



**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE TEMPLEMORE-THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD IN THE DAMER HOUSE, CASTLE STREET, ROSCREA ON WEDNESDAY, 17th. DECEMBER, 2014.**

**Present:** Councillor Michael Smith, Cathaoirleach, presided.

Councillors Joe Bourke, Jackie Cahill, David Doran, Seamus Hanafin, John Hogan, Willie Kennedy, Micheál Lowry and Jim Ryan.

**Also Present:** Matt Shortt District Director.  
Michael Ryan Meetings Administrator.

**Apology.**

The District Director indicated that Ruairi Boland BE, District Engineer was unable to attend the Meeting due to illness.

**Welcome.**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the Members and Officials to the Meeting in Roscrea.

He stated that it was a historic occasion as it is the first time for a meeting of the local authority to take place in Damer House. He referred to the recent negative publicity for the Town at national level but pointed out that there is good community spirit as evidenced by the success of the Taste of Roscrea with people supporting local enterprise and businesses.

**1. Adoption of the Minutes of the November Monthly Meeting which was held on the 26th. November, 2014.**

It was proposed by Councillor J. Ryan, seconded by Councillor M. Lowry and resolved:

"That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting which was held on 26th. November, 2014 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the meeting."

**Matters arising from the Minutes:**

Item	Response
Repair faulty public lights at Mary Willies.	Work on the repair of the lights has commenced.
Removal of poisonous trees from Rahealty Graveyard.	The matter was referred to the Environment Section for investigation.



Refurbishment of the fire damaged house at Mitchel Street, Thurles.	Tenders will be invited in early 2015 for the refurbishment of the house.
Future use for the Council owned house adjoining the Novas Unit at Mitchel Street, Thurles.	The Housing Section will be asked for an update.
Update on measures identified to prevent flooding at Chapel Street, Borrisoleigh - gullies on the street should be cleaned on an ongoing basis.	The Council Engineers met with OPW personnel to discuss long-term proposals and funding.
Active Travel - selection of projects under the Active Towns Funding.	A list of projects to be undertaken was drawn up in early 2014 and the process adopted to select them will be established.
Repair of faulty public lights at Carraig Dun, Thurles.	The Roads Section has referred the complaint to Airtricity for attention.
Allocation of funding for the erection of CCTV cameras at entrances to housing estates.	The provision of CCTV cameras will be competing for funding with other worthwhile projects.
Repair of lights on the pedestrian crossing at Mary Street, Templemore.	The complaint is being dealt with.
The response to request for the implementation of safety measures outside the schools at Pallas Street, Borrisoleigh was unsatisfactory.	The matter will be referred back to the Engineer for further consideration.
Salting of the regional roads, R433 (Templemore to Erill) and the R502 (Templemore to Johnstown) - Tipperary County Council should not be restricted from treating these roads because the adjoining counties (Laois and Kilkenny) do not treat the roads in their areas.	The matter will be referred to the Roads Section for consideration.
Salting of footpaths in towns and villages - many footpaths are dangerous for pedestrians during frosty weather.	The Council does not have the resources to salt all roads and footpaths in the District. Salt would damage concrete footpaths.
Tenant Liaison Officer - the current situation where the Tenant Liaison Officer covering the District is based in Nenagh is not capable of delivering an acceptable level of service.	The matter will be referred to the Housing Section for examination.



### Response to Representations.

Members were very critical of the delay in carrying out repairs requested at Monthly Meetings.

The following points were made:

- The failure to repair the road at Ballycamas, which was damaged when the watermain burst, is unacceptable.
- Members are very frustrated at the delay in having public lights repaired within a reasonable length of time - the current Contract needs to be urgently reviewed.
- Promises given as part of the amalgamation that temporary workers would be made permanent has not been honoured but administration costs have gone up by €¼m in the 2015 Budget.
- There were two Engineers in the Templemore area prior to the Merger but there is now only one Engineer dealing with a larger area.
- The response to repeated requests to have roads in the Gortnahoe area (Williamstown) repaired has been inadequate.
- There needs to be a comprehensive review of the staffing levels in the District.
- Councillors cannot operate effectively if works requested are not carried out.
- Overseers should be in attendance at meeting to respond to Councillors' queries.

The Municipal Director responded that the Council are in correspondence with the Department regarding the recruitment of additional outdoor staff. He also indicated that he would review the situation.

### **2 Adoption of Minutes of a Meeting with a Deputation from the 'Hidden Tipperary' Tourism Group which was held on the 26th. November, 2014.**

It was proposed by Councillor J. Ryan, seconded by Councillor M. Lowry and resolved:-

"That the Minutes of the Meeting with the 'Hidden Tipperary' Tourism Group which was held on the 26th. November, 2014, be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

### **3 Water Services & Environment Function.**

Messrs. Denis Holland, Gerry Robinson and John Crowley, Senior Engineers, Water Services, were in attendance for this item.

The Cathaoirleach and Members welcomed the Water Services personnel to the Meeting.



Matt Shortt, District Director and Director of Services, Water Services, outlined the arrangements between Irish Water and the County Council for the provision of water services in the county. He indicated that Irish Water is legally responsible for the provision of water services throughout the country with the County Council operating the service locally under a Service Level Agreement.

Members raised the following issues:

- High meter readings - Is there a policy to allow a reduction where there is very high usage due to an undetected leak?
- Raw sewage being pumped into the River Suir in Thurles - this is an unacceptable practise and funding should be sought to upgrade the system.
- The sewerage infrastructure in many villages is not up to standard and local authorities should be required to upgrade their plants.
- Farmers have invested heavily in pollution control measures and as a result, very little pollution is generated by farming.

The Water Services personnel responded to the issues raised as follows:

- There is a policy in place to allow a concession where there is an obvious increase in usage due to an undetected leak.
- The discharge of sewage into the River Suir occurs during heavy rainfall due to the fact there is a combined system in the Town i.e. it caters for foul and surface water.
- Irish Water is responsible for Capital Investment in the network throughout the country.
- The upgrade of the Thurles network is on the list of schemes awaiting funding but must go through the approval process with Irish Water.
- The County Council had a priority list of villages requiring Sewerage Treatment Plants with the Department for funding and Irish Water is unlikely to allocate funding for such schemes in the short to medium term.
- The Treatment Plant in Roscrea operates to the highest standard - the recent EPA report referred to one element.

The Cathaoirleach and Members thanked the Water Services personnel for their presentation and Messrs. Holland, Robinson and Crowley left the Chamber.

#### **4 Election of 3 Members to the County Tipperary Joint Policing Committee 2015 - 2021.**

Copy of an Explanatory Document, setting out the guidelines for the establishment of a Joint Policing Committee, was circulated with the Agenda.



The Meetings Administrator advised that the right to form Groups in accordance with Schedule 10 to the Local Government Act, 2001, applies to the election of the three Members. He indicated that the number of Members necessary to form a Group is three as there are nine Members present and there are three appointments to be made.

Group nomination by Councillors J. Bourke, J. Cahill, S. Hanafin and J. Hogan:

"That Councillor J. Cahill be elected to the County Tipperary Joint Policing Committee 2015 to 2021."

Group nomination by Councillors D. Doran, W. Kennedy, M. Lowry and J. Ryan:

"That Councillor D. Doran be elected to the County Tipperary Joint Policing Committee 2015 to 2021."

The Municipal Director advised that the legislation provides that the remaining Members to be appointed shall be appointed by the numbers who are not members of any Group and consequently Councillor M. Smith is deemed elected to the County Tipperary Joint Policy Committee as he is the only Member who is not a member of a Group.

The Members noted the position.

## **5 Schedule of Municipal District Works.**

The Municipal Director advised that:

- The Local Government Reform Act, 2014 provides for the preparation, under the direction of the Chief Executive, of a schedule of proposed works of maintenance and repair to be carried out during the financial year in the Municipal District.
- The schedule has to be formally adopted by the Members and will include road maintenance, housing maintenance, street cleaning, maintenance of amenities, drainage works and burial ground maintenance.
- It will not be possible to prepare the schedule of MD works until the road allocations are known.
- It is proposed to hold a Workshop prior to the January 2015 Monthly Meeting to discuss the allocation of grants to clubs, resident associations and other groups and the allocation of the General Municipal Allocation of €111,389.00. which was discussed at the Statutory Meeting held on the 9th. October, 2014.
- It is anticipated that the Schedule of the Municipal District Works will be circulated for consideration and adoption at the March Monthly Meeting.



It was unanimously agreed that the Workshop to discuss the distribution of grants to clubs, resident associations and other groups and the allocation of the General Municipal Allocation be held in the Library Offices, Castle Avenue, Thurles on Wednesday, 28th. January, 2015 commencing at 10.00 am followed by the January 2015 Monthly Meeting at 12.00 noon.

## **6 Update on the 2014 Works Programme.**

The Meetings Administrator advised that the 2014 Roadworks Programme has been completed.

## **7 Update on Projects.**

### Thurles Town Park.

The Contract for the construction of the Thurles Town Park has been awarded to SIAC Construction and the contractor is due to move into the site in early January, 2015.

### Liberty Square Thurles Refurbishment.

An Independent Traffic Review and Safety Audit is being carried out on the Plans.

### Repair of Thurles Leisure Centre.

The Contractor has commenced work on the repairs and it is hoped that they will be completed by the end of January, 2015.

### Provision of a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) and Outdoor Adult Exercise Equipment in Loughtagalla Park.

Thurles Town Council were allocated €53,300 under the Sport Nation Initiative but due to a breakdown in communications, formal notification was not received.

Tenders are being sought through Etenders for carrying out the project.

It has also been agreed, at the request of the residents, to demolish the shelter as it is a major source of anti-social behaviour in the area.

## **8 Notices of Motion.**

### **(a) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Willie Kennedy (adjourned from the November Monthly Meeting).**

Councillor Willie Kennedy formally moved the following Notice of Motion in his name:



"That this Council erect a warning sign on the road leading to the Old Graveyard in Inch, warning of people walking in the area. This is now a recognised walking route in the area."

Councillor Kennedy pointed out that the Motion is self-explanatory. He indicated that the Council gave a commitment earlier in the year to erect signage.

Other Members endorsed Councillor Kennedy's request.

The District Director advised that the commitment given will be honoured.

**(b) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor David Doran.**

Councillor David Doran formally moved the following Notice of Motion in his name:

"I am calling on this Council to support in every way possible the bid by the IRFU to host the 2023 Rugby World Cup, particularly given the fact that Semple Stadium in Thurles would be one of the venues.

This would have an obvious economic and cultural benefit to our Country, let alone our County."

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Jim Ryan.

Councillor S. Hanafin and J. Hogan pointed out that as this matter was raised at the last County Council Meeting and they had submitted a Motion on the subject for the next County Council Meeting, it should not have been included in the Agenda for the Municipal District Meeting.

It was proposed by the Cathaoirleach, seconded by Councillor W. Kennedy and agreed:

"That the Motion be adopted without discussion and referred to the County Council for consideration."

Councillor Doran expressed disappointment with the Cathaoirleach's ruling.

**(c) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Willie Kennedy.**

Councillor Willie Kennedy formally moved the following Notice of Motion in his name:

"That this Council includes the remainder of the road from Fantane to Glenbreda and Glenmore in next year's Roads Programme."

Councillor Kennedy indicated that half the road was resurfaced this year and that the remainder of the road is in need of attention.



The Meetings Administrator confirmed that the remainder of the road will be considered for inclusion in the 2015 Roads Programme subject to the availability of funding.

**(d) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Jackie Cahill.**

Councillor Jackie Cahill formally moved the following Notice of Motion in his name:

"To provide two extra street lights on the Gortnahoe Road out of Ballysloe."

Councillor Cahill indicated that he had received representations from residents seeking two extra lights on the Gortnahoe Road, Ballysloe.

Other Members endorsed Councillor Cahill's request.

The Meetings Administrator advised that there is no funding in the Budget for the provision of new public lights. He added that the County Council is facing significant increased costs on public lighting in unfinished developments throughout the County.

**(e) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Jackie Cahill.**

Councillor Jackie Cahill formally moved the following Notice of Motion in his name:

"Residents of Kickham Street and Mitchel Street have requested extra street signage."

The Meetings Administrator advised that there is no specific budget for the erection of street signage but that the request will be examined early in the context of the funding available in 2015.

**9 Correspondence.**

There was no correspondence.

**10 Votes of Congratulations / Sympathy.**

The Cathaoirleach and Members congratulated Michael Bourke, Upperchurch and John Devane, Boherlahan on their election to the positions of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Tipperary GAA County Board.

**Civic Reception.**

The Cathaoirleach stated that the Civic Reception for the Borrisoleigh Scor na nÓg Léiriú Team and the Coláiste Phobal Roscré, which will take place after the Meeting, is a historic event as it is the first Civic Reception accorded by the Templemore-Thurles Municipal District.



He indicated that he would be inviting Councillors W. Kennedy and J. Hogan to propose and second the Motion as they had proposed the Civic Reception in the first instance.

**11 Any Other Business.**

Issue Raised	Response
Provision of a pedestrian crossing on Kickham Street, Thurles.	The request will be referred to the Roads Section for consideration.
Installation of extra public lighting and a speed ramp in Kavanagh Place, Thurles.	There is no funding for the provision of extra public lights. The request for a speed ramp will be examined.
Repair of a damaged swing at Cabragh Court, Thurles.	The necessary repairs will be carried out as soon as possible.
Urgent need to cut back the hedge abutting The Glebe, Thurles.	The request will receive attention in due course.
Pruning of trees at Slievenamon Meadows, The Willows, Windsor Grove, Willowmere Drive and Kennedy Park, Thurles.	The requests will be considered in the context of the funding available.
Increase the speed limit on the old N8 from Ballytarsna to the Cork boundary from 80kph to 100kph.	The request will be forwarded to the County Council for examination.
The Community Contribution levied on the promoters of the Wind Farm at Monaincha, Roscrea should be increased.	The situation will be reviewed.
Temporary closure of the Registration Office at St. Mary's Health Centre, Thurles - a substitute should be appointed to provide the service.	The office is closed due to staff illness and is due to re-open in January, 2015.

**THAT CONCLUDED THE OFFICIAL BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_  
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: 28th. January, 2015.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_  
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: 28th. January, 2015.

17th. December, 2014.