

**Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Tullamore Town Council held in the  
Town Hall, Tullamore on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2009**

***In Attendance :-***

Cllr. S. O'Brien (Cathaoirleach)	Cllr. T. McKeigue	Cllr M. Buckley
Cllr. J. Flanagan	Cllr. S. Dooley	Cllr. P. Rowland
Cllr. R. Egan	Cllr. L. Byrne	Cllr. J. Coughlan
Mr. D. Kirrane (Town Manager)	Mr. P. Devaney (Town Engineer)	Ms. M. Brady (SSO)
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 :-

*Jim Drum, Mountmellick and Tullamore*  
*Bobby Brophy, Thornsberry*  
*Lawrence Cunningham, Tara, Durrow*  
*Paddy Boland, Pearse Park*  
*Joe Dowling, died in the USA*  
*Sr. Patrick Deegan, Killina*  
*Padd Molloy, Puttaghaun*  
*Dolores Melia, Patrick Street*  
*Mrs. Nan Buckley, Clonmore*  
*Mrs. Dunne, Bracklin*  
*Mrs. Una May, Whitehall Estate*

**Suspension of Standing Orders**

Standing orders were suspended to allow the members pay tribute to the three councillors not seeking re-election, Councillors Flanagan, Coughlan and Egan. The outstanding service and contribution of the members to the council over the past five years was acknowledged and it was agreed that an official function would be arranged to mark the occasion in the near future. The Town Manager also associated himself with the tributes. The three retiring members then thanked their colleagues and Town Manager for their kind tributes and support during their term of office and wished the members seeking re-election well in their election campaign.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes**

- (a) The Minutes of the Conference Sub-Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2009 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Buckley and seconded by Cllr. Flanagan
- (b) The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> April 2009 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Buckley and seconded by Cllr. Flanagan

There were no matters arising.

**2. Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 – Disposal/Lease of Premises to Ardan View Community & Family Resource Centre**

*“On the proposal of Cllr. Coughlan and seconded by Cllr. Byrne it was agreed that the lease of the Council’s premises at Puttaghan to Ardan View Community & Family Resource Centre Ltd proceed in accordance with the terms and conditions outlined in the Section 183 notice”*

**3. Revised Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations 2009**

Details of the recent €10,000 reduction in the council’s allocation was noted. The Town Engineer circulated a revised programme based on the reduced budget and this was approved on the proposal of Cllr. Buckley and seconded by Cllr. Egan. The members requested that accessibility for persons with a disability be given a high priority and also agreed that the Town Engineer should have the flexibility to reallocate monies where necessary to deal with urgent situations that arise.

**4. Borrowing by way of Temporary Bank Overdraft – section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001**

The Town Manager outlined the financial difficulties being faced by the council in the current economic climate and confirmed that it may be necessary for the council to seek overdraft facilities before the end of the year. On this basis the members were being asked to make provision for such a facility should the need arise.

*“On the proposal of Cllr. Flanagan and seconded by Cllr. Egan the approval of the council was given to the borrowing by way of temporary overdraft to a maximum of €2m for the 2009 financial year”*

It was noted that the consent of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government was also required for this.

**5. Designation of Special Casual Trading Area for the 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2009 to facilitate the 2009 Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann**

The exact location of the trading will be agreed by the Town Engineer in conjunction with the Gardai and Fleadh committee over the coming weeks as part of the event management planning process, taking into consideration traffic management and safety issues. The members requested that consideration be given to minimising the impact on any residents in the vicinity of this trading area.

*“On the proposal of Cllr. Egan and seconded by Cllr. O’Brien, it was agreed to designate a specific casual trading area in Tullamore in line with the overall event management plan for the 2009 Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann, for the period 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2009 inclusive”*

**6. Exemption from Consumption of Alcohol in Public Places Bye-Laws for the period 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2009 to facilitate Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann**

*“On the proposal of Cllr. Egan and seconded by Cllr. Buckley an exemption from the Council’s Consumption of Alcohol in Public Places Bye-Laws was agreed for the 21<sup>st</sup> August to 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2009 inclusive to facilitate the hosting of the 2009 Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann”*

**7. Update on Tullamore Library project and proposed Tullamore Arts Facility**

The Town Manager informed the members that no major funding for the Tullamore Library project in O'Connor Square would be forthcoming in the near future. However some refurbishment works would take place in the interim. The Manager also confirmed that Offaly County Council has been granted a meeting with the Department of Arts, Sports and Tourism in early June to discuss the flexibility attached to the €2m approved for the Tullamore Arts Project. The Manager further confirmed that this money has been ringfenced by the Department until the end of 2010. The Manger also welcomed the recent establishment of a formal committee to represent the local arts group and confirmed that they would be meeting with Offaly County Council's Housing, Social and Cultural SPC the following week. The Manager also informed the members that the vacant former VEC building in O'Connor Square was currently being considered as one of a number of options for an educational outreach centre in the town.

The members wished to note their disappointment with the lack of progress on the provision of a new library facility for Tullamore but welcomed the progress on the Arts project. The members also expressed their unanimous support for the establishment of any potential outreach educational facilities in the town. The Town Manger agreed to update the members further at their next meeting.

**8. Tullamore Town Council – Review of Activity 2004 – 2009**

A detailed report highlighting the major social, economic, recreational and amenity projects that had taken place during the life of the council was circulated and presented to the members by the Town Manager. The members welcomed this and conveyed their thanks to the Town Manager, current and former staff of the Council and the various community and voluntary groups in the town that had worked with the council to make the projects a reality. It was agreed that a copy of the report would be made available on the Tullamore Town Council website.

**9. Correspondence**

- (i) *Motions for the 2009 Annual AMAI Conference* – On the proposal of Cllr. O'Brien and seconded by Cllr. Buckley, the following motion was agreed for submission to the conference :-

***“Tullamore Town Council calls for the financing of the Rent Supplement Scheme to be channelled through local authorities”***

On the proposal of Cllr. McKeigue and seconded by Cllr. Dooley the following motion was also agreed :-

***“Tullamore Town Council calls on the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to review the structuring of the Voluntary Housing Scheme, in particular its linkages with housing authorities”***

- (ii) ***Killarney Town Council Motion*** – On the proposal of Cllr. O’Brien and seconded by Cllr. Buckley it was unanimously agreed to support this motion
- (iii) ***Mullingar Town Council Motion*** – On the proposal of Cllr. Buckley and seconded by Cllr. O’Brien it was unanimously agreed to support this motion
- (iv) ***Monaghan Town Council Motion*** – On the proposal of Cllr. Dooley and seconded by Cllr. Egan it was unanimously agreed to support this motion
- (v) ***Update on Tullamore By-Pass*** – On the proposal of Cllr. Rowland and seconded by Cllr. McKeigue it was agreed that the Town Engineer would bring to the attention of the Project Manager access and safety issues at Ballard

**10. Notices of Motion – Cllr. McKeigue**

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

***“That Tullamore Town Council calls on the government to pay the Christmas Bonus to Social Welfare recipients”***

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

***“In view of the very poor state of the Arden Road in front of the hospital that this Council together with Offaly County Council carry out reinstatement works as soon as possible”***

The Town Engineer informed the members that a submission for funding for all approach roads to the Tullamore By-Pass would be made to the NRA by Offaly County Council upon its completion. He also confirmed that urgent works needed in the interim are being assessed and considered by Offaly County Council and the NRA on an on-going basis.

**11. Notices of Motion – Cllr. Buckley**

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

***“That Tullamore Town Council contact the Minister for Enterprise Trade & Employment regarding the need for creation of employment nationally and locally and that Tullamore Town Council with the support of the Chamber will support the regeneration of the town centre and ensure that the empty units in town are filled”***

The Town Clerk confirmed that the CEO of the County Enterprise Board will be attending the July meeting of the Council to update members on the work of the Economic Sub-Committee/Task Force on unemployment and job creation.

***“That the Community Liaison Officer will update the needs analysis of all estates in Tullamore and prioritise actions to be taken”***

The Town Clerk confirmed that a number of specific initiatives to this effect have been included in the Community Liaison Officer’s work programme for 2009.

**12. Any Other Business**

- (i) ***Special Olympics*** – The members congratulated the local team on their recent success in Portugal and it was agreed that the council should acknowledge this achievement in an appropriate manner
- (ii) ***Pre-Retirement Planning Conference for Elected Members in Castlebellingham*** – On the proposal of Cllr. Buckley and seconded by Cllr. O’Brien, the attendance of members at this conference was approved
- (iii) ***Supplement to the Register of Electors*** – The Town Manager confirmed that the closing date for the supplement to the register was the 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2009 and strongly encouraged people to register for their vote within this timeframe.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the staff of the Town Council for their support to the members over the past five years and wished all local election candidates well in their canvassing for the June 5<sup>th</sup> elections.

The meeting then concluded.

**Signed:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Cathaoirleach**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Town Clerk**

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