



MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE TEMPLEMORE THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD IN THE LIBRARY OFFICES, CASTLE AVENUE, THURLES ON WEDNESDAY, 22nd. OCTOBER, 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 Meetings Administrator.

1. Adoption of Minutes.

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

"That the Minutes of (a) the Monthly Meeting of the Templemore-Thurles Municipal District which was held on Wednesday 24th. September, 2014 and (b) the Statutory Meeting of the Templemore-Thurles Municipal District to consider the Draft Budgetary Plan for the District which was held on Thursday, 9th. October, 2014 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the meetings."

Matters arising from the Minutes:

Item	Response
Provision of speed ramps in Gortnahoe and Littleton.	The provision of ramps in housing estates will be considered in accordance with new guidelines being issued by the Department.
Modification of the 'build-outs' on the Templemore Road, Thurles which pose a danger to cyclists.	The 'build-outs' are required to prevent vehicles parking too close to the school entrances, thus restricting the sightlines.
Implementation of safety measures at Turtulla junction, Thurles on the N62.	The junction will be planed and overlaid with asphalt in the next few weeks. Improved signage and lining will be provided. The situation has been raised with the NRA Inspector.
Repair of footpaths at Cabra Road and the Mill Road, Thurles.	The repairs have been completed.
Review of the 3 Year Roads Programme.	The 3 Year Roads Programme will be realigned in 2015 to the footprint of the Municipal District.



Improve walking / cycle routes under the Active Travel Allocation e.g. the River Walk / Mill Road.	The Roads Section will be asked for an update.
Clean up of the Riverwalk at Ladyswell, Thurles i.e. cut back briars / growth - Community Employment Scheme.	The request will receive attention.
Poor condition of roads in the Gortnahoe area (Williamstown/ The Commons) - roads have not been resurfaced for the past 45 years.	Roads in the Gortnahoe area will be considered for inclusion in the 2015 Roadworks Programme. A request for an increased allocation will be referred to the Roads Section for attention.
Appointment of a Tenant Liaison Officer to be based in Thurles.	The request will be referred to the Housing Section for consideration.
'Arising from the Minutes' to be included as an item on the Agenda going forward.	Agreed.

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

The District Director recommended that consideration of this matter be deferred to a later date. He indicated that:

- The County Council adopted a protocol for granting Civic Receptions at the October Monthly Meeting.
- Following the adoption of the Budget by the County Council, a schedule of works to be carried out in each district has to be prepared and submitted to the Members for consideration and adoption.

The Members noted the Director's recommendation and agreed to defer the setting up of a Standing Orders Committee to a later date.

3 **Planning Function.**

Brian Beck, Senior Planner was in attendance.

The Meetings Administrator advised that Karl Cashen, Director of Services is on leave and that Dave Carroll, CFO, Acting Director of Services had a prior appointment.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Brian Beck to the Meeting.

Brian Beck made the following points in the course of his presentation and in response to queries / comments from Members:

- Members had an opportunity to raise issues at a Workshop which was held in the Anner Hotel on the 15th. September, 2014.
- The main focus of the planning staff is to provide an efficient and effective service to the Members and the public.



- Members have a statutory role in the consideration and adoption of the Development Plan.
- There is no issue with de-zoning land in villages and regulations/guidelines on the levying of the proposed tax on derelict / unused zoned land have not been issued by the Minister.
- The Development Plans adopted by Cashel and Thurles Town Councils have been extended.
- The preparation, consideration and adoption of a development plan is a two year process while the preparation of a local area plan is much shorter (18 weeks).
- The Forward Planning Section is engaged in the preparation of housing, retail and wind energy strategies.
- Local Area Plans are being prepared for Holycross, Thurles, Roscrea and Templemore.
- Derelict sites are dealt with under the Derelict Sites Acts 1990 and they come within the remit of the Environment Section.
- The inclusion of a condition in planning permissions for retail developments selling high value goods requiring the installation of CCTV systems in the interests of crime prevention can be considered.

Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor S. Hanafin.

It was agreed to consider Notice of Motion 6(d) in the name of Councillor S. Hanafin relating to taking estates in charge at this stage of the Meeting.

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

"I am requesting that this Council implements a programme of taking estates in charge. There are a large number of completed estates in the Thurles Area not yet fully taken in charge including: Cluain Glas, Marlstone Manor, the Willows, Hazelwood, Elmwood and Ard Carraig in Thurles and Dun na Ri, Ardleigh, Glencarraig and Castlepark in Two Mile Borris. I am requesting that this work commence immediately and that these estates be fully taken in charge by Tipperary County Council without any further delay."

Councillor Hanafin in moving the Motion stated that:-

- He hoped the process of taking estates in charge would commence without delay and that Irish Water will not delay matters.
- There is a lot of frustration in these estates, many of which are in a very poor state of repair and at a time when householders will be required to pay the Local Property Tax and Water Charges.



- The Council should proceed with taking the roads, public lighting and open spaces in charge pending clarification of the Irish Water position.
- It is inconceivable that some of the estates have not been taken in charge even though they have been completed for years.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Jackie Cahill and supported by the other Members. It was pointed out that each Councillor could submit a similar list of estates.

Brian Beck responded to the Notice of Motion and to the points made as follows:-

- The Planning Authority is currently processing taking in charge requests for Cluain Glas, The Willows, Hazelwood, Elmwood, Ard Carraig, Dun na Ri, Ard Leigh and Glencarraig in accordance with its policy.
- Outstanding issues have been identified and options to regularise them are being examined.
- The Castlepark estate, Two-Mile-Borris has been taken in charge since the 17th. October, 2011.
- No request has been received to take the Marlstone Manor estate, Thurles in charge.
- It is proposed to bring a revised 'Taking in Charge' policy to the Planning SPC at an early date.
- No application to take an estate is being 'kicked to touch' but the Council must follow the procedures laid down.
- There are a large number of 'Taking in Charge' applications on hand and each development has to be surveyed and a schedule of outstanding works prepared and agreed with the developer / bond provider, where applicable.
- Irish Water is to issue clarification shortly on taking water services in charge.
- A revised procedure for taking developments in charge is to be included in the new Planning Bill which is due to be published before the end of the year.
- Responsibility for completing outstanding works is a matter for the developer in the first instance and failing that, the Council will make a claim against the Bond.
- The Council endeavour to work with the developers - calling in a Bond could be very damaging for their credibility.
- The Planning Authority may be exposed to significant liabilities in cases where the developers have gone out of business and there are no bonds in place.

The District Director advised that the Chief Executive has requested the preparation of a Study to quantify the potential liability which could accrue to the Council in bringing unfinished developments up to standard and that a report will be brought to the January Meeting of the County Council. He added that there are a number of stakeholders involved including developers, builders, bond providers, insurance companies, banks and management companies.



The following issues were raised:

Issue	Response
Demolished property at Westgate, Thurles - the owner of the adjoining property claims that he has had to close his business due the damage caused.	The question of damage to the property is a civil matter between the parties and there has been litigation between them. The property has been inspected under the Derelict Sites Act.
Policy on grass cutting in estates which have been taken in charge should be consistent throughout the area - the Council cuts the grass in some estates.	The Council could use the GMA to make grants available to residents for grass cutting.
Condition of individual houses in estates which have been repossessed by Financial Institutions.	The Council has no role in the matter other than under the Derelict Sites Acts. The acquisition of property under the Acts is a long process.
Reduction of development contributions for "once-off" rural houses - the introduction of the new certification rules has resulted in increased costs for people building a "once-off" house.	The Development Contribution Scheme is currently being reviewed.
Derelict property at The Square, Templemore - a hoarding has been erected on the footpath to protect pedestrians from falling slates.	The matter will be referred to the Environment Section for action under the Derelict Sites Act, 1990.

Conclusion.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Brian Beck for his presentation and Brian Beck left the Meeting.

4 Update on the 2014 Works Programme.

The District Engineer advised that the 2014 Roadworks Programme has been completed except for the following:

- A number of the Community Involvement Schemes.
- The overlay at Rathmanna on N75 Thurles - Two-Mile-Borris Road - the work is currently in progress and will be completed within a few days.



- Pavement improvement at the Turtulla Thurles junction on the N62 - this will be carried out within the next few weeks.
- Improvements on Parnell Street/Cuchulainn Road, Thurles - the works have been delayed as the selected contractor withdrew.
- The Thurles and Templemore Towns Improvement Programmes - work is in progress and will be completed in the coming weeks.
- The Low Cost Safety Scheme at Monastery Road, Roscrea - work is about to commence.
- The Low Cost Safety Scheme at Gortalough, Borrisoleigh - the Engineer is negotiating the purchase of land.
- The Low Cost Safety Scheme at the Lidl Roundabout, Abbey Road, Thurles - the Scheme is being postponed to 2015 to allow for the installation of a watermain under the Thurles Regional Water Supply Scheme.

Members expressed serious concern that work on Parnell Street in the run-up to Christmas will cause severe traffic disruption and impact negatively on business. The District Engineer undertook to explore the possibility of postponing the work to early 2015.

Members raised the following items:

Item Raised	Response
The upgrading of lighting at Convent Hill, Roscrea - footpath improvements are currently in progress.	The position will be clarified with the Engineer.
Installation of speed ramps in the Ard na Greine estate, Roscrea.	The Engineer will be asked for an update.
Upgrading of the lights at Bohervaroon, Thurles.	An order has been issued to Airtricity to replace the lights.
Extension of the footpath at the Abbey Tavern, Holycross.	There is no funding available this year.
Repair of footpaths in the Cluain na Seimre estate, Two-Mile-Borris.	There is no funding available this year.
Installation of traffic calming measures on Roscrea Road, Templemore.	The request will be considered for inclusion under the 2015 Roadworks Programme.
Resurfacing of the road at Williamstown, Gortnahoe.	The request will be considered for inclusion under the 2015 Roadworks Programme.



The issue of grass cutting throughout the District must be addressed - the County Council provide grass cutting in some estates in Two-Mile-Borris (Cluain na Seimre and Fanning Park) but not in others.

Thurles Regional Water Supply Scheme - Permanent Reinstatement of Roads.

The District Director updated the Members on the Thurles Regional Water Supply Scheme as follows:

- Approximately 99% of the 40km of pipelines are constructed.
- Pipeline work in Holycross is in progress.
- Cross connections at Tobin's Cross and Cloughmartin Road have to be completed.
- Work on the reservoir at Garrynamona is completed except for some minor snagging.
- The valve house at Ard na Croise is completed with minor snagging ongoing.
- The booster stations at Drombane and Borrisoleigh are completed: some electrical works ongoing.
- Road reinstatement from Borrisoleigh to Pallas Cross to Annfield Bridge to the Limerick Road is in progress.
- Some land has been reinstated and returned to landowners.
- The remaining land reinstatement will be completed in early 2015.
- The Contractor is responsible for completing the temporary road reinstatement and the County Council will undertake the permanent reinstatement.
- Discussions are taking place between the County Council Engineers and Irish Water regarding the level of funding available for the permanent reinstatement.

The Members noted the position.

Councillor M. Lowry expressed disappointment with the response as it did not confirm that the required funding will be forthcoming for the permanent reinstatement. He stated that the funding cannot be at the expense of the roads budget for the District.

Councillor Lowry raised the issue of the reinstatement of farm land and its return to the farmers. He advised that the late return of the land may have implications for EU payments and he asked that discussions on the matter take place with farmers and / or their representatives with a view to having agreements put in place setting time limits etc.

Councillor Lowry also pointed out that there are areas adjoining public roads which need to be addressed in order to prevent illegal parking.

Other Members endorsed Councillor Lowry's comments.



5 Update on Special Projects.

The Members noted the following update on Special Projects:

Project	Current Position
The Roscrea Enhancement Scheme.	A Special Grant received this year under the Enhancement Scheme was expended on upgrading Madden's Lane. It is proposed to upgrade the lane adjoining the Garda Station in 2015.
Extension to Templemore Town Park.	An architect will be appointed later in the year to prepare a Master Plan for the land acquired.
Thurles Town Park.	Tenders have been received and are currently being assessed by the Architect.
Liberty Square Thurles Refurbishment Scheme and Development of a Carpark.	It is anticipated that the public consultation process under the Planning & Development Acts will commence before the end of the year.
Refurbishment of the Library Offices, Castle Avenue, Thurles for the Municipal District Offices.	The Architect is finalising the plans and it is anticipated that the project will go to tender before the end of year.
Thurles Link Road (Mill Road to Clongour).	An Board Pleanála has approved the preliminary design for the road and the final detailed design is being prepared. Negotiations for the purchase of the land are ongoing. No funding has yet been allocated by the Department for the project.
Repair of Thurles Swimming Pool.	A tender has been accepted to undertake the repairs and a meeting with the successful contractor is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 28th. October. 2014.



Templemore Town Hall.

Councillor J. Bourke asked for an update on the future of Templemore Town Hall and if there is any success in finding a tenant. He also indicated that Templemore Town Council put money aside for its improvement.

It was agreed that an update be given at the next meeting.

Cathaoirleach.

The Cathaoirleach indicated that due to a pressing engagement, he had to leave the Meeting.

The Leas-Cathaoirleach, Councillor Jackie Cahill, took the Chair.

6 Notices of Motion.

(a) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor W. Kennedy.

Councillor Willie Kennedy indicated that he wished to withdraw the following Notice of Motion in his name:

"I call on the Council to provide a water connection in the burial ground at Killinan as the lack of this facility is causing great inconvenience at present."

The Members noted the position.

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

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

"I am calling on this Municipal District to introduce a weight restriction on Cuchulainn Road as this is causing unnecessary traffic congestion and to encourage the use of the Jimmy Doyle Road as an alternative route with signage indicating same. I am also calling for a continuous yellow line on Parnell Street."

Councillor Doran indicated that himself and Councillors J. Ryan and N. O'Dwyer had tabled similar motions in the past at meetings of Thurles Town Council. He suggested that extending the yellow lines on Parnell Street and the introduction of weight restriction on HGVs using Cuchulainn Road would significantly improve traffic flow. He also pointed out that over 6,000 people had signed a petition calling for the extension of the yellow lines on Parnell Street.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor J. Ryan who endorsed Councillor Doran's comments.

The District Engineer responded to the Notice of Motion as follows:



A traffic management survey and traffic counts are being carried out at the junctions and the information generated will form the basis of a traffic management plan for the area. It is essential that the traffic counts included school traffic hence the delay in commencing the counts until the schools are open.

Other Members expressed the view that removing parking from Parnell Street would have very little impact on traffic flow, put pressure on other junctions and would devastate businesses on the street. They pointed out that a similar case could be made for removing parking from other streets and isolating Parnell Street was not the way to proceed.

It was agreed that a weight restriction on HGVs using Cuchulainn Road be implemented at a later date when the proposed improvement work on Parnell Street is completed.

(c) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor D. Doran.

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

"I am calling on this Municipal District to carry out the appropriate drainage works at Galbertstown, Holycross, in order to rectify the serious flooding that occurs there regularly, none more serious and prolonged than that which occurred earlier this year."

The Motion was seconded by Councillor J. Ryan.

Councillor Doran pointed out that flooding had caused serious disruption to residents living on the road and he urged the Council to find a resolution as a matter of priority before the winter.

The District Engineer responded to the Notice of Motion as follows:

A topographical survey of the area has been carried out, a drainage plan designed and trial holes completed on the proposed drainage line. The drainage of the area will be very costly as the trial holes indicate the presence of a significant outcrop of rock. Consequently a special allocation will be required to fund the works.

Councillor Doran expressed disappointment with the response and stated it will give very little confidence to residents that their situation will improve in the short term.

Other Members indicated that they have been in discussions with the Engineer exploring options to resolve the problem.



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

The following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Seamus Hanafin was dealt with earlier in the Meeting under Item 3 - Planning Function:

"I am requesting that this Council implements a programme of taking estates in charge. There are a large number of completed estates in the Thurles Area not yet fully taken in charge including: Cluain Glas, Marlstone Manor, the Willows, Hazelwood, Elmwood and Ard Carraig in Thurles and Dun na Ri, Ardleigh, Glencarraig and Castlepark in Two Mile Borris. I am requesting that this work commence immediately and that these estates be fully taken in charge by Tipperary County Council without any further delay."

7 Correspondence.

(a) Parking for residents in the Estates adjoining Semples Stadium on 'big' Match Days.

The response from the Superintendent to representations on behalf of residents of the estates adjoining Semples Stadium regarding difficulties experienced by them in gaining access to their houses on 'big' Match Days, copy of which was circulated, was noted.

The Superintendent advised that a traffic plan is in place for all matches and only vehicles owned by residents are allowed into the area once a cordon is put in place. He added out that it is important for residents to display their residents pass on vehicles to assist the Gardai in identifying them.

(b) Provision of a Helipad at the Community Hospital of the Assumption Thurles.

Copy of a response received from the Director of the National Ambulance Service regarding the need for a helipad at the Community Hospital of the Assumption, Thurles, was circulated. The letter indicated that the National Ambulance Service and the Air Corps have three locations, all of which have excellent access for ambulances, where helicopters can land. It added that it is not a priority to develop a helipad but that, in time if the requirement arises, the service would be delighted to engage and discuss.

Members expressed disappointment with the response and pointed out that the Rugby Club, which is one of the locations, would not be available if a match is in progress. It was also suggested that the current arrangement lacks privacy for patients and their families.



Members agreed that the National Ambulance Service be requested to reconsider their decision and that the National Director be invited to a future meeting to discuss the matter.

(c) 'Hidden Tipperary' Tourism Group - Request for the Receipt of a Deputation.

The Meetings Administrator advised that the 'Hidden Tipperary' Tourism Group has submitted an application for the receipt of a deputation to discuss the promotion of and support for tourism in the area. He indicated that under Standing Orders Members may by resolution decide to receive a deputation.

It was proposed by Councillor J. Hogan, seconded by Councillor W. Kennedy and resolved:-

"That the Templemore-Thurles Municipal District Members hereby decide to receive a deputation from the 'Hidden Tipperary' Tourism Group prior to the Monthly Meeting on the 26th. November, 2014 to discuss the promotion of and support for tourism in the area."

(d) Lisheen Wind Farm Trust - Payment of Grants to Community Groups.

The Meetings Administrator advised that Lisheen Wind Farm Trust provides funding for a payment of grants to voluntary groups in the area towards capital expenditure incurred by them. He indicated that the District Engineer has confirmed that the work is completed in the following cases:

Moyne Community Hall:	€10,000.00
Templetuohy Community Hall:	€10,000.00
Templetuohy Coursing Club:	€10,000.00
Moyne Athletic Club:	€ 2, 200.00

It was proposed by Councillor J. Hogan, seconded by Councillor D. Doran and resolved:-

"That the following Grants be paid as recommended:

Moyne Community Hall:	€10,000.00
Templetuohy Community Hall:	€10,000.00
Templetuohy Coursing Club:	€10,000.00
Moyne Athletic Club:	€ 2,200.00"

It was noted that the application received on behalf of Templetuohy Church is under consideration.



8 Votes of Congratulations / Sympathy.

The Members and Officials passed a vote of sympathy with Councillor Jackie Cahill on the recent death of his aunt. Councillor Cahill thanked the Members and Officials for their expression of sympathy.

9 Any Other Business.

Installation of safety measures outside the schools on Pallas Street, Borrisoleigh - there is increased pedestrian traffic between the two schools which have recently amalgamated.	The situation will be examined.
Implementation of safety measures outside Leugh School - there is increased vehicular traffic at the school.	The request will be examined.
Public Meeting re the number of burglaries in Thurles over recent weeks - extending the CCTV system to the housing estates and improvement of lighting in rear access roads were suggested as measures to reduce the number of burglaries.	The provision of CCTV cameras in the housing estates in Thurles would prompt similar requests throughout the District. The expenditure involved would be at the expense of items such as the payment of grants, grass cutting etc.
Provision of a pedestrian crossing in Clonmore in the interest of the safety of pupils crossing from the school to the hall.	The request will be referred to the Engineer for consideration.
Erection of a 'Drive Slowly' sign in Garranroe lane and a 'Drive Slowly / Yield' sign in Moycarkey.	The requests will be considered.
Collection of items such as couches / mattresses in housing estates to reduce material for Halloween bonfires.	Collections are facilitated by Residents Associations and one such collection is being arranged.
Restoration of the 'pay parking' machine at Kincora Terrace.	The installation of a machine at this location would not be cost effective due to the low income generated.
Repair of faulty public lights at Mary Willies - they have been out of order for months.	The complaint will be referred to Airtricity for attention.



Repair of a wall in Rahealty Cemetery.	There is no funding to undertake work at this location.
Installation of a pedestrian crossing at The Ragg - pupils and residents have to cross a very busy road to the school and the shop.	Significant road realignment would be required before a pedestrian crossing could be installed at this location.
Court Services review of Courthouses - Thurles and Nenagh Courthouses could be closed.	The County Council are making a submission to the Court Services opposing the closure of any Courthouses in the County.

THAT CONCLUDED THE OFFICIAL BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: 26th. November, 2014.

SIGNED: _____
MEETING ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: 26th. November, 2014.