

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Edenderry Town Council</b> <b>Comhairle Bhaile Édan Doire</b></p>
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**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF EDENDERRY TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY THE 9<sup>TH</sup> OF APRIL 2014  
IN THE TOWN HALL, EDENDERRY AT 7.30PM**

**Present:** Cathaoirleach Cllr. Finian O'Neill, Cllr Patricia Brady, Cllr. Fergus McDonnell, Cllr. Liam Hogan, , Cllr. Jim Murrin, Cllr. John Foley, Cllr. Noel Cribbin, Cllr. Declan Leddin

**In attendance:** Declan Conlon, Area Manager/Head of Finance, Therese O'Meara, Acting Town Clerk and Damien Grennan, Area Engineer

**Apologies:** Cllr Mary Breen

The meeting was adjourned for five minutes as a mark of request to Cllr John Foley on the recent death of his father in Co Kerry. Cllr Foley thanked those you sympathized with him on his recent lose and especially those who travelled to Kerry for the funeral. His fellow Councilors offered their condolences as did Declan Conlon, Area Manager on his own behalf and that of the Management team of Offaly County Council.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes**

On the proposal of Cllr Jim Murrin and seconded by Cllr Patricia Brady, the minutes of the March monthly meeting were adopted.

**In Committee Meeting regarding**

The Cathaoirleach advised that he wish to go into committee to allow Declan Conlon, Area Manager and Damien Grennan, Area Engineer discuss finances of the Town Council.

Declan Conlon advised that he wished to follow up on the last meeting and thanked the members for approving funding for works in the square. He advised that the material for same has been ordered and he assured the members that there would be a paving stone in place which would state that the members of Edenderry Town Council had sponsored same.

Declan advised that prior to the last meeting there was a balance of €58.5k in the account. €28.5k of this was approved for works in the square which leaves a balance of approximately €30k. €15k of this has been ring fenced for CCTV proposals. He then advise that he was now looking for funding for the landscaping of the two main entrances to the town on the Dublin and on the Tullamore side. He advised that in the Tidy Town reports, these entrances are mentioned year after year. Damien stated the first impressions of the town need to be addressed and there is a need to hide the concrete post and rail fencing and cover it with hedges or trees and flowers. He advised that 9,000 cars a day travel through the town. He said that some work has been done at the Monasteroris entrance in recent times.

The Councilors raised queries in relation to the entrances to the town from Francis St and Murphy St. Damien advised that these roads are less trafficked and therefore the main entrances are being looked at first.

Cllr Cribbin advised that as a member of the Tidy Towns, they would be delighted to hear that this work was planned and he advised that it was his belief that Tidy Towns would also give a donation towards same. Cllr Brady advised that there are 3 number cherry blossom trees dead on the Dublin Road and asked if the Council could look at same as part of this work. Cllr Murrin and Cllr Mc Donnell stated that they were not against the idea but stated that they would like to see footpath repairs carried out also.

Damien advised that there is no funding for footpath repairs at present and advised that in fact anywhere where he has carried out footpath repairs result in another project suffering.

It was proposed by Cllr Finian O'Neill and seconded by Cllr John Foley that €11k (and any remaining surplus in the Town Council budget) be spent on landscaping the Dublin and Tullamore entrances to the town.

**'Plan B' should the proposal for the erection of CCTV cameras not go ahead.**

Cllr Cribbin advised that he was told by the Sergeant that following a recent survey from Gardai technical staff, a total of 4 cameras is required for a satisfactory CCTV scheme for the town, 3 of these cameras will be placed on poles and the other on an arm off the Town Hall. He advised that these cameras would be 360° which would feed to a monitor in the Garda Station. He also advised that he has received a second quotation for cameras for €16k. Cllr Mc Donnell advised that he has discussed this proposal with someone whom he knows who deals in CCTV installation and that this gentleman is willing to provide any information required free of charge. Details of this gentleman are with the Town Clerk. Cllr O'Neill reminded the members that this scheme would have to go to public procurement.

The Town Clerk was asked to write to the Department of Justice requesting that they take charge and maintain the CCTV scheme should it be implemented.

Cllr Mc Donnell reminded the members that some cameras are no longer working in Tullamore Town. Cllr Foley sought a time frame for the ring fencing of this money. A commitment of 1 year was proposed by Cllr Cribbin and seconded by Cllr Leddin. Cllr Cribbin requested that the Town Clerk contact Sgt Kevin Quinn and arrange to have a meeting with the project committee who are looking at this proposal next week and report back accordingly.

It was proposed by Cllr MC Donnell and seconded by Cllr O'Neill, if the CCTV proposal does not go ahead that the money ring fenced for same be spent on footpaths in the town. Declan Conlon, Area Manager thanked the members for their time.

### **Suspension of Standing Orders**

The Cathaoirleach advised that he was suspending standing orders in order to discuss the recent break ins in the town.

Cllr Cribbin advised that there have been 24 break ins from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January to date, this amounts to 2 per week. There are also 15 thefts from cars/houses and 1 murder. He advised that some people won't open their doors after 8.30pm in the evening. He discussed the recent break in at McGreals and advised that 7 attempts were made to burn that premises this could have resulted in all of JKL Street being burnt. He then advised that €30k worth of contents had been robbed from BD hire last night and that the Long Bar was also broken in to. He also stated that Dermot Hall was broken in to also one night after another and that Mc Greal were broken in to also the night after the fires.

Cllr Cribbin stated that there are not enough Gardai in the town. He advised that one business has been broken into 32 times. He stated that some business owners are ready to walk away. He advised that the Gardai have 1 van and the loan of a car from Daingean/Rhode. He advised that the Detective hasn't a squad car. Cllr Cribbin sought a meeting with the Superintendent. He advised that there are only 2 Gardai on at a time and if one is on leave or out sick, the other person is working by themselves. He advised that Niall O'Leary is due to retire next week and stated that he had given great service to the town and its people. He advised that Niall was involved with the clubs and sports in the town and was willing to discuss matters with people outside of working hours. Cllr Cribbin stated that Niall will be a severe loss to the town. He proposed that Gardai be offered 7% extra on top of their wages as in the Gaelteacht areas to be stationed in Edenderry and required to live here.

Cllr Foley advised that no business has escaped, people are creating employment and doing no wrong and yet some are going to close. He said that there are 4-5 roads out of Edenderry which results in those responsible being gone from the area in a matter of minutes. He stated that there is a need to call a public meeting and invite the Minister for Justice to same. He advised that he has gone to people's houses at 7pm and he hears those taking bolts off the doors. He stated that this is happening across the country. Cllr Foley called for 24 hour divisional Gardai out on streets.

Cllr Brady advised that a local surgery in Boyne Meadow was also burnt, this employed 5 people, she stated that it is amazing to see the effects that something like this has on people afterward.

Cllr Mc Donnell advised that there is a JPC meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April. He also reminded those present that at the most recent JPC meeting the superintendent advised that his area had received another squad car in light of the recent murders. The Town Clerk confirmed this detail and advised that this car may have been subsumed into the North Offaly District in which the superintendent is responsible.

Cllr Foley clarified that the public meeting suggestion relates to all rural Ireland who should march to the Dáil in relation to the lack of Gardai and ongoing robberies.

Cllr Murrin advised that the Town Clerk circulate the following Notice of Motion to all Town Councils

***“calls on the Minster to lift the embargo on recruitment and to have more Gardai allocated to the rural area”***

An extension of time was proposed by Cllr Mc Donnell and seconded by Cllr Murrin.

### **The Council meeting resumed**

#### **R402**

The Town Clerk was requested to write to Kildare County Council in relation to the surface of the road at Killshinroe village.

#### **Ofalia House**

Nothing to report

#### **24 hour Ambulance**

Cllr Cribbin read from correspondence sent to the Town Clerk on his behalf. It stated that there were 867 calls outs in 2013. He advised that the lack of ambulances on Christmas Day related to absenteeism. He advised that Saturday roster are 8am to 8pm. The Town Clerk advised that she was forward this correspondence to all members.

Cllr Murrin queried how this day was chosen, as he would assume that weekends are busier, he advised that he was asked this question by a gentleman who's wife removal was tonight.

Cllr Mc Donnell advised that the members keep fighting for 24 hours service, 7 days per week in light of the ongoing debate at ambulance service as highlighted by Prime Time.

#### **New Schools**

Cllr Mc Donnell advised that the Gael Scoil will be opened by September 2014.

#### **Notion of Motion**

The Notion of Motion from Kinsale Town Council in relation to fluoride was marked as read.

The Notion of Motion from Ballina Town Council regarding flooding was proposed by Cllr Mc Donnell and seconded by Cllr O'Neill

#### **Event to mark the end of the Town Council**

The issue of music on the night was discussed. The Town Clerk and Area Manager will discuss same further,

#### **Correspondence**

Cllr Mc Donnell advised that the AMAI is to be disbanded and that a new association called the Association of Irish Local Government which will include the former Association of City and Council Councils will take its place.

#### **Any other business**

Cllr Murrin congratulation Liam Brereton on his success in the youth championships in Bulgaria and stated that if he does well in this he will be in the youth Olympics in China.

Cllr Foley congratulated the St Patrick's Day Parade committee and asked that the Town Clerk write to them.

It was proposed by Cllr O'Neill and seconded by Cllr Mc Donnell that the Town Clerk writes to Sean Norman and congratulate him on his Offaly Person of the year

The next meeting of Edenderry Town Council will take place at 6.30pm on 14<sup>th</sup> of May 2014. This will be the last meeting of the Town Council. It was agreed that the members can invite their families to join them after the meeting for a cup of tea in the chamber.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_