

**Minutes of September Meeting of Cashel Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Friar Street, Cashel on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2009 at 7.30pm.**

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**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**

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## **1. MINUTES OF JULY MEETING**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> July 2009 were adopted on the proposition of Councillor Martin Browne seconded by Councillor Dan Dillon.

On the proposition of Councillor Martin Browne, seconded by Councillor Eoghan Lawrence it was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to (a) allow members of the public to attend the meeting and (b) allow Presentation on Parking Survey for Cashel be taken as the item on the Agenda

## **4. PARKING SURVEY FOR CASHEL TOWN - PRESENTATION**

The Town Clerk in introducing the presentation informed the members that for some time there had been questions and comments from the elected members; citizens of Cashel and officials in relation to parking , the most notable concerns , she said, being ;

- perceived loss of parking in Town Centre due of upgrading of Centre,
- questions as to whether there was a need for additional on and off street parking spaces,
- issues raised by Chamber of Commerce on parking enforcement and a significant proposal by the Chamber for a multi-story carpark at Main St.,

parking and Gold Star Disability access and

concerns on the operation of the parking permit system.

It was, she said, as a result of these concerns that it was decided to carry out a comprehensive overview of the parking regime which has resulted in the survey now before the members.

Conal MacAongusa, Project Director and Orla Campell, Project Manager, from the consultancy firm RPS, who had been commissioned by the Town Council to carry out the survey gave a presentation to the meeting.

They outlined that they had examined On Street parking, Off Street Parking, Extent of the Pay & Display Area, Feasibility of a Multi-Storey Car Park and Streetscape Audit. They outlined to the meeting their conclusions as follows:

- There is sufficient Parking Supply in Cashel to meet demand
- It is difficult to make a case for the Development of a Multi-Storey Car Park on Main Street
- Careful Management of the Parking Environment is required to ensure that available parking is optimised.

They recommended the following:

- Extension of parking Controls
- Improved Information on available parking
- Additional Facilities
- Enforcement/Procedures
- Environmental Improvements

Following the presentation there were a number of questions from the members.

Councillor Bennett indicated that his experience is that it is difficult to get parking in Cashel. Councillor Lawrence was surprised to hear that there is adequate parking in Cashel and expressed concerns that the survey was conducted in the month of November. The Town Engineer confirmed that the figures were validated by Town Council staff during the months of July and August. Ms. Campbell indicated that the experience is that drivers' want to park very close to their destination and this is not always possible. She also indicated that there is most pressure on parking in Main Street, Friar Street and Canopy Street and these areas need careful management. Councillor McCarthy thanked RPS for their presentation and said that their report gives the Council an opportunity to reflect on the facts. He agreed with the recommendation on the multi-storey car park. He said that this information should be made available to the Chamber of Commerce and suggested a committee should be set up with four elected members and four members of the Chamber to address the issues in the report. He proposed that Councillors Michael Browne, Eoghan Lawrence, Maribel Wood and the Mayor be on the committee. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Lawrence. Councillor Martin Browne queried who has zappers for the Rock Car Park and the Town Clerk indicated that she would respond to him.

## **2. OPW INFORMATION BRIEFING – PROPOSED WORKS AT ROCK OF CASHEL**

Ms. Michelle O’Dea, Conservation Architect, Office of Public Works (OPW) joined the meeting and informed the members of the upcoming works scheduled for the Rock of Cashel. She indicated that the OPW would be carrying out improvement works to Cormac’s Chapel. This will involve the erection of a temporary roof over the Chapel to facilitate the drying out of the Chapel which will require scaffolding. It is intended that the scaffolding will be non-invasive to the building, she said but there will be some minimal disruption with access to the Chapel. She also informed the meeting that there will be a public information briefing at the Civic Offices on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2009. Councillor Quinlan questioned the type of scaffolding and if it will affect the lighting in the chapel. Ms. O’Dea explained the type of proposed scaffolding and said there will be a visual impact on the Chapel. She confirmed that the Chapel will continue to be artificially lit. Councillor Wood queried if there are plans to acquire the lands at the Rock, Ms. O’Dea informed Councillor Wood that this issue should be addressed to Director of Heritage Services at the Office of Public Works.

## **3. PRESENTATION BY HIGH RESOLUTION LIGHTING LTD**

Graham Lohan and Peter Canning joined the meeting from High Resolution Lighting and informed the meeting of their proposal to stage a lighting event at the Rock of Cashel. They indicated that they have organised similar events in the past with Skyfest, GAA 125 Year Celebration, Eurovision in Moscow and Edinburgh Tattoo Festival. They propose to hold it as part of the St. Patrick’s Celebrations starting in 2011 and have shows seven day that week with two shows nightly. They indicated that this would be a paid ticketed event with an audience of 6,000 per show. They said that they were not looking for financial support from the Town Council but want to get the support of the Town Council along with the businesses and the local community in Cashel before progressing the proposal.

The proposal was warmly welcomed by the members; the Mayor asked that they consult with the local St. Patrick’s Day Committee. Councillor Martin Browne proposed that the Council give formal endorsement to the project. This was unanimously supported by the other members. Councillor Lawrence said that this is a huge opportunity for Cashel. Councillor Quinlan agreed that it is hugely exiting and believes that it will be a viable proposal.

## **MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF JULY MEETING**

The Town Clerk suggested that the first meeting to discuss the hosting of the European Charter Annual Meeting 2011 would be held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September at 4pm. This was agreed. Councillor Wood enquired if there is adequate funding available and the Town Clerk indicated that this would be part of the discussion at this meeting.

## **5. RENT COLLECTION**

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that the rent arrears to the end of August were €9,674.71.

## **6. MANAGERS ORDERS**

The Managers Orders were noted.

## **7. EXCESS EXPENDITURE**

The Town Clerk outlined the details of the Excess Expenditure for Cashel Town Council for 2008 in accordance with Section 104 of the Local Government Act 2001 as follows;

| <b>PROGRAMME</b>                        | <b>AMOUNT</b> |
|---|---------------|
| 1.1 Local Authority Housing Maintenance | €48,000       |
| 1.8 Housing Administration              | €19,500       |
| 2.2 Road Improvement                    | €141,000      |
| 3.2 Sewerage Maintenance                | €16,500       |
| 4.1 Planning Administration             | €6,000        |
| 4.3 Heritage Walled Towns               | €5,000        |
| 5.1 Waste Disposal                      | €67,000       |
| Total                                   | €303,000      |

On the proposition of Councillor Joe Moloney, seconded by Councillor Sean McCarthy, the excess expenditure 2008 was approved.

### **8. (a) Nominee for Physical, Economic Planning and Development SPC**

On the proposition of Councillor McCarthy, seconded by Councillor Moloney, Councillor Eoghan Lawrence was nominated to this SPC.

### **(b) Nominee for Road Transport Policy SPC**

On the proposition of Councillor Moloney, seconded by Councillor Michael Browne, Councillor Eddie Bennett was nominated to this SPC.

### **9. Nominee for South Tipperary Development Company**

On the proposition of Councillor McCarthy, seconded by Councillor Michael Browne, Councillor PJ Quinlan was nominated to be the representative of Cashel Town Council on the South Tipperary Development Company.

## 10. NOTICES OF MOTION

### Councillor Sean McCarthy

*“That the Council should immediately involve with the appropriate Authorities in evaluating and assessing the number of Investor Owned Houses in the Town of Cashel so that the collection of the appropriate charges on these houses can proceed with and that hopefully the Income from this can be provided for the benefit of Cashel Urban District Council.”*

A written response was issued as follows:

*Mr. John Gormley, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, on the 24<sup>th</sup> July 2009 appointed that day as the day on which the Local Government (Charges) Act 2009 (No. 31 of 2009) came into operation.*

*This Act, introduces the €200 annual charge on Non Principal Private Residences (NPPR) payable by the owner(s) of the NPPR to the Local Authority in whose area the property concerned is located. In the case of South Tipperary the Local Authority is South Tipperary County Council who will, each year, make a payment to Cashel Town Council of monies received in respect of properties within the administrative area of the Town less any costs incurred by the County Council in connection with the collecting of these charges.*

*The Act provides that, if the charge is not paid within the month after the last date for payment, the late payment fee would apply for every month or part of a month that the €200 charge remains unpaid. For 2009, this means that the late payment fee will apply to all payments made after the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2009. The late payment fee amounts to €20.00 per month or part of a month. The late payment fee will continue to roll up as long as the charge remains unpaid.*

*A person who does not pay the charge within the relevant two month period leaves themselves open to prosecution by the Local Authority (South Tipperary County Council) to whom the payment is due. It should be noted that both the €200 charge and any accumulated stage payment fee will be a charge against the property concerned. This is likely to lead to difficulties in selling the residential property as the person buying it would become liable for any charges and fees in respect of the property concerned.*

*Cashel Town Council are actively assessing the number of relevant properties in Cashel Town through data received from the Private Rented Tenancies Board and our Revenue Collector.*

Councillor McCarthy expressed concerns that this is a voluntary payment to be made by the owners of such properties. He asked the Town Clerk if she could give an indication of the number of houses in Cashel Town. She agreed to do so.

## **Councillor Sean McCarthy**

**“That this Council should explain to the Members how Rent Subsidies are evaluated and in particular to investigate if they have been granted to certain Non Nationals who are causing disruption in the Town of Cashel amongst longstanding established citizens and families and are also creating problems in relation to persistent begging on our streets and also to ask what steps can be taken to prevent the owners of private houses from letting their houses to these types of families.”**

A written response was issued as follows:

### **1. Administration of Rent Subsidies:**

*The administration and management of Rent Supplement payments is the responsibility of the Community Welfare Service (CWS) under the guidance of the Department of Social and Family Affairs (DSFA).*

*Notwithstanding this Local Authorities play an important role in determining whether households require this level of support from the State. The primary function of Rent Supplement is to meet the short term income requirements of households in the Private Rented Sector. In recent years it has been increasingly relied upon as a form of long term support with the effect that households on long term rent supplement are not having their housing needs addressed. The Minister for Housing and Local Services has recently made changes to the Social Welfare legislation and changes to the Supplementary Welfare Allowance arising from the Supplementary Budget 2009. In light of these changes both the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Department of Social and Family Affairs have taken the opportunity to clarify for both the Community Welfare Service (CWS) and Housing Authorities a Policy and Practice in relation to the assessment of need for Rent Supplement. The changes became effective on the 27<sup>th</sup> July 2009.*

*The effect of the changes mean that as and from that date applicants can no longer apply for Rent Supplement only. Each applicant is required to make a full housing application to the Housing Authority and this application will be fully assessed by the Housing Assessment Officer in accordance with the Housing Authority Scheme of Letting Priorities. There are however, some exceptions;*

- *If an applicant for Rent Supplement has within the past twelve months been approved by a Housing Authority for Social housing the Housing Authority will confirm this to the Community Welfare Officer.*
- *If a Rent Supplement applicant has been in private rented accommodation for a period of 6 months within the 12 month period preceding the date of the claim for Rent Supplement then the applicant contacts the Community Welfare Officer who will process the application*
- *If the Rent Supplement applicant has been in Homeless accommodation for a period of over 6 months they are also required to contact the Community Welfare Officer.*

## 2. *Access to Rent Subsidied Social Housing for Immigrants*

*In general, citizens of the **European Economic Area (EEA)** are entitled to seek housing support from a Housing Authority on the same basis as an Irish Citizen. European Economic Area includes all EU member states as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.*

***Non European Economic Area Nationals** – Applications may be considered from Non European Economic Area residents who can supply evidence of their immigration status or legal right to remain in the State. This is evident through stamp designations which are found on Passports or Garda Registration Cards. There are currently six stamps covering the various forms of residents granted in Ireland. Persons with a Stamp 4 designation may be entitled to access Social Housing. This Stamp 4 designation is given to the following;*

- *European Economic Area Nationals*
- *Spouses of European Economic Area/ Irish Nationals*
- *Parents of Irish Citizens (who have been granted permission to remain on that basis)*
- *Persons granted Refugee Status under the terms of the 1951 Geneva Convention*
- *Former Asylum seekers granted humanitarian leave to remain*
- *Refugees here under Government decision (i.e. Bosnians, Kosovans, Vietnamese) also known as resettlement programme refugees,*
- *Non European Economic Area Nationals or Intra Company Transfer*
- *Temporary registered doctors*
- *Persons on working Visas or Work Authorisation Schemes*

*It should be noted that an applicant must also establish that they have a **need** for Social Housing.*

Councillor McCarthy expressed concerns about some migrants from Eastern Europe who are in receipt of rent supplement in the town while acknowledging the positive contribution of migrants from other Eastern Europe countries. He had noticed that there is an increase in begging on the streets by the Roma community from Bulgaria particularly at the Church and supermarkets. This was supported by Councillors Moloney, Wood and Lawrence. Councillor Wood indicated that she had written to the Gardai about the problem. Councillor Martin Browne requested an urgent meeting with the Gardai to discuss this and other current issues. This was supported by Councillor Lawrence. The town Clerk agreed to arrange the meeting.

**Councillor Sean McCarthy**

***“To ask this Council would investigate to see what steps if any can be taken between this Council and in particular with Business Owners and Residents of the centre of the Town at installing CCT cameras as these seem to be the most effective method of the prevention and detection of crime particularly at weekends.”***

A written response was issued as follows:

*As Cashel Town Council have now established a Joint Policing Committee it is proposed to liaise with the Garda Superintendent regarding the possibility of installing CCTV at appropriate locations on the Main Street in Cashel.*

**Councillor Maribel Wood**

***“That the Engineer advises as to when the proposed work to prevent traffic driving on the footpath in John Street will be implemented.”***

A written response was issued as follows:

*Cashel Town Council will be carrying out works on John Street later this week. It is proposed to place bollards along the roadway on both sides of the road to facilitate a give way traffic management system. It is envisaged that this system will prevent traffic from mounting the footpath adjacent to O’Dwyer’s house.*

**Councillor Maribel Wood**

***“That the Manager advise as to the number of approved applicants for housing and the number under investigation.”***

A written response was issued as follows:

*Cashel Town Council currently has;*

- ⇒ 25 housing applicants approved and;*
- ⇒ 67 housing applicants under investigation*

*Details of the 25 approved are as follows;*

- ⇒ 5 are approved for 3 bedroom house*
- ⇒ 5 are approved for 2 bedroom house*
- ⇒ 13 are approved for 1 bedroom house*
- ⇒ 2 are approved for Sheltered accommodation*

## **Councillor PJ Quinlan**

***“That the Council implement an awareness campaign at a local level to encourage dog owners to use pooper scoopers and give appropriate dog fines to dog owners who knowingly leave dog excrement our streets, pavements and public areas”***

A written response was issued as follows:

*The Town Council in April this year commenced an on-going awareness campaign to encourage dog owners take responsibility and clean up after their dogs. The campaign included;-*

- *provision, free of charge, of “pooper scooper”*
- *advertising availability of same in local papers*
- *Litter Warden focus on this area of litter*

*As a result of this campaign there have been noticeable improvements in public areas in the town, however, in a further effort to increase awareness it is proposed;*

- *to liaise with Chamber of Commerce with a view to their members (shop/business owners) allowing Council to make pooper scoopers available at their premises*
- *advertise their availability in media/website*
- *Litter Wardens to issue fines where offences occur*

## **11. CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS:**

The list of Conferences and Seminars was circulated.

## **12. CORRESPONDENCE**

The correspondence was read.

## **13. VOTES OF SYMPATHY/CONGRATULATIONS**

A vote of sympathy was extended to the

Hewitt Family, Haigs Terrace

Kinane Family, Ballinahinch

Wm O'Brien, Spafield Crescent on the death of his sister Josie

Austin Ryan, Golden Road on the death of his wife Maureen

Ted Fahy, Colliers Lane on the death of Mary Fahy, Bank Place

A vote of congratulations was extended to

The Tipperary Team on their performance in the All Ireland Hurling Final  
Tidy Towns Committee, Emly on their winning All Ireland Tidy Towns  
Cashelised on their successful Festival held in July.

#### **14. OTHER BUSINESS**

Councillor Martin Browne raised the following issues

- minimum charge for water is considered high by the business people
- problem with the playing field opposite the Community School
- Uneven Flagstone outside Mickey Ryans pub
- Return of the Croke memorial
- Lighting and footpaths at Dominic Street
- Yellow lines on step at the Church

Councillor Maribel Wood raised the following issue

- flooding at the cemetery
- asked the Town Clerk to write to Guinness to include Cashel in the 250-year celebrations as Cashel produced the first hops for the brewery.

Councillor Joe Moloney raised the following

- flooding at Abbesside
- leaving supply of salt in the housing estates for wintertime

Councillor Michael Browne asked that the Town Engineer write to TESCO to ensure that the improvement works are completed

**The Meeting then concluded.**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_ 2009

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_ 2009