



MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE TEMPLEMORE-THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD IN THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICES, SLIEVENAMON ROAD, THURLES ON WEDNESDAY, 25th NOVEMBER, 2015.

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

Apologies: Michael Tierney B.E. Executive Engineer.

1. Adoption of Minutes.

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

"That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting which was held on the 28th. October, 2015 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

2. Planning Service.

The Cathaoirleach and Members welcomed Karl Cashen, Director of Services, Brian Beck, Senior Planner and Annette Daly, Staff Officer, Planning Section who were in attendance for this item.

Update on the Taking of Estates in Charge.

- Brian Beck advised that this item will be taken "in committee". He pointed out, in response to objections from the Cathaoirleach and Members, that it was decided at the January Monthly Meeting of the County Council that periodic updates would be given "in Committee" to each of the Municipal Districts as some of the information may be of a sensitive or confidential nature.



- Brian Beck gave a comprehensive presentation on the taking in charge of estates throughout the County and the issues arising and he responded to queries from Members.
- Annette Daly updated the Members on the current position in relation to the taking in charge of specific estates in the District and responded to queries from Members.
- The Cathaoirleach expressed the view that, in his opinion, nothing emerged during the presentation which could not have been said in public and that the public have a right to know what is happening.

Karl Cashen advised that the decision was taken as some information may be sensitive / confidential.

Planning Update.

Copy of an Information Note on planning statistics indicating the number of valid application received, decisions granted and refused was circulated at the Meeting. It was noted that there was a 37% increase in the number of valid applications received from June to October 2015 when compared with the same period last year.

Conclusion.

The Cathaoirleach and Members thanked the Planning Staff for the update and they withdrew from the Chamber.

3. Fix date for the December Monthly Meeting.

The District Administrator advised that the December Monthly Meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 23rd. December, 2015.

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

"That the December Monthly Meeting of the Templemore-Thurles Municipal District be held on Monday, 21st. December, 2015, commencing at 10.00 am."

Councillor S. Hanafin referred to the cramped conditions in the Council Chamber and he suggested that an alternative venue be used pending the completion of the construction works on the Library Headquarters.

The District Administrator advised that the decision to relocate the Monthly Meetings to the Municipal District Offices arose due to the limited off-street parking at the Library Offices and to avoid increased parking on Castle Avenue which would impact on the residents.



4. **Crime Prevention - Installation of CCTV Cameras.**

Councillor D. Doran indicated that he had asked for this item to be placed on the Agenda and he appealed for the support of the Members in setting aside some funding to install CCTV cameras in rural locations in the Municipal District that have been targeted on several occasions by criminal gangs.

The District Administrator confirmed, in response to queries raised by the Members, that:-

- There was a significant workload involved in providing CCTV cameras in Thurles under the Community Based CCTV Scheme which was managed by Pobal and there are 12 cameras in total.
- There is currently no funding scheme for the installation of community CCTV cameras.
- There is a requirement to erect signs advising the public of the existence of cameras in specific areas.
- The local authority is required to assume responsibility for the management and operation of the CCTV system in compliance with Data Protection legislation.
- The Joint Policing Committee is the statutory structure established to discuss matters relating to policing.

It was agreed that an invitation be extended to the Chief Superintendent to attend a meeting of the Municipal District to discuss this item and other issues of concern and that Councillor Doran would raise the matter at the next meeting of the Joint Policing Committee.

5. **General Municipal Allocation 2015.**

The Cathaoirleach asked that a detailed breakdown of expenditure under the various budget headings for the District be provided to the Members on a regular basis.

The District Administrator confirmed that:-

- The Schedule of Municipal District Works which sets out the budgets for road maintenance, housing maintenance, street cleaning, maintenance of amenities, drainage works and burial ground maintenance for the District was adopted by the Members at the March Monthly Meeting.
- There are other budgets which are controlled centrally.
- The Municipal District does not decide on the budgets for the various services e.g. the housing maintenance budget is allocated to the Districts by the Housing Section.



- Outturn expenditure figures for 2015 will be provided to the Members in early 2016.

The District Director confirmed that:-

- The budgets for grants to Tidy Towns and Burial Ground Committees are being assigned to the Municipal Districts from 2016 and the Members will have discretion on the level of funding under each heading.
- The allocation for Sports / Recreational Grants is under-spent by €7,000 but it is anticipated that there will be an increase in applications next year as more clubs / organisations become aware of the Scheme.
- The provision of €5,000 for Civic Awards has not been expended as an allocation of €6,000 was made by Corporate Support later in the year for this purpose.
- A total of €5,000 has been expended on minor improvements in Burial Grounds leaving a balance of €5,000.
- The contingency fund of €11,389 is unspent.
- It is proposed to capitalise the unspent balance of €27,389 which will be available to the District next year.

Members proposed that:-

- The Burial Ground Minor Improvements balance of €5,000 be retained for the same purpose next year.
- The level of grants paid to Sporting Bodies be increased in 2016.
- Funding be made available to organisations who wish to commemorate the Centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising.
- Grants be allocated to villages for Christmas lights.
- A Grant of €8,800 be made to Roscrea Chamber towards the cost of Christmas lights this year as they received grants in previous years which were funded from Pay Parking.
- A contribution should be provided to other villages similar to the grant given to the Littleton Development Association as they also undertake valuable work.
- A Grants Scheme for the erection of Christmas lights in the towns and villages in the District be set up from 2016 going forward.

The District Director confirmed that a contribution of €1,000 was paid to Littleton Development Association from the Environment Budget for allowing the Bottle Banks to be relocated within the grounds of the new Community Centre. He added that the old site proved to be extremely problematic and that it had taken two years to secure an alternative site.



The District Administrator outlined the history in regard to the provision of Christmas lights in Thurles and he explained that the Rates were increased many years ago by the former Town Council to provide the funding. He added that the expenditure ranges from €45,000 to €55,000 depending on the number of lights/features that need to be replaced and that the width of Liberty Square also makes the erection of the lights more difficult and expensive.

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

"(a) Financial assistance be provided from the General Municipal Allocation 2015 to the communities/organisations in the following town and villages towards the cost of Christmas lights:-

Roscrea	€8,800
Borrisoleigh	€2,500
Moyne	€1,000
Littleton	€1,000
Clonmore	€500
Holycross	€500
Total	€14,300

(b) The balance of €5,000 for Burial Ground Minor Improvements be capitalised and spent in 2016 for this purpose.

(c) The remainder of the General Municipal Allocation 2015 in the amount of €8,089 be capitalised and spent in the Municipal District next year at the discretion of the Members."

6. Awards.

The District Director recommended that the Civic Receptions already agreed to be held in conjunction with an Awards Night to acknowledge the contributions of the Tidy Towns and Burial Grounds Committees in the Municipal District.

The District Administrator pointed out that:-

- Civic Receptions have lost their impact due to the significant number of requests being put forward.
- There are a disproportionate number of requests for individuals / organisations located in Thurles town in comparison with the remainder of the District.
- Attendance by Members at the Receptions is often poor.
- A protocol should be put in place at Municipal District level for considering requests from here on.



It was agreed that:-

- The Civic Receptions for Greg Broderick, Gráinne O'Dwyer, Áine Ryan, Kieran Byrnes and Noel Joyce be held in January, 2016.
- A separate Awards Night be held to honour the Tidy Towns and Burial Grounds Committees in early 2016.
- A sub-Committee comprising of the Cathaoirleach, District Director and District Administrator develop a protocol for assessing requests for Civic Receptions and acknowledging achievements of individuals/ organisations with effect from 2016 for consideration by the Members.

7. Update on 2015 Work Programmes.

The District Engineer confirmed that the 2015 Roads Programme has been completed and he asked Members to submit roads which they wish to have considered for inclusion in the new 4 Year Roads Programme currently being prepared.

Members raised the following matters:-

Issue	Response
Aughall Bridge on the Templemore/Templetuohy Road - a further section of the Bridge is in a dangerous condition.	An application has been submitted to Roads Section for funding to undertake improvements to the Bridge next year and the signage has been improved.
The need to clean inlets in upland areas in advance of the winter season to avoid damage to the roads during heavy rainfall.	The request will be implemented.
Inspection of roads in the District during heavy rainfall with a view to identifying areas prone to flooding and solutions to address them.	The suggestion will be taken on board.
Upgrading the public lighting on Slievenamon Road, Thurles to route lighting and the extension of the lighting towards the Golf Club.	The request will be submitted to Roads Section for referral to the TII.
Implementation of safety measures at the Drish and Turtulla junctions, Thurles.	The complaint in regard to Drish junction has been referred to the Roads Design Section for assessment.
Renewal of the box junction outside Pouldine National School.	The work has been completed.
Relocation of the advance flashing lights at Abbey Road to Castlemeadows, Thurles for the benefit of the students attending Coláiste Mhuire.	This type of light is no longer used and there is no suitable location near Coláiste Mhuire due to its close proximity to the LIT Tipperary roundabout.



Flooding at Ileigh Church.	The issue will be addressed.
Surface water flowing off the public road into driveways at Skehana, Two-Mile-Borris, Thurles.	The complaint will receive attention.
Provision of flashing speed display sign at Rahealty School, Thurles.	Speed checks are currently being carried out.
Provision of roundabouts at Turtulla and Killinan junctions, Thurles to improve safety.	It would be very difficult to install a roundabout at Killinan Cross due to the complexity of the junction.

8. Update on Projects.

Thurles Town Park.

- I. The landscaping of the soft areas in the Town Park is being undertaken on a phased basis as the weather permits.
- II. Vedanta (Lisheen Mines) will visit the Town Park on Monday 30th. November, 2015 at 2.00 pm to unveil a plaque acknowledging their financial contribution towards the children's playground.
Members are invited to attend.

Liberty Square
Refurbishment and
development of a
carpark.

The Part 8 Plans and Specification have been completed and a presentation will be made to the Members at the December Monthly Meeting subject to the availability of the Design Team.

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

The contract is proceeding satisfactorily and a site visit will be organised for the Members early next year.

Repairs / Improvements
to Templemore Town
Hall

An inspection by the Conservation Architect in the last two weeks has identified the priority works required. It is proposed to engage a Contractor in the coming months to undertake these works.



Templemore Town Park
Extension.

A master plan is currently being prepared
by the Planning Section.

2015 Painting Scheme.

Only 15 of the 45 applicants have returned
receipts to the Council and a reminder will
issue to the remainder in the next week.

Matters arising.

The following matters were raised:

- There is a Workshop in the Anner Hotel on Monday 30th November, 2015 at 2.00pm - contact to be made with Sean Keating, Director of Services to delay the commencement of the Workshop to allow Members attend the event at the Town Park.
- (i) The feasibility of relocating the Public Convenience from Parnell Street to the Thurles Town Park and of constructing a conventional toilet in the Town Park in the long-term should be examined.
- (i) Update in regard to a tenant for the Town Hall, Templemore - no update available.
(ii) All works that are necessary to the Town Hall should be undertaken when the scaffolding is erected.
- Thurles Chamber is organising the switch on of the Thurles Christmas lights on Friday or Saturday week and Members will be notified.

9. Notices of Motion.

The Notices of Motion in the names of Councillor J. Ryan and Councillor J. Cahill were taken together as they both relate to flooding at Friar Street, Thurles.

(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 Council to come up with a final solution to the unacceptable long term flooding problems in Friar Street, Thurles."

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

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

"Flooding in Friar Street, Thurles - barriers need to be provided for residents and business premises to help to prevent flooding until a permanent solution is found."

25th. November, 2015.



Councillor J. Ryan pointed out that while he understood there are capacity issues with the existing system, businesses are being adversely affected and a long-term solution is urgently required.

Councillor J. Cahill urged the Council to supply businesses with flood barriers in the interim to avoid surface water going into their premises.

The District Engineer explained that the combined sewer does not have the capacity to take all the surface water during periods of torrential rain and that it is proposed to reduce the volume entering the system by connecting some of the road gullies to an alternative storm water sewer. He cautioned that the measures are only a temporary solution and will not fully address flooding in the area during heavy rainfall.

10. Correspondence.

There was no correspondence received.

11. Vote of Congratulations / Sympathy.

Councillor W. Kennedy proposed a vote of sympathy with Martin Carey, Foilnamon, Milestone, Thurles, a Council employee, on the death of his brother Roger Carey.

12. Any Other Business.

The following issues were raised:-

Issue	Response
Bord na Móna, Littleton - horses left on their lands near the Briquette factory stray onto the public road.	A good relationship exists between the County Council and the Tipperary Travellers Horseowners Association which has resulted in a reduction of stray horses on public roads and the issue will be taken up with them by the Environment Section. The Council is only responsible for the removal of stray horses from public roads and the cost per horse is approximately €1,000.
The stealing of artefacts from graves in burial grounds throughout the District.	The action causes huge upset to families.
Provision of free parking in Roscrea, Templemore and Thurles in the lead up to Christmas.	Free parking will be allowed in the three Towns as in previous years.



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

Comhairle Contae
Thiobraid Árann,
Oifigi Cheantar Bardasach
an Teampaill Mhóir-
Dhurlais, Bóthar Shliabh
na mBan, Durlas,
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The 2014 EPA Annual Report - the Roscrea Wastewater Treatment Plant failed to meet the effluent quality standard for nitrogen.	The issue is being addressed by Irish Water.
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THAT CONCLUDED THE OFFICIAL BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: 21st. December, 2015.

SIGNED: _____
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: 21st. December, 2015.