

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

**Date:** Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 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 Sinead Dooley, Councillor Richard Egan, Councillor Tommy McKeigue and Councillor Paddy Rowland.

**Apologies:** Councillor John Flanagan.

**In attendance:** Mr. D. Kirrane (Director of Service), Mr. P. Devaney (Senior Executive Engineer) and Mr. G. Conlon (A/Senior Executive Officer).

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

Mrs. Kitty Flanagan, New Road, Tullamore.  
Ms. Margaret Farrell, O'Moore Street, Tullamore.  
Mr. Paddy Kelly, Cloncon, Tullamore.  
Mrs. Therese Flynn, Chapel Street, Tullamore.  
Mrs. Ann Corrigan, Clonmore, Tullamore.  
Mrs. Bridie Dunne, Glenfircal & New Road, Tullamore.  
Mr. Colin Dunne, Roscore, Tullamore.  
Mrs. Nancy O'Connor, Pearse Park, Tullamore.

On the proposal of Councillor Tommy McKeigue seconded by Councillor Sean O'Brien the monthly meeting of the Town Council was adjourned for ten minutes as a mark of respect to the late Mrs. Kitty Flanagan, wife of Councillor John Flanagan.

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

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

- (a) Minutes of Sub-Committee Meeting of Tullamore Town Council held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2009 at 4.45 p.m. in the Town Hall, Tullamore.
- (b) Minutes of February Monthly Meeting of Tullamore Town Council held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2009 at 5.00 p.m. in the Town Hall, Tullamore.

## 2. **Roads Programme – Block Grant 2009.**

Mr. Paul Devaney, Senior Executive Engineer, presented the Roads Programme – Block Grant 2009. He outlined proposed work for 2009 including four areas he had identified for resurfacing. In addition five areas of footpaths including drainage were identified which are in need of urgent attention. Some funds will need to be allocated from Town Council's resources to complete the works.

The members thanked Mr. Devaney for work completed and appreciated the areas mentioned in the report.

A number of issues were raised including:-

- Lighting on Clontarf Road
- Paths on O'Moore Street – damaged paths.
- Provision of Pedestrian Crossing on Tyrrells Road,
- Possibility of continuing footpath from Kilbeggan Bridge towards Heritage Centre.
- Whitehall footpaths – can they be progressed.
- Speed ramps at O'Molloy Street – Mr. Paul Devaney will examine possibility.
- Other areas outside the remit of Town Council including Cormac Street and Cappincur Road were raised. This area will be pursued by Town Engineer.
- Mr. P. Devaney hopes to begin the work shortly if approval is forthcoming from the Department of the Environment and Local Government.

The town engineer agreed to examine the items raised by the members and will report back at a later meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr. Sinead Dooley and Seconded by Cllr. Molly Buckley the roads programme for 2009 was adopted.

## 3. **Taking in Charge Protocol.**

Mr. D. Kirrane, Director of Service, outlined the procedure on a normal development. Protocol was developed to deal with cases which do not comply with the normal procedure. He stated that after seven years the Council must take estate in charge. New guidelines have outlined timescale where applications must be dealt with. Apart from financial obligations there is no reason not to take an estate in charge. One of the primary changes from previous policy is the timescale element.

Councillor M. Buckley introduced Motion 12(i) at this point re Hophill Estates".

**"That Tullamore Town Council take over the following:-**

**- Hophill Avenue, Grove, Cedars and Vale".**

On the proposal of Councillor M. Buckley seconded by Councillor S. O'Brien the taking in charge of Hophill Avenue, Hophill Grove, Hophill Cedars and Hophill Vale was agreed.

Councillor T. McKeigue introduced Motion 9(ii)

**"That Tullamore Town Council take in charge the following Estates."**

- **Spollanstown Wood**
- **The Elms**
- **Glenkeen**

On the proposal of Councillor T. McKeigue seconded by Councillor S. O'Brien the taking in charge of Spollanstown Wood, The Elms and Glenkeane was agreed.

Mr. D. Kirrane, Director of Service requested that the 'Taking in Charge' protocol be adopted.

On the proposal of Councillor M. Buckley seconded by Councillor S. O'Brien the 'Taking in Charge' protocol was agreed.

Members were concerned that expectations of the public would exceed what the Council would be able to do.

**4. Chandler – Progress Report.**

Councillor S. O'Brien presented a progress report on Chandler. He informed the members that a friendship agreement was signed which is not a twinning agreement. New documentation outlined the formation of new committee with a plan for progress from May to December 2009. All representative groups will have a committee representative to further all issues.

It was proposed to formally send greetings to the Chandler Group for St. Patrick's Day.

**5. Civic Honours.**

Bishop Michael Smith will be visiting Tullamore shortly. It is proposed that Tullamore Town Council will bestow Civic Honours on Bishop Smith on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2009.

**6. Ceisteanna.**

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

**7. Conferences.**

All conferences listed were approved.

**8. Correspondence.**

Any correspondence issued was noted.

**9. Notice of Motions received from Councillor Tommy McKeigue.**

On the proposal of Councillor T. McKeigue seconded by Councillor

M. Buckley the following notices of motions were agreed: -

**"That Tullamore Town Council calls on the Courts Services to address the problem of car parking at the Courthouse, Tullamore on days when the courts are sitting".**

**"That Tullamore Town Council take in charge the following Estates."**

- Spollanstown Wood
- The Elms
- Glenkeen

This motion was already dealt with earlier under Taking in Charge Protocol.

**10. Notice of Motions received from Councillor Sinead Dooley.**

On the proposal of Councillor S. Dooley seconded by Councillor L. Byrne the following notice of motion was agreed: -

**"That Tullamore Town Council work with businesses on Main Street, the Chamber of Commerce and businesses and management in the Bridge Centre to create a link between both shopping districts to promote and enhance business in the area".**

Shops are isolated in this area. The matter of establishing this link and the opening up of the area would improve the entire Town Centre. Mr. D. Kirrane, Director of Service, stated that the Town Council is working on this matter at the moment.

On the proposal of Councillor S. Dooley seconded by Councillor M. Buckley the following notice of motion was agreed: -

**"That Tullamore Town Council write to the Minister for Social and Family Affairs to investigate the possibility of using the Social Welfare System to encourage the long term unemployed to become active in the voluntary sector and that we forward this motion to other Councils".**

Councillor S. Dooley spoke of the demoralisation of people who became unemployed and would like to help in the voluntary sector. A number of qualified people would like to get involved in this type of area.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. O' Brien and seconded by Cllr. Buckley the wording was changed to **"Facilitate the long term unemployed"**

**11. Notice of Motion received from Councillor John Flanagan.**

**"That Tullamore Town Council invite representatives of both Mid-Ireland Tourism and Inland Waterways to our next meeting to discuss future proposals for improving tourism in this region and to see what Marketing Strategy is in place".**

This item was adjourned as Councillor J. Flanagan was absent.

- 12. Notice of Motions received from Councillor Molly Buckley.**  
**"That Tullamore Town Council take over the following Estates".**  
**- Hophill Avenue, Grove, Cedars and Vale".**

This item was dealt with under the Taking in Charge Protocol item.

On the proposal of Councillor M. Buckley seconded by Councillor R. Egan the following notice of motion was agreed: -

**"That Tullamore Town Council will facilitate the setting up of a Task Force to address the unemployment situation in Tullamore and its environs and ensure the creation of jobs for the excellent workforce in the Tullamore Area".**

Not the fault of the unemployed that the economy has changed. The involvement of Employment Agencies in this issue is important so as to improve the town. Mr. D. Kirrane, Director of Service, informed members of progress. The County Development Board are setting up an Economic Sub-Committee as a Task Force. Community Enterprise Board are to act as this Committee and Expand its membership to include I.D.A., Athlone I.T. This Committee will meet to discuss retention and creation of employment.

Members requested that a report be presented when available.

- 13. Notices of Motions received from Councillor Sean O'Brien.**  
On the proposal of Councillor S. O'Brien seconded by Councillor L. Byrne the following notices of motions were agreed: -

**"That Tullamore Town Council insert ramps in O'Molloy Street as an experiment in traffic control in consultation with the Residents Association in the area".**

There is a lot of speeding as a result of organised parking in the area. The success of Arden View was cited. Members suggested looking at the entire area and all options on parking. Mr. P. Devaney, Senior Executive Engineer, will discuss matter with Road Design.

**"That Tullamore Town Council considers the levy on public service workers to be unfair and is concerned with the impact especially on our own Local Authority workers".**

Unfair that a small sector are being scapegoated as cause of the country's problems.

Members expressed their anger at the new levy and expressed their support for the public service. They voiced their opinions on a number of issues which are happening nationally at present.

Councillor P. Rowland requested that members show leadership and show positives in the country.

**14. Notice of Motions received from Councillor Lar Byrne.**

On the proposal of Councillor L. Byrne seconded by Councillor S. O'Brien the following notice of motion was agreed: -

**"That Tullamore Town Council calls on the IDA to increase its efforts to deliver a new manufacturing enterprise for Tullamore and we call on all Local TDs including an Taoiseach to give this their full public support"**

It was recalled that I.D.A. attended meeting of Tullamore Town Council and stated. That a number of companies were interested in locating to Tullamore. A letter is to be sent to I.D.A. asking for update on undertakings in 2008 and asking about marking criteria for location of new enterprises. This matter must be pursued.

On the proposal of Councillor L. Byrne seconded by Councillor M. Buckley the following notice of motion was agreed: -

**"That Tullamore Town Council erect a security fence around the field at the rear of Pearse Park where the Boxing Club and Scouts Den are located".**

The Members asked if alternatives could be suggested as security fencing can be unsightly or could the residents be asked to assist in any way.

**15. A.O.B.**

Councillor M. Buckley raised the matter of the area of land called no-mans land at the rear of Tara Crescent. It is an area of anti-social behaviour. Could this be examined. Mr. P. Devaney, S.E.O., agreed.

Councillor M. Buckley raised the matter of funding for the Arts Centre This matter will shortly be examined by O.C.C.

Councillor S. Dooley raised the issue of the public parking on the back lane at Callary Street and the blocking of Callary Street residents.

Councillor S. O'Brien raised the matter that the footpath dish at Kelly's Pub requires a double yellow line. Mr. Paul Devaney, S.E.O. to arrange same.

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

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

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

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