



MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE TEMPLEMORE-THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD IN THE LIBRARY OFFICES, CASTLE AVENUE, THURLES ON WEDNESDAY, 28th. JANUARY, 2015.

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.
Ruairi Boland B.E.	District Engineer.
Michael Tierney B.E.	Executive Engineer.
Michael Ryan	Meetings Administrator.
Deirdre O'Shea	Staff Officer.

1. Adoption of the Minutes of the December Monthly Meeting which was held on the 17th. December, 2014.

It was proposed by Councillor D. Doran, seconded by Councillor S. Hanafin and resolved:

"That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting which was held on 17th. December, 2014 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the meeting."

Meeting with the NRA.

The Cathaoirleach advised that he, the Cathaoirlig of the other Municipal Districts and two senior officials from Roads met with officials from the NRA on the 11th. January, 2015. He confirmed that he raised the various issues put forward by the Members and he expressed disappointment with the lack of commitment given to progressing the Thurles Bypass.

The Cathaoirleach indicated, in reply to a query from Councillor J. Bourke, that the NRA did not have any record of a request for the implementation of traffic calming measures on the Roscrea Road, Templemore. It was agreed to refer the matter to the Roads Section for consideration.



Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor J. Ryan.

It was agreed to consider Notice of Motion 5(a) in the name of Councillor J. Ryan relating to the proposed ring road for Thurles at this stage of the Meeting.

"I am calling on Tipperary County Council to seek a meeting with both the NRA and the Minister for Transport to look for the necessary funding to proceed with the construction of the proposed ring road for Thurles."

Councillor J. Ryan outlined his dissatisfaction with the response, given that the issue of severe traffic congestion in Thurles has been raised with the NRA over a long number of years. The other Members endorsed his comments.

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

"That the Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport be requested to receive a deputation from the Municipal District to discuss the progression of the Thurles bypass and that copy of the letter be forwarded to Mr. Alan Kelly TD, Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government and Mr. Tom Hayes TD, Minister of State, seeking their support."

Matters arising from the Minutes:

Item	Response
Poor quality of the Christmas Lights in Templemore.	Options will be explored to improve the lights.
Grass Cutting in the Templemore-Thurles Municipal District.	A review of grass cutting in the Municipal District will be carried out.
Promotion of Tourism - a delegation from South Korea will visit Thurles on 11th. March, 2015 and the Municipal District should avail of the opportunity to promote the Town.	The Executive will meet with the delegation.
Overgrown hedge abutting The Glebe, Thurles.	The hedge has been inspected and is not overgrown.
Illegal dumping on Council land at the Mill Road, Thurles.	The matter will receive attention.
The pruning of the trees between the Council Offices and Slievenamon Meadows, Thurles - residents are dissatisfied with the work.	The situation will be reviewed.
Removal of poplar trees in Willowmere Drive, Thurles.	The District Engineer will discuss the matter with the Tree Surgeon.



Implementation of safety measures outside the schools at Pallas Street, Borrisoleigh.	The safety measures implemented are welcomed.
Delay in repairing faulty lights at The Orchard, Friar Street, Thurles which have been out of order for months.	The matter will be referred to the Roads Section.
Provision of an electronic speed sign on the Borrisoleigh Road, Templemore.	A speed assessment will be undertaken to establish if there is a need.
Appointment of additional permanent roads workers in the Municipal District.	6 permanent positions will be filled through confined competition and additional temporary road workers will be employed during the peak period subject to availability of funding.
Confusion re boundaries between GSS areas at Ballycamas, Turraheen and Drombane.	Members will be provided with a map showing all roads within the District.

2 Water Services & Environment Functions.

Matt Shortt, District Director and Director of Services, Water Services confirmed the following:-

- a) The Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government has approved the recruitment of a second Litter Warden for the County and the position will be filled at an early date.
- b) A report issued by the EPA on the Quality of Drinking Water in Ireland did not highlight any areas of concern in the Templemore-Thurles Municipal District.

He responded to issues raised by the Members as follows:-

- There has been a substantial amount of work undertaken in the last number of years to replace lead watermains in the District and it is the responsibility of the owners to replace lead connections from the water meters / stopcock to their houses.
- The recurring sewerage blockage at Kincora Terrace, Thurles will be addressed.
- The reasons for the leaks on the Thurles Regional Water Supply Scheme are being investigated.

3 2015 Work Programmes.

The District Director confirmed that the Roadworks Programme is currently being prepared and will be circulated to the Members at the March Monthly Meeting.



The Members highlighted the following issues:

- Deterioration in roads in the District and particularly, roads that were resurfaced in recent years.
- The substandard patching being carried out.
- Damage to cars due to potholes.
- The need for drainage to be undertaken in conjunction with road repairs / resurfacing.

The District Engineer advised that:

- The heavy rain followed by freezing conditions in the last two weeks has resulted in the deterioration of road surfaces.
- It is not always possible to provide adequate drainage in hilly areas due to the gradient.
- There will be an additional patching unit in operation from next week, on the return of the temporary road workers.
- The areas raised by the Members are being considered for inclusion in the Roadworks Programme.

4 **Update on Projects.**

Thurles Town Park.

The formal signing of the Contract for the Town Park will take place on Friday, 13th. February, 2015 at 9.30 am and Members are invited to attend.

Liberty Square Thurles Refurbishment.

The design is substantially complete and an independent traffic review and safety audit is currently being carried out.

The Part 8 process for the provision of the car park and the Liberty Square Refurbishment Project will be done together.

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

A prequalification process has been advertised on e-tenders for building contractors and the latest date for submissions is 12 noon on Friday 13th. February, 2015.

Repair of Thurles Leisure Centre.

There is a delay in the completion of the remedial works due to the complexity of the repairs involved and a revised programme has been submitted by the Contractor.



A meeting will be arranged with the Contractor within the next week to review progress and to expedite the works.

Issues raised in regard to members of the public who have their membership paid will be discussed with the Leisure Centre Manager.

Roscrea Enhancement Scheme.

Preliminary designs are currently being prepared and the plans will be brought before the Members in due course.

Painting Scheme.

The Scheme will be circulated at the March Monthly Meeting.

Repairs / Improvements to Templemore Town Hall.

Funding has been ring-fenced to undertake improvements to Templemore Town Hall.

Templemore Town Park Extension.

A landscape architect will be engaged shortly to prepare preliminary plans for the extension.

5 **Notices of Motion.**

(a) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Jim Ryan.

The following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Jim Ryan was considered earlier in the Meeting:

"I am calling on Tipperary County Council to seek a meeting with both the NRA and the Minister for Transport to look for the necessary funding to proceed with the construction of the proposed ring road for Thurles."

(b) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Michael Smith.

Councillor Michael Smith formally moved the following Notice of Motion in his name:

"I am calling on the Templemore-Thurles Municipal District to ask the Housing Section to carry out a report on the heating systems in Cois Carrig, Roscrea following the remedial work scheme which was carried out."



Michael Tierney, Executive Engineer advised that the stoves will be replaced in Cois Carrig as they are not in working order and he confirmed that the Senior Executive Engineer, Housing Section, Nenagh is dealing with the matter.

The Meetings Administrator indicated that a survey of the tenants was carried out prior to the work commencing to establish their preference on the type of heating system to be installed in individual houses.

(c) 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 Municipal District Council to take action immediately re Graigue Bridge as this is a serious health and safety issue for anyone who uses this road."

Councillor J. Ryan seconded the Motion and the other Members endorsed the request.

The District Engineer responded as follows:-

Irish Rail is responsible for the Bridge and they have agreed to inspect it and complete priority works as a matter of urgency.

It was agreed that a representative from Irish Rail be invited to the next monthly meeting of the Municipal District if the bridge has not been made safe in the interim.

(d) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Jim Ryan.

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

"Following on from the success of bringing a natural gas supply to Nenagh, I am calling on the Government to do the same for Thurles."

Councillor Ryan outlined potential benefits that natural gas would bring to Thurles.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor W. Kennedy and the other Members expressed support for the request.

The Meetings Administrator advised that a number of meetings were held with representatives from Bord Gais over the years regarding the extension of the natural gas network to Thurles and that it appears a number of large energy users is required to make the project viable.



It was agreed that Gaslink be formally requested to extend the natural gas network to Thurles and that a Committee be established to progress the proposal.

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

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

"Is there a budget allocated for repairs to Council houses?"

Councillor Cahill indicated that external wall insulation is urgently required for the older housing stock in the District.

Michael Tierney, Executive Engineer advised that Phase 1 of the Energy Fabric Upgrade which involves cavity wall insulation has to be completed throughout the County before the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government will allow Phase 2, which is external wall insulation, to commence.

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

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

"That the recycling bins in Ballycahill Village be maintained in a clean and tidy manner."

Councillor M. Lowry seconded the Motion which was endorsed by all the Members.

The District Director acknowledged that indiscriminate dumping occurs at Bottle Banks and that every effort is being made to address the issue. He undertook to have the area cleared.

6 Correspondence.

a) Thurles Fairtrade Town Committee.

A letter received from Thurles Fairtrade Committee, seeking the endorsement of the Members to the designation of Thurles as a Fairtrade Town, was circulated at the Meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor S. Hanafin, seconded by Councillor J. Cahill and resolved:-



"That the Templemore-Thurles Municipal District recognised and support the contribution of the Thurles Fairtrade Town Committee in promoting the Fairtrade Initiative in Thurles."

b) Request for the receipt of a Deputation.

The Meetings Administrator advised that former members of Templemore Town Council have submitted a request for the receipt of a deputation to discuss the following:

- I. Templemore Town Hall.
- II. St. Patrick's Day Parade.
- III. Templemore Town Park.
- IV. Community Groups.
- V. Other Templemore Matters.

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

"That the Templemore-Thurles Municipal District hereby decide to receive a deputation from former Members of Templemore Town Council on Wednesday, 25th. February, 2015 at 10:00am prior to the Monthly Meeting to discuss the issues as outlined in their request."

c) Taking in Charge of Private Estates.

The Meetings Administrator advised that officials from the Planning Section will attend the next Monthly Meeting to update the Members on taking in charge of estates.

d) Sewerage problem at Oakdale, Templemore.

The Meetings Administrator indicated that he had not received any correspondence from Oakdale Residents Association in regard to sewerage problems in the estate and that complaints in regard to water services should be logged with Irish Water.

7 Votes of Congratulations / Sympathy.

- a) Councillor W. Kennedy congratulated 3 students from St. Joseph's College, Borrisoleigh on achieving first place in the Intermediate Technology Category of the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition and Michelle Costello, Pallas, Borrisoleigh on winning 3 Gold Medals in the Irish Special Olympics Finals.



b) The Members extended sympathy to the family of Pierce Molony, Thurles Racecourse Owner and Manager who died yesterday.

8 Any Other Business.

It was agreed to defer Any Other Business.

THAT CONCLUDED THE OFFICIAL BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: 25th. February, 2015.

SIGNED: _____
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: 25th. February, 2015.