

**Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Tullamore Town Council held in the
Town Hall, Tullamore on Monday, 15th June, 2009**

In Attendance :-

Cllr. T. McKeigue	Cllr. S. O'Brien	Cllr M. Buckley
Cllr. B. Killeavy	Cllr. S. Dooley	Cllr. P. Rowland
Cllr. D. Harvey	Cllr. L. Byrne	Cllr. T. McCormack
Mr. D. Kirrane (Town Manager)	Mr. P. Devaney (Town Engineer)	Mr. G. Conlon, AO
Ms. R. McNally (Town Clerk)		

Votes of Sympathy

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

Marion Molloy, Aharney

Mary Keogh, Spollanstown

Paddy Tyrrell, Callery Street

Mrs. Condron, Lynally

J.B. Sheridan, Baldoyle & Cavan, brother of Benny Sheridan, Arden Heights

1. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 14th May, 2009 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Buckley and seconded by Cllr. O'Brien

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Review of Standing Orders

It was noted that this matter had been dealt with at the Annual Meeting

4. Attendance of Members of the Public at Council Meetings

Having considered the requirements of Section 45 of the Local Government Act 2001, it was agreed that nine members of the public could be accommodated in the Council Chamber. It was further agreed that nine passes would be made available to members of the public on a 'first come, first served' basis to attend monthly meetings of the Council. Passes would be made available at the Tullamore Town Council reception desk. It was also agreed that this policy would be incorporated into the new Standing Orders when finalised. It was further agreed by the members that the attendance of school children and youth groups in particular the youth council at council meetings should be encouraged and facilitated.

5. Update on IBAL

The Town Engineer gave an update on the latest IBAL report which confirmed that Tullamore had significantly improved its placing in the league. The members welcomed the results and noted their appreciation of the efforts of both Tullamore Town Council and Tullamore Tidy Towns Committee in enhancing the appearance of the town. The Town Clerk also briefed the members on the inaugural meeting of the local inter agency IBAL forum

which had recently been established by the council. The group is a partnership between Tullamore Town Council, Offaly County Council, Tullamore Tidy Towns, Tullamore Chamber of Commerce and Waterways Ireland. The Council's Community Liaison Officer co-ordinates the group and an awareness campaign on the concerted efforts of all involved is in the process of being organised for the local media whose support in this is being sought.

6. Update on Taking in Charge Programme

The Town Engineer confirmed that 10 estates in Tullamore have been taken in charge to date and a number of applications were currently being processed. He also confirmed that in order for the council to consider the taking in charge all applications must be made strictly in accordance with the policy adopted by the members in March 2009, and that the same criteria applied to the three developments agreed by the members for taking in charge at the March meeting. It was agreed that a brief status report summarising the information given would issue to the members.

7. Request for Submissions to the An Garda Siochana Corporate Strategy 2010-2012

The members agreed that a submission to the following effect be made on behalf of Tullamore Town Council.

Priority should be given by the Gardai to the following matters

- Stronger enforcement of bye-laws relating to the consumption of alcohol in public places
- Stronger enforcement of powers to tackle anti-social behaviour with the emphasis on early intervention
- Stronger enforcement of speeding in residential housing estates
- Tackling drug crime
- Continuing the current focus on community policing in particular the utilisation of Garda cycling squads
- Support the provision of youth activities particularly summer camps

The members also wished to note the success of Joint Policing Committees to date and strongly support their continuation.

8. Update on Proposed Tullamore Arts Facility

The Town Manager outlined details of the recent meeting with the Department of Arts, Sports and Tourism at which it was confirmed that the money was ringfenced and that the Department would be as flexible as possible in relation to how the funding could be used. They did request however that the project should entail maximum community involvement and suggested that the community partnership approach adopted by the Council for the Tullamore Leisure Centre project should be considered for the Arts facility also. The Town Manager also confirmed that the €2m funding has been approved for appropriate use by Offaly County Council and that Tullamore Town Council has no direct role in the allocation of the grant.

It was further confirmed that the council is not tied into the proposal in the original application to provide the facility as part of the O'Connor Square

Library Complex and that either the refurbishment of an existing building or the construction of a new building on a Greenfield site in the town are both eligible for consideration. The purchase of a new building is not however eligible for funding. A town centre site is also the preferred option of the Department. The Town Manger confirmed that the potential of vacant premises in the town will be given serious consideration.

The Town Manager also updated the members on the membership of the newly established local arts committee and confirmed that both himself and Sean Murray Director of Services were the local authority representatives on this committee. The members requested that consideration be given to the inclusion of a Tullamore Town Council elected representative on this committee also.

9. Agree Dates for Special Meeting for the Review of the Tullamore Town & Environs Development Plan

It was noted that the 2nd July, 2009 was the deadline for agreement on the draft plan and a special briefing for newly elected members had been organised for the 17th June, 2009. A special meeting of the full Council was also agreed for the 18th June, 2009 and additional meetings agreed on this day if necessary.

10. Correspondence

Correspondence from the Department of Social & Family Affairs in response to the recent notice of motion from the council concerning the Christmas bonus was noted. However the members wished to note their dissatisfaction with the response given.

11. Any Other Business

- (i) ***Offaly County Enterprise Board*** – An invitation to the members to attend a forthcoming conference focussed on those who have been made redundant or seeking to identify new career opportunities was circulated and noted. It was also confirmed that the CEO of the CEB would attend the September meeting of the Council to give an update on the work of the Task Force on unemployment and job creation.
- (ii) ***Traffic Management in the vicinity of O'Connor Park*** – On-going issues for local residents with match generated traffic were noted. The Town Manager agreed to bring these concerns to the attention of the Gardai and GAA authorities at a forthcoming.
- (iii) ***Acknowledgement of Special Olympic Achievements and Recognition of retired Elected Members*** – Agreed that the Cathaoirleach arrange an appropriate event within the coming weeks.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Town Clerk

Date:
