing untold suffering to the other residents in the estate, what immediate further action does the Council intend on taking to resolve this matter”.

A written response was issued as follows:

Cashel Town Council takes a very serious view of tenants who are engaged in Anti-Social behaviour/are in breach of their Tenancy Agreements.

Cashel Town Council is working with the Tenant Liaison Officer and Gardaí to closely monitor all such situations. As specific cases may in the future be subject to Court Proceedings, the Council is precluded from making any further comment on any individual cases.

Councillor Lawrence said that this matter has been discussed at the recent meeting with the Gardai and he was happy that it could be discussed at this forum. Some members were unhappy with the timing of the meeting and requested that meetings be held in the evening.

Councillor Eoghan Lawrence

“That the Council informs members on when a proposed pedestrian crossing on Boherclough Street will be installed given that said works have been under consideration by the Council for the last decade.”

A written response was issued as follows:

A proposed pedestrian crossing on Boherclough Street north of Indaville is included in the South Tipperary Accessibility Audit Works Programme for Cashel.

It will be considered when the 2010 Road Works Programme is being prepared subject to the availability of funding.

Councillor Eoghan Lawrence

“That the Council gives an update on when the Croke Memorial will be reinstalled on the Plaza following completion of restoration works.”

A written response was issued as follows:

It is proposed that this project will be completed by the end of November 2009.

Councillor Sean McCarthy

“That this Urban Council gives a detailed explanation of how Water Rate Charges are computed and if there have been large increases implemented during the past year, as a number of Commercial Consumers are adamant that their Water Charges have multiplied quite enormously.”

A written response was issued as follows:

Water Charges are calculated in accordance with the Water Charges 2009 as set out in the Annual Budget 2009. The Charges are as follows;

⇒ *Metered Water Charge* €1.05 per 1,000 litres
Minimum Charge €250 per annum

⇒ *Metered/Waste Water Supply* €2.00 per 1,000 litres
Minimum Charge €475 per annum

The water meters of commercial premises are read in February each year and following that the Water bills are issued to these commercial consumers. In 2009, the Water/Wastewater metered charge was increased from €1.75 to €2.00 per 1,000 litres however; the minimum water charge was reduced from €550.00 to €475.00.

Any substantial increase in the water charges of an individual consumer is due to either

- a) Additional Water Usage or*
- b) Leakage within the customers premises*

Councillor McCarthy indicated that he has had a number of queries from business people about the increase in water charges. The Town Clerk said that if customers had very high consumption, they should firstly check for leakage within their premises.

Councillor Martin Browne said that the minimum charge is a particular difficulty for businesses; he has concerns about some businesses in danger of closing down. He asked the Manager and Members to particularly address this at Budget time. Councillor Dillon queried if water charges are the similar around the County. The Manager responded that he was aware that the minimum charge is a difficulty and there was a reduction in the minimum charge for 2009. He indicated that the charges are broadly similar in all the South Tipperary Local Authorities. Councillor Michael Browne said that these charges were agreed at Budget time and that is the time to review the charges and arrange the charges for 2010. Councillor Lawrence suggested that the minimum charge be stepped according to the usage by the consumer. He said that there are some customers who use very small quantities of water. Councillor Moloney said that he pays his water charge but uses a very small amount of water. He said that all business customers should be metered but there are a number that are not

Councillor Sean McCarthy

“That due to the present Financial crisis that this Urban Council would for the foreseeable future refrain from employing Consultants and that all Projects that would ordinarily necessitate the employment of Consultants would be provided from the expertise of the in house services within this Council or the County Council.”

A written response was issued as follows:

I wish to confirm that Cashel Town Council will use the in-house expertise of this Council and the County Council where possible for all future projects.

There are some projects where the Town Council are required to employ a Consultant particularly for specialist works e.g. the employing of a Consultant for the project on the City Walls which is being grant funded by The Heritage Council.

Councillor McCarthy accepted this response.

7. CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS:

The list of Conferences and Seminars was circulated.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence was read.

9. VOTES OF SYMPATHY/CONGRATULATIONS

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:

Mrs Mary Kenig, Ladyswell Street on the death of Bruno Kenig
Mrs Amanda Hewitt, Haigs Tce on the death of her husband Pat
The Hewitt Family, Ard Mhuire on the death of Pat Hewitt
Patricia Kinane, Clonmel Road on the death of her mother

Mrs. Josie Barry, McCann St on the death of her mother

The Meeting then concluded.

Signed _____
Mayor

Dated: _____ 2009

Signed _____
Town Clerk

Dated: _____ 2009