



**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TEMPLEMORE THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
WHICH WAS HELD IN THE LIBRARY OFFICES, CASTLE AVENUE, THURLES ON MONDAY, 21st.
JULY, 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.
Ruairi Boland B.E.	District Engineer.
Michael Ryan	District Administrator.

Introduction.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the Members and Officials to the Meeting and expressed appreciation to them for agreeing to change the date to facilitate him.

Councillors Hanafin, Hogan, Cahill and Bourke criticised the manner in which the date of the meeting was changed and stated it was disrespectful to them as they had not been consulted. They indicated that the change of date was very disruptive as some of them had to cancel appointments. They also queried the legality of changing the date of the monthly meeting which is set down in Standing Orders.

It was proposed by Councillor S. Hanafin, seconded by Councillor J. Hogan and agreed:

"That the date of the Monthly Meeting be changed only in exceptional circumstances following consultation with all the Members."

The District Administrator advised that the Cathaoirleach is empowered, under Standing Order 4, to convene a Special Meeting and that an Agenda has also been circulated for the Monthly Meeting on Wednesday in compliance with Standing Orders.

It was proposed by Councillor J. Ryan, seconded by Councillor D. Doran and agreed:

"That the Monthly Meeting of Thurles Municipal District convened for Wednesday 23rd. July, 2014 be adjourned to the date of the next ordinary Monthly Meeting i.e. Wednesday 24th. September, 2014."

21st. July, 2014.



Liberty Square Refurbishment Scheme.

Matt Shortt, District Director introduced Eoin Green, Principal Engineer and Maciej Skiba, Landscape Architect, URS Ireland Limited.

He indicated that Thurles Town Council appointed URS to prepare plans to upgrade Liberty Square and he gave a broad outline of the Brief and of the process followed in formulating the plans.

Eoin Green and Maciej Skiba gave a comprehensive presentation on the current proposals and responded to Members' queries / comments. The following points / observations were made:

- The proposed improvements at Liberty Square are needed to attract business back to the Town Centre as there has been a significant decrease in footfall over recent years.
- Issues which need to be addressed as part of the scheme include:
 - Set down facilities for elderly people at the Post Office and for the Ursuline Primary School, loading bays, taxi ranks, lack of 'right-turning' lanes for the Ulster Bank carpark and the new carpark, christmas lights, the water feature and monuments, the creation of a 'link' between the Shopping Centre and Liberty Square, the effect of the additional pedestrian crossings on traffic flow through the Square, too many trees (leaves clogging up gullies etc), provision of cycle lanes.
- The loss of parking spaces may be of concern to retailers.
- Thurles Chamber will be very important to enlist the support from the general body of retailers.
- There is a lot of night-time activity in the Square at weekends and night-time parking requirement is different (people may be reluctant to use the new carpark - security, anti-social behaviour, CCTV, lighting).

The District Director advised that:

- The purpose of the presentation is to update Members on the Plan - the formal consultation process under Part 8 of the planning acts will take place in due course.
- There has been ongoing consultations and discussions with Thurles Chamber.
- The proposed pedestrian crossings will be courtesy crossings i.e. they will not be controlled by traffic lights.
- The loss of 37 parking spaces in the centre of the Square will be offset by the provision of 100 spaces approximately in the new carpark and additional carparking is also being provided as part of the Town Park development.



- Negotiations are taking place with the Bank of Ireland to develop an access from the new carpark to Emmett Street.
- It is not possible to do much with the top of the Square due to traffic movements but some minor works to improve its appearance will be looked at.
- Traffic flow through the Square is governed by the capacity of the Bridge - 5 routes converge on the Square.
- The Scheme provides for much wider footpaths and a big effort is being put into the lighting.
- There is up to €3m available and this funding is 'ring-fenced' for the project.
- It is anticipated that the plans will be available in a few months to commence the Part 8 Process and that it should be at tender stage by the end of the year.

The Cathaoirleach and Members thanked the Consultants for their detailed presentation and asked that the scheme be progressed as expeditiously as possible.

Eoin Green and Maciej Skiba left the Chamber.

1. **Minutes of Meetings.**

The District Administrator explained that the Minutes of a Meeting of Thurles Town Council held on the 2nd. May, 2014 and the Minutes of a Meeting of the Thurles Area Committee held on the 12th. May, 2014 were circulated for noting.

It was proposed by Councillor D. Doran, seconded by Councillor J. Ryan and agreed:

"That the Minutes of a Meeting of Thurles Town Council held on the 2nd. May, 2014 and the Minutes of a Meeting of Thurles Area Committee held on the 12th. May, 2014, which were circulated, are hereby noted."

Members expressed the view that the Minutes of the First Annual Meeting of the Templemore-Thurles Municipal District could not be adopted as this is a Special Meeting.

The District Administrator advised that consideration of the Minutes can be adjourned to the September Monthly Meeting.



It was proposed by Councillor J. Ryan, seconded by Councillor D. Doran and agreed:

"That consideration of the Minutes of the First Annual Meeting of the Templemore-Thurles Municipal District held on 14th. June, 2014 be adjourned to the September Monthly Meeting."

2 **To Consider setting up a Standing Orders Committee.**

The District Director advised that a Standing Order Committee could deal with proposals for granting Civic Receptions and procedural issues which may arise from time to time.

It was proposed by Councillor J. Ryan, seconded by Councillor D. Doran and agreed:

"That consideration of the proposal to set up a Standing Orders Committee be adjourned to the September Monthly Meeting."

3 **Protocol for raising issues at Municipal District level.**

The District Director advised that:

- The main contact point for the public is the Customer Service Desk.
- It is envisaged that Members should come through the District Office for matters dealt with at Municipal District level.
- Members should give 7 day's notice of their intention to raise a specific issue at the monthly meeting so that the Executive would be in a position to respond.
- Complaints re Water Services must be logged with Irish Water who will forward them to the County Council for attention. This will allow a history of water services in an area to be established which may be beneficial when applying for funding for improvements.

Members expressed dissatisfaction with the 7 days notice requirement as it would restrict their ability to raise items under Any Other Business. The District Director pointed out that he suggested the 7 day notice in order that the Executive would be in a position to give a meaningful response to a query.



4 Update on the 2014 Work Programmes.

The District Director confirmed that it is intended to submit an update on the various Work Programmes at the Monthly Meetings. He indicated that the Area Committees dealt mainly with Roads but that it is proposed to submit updates on all the programmes at the Monthly Meetings.

The following items were raised:

i. Discontinuation of Planning Refusal Meetings.

Members expressed dissatisfaction at the discontinuation of Planning Refusal Meetings without consultation.

The District Director pointed out that Members have no statutory role in planning except policy through the adoption of the Development Plan. He added that it is proposed to arrange a Workshop in early September to discuss the matter and to decide on revised procedures.

It was agreed that Planning staff be asked to attend the September Monthly Meeting to discuss the matter.

ii. Flooding at Littleton Cemetery.

The District Director informed the Members, in response to queries, that the Consulting Engineer's Report on the flooding in Littleton Cemetery has been received and is being considered. He added that a solution to the problem has not yet been identified and that the matter will be included on the Agenda for the next meeting.

Members expressed disappointment with the response and suggested the problem is not receiving the priority it deserves.

iii. Hedge Cutting.

- The District Engineer confirmed that hedge cutting notices are served on landowners as required.
- Members queried the manner in which the notices are issued and the fact that on occasions, landowners were informed notices were issued at the request of a named Councillor.
- The Policy on the issue of Hedge Cutting Notices for Coillte and Private Forestry Companies was raised.
- The District Engineer advised that:



- It is not feasible to tender for hedge cutting per kilometre rather than per hour as the Council provides the associated traffic management and there may also be issues with the quality of the work carried out.
- The spraying of growth at road junctions is not permitted on environmental grounds.

iv. Housing Issues.

Members queried the arrangements for meeting tenants and housing applicants in the Templemore-Thurles Municipal District. The position in relation to the Tenant Liaison Officer was also raised.

It was agreed that the Housing Director be asked to make a presentation on the Housing Function at the next meeting.

5 Update on Special Projects.

The District Director advised that a number of projects were being progressed by the various Councils prior to the Merger as follows:

Project	Current Position
The Roscrea Enhancement Scheme.	Upgrading of Madden's Lane is in progress.
Extension to Templemore Town Park.	Land adjoining the Park was acquired by Templemore Town Council in the last 12 months.
Construction of a Town Park on a site off Cathedral Street, Thurles adjoining The Source and The Leisure Centre.	The project is due to go to tender in August / September.
Liberty Square Thurles Refurbishment Scheme and Development of a Carpark.	Plans for the public consultation process under the Planning & Development Acts are being finalised.
Refurbishment of the Library Offices, Castle Avenue, Thurles for the Municipal District Offices.	The Architect is finalising plans for same.
Thurles Link Road (Mill Road to Clongour).	Plans for the proposed link road have been approved by An Board Pleanála and an application will be made to the Department for funding to progress the project.



It was noted that updates on the projects will be provided on an ongoing basis.

6 Update on Capital Projects in the Area.

The Municipal Director advised that:

- Each Directorate is responsible for capital projects within its remit for the entire County but District personnel may be asked to carry out the work.
- There have been allocations over the past few years in the housing area to upgrade the energy efficiency of the housing stock.
- It would be a matter for the Environment Section to progress capital projects relating to burial grounds, secure funding etc but the actual work may be undertaken by District staff.

Councillor J. Bourke referred to the recent allocation of funding for the refurbishment of vacant Council houses. He asked that a number of vacant houses in Railway Road / Lacey Avenue, Templemore be dealt with.

7 Update on 2014 Budgets.

The District Administrator advised that:

- The main headings under which Budgets have been assigned to the Municipal Districts are:
 - Housing Maintenance
 - Road Maintenance & Improvements
 - Burial Ground Operation & Maintenance
 - Street Cleaning & Litter Bins
 - Maintenance of Open Spaces - grass cutting, maintenance of Templemore Town Park etc
- The Town Councils of Templemore and Thurles adopted individual Budgets in 2014 for each of the services.
- The Thurles and Templemore-Roscrea Engineering areas were allocated Budgets for their areas.
- Funding is being transferred to deal with the additional houses and roads which came into the District from Gortnahoe, Holycross, etc.

8 Notices of Motion.

(a) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor M. Lowry.

Councillor M. Lowry formally moved the following Notice of Motion in his name:



"That this Council engage with Irish Water to ensure that there are no further delays in securing a long term solution to the ongoing water shortage issues affecting residents in the Holycross area."

The District Director read a comprehensive response to the Notice of Motion in which it was indicated that the Council propose the following suite of actions to alleviate the difficulties:

- Supply and install a pressure reduction valve at Clonoulty East which will pressure manage the watermain.
- Install an Inlet Control Valve for Killough Reservoir.
- Locate a new booster pump at Regaile in order to reduce pressures behind the pump and level pressures in front of the pump.

Councillor Lowry welcomed the proposed works and urged that they be completed in the shortest timeframe possible. He pointed out that water supply to the area has been disrupted frequently and that householders are very frustrated with the lack of action to alleviate the problem.

The other Members supported Councillor Lowry's request.

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

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

"Due to the severe long term sewage problems in the Friar Street area of Thurles, I am calling on both Irish Water and Tipperary County Council to come up with an acceptable solution as a matter of urgency."

The District Administrator advised that the sewer has been repaired by the County Council on behalf of Irish Water. He added that the owner is generally responsible for the repair of the service from the property to the main sewer but that in this case the damage may have been caused to the service pipe during road reconstruction works some years ago.

Members noted the position and asked that the sewer be monitored to ensure that the problem does not reoccur.

(c) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor S. Hanafin.

Councillor S. Hanafin formally moved the following Notice of Motion in his name:

"After the amalgamation of the County Council, the Municipal District of Templemore-Thurles now includes areas which were formerly part of South Tipperary (eg Gortnahoe, Ballysloe, Gaile, Glenbane). What roads funding has been provided in 2014 for these areas?"



The District Director advised that the Roads Section are currently reviewing the funding for road maintenance in the County. He indicated that it is anticipated that additional funding will be allocated to the Templemore-Thurles Municipal District to deal with maintenance of roads which have been added to the District.

Councillor W. Kennedy suggested that a special allocation is needed to repair the roads in the high areas of the District which were badly damaged by the floods earlier in the year.

(d) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor S. Hanafin.

Councillor S. Hanafin formally moved the following Notice of Motion in his name:

"What is the up to date position regarding the remedial works required in Thurles Swimming Pool and what is the expected re-opening date?"

The District Director advised that :

- A Specialist Architect was engaged to investigate the cause of the tiles lifting and this report is being considered.
- An architect will be appointed immediately to prepare a specification for retiling the pool and the work will be put out to tender as soon as possible.
- The Architect who designed and supervised the construction of the Leisure Centre and the Contractor have both gone into liquidation.
- The Leisure Centre is in contact with its Insurers who are awaiting the submission of the Architect's Report and Specification.
- It is not feasible at this stage to give a date for the completion of the repairs and the re-opening of the Swimming Pool.

Members expressed dissatisfaction with the delay and indicated that customers are very frustrated with the situation. It was suggested that arrangements be made for customers to use either the Garda College or the Anner Hotel pools.

9 Correspondence.

(a) Goul Joint Drainage Committee.

The District Administrator advised that the Auditor's Report on the accounts of the Goul Joint Drainage Committee for the year ended 31st. December, 2013 has been received and is available for inspection.



Councillor J. Hogan indicated that a meeting of the Committee was cancelled and that he had not yet been notified of the new date.

(b) Purchase of Houses at Ros na Cronan, Roscrea.

The Cathaoirleach expressed disappointment that the proposed purchase of 12 houses at Ros na Cronan, Roscrea, which was announced prior to the local elections, is not going ahead. He indicated that he had arranged for a Parliamentary question to be tabled for the Minister for the Environment, Heritage & Local Government, Jan O'Sullivan and he read the response.

The District Director advised that the County Council had withdrawn from the purchase of 12 houses at Ros na Cronan as they had been sold to a third party. He added that the County Council are in contact with the Department on an alternative proposal for the funding and confirmed that it is available for housing in Roscrea.

10 Votes of Congratulations / Sympathy.

Councillor D. Doran proposed a vote of congratulations to the Sarsfield GAA Club on organising a very successful International Hurling Festival in Thurles earlier in the month.

11 Any Other Business.

Minor works at Currabaha which are outstanding for some time.	The matter will be investigated.
Civic Receptions for the Borrisoleigh Scor Novelty Act Group and Templemore Athletic Club to mark their successes.	The holding of Civic Receptions is to be discussed at CPG level with a view to agreeing a protocol for same.
Closure of Lisheen Mine which is scheduled to take place at the end of 2015 - there is a need to look at alternative uses for the site.	The situation will be clarified with Lisheen Mines.
Introduction of a weight restriction on vehicles using Cuchulainn Road.	The request will be referred to the Roads Section for consideration.
Establishment of a Joint Policing Committee at Municipal District level - it would provide a forum for raising issues with the Gardai.	The legislation provides for the setting up of a Joint Policing Committee at County level only.
Repair of the boundary wall at Loughtagalla Park, Thurles.	The matter will be examined.



Implementation of traffic calming measures in the Loughtagalla estates, Thurles.	The request will be considered by the Roads Section.
Installation of speed ramps / pedestrian crossing at Loughtagalla to facilitate elderly residents crossing to the local shop.	The request will be referred to the Roads Section for examination.
Issue of the speed limit on the old Dublin Road N8 (now the R639) - the speed limit is 80kmh from the Horse & Jockey to Cashel.	The matter will be referred to the Roads Section for examination.
Repair of the road at Grallagh / Knockanas just after the District boundary.	The request will be referred to the Carrick-on-Suir Municipal District for attention.
Update on the repair of the Railway Bridges over the abandoned railway line at Graigue and Cloughmartin.	The matter will be taken up with Iarnród Éireann who are responsible for carrying out the repairs.
Difficulty of residents at Kennedy / Collins / Childers Parks, Thurles in accessing their houses on "Match" days.	The matter will be referred to the Gardai.
Repair of footpaths in the Cluain na Seimhre estate, Two-Mile-Borris.	There is no funding in the 2014 Budget for footpath repairs at this location.
Allocation of funding for the extension of a footpath from the Town boundary to Drish Bridge on the N75.	There is no funding available in 2014 to extend the footpath at this location.
Upgrading of Loughtagalla Park, Thurles - e.g. provision of a path around it for recreational runners / walkers.	The request will be examined in the context of the funding available.
Extension of the prohibition on parking on Parnell Street, Thurles.	The request will be referred to the Roads Section for consideration.
Repair of the road at Strogue / Derheens, Castleiney.	The request will receive attention.

THAT CONCLUDED THE OFFICIAL BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: 24th. September, 2014.

SIGNED: _____
MEETING ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: 24th. September, 2014.