



**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE TEMPLEMORE-THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD IN THE THURLES CHAMBER ENTERPRISE CENTRE, LIT TIPPERARY CAMPUS, NENAGH ROAD, THURLES ON WEDNESDAY 27th JANUARY, 2016.**

**Present:**

Councillor John Hogan, Cathaoirleach, presided.

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

**Also Present:**

Matt Shortt	District Director.
Michael F. Hayes B.E.	Senior Engineer.
Ruairi Boland B.E.	District Engineer.
John Jones B.E.	Executive Engineer.
Michael Tierney B.E.	Executive Engineer.
Michael Ryan	Meetings Administrator.
Deirdre O'Shea	Staff Officer.

**1. Adoption of Minutes.**

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 the 21st. December, 2015 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

**Notices of Motion.**

It was proposed by Councillor W. Kennedy, seconded by Councillor D. Doran and resolved: "That Item 10 - Notices of Motion be dealt with at this stage of the Meeting in order to facilitate members".

**10(a) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor J. Ryan.**

Councillor Jim Ryan formally moved the following Notice of Motion in his name: "I am calling on this district council to outline to all councillors the detailed short term or long term action plans and costings that are required to solve the flooding issues at Galbertstown, Piercetown, Cloughmartin and Moyaliffe as continuous closing of these roads is no longer acceptable to the residents of these areas."



Councillor Ryan pointed out that residents living on these roads are very frustrated at the frequency of flooding that is occurring each year and he asked that solutions and detailed costings to address the flooding in these areas be prepared.

There was broad support for the Motion. The other Members made the following points:-

1. A special meeting should be convened to receive deputations from areas in the Municipal District which were affected by flooding in December rather than meeting individual groups.
2. The cause of the flooding at Forgestown which was not an issue until recently be examined.
3. Improvements to drainage be undertaken at an early date in areas where costs are considered reasonable.
4. Priority be given to address flooding where houses are affected.
5. Contact be made with the OPW to highlight the urgent need for extensive cleaning of the water courses in the Municipal District to alleviate flooding.

The District Engineer advised the Members that:-

- It is not economically feasible to undertake flood relief measures in some locations in the Municipal District i.e. Galbertstown.
- Damage caused to the outlet at Piercetown, Thurles will be rectified.
- Moyaliffe is located on a flood plain and the Council raised the road outside John Stakelums which has reduced the frequency of flooding.
- Raising the road at Cloughmartin, Thurles will lead to flooding of lands and may cause other problems.
- Priority will be given to addressing flooding which affects houses in the Municipal District.
- Turloughs formed on low lying areas due to the unprecedented levels of rainfall that fell in December.

Michael F. Hayes, Senior Engineer confirmed that an application has been submitted to the Department for funding to repair the damaged roads and the recoupment of the other costs incurred. He pointed out that the cost of flood prevention works is not covered.

It was agreed that the list of areas raised by the Members at a Special Meeting on 8th. January, 2016 be circulated.

**10(b) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor J. Ryan.**

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



It was agreed that the Notices of Motion in the names of Councillor J. Ryan and Councillor J. Cahill be taken together as they relate to job losses in the Municipal District.

Councillor Jim Ryan formally moved the following Notice of Motion in his name:  
"Following on from the recent job losses in Borrisoleigh and the failure of all previous Governments to replace any of the factories closed in this district through the years, I am calling for a meeting to be arranged with the Jobs Minister seeking a commitment that an action plan for job creation will be created for this area that has now become a jobs blackspot."

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

"Due to the serious loss of jobs in Mid Tipperary area, we as a municipal district need to immediately set up a task force to tackle the situation."

Councillor J. Ryan referred to the Live Register figures recorded at December, 2015 which only showed an increase of 76 in employment in North Tipperary when compared to December 2014 and he pointed out that the closure of Lisheen Mines and the imminent closure of C&C Borrisoleigh will lead to a significant increase in unemployment levels in the Municipal District.

Councillor J. Cahill urged the Members to develop a more meaningful role in influencing the delivery of jobs to revitalise the Municipal District.

Members made the following points:

- The IDA need to attract an alternative enterprise for the C&C site at Borrisoleigh.
- It is imperative that a suitable serviced site is developed in Thurles to attract industry to the Town.
- It is essential that existing jobs are protected and the carbon tax on peat products needs to be removed as a matter of urgency as it poses a grave threat to the viability of Bord na Móna which is a major employer in the area.
- The County Council should purchase and develop Archerstown Industrial Estate to assist in job creation.
- Close links should be developed with the founders of the Invest Tipperary initiative.
- The Council was very proactive in securing the designation of the site at Lisheen Mines as a "Model Demonstration Region for a Bio Energy Campus" and it is expected that an industry will be identified for the site.
- The Department of Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation needs to be more involved in supporting start up businesses who show potential in order to increase employment in the area.



- The Chief Executive is actively examining sites in the vicinity of Thurles to assess their suitability.

The Meetings Administrator confirmed that:-

- The request for a Deputation to be received by the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation will be referred to the CPG
- The suggestion put forward to purchase and develop Archerstown Industrial Estate will be forwarded to the Community & Economic Development section.

**10(c) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor J. Ryan.**

**10(e) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor D. Doran.**

It was agreed that the Notices of Motion in the names of Councillor J. Ryan and Councillor D. Doran be taken together as they relate to the Winter Road Maintenance Programme.

Councillor Jim Ryan formally moved the following Notice of Motion in his name:

"I am calling on this District Council to review its winter road maintenance programme to include, if financially possible, the gritting of all roads in the area that has a school located on it."

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

"I am calling on this Council to include more of our local roads in the winter maintenance plan and that as many local busy roads as is possible be salted when required."

The District Engineer advised that:-

- A total of 1,010 km of roads comprising of national primary, national secondary and some busy regional routes are treated during frosty weather in the County.
- There are approximately 16 schools located on routes in the Municipal District that are not salted.
- There is no capacity to extend the winter maintenance programme to any other routes.
- It would be imprudent to deviate from the existing programme which has been prepared to maximise efficiencies.

Michael F. Hayes, Senior Engineer pointed out that there is no grant aid available to treat local and regional routes and that any extension to the service would have to be funded from the existing Budgets.



## **10(f) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor D. Doran.**

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

"I am calling on this Council to liaise with Irish Rail immediately and erect safety barriers on Graigue Bridge and to have the road over this bridge salted at all times during freezing conditions."

Members noted that Irish Rail has advertised for tenders for the installation of safety barriers at Graigue Bridge.

It was also highlighted that the Bridge needs to be redesigned and the road realigned in the interests of safety.

## **2. Water & Environment Departments - Staff from Water & Environment Departments will attend.**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Marion O'Neill, Senior Executive Officer, Environment and Eddie Loughnane, Administrative Officer, Water Services to the Meeting. Marion O'Neill referred to a report on environmental initiatives which was circulated to the Members at the County Council Meeting and she invited the Members to raise any issues they may have.

Members raised the following concerns:-

- Provision of CCTV to address illegal dumping in the Municipal District.
- Development of a Civic Amenity Site in Thurles.
- The need to amend the Regulation to allow the spreading of slurry on land throughout the year when the weather is favourable rather than during specified calendar months which is the case at present.

It was agreed that the Cathaoirleach submit a Notice of Motion on the subject to the County Council.

Marion O'Neill confirmed that a plan is currently being prepared for the installation of covert mobile CCTV in problematic areas in the Municipal Districts and that the initiative may be piloted in one area in the first instance to assess its effectiveness. The District Director advised that there is no funding available from the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government to provide a civic amenity site in Thurles.

Eddie Loughnane apologised for the unavoidable absence of Sean Keating, Director of Services and he responded to issues raised by Members as follows:

1. The on call system for dealing with water services complaints is working in an efficient and effective manner.
2. He will establish what the proposals are to deal with treatment of sewerage in the proposed new housing scheme at Borrisoleigh.



The Meetings Administrator undertook to establish the up to date position in regard to the proposed housing development at Glencarrig, Roscrea.

**3. Adoption of Bye-Laws for the use, operation, protection, regulation and management of Thurles Town Park - copy of Draft Bye-laws attached.**

The Meetings Administrator confirmed that:-

- The Draft Bye-Laws for the use, operation, protection, regulation and management of the Thurles Town Park were put on public display from Thursday 12th. November, 2015 to Friday 18th. December, 2015 and that the latest date for receipt of submissions was Thursday, 31st. December, 2015.
- One submission was received relating to the cleaning of the River Suir which is not no relevant to the Draft Bye-Laws.
- The Bye-Laws come into operation 30 days after adoption.

Members proposed that the Draft Bye-Laws should amended to:

- Allow dogs the Town Park with the exception of the Skateboard Park, MUGA and Children's Playground, provided that they remain on a leash.
- Prohibit smoking in the Skateboard Park, the Multi Use Games Area and the Children's Playground.

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

"We, the Members of the Templemore-Thurles Municipal District, pursuant to the power conferred on us by Section 199 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended by Schedule 3 of the Local Government Reform Act, 2014 and being satisfied that the relevant legislation has been complied with, hereby make Bye-Laws in relation to the use, operation, protection, regulation and management of Thurles Town Park in accordance with the draft subject to the following changes:

4.11. No person shall at any time take into or allow to remain in the Skateboard Park, the Multi Use Games Area or the Children's Playground a dog.

No person shall take into or allow to remain in any other area of the Town Park a dog except on a leash.

7.3 Smoking is prohibited in the Skateboard Park, the Multi Use Games Area or in the Children's Playground."

**4. Introduction of 30 Minutes Free Parking - adjourned from the December Monthly Meeting.**

The District Director advised the Members that:



- The introduction of 30 minutes free parking would have a significant impact on parking income as most of the revenue is generated within the first hour.
- The Municipal District does not have the authority to make changes to the adopted Budget for 2016.
- The Members will have the opportunity to debate the matter at a County Council Meeting in advance of the 2017 Budget.

## 5. Establishment of Drainage Area Committees.

- (i) **The Black River.**
- (ii) **The Clodiagh.**
- (iii) **The Cromogue.**
- (iv) **The Farneybridge / Ballinahow.**
- (v) **The Goul.**
- (vi) **Templemore.**

The Meetings Administrator outlined the background to the Drainage Area Committees that existed within the Municipal District. He explained that the Council is obliged under the Arterial Drainage Act, 1945 to maintain the watercourses as prescribed on a map and submit a report to the OPW on an annual basis.

It was agreed that:

- Drainage Area Committees would be established for:-
  - The Black River.
  - The Clodiagh.
  - The Cromogue.
  - The Farneybridge / Ballinahow.
  - The Goul.
  - Templemore.
- Each Committee comprise of 3 Councillors and 3 others. This will result in each Councillor serving on two Committees.
- A list of the non Councillors who served on the former Committees be circulated at the next Monthly Meeting.
- Members can indicate their preferred choice of Committees at the February Monthly Meeting.

## 6. 2016 General Municipal Allocation.

The Meetings Administrator confirmed that:-

- The Councillors will shortly be required to agree on the apportionment of the General Municipal Allocation for 2016 which amounts to €111,389.00.



- An advertisement will be placed in the Tipperary Star and Midland Tribune next month inviting applications for Grants from Residents Associations, Sports Clubs for the provision of playing facilities for young people and other voluntary groups in the Municipal District under the Miscellaneous Grant Scheme.

The Meetings Administrator recommended, in response to a query from the Cathaoirleach, that the Civic Receptions be held on separate dates in Templemore and Thurles to facilitate the recipients.

The Cathaoirleach proposed the holding of a Civic Reception to honour Michael Doyle on winning two All Ireland Boxing Titles and he explained that it is the first occasion in 40 years that a Tipperary person has won such titles.

It was agreed that the Civic Receptions be held on one date in the month of March and that Michael Doyle would be included.

**7. Request from the Barronstown Loughmore Residents to receive a Deputation re the flooding issue on the road from Cambies Cross to Ballyduag Cross.**

The Meetings Administrator advised that the Barronstown, Loughmore Residents have submitted a request for the receipt of a deputation to discuss the flooding issue on the road from Cambies Cross to Ballyduag Cross.

It was proposed by Councillor D. Doran, seconded by Councillor M. Lowry and resolved:-

"That the Templemore-Thurles Municipal District hereby decide to receive a deputation from Barronstown Loughmore Residents on 24th. February, 2016 at 10.00 am (prior to the Monthly Meeting) to discuss the flooding issue on the road from Cambies Cross to Ballyduag Cross."

**8. Proposed Work Programmes for 2016.**

The District Engineer asked the Members to submit as a matter of urgency details of roads they wish to have considered for the new 3 Years Roads Programme (2016 - 2018) which is currently being prepared as the latest date for submission of the Programme to the Department is 19th. February, 2016. He confirmed that a Meeting will be convened to agree on the Programme prior its submission.

Members raised the following issues:-

- Roads in the Municipal District not being routinely inspected to ascertain their condition.
- The need to recruit temporary employees to assist with patching as there is a shortage of permanent staff in the District to deal with maintenance issues.
- The size of the Municipal District.





The District Engineer confirmed that there has been a reduction in staffing numbers due to retirements / death and arrangements are currently being made to recruit temporary roadworkers.

## 9. Update on Projects.

Thurles Town Park.

The landscaping of the soft areas in the Town Park is being undertaken on a phased basis as the weather permits.

Liberty Square  
Refurbishment and  
development of a  
carpark.

The Part 8 Plans and particulars are currently on display in the Templemore-Thurles Municipal District Offices and Thurles Library and the latest date for receipt of submissions is Thursday, 10th. March, 2016.

Extension to and  
Refurbishment of the  
Offices at Castle Avenue,  
Thurles.

The contract is progressing very well within the agreed Work Programme and a site visit will be organised for the Members at an early date.

Repairs / Improvements  
to Templemore Town  
Hall

A Contractor will be appointed in the coming months to carry out the priority works identified.

Templemore Town Park  
Extension.

A number of layouts for the additional land purchased are currently being assessed.

Village Enhancement  
Works.

Footpath improvements have been completed in Borrisoleigh and Templetuohy. Extensive preparation works have been undertaken on the extension of the footpath in Littleton.

Roscrea Enhancement  
Scheme.

The tenders for the procurement of a Landscape Architect led Design Team are currently being assessed.



Carpark at St. Patrick's Cemetery.

A draft layout plan for the carpark has been completed. Plans and specification for the Part 8 Process are currently being prepared in-house by the technical staff.

2015 Painting Scheme.

Payments have been made to 16 applicants who submitted receipts and contact has been made with the remaining applicants who have not yet returned their receipts.

### Matters Arising.

The following matters were raised:-

- Thurles Town Park.
  - (i) Slates falling off the roof of the disused building and proposals for its future use - repairs will be effected to the roof at an early date and expressions of interest for its future use will be sought from non profit community based organisations in due course.
  - (ii) Provision of canopy from the building to facilitate the holding of musical events.
  - (iii) Naming of the Park - it was agreed at a previous meeting that schools in Thurles and the environs would be contacted seeking submissions from the pupils on the naming of the Town Park.
- Extent of repairs to be undertaken to Templemore Town Hall - A further inspection of the roof will be undertaken. It is anticipated that works will initially concentrate on addressing the ingress of water, weather proofing, painting of the building and repairs to the columns.

## **10. Correspondence.**

### Tipperary 2016 Community Grant Fund.

The Meetings Administrator advised that the latest date for receipt of applications from community and voluntary groups / organisations towards the cost of projects / events to commemorate the centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising has been extended to 19th. February, 2016.



**11. Vote of Congratulations / Sympathy.**

a) The Cathaoirleach, Members and Officials passed Votes of Sympathy with:

- The family of John Nolan, 25 Railway View, Templemore , an employee of Templemore Town Council for a number of years and currently of Tipperary County Council, on his sudden death.
- The family of Tommy Moloney, Abbey Road, Thurles, a former Rent Collector with Thurles Town Council.

b) Councillor W. Kennedy congratulated Jim & Kay Ryan on winning "Traditional Pub of the Year" award for their pub known locally as "Jim of The Mills".

**12. Any Other Business.**

The following issues were raised:-

Issue	Response
Repairs to the surface of the MUGA and the removal of the residue of the bonfire in Loughtagalla Park, Thurles.	The issues will be attended to.

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

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

DATE: 24th. February, 2016.

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

DATE: 24th. February, 2016.