

Minutes of November Meeting of Cashel Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Cashel on Monday 7th November 2011 at 7.30pm.

Chair: Councillor Maribel Wood

Members Present: Councillor Eddie Bennett
Councillor Martin Browne (Sinn Fein)
Councillor Eoghan Lawrence
Councillor Sean McCarthy
Councillor Joe Moloney
Councillor PJ Quinlan

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

Apologies: Councillor Martin Browne (Non-Party)
Councillor Dan Dillon

1. Minutes of October Meeting held on 3rd October 2011

The minutes of the October Meeting held on 3rd October 2011 were adopted on the proposition of Councillor Eddie Bennett and seconded by Councillor Martin Browne (Sinn Féin)

Matters arising from the Minutes

The Mayor proposed that the Council write to Johnson and Johnson requesting their timescale for a replacement facility in Cashel. The Town Manager suggested that this should be arranged in conjunction with the County Council and this was agreed.

Councillor Sean McCarthy said that he was disappointed with the response received from the Office of the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation regarding securing a replacement company in Cashel following the closure of Cordis.

2. Sustaining and Growing Retail Activity in South Tipperary 2012-2014 – Presentation by Pat Holland, Community and Enterprise

The Mayor indicated that item 7 would be taken as the next item on the Agenda and welcomed Pat Holland, Community and Enterprise to the meeting.

Pat Holland referred to the “Sustaining and Growing Retail Activity in South Tipperary 2012 to 2014” document that was circulated to the members with the Agenda for the meeting.

He outlined to the members that this is a strategy for the retail sector across South Tipperary. He indicated that there is a proposal to have a fund available to assist in achieving the objectives of this strategy. He also referred to the need for marketing and the holding of special events in towns to bring greater footfall into each town. He said that there are a number of actions laid out in the plan with the objective of sustaining and improving retail activity in towns. He asked the members to consider the report and to endorse the report if they were in agreement.

Councillor Eddie Bennett said that there is a need for the Minister for the Environment to look at the charging of rates on a national basis to allow a financial kick start for the retail sector.

Councillor Joe Moloney said that he believes that this is a step in the right direction and was fully supportive of the plan.

Councillor PJ Quinlan said that it is important to have a thriving town centre and also fully supported the plan.

Councillor Eoghan Lawrence said that Cashel has a large number of visitors to the Rock and asked that the signage to and from the Rock of Cashel be improved.

The Mayor expressed the view that businesses in Cashel are proactive and are interested in improving the town. She agreed that this is a good step forward.

Councillor Sean McCarthy suggested that the Farmers market should be re-activated on the Main Street. In response Pat Holland suggested that a day other than Saturday be considered for the Farmers Market. He also indicated that he hoped to get a group together to discuss this.

The Town Engineer said that a lot of work has been done with regard to signage and also indicated that information leaflets would be placed in the Car Parks for tourists/visitors.

3. Rent Collection

The Town Clerk informed the members that the rent arrears at the end of October amounted to €13,433.

4. Nominations to attend the EU Charter Meeting in Desborough

It was agreed that Dr. Niall Gregory and Mr. Paul Monks, Tidy Towns Committee would attend the EU Charter Meeting in Desborough and they would be notified accordingly following this meeting.

5. Managers Orders

In response to a query from Councillor Eoghan Lawrence regarding the Planning Enforcement reference P/ENF/49, the Town Clerk indicated that there is an enforcement procedure that has to be followed. She also confirmed that this process could run in parallel with the planning application process.

6. Fix Date for Budget Meeting

It was agreed that the Annual Budget meeting would be held on Monday 12th December 2011 at 7.30pm.

7. Fix date for December Meeting

It was agreed that the December meeting would be held on Tuesday 6th December 2011 at 7.30pm.

8. Notices of Motion

Councillor Maribel Wood

“That the Council seeks a meeting with the Minister for Environment to seek clarification on the future of Cashel Town Council as it is a matter of grave importance”

The Mayor said that she had previously requested a meeting with the Minister and was still waiting to have the meeting. Following a discussion it was agreed to support the notice of motion received from Tipperary Town Council

Councillor Martin Browne, Sinn Féin

“That the disabled parking space at the Rock of Cashel be replaced as it was tarmaced over”

A written response was issued as follows

The road leading up to the Rock of Cashel is owned by the Office of Public Works. The request for a disabled parking bay will be referred to them.

Councillor Martin Browne, Sinn Féin

“That the Main Street at Buckleys and Bamburys be looked at as the road is very uneven”

A written response was issued as follows

Any necessary repairs at this location will be considered when the 2012 Roadworks Programme is being prepared. The 2011 programme is being completed at present and all funds are fully committed

Councillor Martin Browne, Sinn Féin

“That more signage or some form of warning be erected on the Cahir Road as warning about the roundabout at Tescos”

A written response was issued as follows

Cahir Road south of Tesco Roundabout is within the County Area. Cahir Road North of the roundabout is within the town and any necessary signage will be considered as part of the 2012 Roadworks Programme.

Councillor PJ Quinlan

“In advance of the Council’s meeting, the Manager would give serious consideration to reduce commercial rates in Cashel by 20%, this is necessary as to reduce the cost base on business some of which are on their knees, this will slow the haemorrhage of small shops closing in 2012”

A written response was issued as follows

The Council is very conscious of the economic difficulties being experienced by businesses in Cashel. The commercial rate for each year is determined by the adoption of the draft Budget by the Members for the relevant year.

This Council must prepare and adopt a balanced budget for 2012, in preparing the Draft Budget for the Members consideration, all areas of income and expenditure will be reviewed. Consultation will take place with the members of the Town Council as part of the process.

It is not possible to look at the determination of the annual rate on valuation in isolation and all charges to business and individuals will be reviewed.

A large portion of our expenditure budget relates to the statutory functions which this council must provide such as housing, fire services, road repairs and maintenance, water supply and sewerage treatment etc. There are also particular elements of our expenditure over which we have no discretion such as pensions, payroll costs, loan charges, insurances, statutory demands, etc.

This council is also hit by falling revenues across all divisions together with rising fuel costs. In addition our funding from central government has reduced dramatically over the past two years. Local Government Fund reduced by 18% and Road Grants reduced by 32% with further reductions likely for 2012.

Preparing a balanced budget for 2012 presents a very difficult challenge. It is unlikely that expenditure can be reduced further without affecting services and the scope for increasing charges is very limited.

However this Council must prepare and adopt a balanced budget for 2012 and in preparing the Draft Budget for the Members consideration, all expenditure and sources of income (including local authority charges) will be reviewed to try and keep them to a minimum while maintaining essential services.

Councillor PJ Quinlan

“I am asking the Town Council in conjunction with planning to pursue the developers of Caiseal na Ri on Golden Road to make the estate safe and secondly to fulfil his obligation re landscaping and finishing of roadways, footpaths and bright the whole estate to an acceptable level”

A written response was issued as follows

I wish to advise that the development in question is located within the administrative area of South Tipperary County Council and therefore the Town Council cannot issue enforcement proceedings under planning legislation.

Councillor Sean McCarthy indicated that this matter was discussed at the County Council meeting. He said that proceedings have commenced but did not want to say anything further as he did not wish to prejudice any future action that may be taken.

Councillor PJ Quinlan

“That the Engineer reconstruct or realign the junction coming off Old Road on to the Green. It is suggested that we move forward the Stop sign 2 meters onto The Green as this will overcome the present lack of visibility which motorists experience at present especially when buses or high sided vehicles are parked on the existing parking bay to the left of the junction.”

A written response was issued as follows

Revised road markings were agreed to earlier this year and road marking at this junction will be undertaken shortly

Councillor Eoghan Lawrence

“That Cashel Town Council carry out repair work to the raised pedestrian crossing on the Main Street. Due to the amount of heavy vehicles that cross it on a daily basis the area has sunk resulting in the manhole covers coming lose and rattling each time a vehicle crosses over. This noise pollution is causing distress to businesses and residents”.

A written response was issued as follows

The Town Council staff are currently dealing with planned roadworks under the 2011 Roadworks Programme which must be completed in time to draw

down the Block Grant. The manholes and raised area at Main Street have been inspected and will be repaired as soon as possible.

9. Seminars and Conferences

The list of Seminars/Conferences was circulated to the members. On the proposition of Councillor Sean McCarthy and seconded by Councillor Martin Browne, the attendance by members to Conferences was agreed.

10. Correspondence

The correspondence was noted and supported.

11. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

A vote of congratulations was extended to

- President Michael D. Higgins on his election as President of Ireland.
- Aidan & Joseph O'Brien on their success at the Breeders Cup

A vote of Sympathy was extended to

- Butler Family on the death of Mary Butler, Old Road
- Morrissey Family on the death of Joan Keogh
- Prendergast Family on the death of Claire Prendergast, Dangan, Golden

Signed/ _____
Mayor

Dated/ _____ December 2011

Signed/ _____
Town Clerk

Dated/ _____ December 2011