

**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF TULLAMORE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE TOWN HALL, TULLAMORE ON THURSDAY, 9TH APRIL,
2009**

In Attendance :-

Cllr. S. O'Brien (Cathaoirleach)	Cllr. T. McKeigue	Cllr M. Buckley
Cllr. J. Flanagan	Cllr. S. Dooley	Cllr. P. Rowland
Mr. D. Kirrane (Town Manager)	Mr. P. Devaney (Town Engineer)	Ms. R. McNally (Town Clerk)

Apologies :- Cllr. L. Byrne, Cllr. J. Coughlan, Cllr. R. Egan

The Cathaoirleach and members welcomed Ruth McNally the new Town Clerk to the meeting and conveyed their thanks to Gabriel Conlon for his work and assistance to the members during his time as A/Town Clerk. The Cathaoirleach also welcomed back Cllr. Flanagan and again extended his sympathies and that of the members to Cllr. Flanagan on the recent death of his wife Kitty. Cllr. Flanagan extended his thanks to the members and officials of the council for their support during this very difficult time.

Votes of Sympathy

Votes of sympathy were extended and condolences were expressed with the families, relatives and friends of the following recently deceased :-

*Sr. Ann Ryan, Consolation Sisters, Arden,
Frank Burke, Ballydrohid
James Murphy, Arden View
Matt Farrell, Daingean
Dr. Shora Kelly, Church Street
Seamus Dorgan, brother of Sr. Columba*

Suspension of Standing Orders

It was unanimously agreed that standing orders be suspended to discuss the proposed road closure at Cloncollig to facilitate works on the Tullamore By-Pass. The members wished to note their concern at the potential negative impact on businesses in the area as a result of this. The Town Manager informed the members that this matter was within the remit of Offaly County Council who had recently published a notice of intention to this effect. He further pointed out that members were entitled to make a formal submission under this consultation process. The members requested that the Town Manager and Town Engineer raise this matter with the relevant Offaly County Council officials as a matter of urgency and that a special meeting of Tullamore Town Council be convened to update the members on the outcome of this.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

- (a) The Minutes of the Conference Sub-Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 12th March, 2009 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. McKeigue and seconded by Cllr. Buckley
- (b) The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on Thursday, 12th March, 2009 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. McKeigue and seconded by Cllr. Buckley

There were no matters arising.

2. Presentation on Tullamore Public Realm

The Town Manager confirmed that this presentation was deferred and that work was on-going in the Offaly County Council Planning Department to progress this study to draft stage.

3. Update on IBAL

The Town Engineer outlined the main findings of the recent An Tasice litter survey of Tullamore in particular the breakdown of the various categories of litter that were prevalent. He also confirmed that a new Community Liaison Officer, Rose O’Keeffe had taken up employment with Tullamore Town Council earlier that week and one of her priorities would be to work in partnership with the various interest groups in the town and the Environmental Awareness Officer in Offaly County Council to co-ordinate local activity in tackling the litter issue with a focus on the black spots highlighted in the report. The members welcomed the Community Liaison Officer and wished her well in her new post.

4. Tullamore Joint Policing Committee Work Plan 2009 – 2010

An updated version of the plan was circulated to the members and the Cathaoirleach outlined the work of the committee to date. He also wished Superintendent Bowe well on his retirement and complimented him on his work with the committee since its inauguration. The Cathaoirleach further confirmed that a formal launch of the work plan will take place on the 7th May. A general discussion then ensued on recent crimes in Tullamore and the members wished to note their disappointment at recent cutbacks in government funding for alarms and security measures for older people.

5. Ceisteanna

None

6. Conferences

All conferences listed and recommended by the Sub-Committee were approved

7. Correspondence

All correspondence circulated with the agenda was noted

8. Notices of Motion – Cllr. M. Buckley

On the proposal of Cllr. Buckley and seconded by Cllr. McKeigue the following notices of motion were agreed :-

“That Tullamore Town Council write to Mary Hanafin, Minister for Social and Family Affairs, regarding the anomaly which exists whereby some areas in the country are not allowing Social Welfare recipients to continue signing while they are undergoing short term FAS Training Courses”

It was further agreed that the relevant Regional Manager should also be written to.

“That Tullamore Town Council meet with a delegation from the Arts Centre to progress the provision of a Community Arts Centre”

Agreed that such a meeting be deferred until such time as a formal committee structure has been put in place by the local arts group and the relevant officials from Offaly County Council have met with the Department of Arts, Sports and Tourism to discuss the flexibility in the use of the €2m funding already approved. A request to expedite this meeting to be made by Tullamore Town Council.

9. Notices of Motion – Cllr. T. McKeigue

On the proposal of Cllr. McKeigue and seconded by Cllr. Buckley, the following notices of motion were agreed :-

“In view of the serious financial difficulties that now exists in our country that this council calls on Government to abolish the policy of paying Ministerial Pensions to members serving in either house of the Oireachtas, also is there a need to provide a state car and driver to former Taoisigh and that T.D.'s and Ministers salaries be paid at a rate to reflect that of other small E.U. countries and that the number of Junior Ministers be reduced to twelve”

The members welcomed recent changes in the budget that addressed some of the issues raised above.

“That Tullamore Town Council calls on the owners of Main Street to suspend the clamping of vehicles until a satisfactory solution is worked out with the Council”

The Town Manager confirmed that discussions are on-going with the owners of Main Street with a view to them making a formal application for taking in charge in line with the policy adopted by the Council at their March meeting.

10. Notices of Motion – Cllr. S. O’Brien

On the proposal of Cllr. O’Brien and seconded by Cllr. McKeigue the following notice of motion was agreed :-

“That this Council considers it vital that the two ambulances currently stationed at the Midland Regional Hospital, Tullamore are retained there.”

It was agreed that the Council write to the relevant senior management in the HSE to this effect and that a copy of this be forwarded to local management for their information. Cllr. McKeigue also agreed to raise this matter at the forthcoming HSE Forum meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr. O’Brien and seconded by Cllr. Buckley the following notice of motion was agreed :-

“That this Council undertake work to develop the green areas in Cloncollig so that they can be used by local groups for sport”

The Town Engineer confirmed that proposals for the provision of facilities and landscaping works at this location were currently being drawn up and that the Council's Community Liaison Officer would work with the local residents to progress the matter.

11. Notices of Motions – Cllr. L. Byrne

The Cathaoirleach confirmed that Cllr. Byrne had given his written consent to have the motions moved by the Cathaoirleach in his absence.

On the proposal of Cllr. O'Brien and seconded by Cllr. Buckley, the following notices of motion were agreed :-

“Considering the need in so many housing estates for speed ramps that this Council make an application to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government for funding for a pilot programme”

“That this council enter into discussions as a matter of urgency with potential developers as a means to getting proposed retail and other developments moving as soon as possible”

12. Any Other Business

- (i) ***Presentation by Offaly CEB on progress to date of the Economic Sub-Committee/Task Force recently established under the auspices of the County Development Board to address the issue of unemployment and job creation in the Tullamore area*** – The members requested that this be included on the agenda for the May monthly meeting subject to availability of the CEO of the County Enterprise Board.
- (ii) ***Taking in Charge of Hophill Development*** – Town Engineer to confirm progression of this application at May meeting
- (iii) ***Schools Capital Programme*** – The members wished to note their concern with the lack of progress on the proposed permanent extension to Scoil Mhuire and the provision of a new school for Tullamore College. They welcomed however the recent approval for the extension of Colaiste Cholim
- (iv) ***Vote of Congratulations*** – The members extended their congratulations and good wishes to Aisling Cosgrave-Staunton of the Town Council staff on the recent birth of her son
- (v) ***Callary Street*** – Cllr Dooley wished to convey her thanks to the Town engineer on the recent yellow lining that took place at this location

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Town Clerk

Date:
