

## MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF TULLAMORE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT 5.00pm ON THE 12<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 2009 IN THE TOWN HALL, TULLAMORE.

**In Attendance:** Cllr. Mc Keigue (Chair), Cllr. S. O'Brien, Cllr. L. Byrne, Cllr. D. Harvey, Cllr. Killeavy, Cllr. T. McCormack, Cllr. S. Dooley, Cllr. P. Rowland, Mr. D. Kirrane, Town Manager, Mr. P. Devaney, Town Engineer, Ms. R. McNally, Town Clerk

**Apologies:** Cllr. M. Buckley

### **Votes of Sympathy**

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

*Millie Bryan, Clonminch*  
*Tommy Smyth, Ardan View*  
*Phyllis Sheridan, Cavan, sister of Benny Sheridan, Ardan Heights*  
*Ernest Lovett, Kilbride Park*  
*Mrs. Maudie Walsh, Durrow*  
*Ann Marie Bryan, late of High Street*  
*John Clarke, Arbutus Court*  
*Terry Clarke, Ardan Heights*  
*P.J. Ryan, Marian Place*  
*Mary McGill, Collins Lane*  
*John Carroll, Clontarf Road & Ardan Heights*  
*John Hanlon, Horseleap*  
*Sr. M. De Lourdes, sister of Nora Kinnarney*  
*Tilly Hooctor, New Road*  
*Joselita De Silvia, High Street & Brazil*  
*Marias Budys, Church Hill & Poland*

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

On the proposal of Cllr. O'Brien and seconded by Cllr. McCormack, the following minutes were adopted:-

- (i) *Conference Committee Meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2009*
- (ii) *Monthly Meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2009*

### **2. Report on Visit to Srah Industrial Estate**

Cllr. McCormack outlined details of the elected members recent visit to Boston Scientific, Carroll Cuisine and Isotron and the positive feedback that had been received from the businesses following on from the visit. The members called for the support of the townspeople in supporting local businesses and it was agreed that further visits to other industries would take place in January.

### **3. Preparation of Offaly Local Authorities Corporate Plan 2010-2014**

The Town Manager outlined the statutory basis for the plan and the broad outline of the contents in the current draft which had undergone extensive stakeholder

consultation. He further confirmed that the final draft is scheduled for adoption by Offaly County Council before the end of the year.

#### **4. Update on Non-Principal Private Residence Tax**

The Town Manager confirmed that almost €400,000 had been collected in Offaly to date and that the County Council were arranging for the appropriate amount to be paid to Tullamore and Birr Town Councils. Following a general discussion on the terms and conditions of the scheme, the following motion was unanimously agreed by the members on the proposal of Cllr. Dooley and seconded by Cllr.

O'Brien :-

*“That Tullamore Town Council write to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government requesting that the scheme be amended to require payment of the tax by landlords participating in the Rental Accommodation Scheme who are currently exempt from paying the tax”*

#### **5. Notices of Motion**

There were no motions listed for the agenda. In response to a point of clarification on an October Notice of Motion, the Town Clerk confirmed that a letter had issued to the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment on the 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2009 in relation to a specific motion at the meeting but to date no response had been received.

#### **6. Conferences**

On the proposal of Cllr. O'Brien and seconded by Cllr. Harvey it was agreed that Cllr. O'Brien and Cllr. Killeavy would attend the forthcoming Dundalk Chamber of Commerce cross border networking event.

#### **7. Correspondence**

- (i) *Correspondence from An Taoiseach in relation to September Notice of Motion on overseas aid - Noted*
- (ii) *Notice of Motion, South Tipperary County Council. This Motion was unanimously supported by the members.*
- (iii) *Notice of Motion – Granard Town Council - Noted*
- (iv) *Notice of Motion – Monaghan Town Council - Noted*
- (v) *Copy of Tullamore Town Council Advertisement for Expressions of Interest – Canal Corridor Project - Noted*

#### **8. Questions**

None submitted.

#### **9. Any Other Business**

- (i) ***Tullamore, Canada*** – The Cathaoirleach informed the members that greetings to the Town Council and townspeople of Tullamore generally had been sent from the town of Tullamore in Canada through Offaly's local journalist Declan McSweeney
- (ii) ***Private Rented Standards*** – In response to a specific query raised in relation to the role of the local authority and HSE in vetting private rented properties in receipt of state funding, it was agreed that a special housing

committee meeting would take place in January with this item listed on the agenda and that Mr. Brendan Nealis of the HSE be invited to attend.

- (iii) **Newly opened businesses in Tullamore** – Concerns were raised by members over the nature of two new local businesses opened recently in the town. The Town Manager confirmed that the local authority had no role in this matter, provided the premises had planning permission to carry out retail activities and paid their rates and service charges. Any allegations regarding the legality or otherwise of trading activity were a matter for investigation by the Garda Síochána. It was agreed that this matter should be listed for the next JPC agenda.
- (iv) **Signage on By-Pass** – The members requested that the Town Engineer bring the following items to the attention of the appropriate personnel in Offaly County Council:-
- (a) *Additional directional signage for the 'Town Centre' to be incorporated into existing signage at strategic locations on the By-Pass*
  - (b) *The erection of 'Deer Crossing' signage on the stretch of by-pass between the Portlaoise Road and Mucklagh*
  - (c) *Additional lighting at the Mucklagh Charleville Gate and Ardan turnoff coming from the Durrow direction*

The Town Manager also confirmed to the members that any illegal signage placed on the By-Pass would be removed immediately by the County Council and followed up with enforcement proceedings

- (v) **Vacant Business Premises in Tullamore** – The use of vacant premises for appropriate advertising purposes by other local businesses where possible was strongly encouraged to avoid potential dereliction and the portrayal of a negative image for the town
- (vi) **Taxi Fares** – In response to representations made to an elected representative on alleged over-charging of taxi fares in Tullamore, the Cathaoirleach confirmed that such complaints should be made to the National Taxi Regulator as the Town Council had no role in such matters
- (vi) **Canal Corridor Project** – On the proposal of Cllr. O'Brien and seconded by Cllr. McKeigue it was agreed that consideration be given to naming one of the two bridges the 'Ernie Maguire Bridge' when the project is completed
- (vii) **Open Drain at Churchview Local Authority Estate** – Town Engineer to investigate this matter with a view to taking appropriate action
- (viii) **Water Charges** – Members expressed the concerns of local businesses following on from the recent water charges bills that had issued from Offaly County Council. The concerns related to the increase in costs and the late stage in the year when the bills were received. The Town Manager confirmed that this function was now the responsibility of the County Council and the Town Council had no further role in this matter. However the Manager confirmed that it was the intention of the County Council to issue bills quarterly from 2010 onwards which would assist businesses in their financial planning. If businesses were experiencing difficulties in meeting the current demand they should contact the Revenue Collector or Finance Department of Offaly County Council with a view to making arrangements to discharge the debt

- (ix) **Flood relief works at Whitehall** – The Town Manager confirmed that site investigation works had been carried out by the OPW
- (x) **Setting of Date for Statutory Budget Meeting** – On the proposal of Cllr. Harvey and seconded by Cllr. Byrne, it was unanimously agreed that the statutory budget meeting of Tullamore Town Council would take place at 5.30pm on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2009
- (xi) **December Monthly Meeting** – On the proposal of Cllr. Dooley and seconded by Cllr. McCormack it was unanimously agreed that the December monthly meeting of the Council would take place at 4.30pm on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2009 prior to the statutory budget meeting
- (xii) **Bord Na Mona 'Heartlands' Exhibition** - Cllr. Rowland extended an invitation to all members to attend the opening of the forthcoming exhibition at Aras an Chontae on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November
- (xiii) **Tullamore Senior Hurling Team** – The members formally conveyed their congratulations to the team on winning the recent County Final and extended their good wishes to the team in the forthcoming Leinster Championship match.

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

**Signed:**

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**Cathaoirleach**

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**Town Clerk**

**Date:**

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