

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF TULLAMORE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT 5.00pm ON THE 7TH OCTOBER, 2009 IN THE TOWN HALL, TULLAMORE.

In Attendance: Cllr. Mc Keigue (Chair), Cllr. Buckley, 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, Ms. Claire Hughes, Asst. Engineer, Ms. B. Maher, Executive Planner, Ms. R. McNally, Town Clerk

Apologies: Mr. P. Devaney, Town Engineer

Votes of Sympathy

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

Pat Burke, Harbour Street and Ballydrohid

Eileen Butler, Clontarf Road

Ray Hayward, Arden View

Mrs. Ann Power, Marian Place

John Wyer, Church Street,

Edel Duignan, Durrow

Paddy Mannion, Marian Place

Sonny McGrath, Adams Villas

Thomas Power, Arden View

Mrs. O'Connor, Kilcormac

1. Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. Buckley and seconded by Cllr. Byrne, the following minutes were adopted :-

- (i) *Housing Committee Meeting held on the 8th September, 2009*
- (ii) *Conference Committee Meeting held on the 8th September, 2009*
- (iii) *Monthly Meeting held on the 8th September, 2009* subject to the following amendment to the minute requested by Cllr. O'Brien :-

Item 10 (v) – Notice of Motion in the name of Cllrs. O'Brien & Killeavy to reflect the fact that the members requested “*a review of the current Parking Bye-Laws to investigate the possibility of having time limit parking in Clontarf Road and Marian Place*”

2. Presentation on Tullamore Public Realm

An overview of the draft study was given by Breda Maher, Executive Planner, Offaly County Council including details of survey work carried out to date. The level of advertising signage on the approach roads to Tullamore was highlighted as one of the main issues that needs to be addressed and Cllr. McCormack undertook to raise this matter with the Chamber of Commerce and arrange a meeting with the Town Council officials at the earliest possible opportunity to discuss further.

It was noted by the members that whilst this is not a statutory plan it will compliment the Town & Environs Development Plan and is therefore being drafted in tandem with this. Ms. Maher also confirmed that it is proposed to commence a public consultation process on the study plan towards the end of 2009. The members thanked Ms. Maher for her interesting and informative presentation.

The Town Clerk informed the members that grant approval of €1.2m had recently been approved for the Offaly Local Authorities under the ERDF Gateway & Hubs Grants Scheme 2009 towards the Canal Corridor Project, a copy of which had been given to the members at their September meeting. The main elements of the project would be the replacement of the existing pedestrian bridge at Convent View/Convent Road, the construction of a new pedestrian bridge at Bury Quay/Clontarf Road and a boardwalk in front of the Tullamore Dew Heritage Centre. This project will be a major element within the Public Realm Plan. The members welcomed this funding and paid tribute to the staff involved in the preparation of the funding application.

3. Update on Tullamore Town and Environs Development Plan

The Town Clerk informed the members that the closing date for submissions had been the previous day and approximately 30 submissions were received. The County Manager's report and recommendations to the members on the submissions will issue in mid-December.

4. Report on 'Discover Tullamore Day'

The Cathaoirleach conveyed his congratulation to Cllr. McCormack, Chairperson of the organising committee and Cllrs. Buckley and Harvey committee members on the success of this event on the 4th October, 2009. Cllr. McCormack outlined the success of the inter-agency approach adopted between local businesses, clubs, organisations, sponsors and the Offaly Local Authorities. Particular tributes were paid to the transition year students from the Sacred Heart School who volunteered to assist the committee on the day and also the Town Foreman and his staff from Tullamore Town Council. Cllr. McCormack confirmed that many activities had been over-subscribed on the day due to the large crowds attending. Following a general discussion, the members discussed financial difficulties being experienced by the two town bands who had participated in the day's activities and wished to note their support for any initiative that could improve their situation.

5. Update on Tullamore By-Pass

The Town Manager confirmed that the By-Pass is scheduled to open at the end of October and the members welcomed this further positive news.

6. Notices of Motion

(i) On the proposal of Cllr Killeavy and seconded by Cllr. Byrne the following Notice of Motion was agreed

"That Tullamore Town Council write to the department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment in relation to the establishment of a back to work scheme for unemployed people with the local authorities and that the following motion be circulated to all other local authorities for support :-

This Town Council calls on the Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Employment to reinstate community back to work schemes in conjunction with the local authorities, FAS and trade unions. This should apply to people who are unemployed and willing to give something back to their communities, we believe local areas will benefit immensely if such a scheme was reinstated"

It was agreed that this Notice of Motion would be forwarded to The Minister for Enterprise Trade & Employment and Offaly County Council for consideration. It was also noted that the creation of a volunteer centre for Tullamore was currently under consideration.

(ii) On the proposal of Cllr Killeavy and seconded by Cllr. Byrne the following Notice of Motion was agreed

"That this Town Council consider constructing a pedestrian crossing at Convent Road for the health and safety of children at St. Philomena's School"

The Town Manager confirmed that an application for these works has been made to the NRA for consideration and that the new footbridge to be provided under the Canal Corridor project would also be of benefit in terms of enhancing pedestrian safety at this location. However the members wished to note the importance of parents assuming personal responsibility for their driving standards when leaving and collecting children at the school.

(iii) (a) On the proposal of Cllr. Buckley and seconded by Cllr. O'Brien the following Notice of Motion was agreed

"That Tullamore Town Council write to the HSE regarding the bed closures in the General hospital and the failure to open the new 20 beds for older people at Riada House"

It was agreed that this matter be raised at the forthcoming meeting with the HSE

(b) On the proposal of Cllr. Buckley and seconded by Cllr. Dooley the following Notice of Motion was agreed

"That Tullamore Town Council improve access for People with a disability in the Town"

The Town Engineer has agreed to meet with a person with a disability with a view to pointing out locations in the town that are not accessible and reporting back on possible remedial actions that could be undertaken by the local authority.

7. Conferences

On the proposal of Cllr. Buckley and seconded by Cllr. McCormack the recommendations from the committee meeting of the Council that took place prior to the monthly meeting were agreed.

8. Correspondence

- (i) Notice of Motion from South Tipperary County Council was noted and unanimously supported on the proposal of Cllr. Buckley and seconded by Cllr. McKeigue.

9. Questions

None submitted.

10. Any Other Business

- (i) **Tullamore Waste Water Treatment Plan** – The Town Manger informed the members that €24m had recently been approved for the construction of this plant which may commence before the end of the year and which will be part funded by Offaly County Council. The members welcomed this approval and the positive impact it will have on the town’s future development. The members also wished to convey their thanks to the staff of the existing treatment plant for their excellent service over the years
- (ii) **Website** – Agreed that the Offaly.ie website should be utilised to the fullest to promote and highlight the on-going development and enhancement of the town in particular announcements on major infrastructural projects.
- (iii) **Permanent Bus Shelter for Tullamore** – The Town Manager confirmed that he was unable to comment on a specific current planning application but informed the members that it was the Council’s intention to progress the integrated transportation hub objective contained in the draft town development plan which proposes to accommodate bus services at the station in Kilcruttin.
- (iv) **Lighting at Kilbride Park** – Town Engineer to request ESB to repair lights which are out of order
- (v) **Repair of wall at Parnell Street** – Town Engineer to investigate
- (vi) **Grass Cutting** – The members requested that cut grass be removed from green areas after cutting
- (vi) **Vote of Congratulations** – The members congratulated Tullamore Senior Hurling Team on their recent win in the Championship semi-final
- (vii) **Positive Ageing Week** – The members thanked all those involved in the organisation of the recent Positive Ageing Week activities in particular Cllrs. Buckley, Harvey and McCormack who were members of the organising committee.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

_____ **Cathaoirleach**

_____ **Town Clerk**

Date:
