

## **MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF TULLAMORE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT 5.00pm ON THE 8<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 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, Mr. P. Devaney, Town Engineer, Ms. M. Brady Senior Staff Officer, Mr. G. Conlon, A/Town Clerk, Mr. Sean Ryan, County Enterprise Board.

### **Votes of Sympathy**

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

Mary Ann Smith, Kilbride Street  
John Connor Late O' Molloy Street & Ferbane  
Esther Longworth, Kearney Park  
Eddie Rogers, Sragh  
Eilish Kelly, Harbour St.,  
Patrick Pidgeon, Bally Daly,  
Bridget Kelly, Ballydaly,  
Eithne Brady, Dublin,  
Molly Daly, Durrow,  
Frank O' Connell, Late Convent View, & Birr,  
Kathleen Clooney, Kilbride,  
Patrick Rattigan, Marian Place,  
Annie Heffernan, Convent View,  
Eileen Butler, Clontarf Rd,  
Mrs. Connor, O' Molloy Street,  
John Brickland, O' Molloy Street,  
Noreen Gowran, Arden and Scoil Bhride,  
Paul Dunican, Kilbeggan,  
Mrs. Quinn, Pearse Park,  
Senator Ted Kennedy.

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

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

- (i) Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2009
- (ii) Minutes of Monthly Conferences Committee on the 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2009

### **2. Presentation by Mr. Sean Ryan, County Enterprise Board**

Mr. Ryan outlined the purpose of the C.E.B. since it was established in 1993. It was originally established to deal with the issues of Small and Medium Enterprises. The formation of the Board of CEB shows a broad representation of State Agencies as well as the local Authorities.

The activities of the CEB and the Grants available work for both the manufacturing sector as well as the promotion of employment across the sector. The busiest training schedule revolves around individuals trying to start their own business and this has been very successful to date. In addition a recent incursion into second level schools has been very successful with a large demand for a return to this type of training.

Mr. Ryan spoke of the need for the extension of Multi agency groups to deal with large scale redundancies. The existing structure is good but could be strengthened further. He said that single redundancies would not receive the same level of service as these often happened very quietly.

Inter Agency could work very well in the distribution of information and the bodies suggested include I.D.A., Enterprise Ireland, C.E.B., F.A.S., A.I.T. , and Local Authorities.

The Elected members thanked Mr. Ryan for his report and said it was very helpful for the newly elected members.

### **3 Nominations to S.P.C. Committees in Offaly County Council.**

The following Nominations were received to participate on Strategic Policy Committees in Offaly County Council.

On the proposal of Cllr. Byrne and Seconded By Cllr. O' Brien Cllr. Brendan Killeavy was appointed.

On the proposal of Cllr. McCormack and Seconded By Cllr. Harvey Cllr. Paddy Rowland was appointed.

Committees to be decided after discussion with Edenderry and Birr Town Councils.

### **4 Standing Orders**

The new Standing orders were proposed by Cllr. Buckley and Seconded by Cllr. Rowland.

### **5 Financial Report**

Financial report for year to date was circulated and was presented by Mr. D. Kirrane, Town Manager. He outlined the budget position and shortfall in Income to date in 2009. He informed members that a Balanced budget was prepared for 2009 but due to cuts in state funds and shortfall in Tullamore Town Council's income sources, it has been necessary to implement cuts on the expenditure side to balance the books. He told the elected members that a very stringent monitoring will need to be a priority until the end of the year. The members thanked Mr. Kirrane for the report and thanked all the staff for their work to date on ensuring that correct controls are kept in place.

### **6 Quarterly reports from members participating on outside bodies.**

- Cllr. McKeigue and Cllr. Dooley attended Special Meeting of I.P.B.M.I. regarding the extension of the Board. The existing board agreed to the addition of two new Board members.
- Cllr. Buckley and Cllr. McCormack attended a Sister Cities Committee Meeting. This process is moving well. Cllr. Buckley attended Conference on

- Cllr. Buckley called on something to be done by Aura Leisure to mark the end of what has been a very successful first year.
- Cllr. Byrne attended a VEC meeting just after recent local Elections. A sub committee has been established to pursue progress on the provision of new building.

## **7 Department of Justice Review of Gambling**

This is a request for submissions and the members agreed that any submissions received will be forwarded to the Town Clerk.

## **8 J.P.C. Annual Report**

Report noted and agreed.

## **9 Funding Submission under Gateway and Hubs Grant Scheme**

This application has been submitted and is awaiting approval. A decision is due before the end of September and we will revert to the members when received.

## **10 Notices of Motion**

### **(i) Cllr Buckley**

- “That Tullamore Town Council contact the HSE requesting that the ‘old hospital’ be used as a step down/rehabilitation unit and a facility for the care of older people”*

This Council will write to H.S.E. outlining the request by Elected Members as detailed above

- “That Tullamore Town Council write to the Superintendent regarding the setting up of a community policing unit in Tullamore”*

The primary purpose of the establishment of the Joint Policing Committee was to establish community policing on a formal footing in all areas

### **(ii) Cllr McKeigue**

- “That Tullamore Town Council contact the HSE regarding the decision to centralise Medical Card applications and request that this decision be rescinded”*

This Council will write to H.S.E. outlining the request by Elected Members as detailed above

### **(iii) Cllr Byrne**

- “That Tullamore Town Council meet with Offaly County Council to try and do something about the ongoing problem with heavy lime in our local water system”*

Following discussions with Water Services in Offaly County Council we have been informed that consumers have been advised that the council has

recently introduced a new source of water at Durrow (Sillogue Well) in order to augment the existing Tullamore Water Supply which was experiencing difficulties in meeting demand. The natural hardness of water from this source can lead to the formation of Lime scale when the water is heated. Consumers are advised that hardness is a natural characteristic of water and there is evidence of health benefits in hard water areas. Hardness is a common occurrence in a hard water supply sourced from ground water particularly in the midlands. Regular monitoring of the supply is carried out in accordance with drinking water regulations by the H.S.E. and Offaly County Council wish to reassure consumers that the supply is safe for consumption

(iv) This motion was withdrawn by Cllr. Harvey

(v) **Cllrs O'Brien, Killeavy & Byrne**

*"In relation to Clontarf Road this Council calls a) on the Area Engineer to prepare a report outlining the options for a one way traffic flow system and b) on the SEO to investigate the options in the Parking By-Laws for a time limited parking system."*

Terms of reference have been agreed for the Tullamore Transportation study. Tullamore Town Council is not in a position to carry out an ad-hoc survey in the meantime. I recommend that the residents and Tullamore Town Council make a submission for consideration to the study. The close proximity of Clontarf Road to the proposed new shopping centre will also need to be taken into consideration

There is no way of implementing Parking By-Laws in this area without considering other areas in the town. This would involve a full review of the Paid Parking By-Law process.

(vi) **Cllrs Killeavy & O'Brien**

*"That Tullamore Town Council consider placing speed ramps, and children at play signs in Cloncollig estate."*

#### **Speed Ramps**

A Technical evaluation is currently in progress in relation to the construction of speed control devices in housing estates. When this has been completed the provision of control measures can be considered in consultation with the transportation study. There is no provision in the 2009 budget for this type of work.

#### **Signage**

Tullamore Town Council will erect relevant signage in Cloncollig estate.

## **11 Conferences**

On the proposal of Cllr. Buckley and seconded by Cllr. McCormack all attendees at listed conferences were approved.

## **12 Correspondence**

Motion circulated by Tuam Town Council will be supported by all members at AMAI Conference.

Regarding letter from Trocaire, Cllr. Buckley asked that Tullamore Town Council write to An Taoiseach in support of this letter.

## **13 A.O.B**

- (i) Accessibility: The members requested that the footpaths in the town be examined to ensure that all areas are accessible for people with disabilities.
- (ii) The members asked about the responsibility in respect of Tables and Chairs licences on footpaths in the town. The S.E.O. informed the members that the insurances of the respective businesses with such licences are what's applicable.
- (iii) Harbour Street streetscape: The members asked for an update on the removal of surface cabling on Harbour Street. The town Engineer informed the members that he will again pursue ESB and revert at next meeting.
- (iv) Footpaths at Thornsberry: The members expressed concern about the safety of footpaths in Thornsberry Estate. The Engineer will examine and take action where required.
- (v) The members congratulated the Tidy Towns Committee for their excellent result in this year's competition. Cllr McKeigue informed the members that a five year plan will need to be submitted before the next judging and asked for the assistance of the staff on the Town Council.
- (vi) Discover Tullamore day this year will be held on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2009 and all members were asked to support this initiative.
- (vii) Mr. D. Kirrane commended the committees of the Tullamore Show, Tidy Towns and the Fleadh for their excellent work in their respective endeavours this year.

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

**Next meeting rescheduled for Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2009.**

**Signed:**

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

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

**Date:**

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