

## **Minutes of February Monthly Meeting Tullamore Town Council.**

**Date:** Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

**Time:** 5.00 p.m.

**Location:** Town Hall, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

**Present:** Councillor S. O'Brien (Cathaoirleach), Councillor M. Buckley, Councillor Laurence Byrne, Councillor J. Coughlan, Councillor J. Flanagan, Councillor T. McKeigue, Councillor P. Rowland and Councillor Sinead Dooley.

**In attendance:** Mr. D. Kirrane (Director of Service), Mr. P. Devaney (Senior Executive Engineer), Mr. G. Conlon (A/Senior Executive Officer), Mr. A. Murray (Senior Executive Planner), Mr. B. Pey (Housing Social & Community Co-ordinator) and Mr. S. Burt (Executive Planner).

**Apologies:** Councillor Richard Egan.

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

Mrs. F. Longworth, the Meelaghans, Tullamore.  
Fr. M. O'Brien, Ballykilmurray, Tullamore.  
Ms. V. Bracken, William Street, Tullamore.  
Mrs. T. Fox, Arden Road, Tullamore.  
Mrs. B. Caffray, Callary Street, Tullamore.  
Ms. S. Lonergan, Chapel Street, Tullamore.  
Mrs. M. O'Toole, Clontarf Road, Tullamore.  
Mr. J. Murray, Tullamore.  
Ms. M. Lloyd, Pearse Park, Tullamore.  
Mr. S. Cahir, Charleville Rd., Tullamore.  
Mr. K. Kennedy, Charleville Rd., Tullamore.  
Mr. M. Kelly, Kilbride Street, Tullamore.  
Mrs. M. Vicars, O'Molloy Street, Tullamore.  
Mr. E. Gettings, Cappincur, Tullamore.  
Mr. D. Drum, Parnell Street, Tullamore.  
Mr. W. Bagnall, Geashill, Tullamore.

### **1. Confirmation of Minutes.**

On the proposal of Councillor L. Byrne and seconded by Councillor M. Buckley the Minutes of the following meetings were confirmed: -

- (a) Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January,

- 2009 at 4.00 p.m. in the Town Hall, Tullamore.
- (b) Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2009 at 5.00 p.m. in the Town Hall, Tullamore.
  - (c) Minutes of Sub Committee on Conferences held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2009 at 5.45 p.m. in the Town Hall, Tullamore.
  - (d) Minutes of January Monthly Meeting of Tullamore Town Council held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2009 at 6.00 p.m. in the Town Hall, Tullamore.

**2. Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme.**

Mr. B. Pey, Housing Social & Community Co-ordinator delivered a presentation on the 2009-2013 Plan. This is the third Plan in County Offaly. The Plan will be adopted by the 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2009. The members asked that a submission be made on behalf of Tullamore Town Council outlining the wishes of the members that no further Halting sites be provided in the administrative area of Tullamore Town Council.

**3. Review of Tullamore and Environs Development Plan.**

On behalf of Mr. P. Gallagher, County Manager, Mr. A. Murray, Senior Executive Planner, presented directions to the elected members. He outlined the process involved.

The Plan will be on public display from July to September 2009. Mr. Murray outlined the changes requested by the elected members for the town centre, including employment and economy, infrastructure and detailed specific areas. The Draft Plan will be presented to members on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2009. The members welcomed the work done by the Planners.

4. **Auditor's Report 2007.** The auditors report had been circulated and was presented by Mr. D. Kirrane, Director of Services. The members welcomed the financial position at the end of 2007 and noted the substantial reduction in the Debit Balance. Mr. Kirrane further pointed out that all required changes suggested by the Auditor have been implemented by Tullamore Town Council.

**5. IBAL Report**

The town engineer Mr. Paul Devaney informed the members that he has had meetings with staff from An Taisce and that he has agreed a Litter Census to formally identify bad areas for litter around the town, to be carried out by An Taisce. Councillor T. McKeigue said that the Tidy Towns would support Tullamore Town Council and assist after the An Taisce Report is received. The members commended Mr. P. Devaney on his initiative in getting An Taisce involved.

**6. Town Twinning with Chandler, Arizona.**

Councillor M. Buckley proposed a town twinning with Chandler, Arizona, U.S.A.

Councillor Buckley said that a committee would be formed soon and that Tullamore Town Council would be asked to nominate two members of the Town Council to sit on this Committee. Mr. G. Conlon reminded the members of discussions about this issue at meeting held in September 2008 and noted that Tullamore Chamber has not formally responded to Tullamore Town Council since that time. It was agreed that An Cathaoirleach, Sean O' Brien, and Cllr. Molly Buckley would attend meetings of a committee organised by Chamber of Commerce and report to future Town Council meetings should there be any developments.

**7. Lease of Land at Dr. Kelly's field.**

Following on from February meeting, Mr. G. Conlon informed the members that the management of Tullamore Town Council would not have any objection to the lease of this land subject to a number of conditions.

The respective clubs would need to form a limited company. Any lease to this limited company would be for a nominal fee. The incorporated company would have to be responsible for all aspects of the property including all boundaries

**8. Ceisteanna.**

Mr. G. Conlon, A/S.E.O., advised members that all questions submitted had been answered prior to the meeting.

**9. Conferences.**

All conferences listed were approved.

**10. Correspondence.**

Any correspondence issued was noted.

**11. Notice of Motions received from Councillor T. McKeigue.**

On the proposal of Councillor T. McKeigue seconded by Councillor Molly Buckley the following notices of motions were agreed: -

**"That Tullamore Town Council examine the parking problems being experienced by the residents at the Loop Pearse Park as the area in front of the houses is not able to accommodate all the residents cars".**

Members asked that the wall around this area be inspected.

**"That this Council calls on the Government to introduce a new Tenants Purchase Scheme for Local Authority houses on a basis of allowing the tenant credit for the rent they paid the previous ten years. This Scheme should be funded by the County Councils on a Vested Scheme as operated previously".**

Members proposed that the Government could also be asked to look at taking account of repairs and enhancements to property as these affect the current valuation of the property when offered for sale to tenants.

**12. Notice of Motions received from Councillor M. Buckley.**

On the proposal of Councillor Molly Buckley seconded by Councillor Laurence Byrne the following notices of motions were agreed: -

**"That Tullamore Town Council write to the Minister for Health & Children to request that an increase in payments should be made to Carers rather than reducing payments".**

It was stated that having checked with the Department that the Government has no plans to reduce Carers Payments at this time.

**"That Tullamore Town Council put a pedestrian crossing from O'Brien Park to O'Connor Park to ensure safety".**

This matter will be examined by the Town Engineer.

**This concluded the business of the meeting.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cathaoirleach

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Senior Executive Officer

Date: \_\_\_\_\_