



MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE TEMPLEMORE THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD IN THE LIBRARY OFFICES, CASTLE AVENUE, THURLES ON WEDNESDAY, 24th. SEPTEMBER, 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.

Congratulations.

The Cathaoirleach and Members congratulated Councillor J. Hogan on his election to the Chair of the Tipperary Education and Training Board (ETB).

Councillor Hogan thanked the Cathaoirleach and Members for their good wishes.

1. Minutes of Meetings.

(a) Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on the 12th. June, 2014.

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

"That the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Templemore-Thurles Municipal District which was held on the 12th. June, 2014, be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the meeting."

(b) Minutes of a Special Meeting held on the 21st. July, 2014.

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

"That the Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Templemore-Thurles Municipal District which was held on the 21st. July, 2014, be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the meeting."



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

The Municipal Director advised that:

- A draft protocol on the hosting of Civic Receptions was considered by the CPG on Monday last when a number of amendments were suggested.
- The final draft protocol will be brought to the next CPG meeting and subsequently to the full County Council meeting for adoption.
- It is envisaged that the County Council will deal with Civic Receptions for achievements at county or national level while the Municipal District will deal with achievements at local level.

Members raised the following items during the discussion:

- The continuation of the grants scheme for local clubs and organisations which has been in operation in Thurles for a number of years.
- Correspondence received from Templemore Twinning Committee requesting the use of the Town Hall for meetings and the display of memorabilia.
- Requests by other groups such as the Historical Society for use of the Town Hall.
- Honouring the commitment given by Templemore Town Council to renovate the Town Hall which is a very historical and renowned building in the centre of the town - funding was included in recent budgets for this purpose.
- The refusal of the County Council to erect flags and bunting in Thurles prior to the All Ireland - Thurles Town Council always erected bunting in the town prior to All Irelands in which Tipperary were involved.
- The future use of other buildings in the District e.g. the Old Fire Station and the Thurles Town Council Offices.

The Municipal Director responded to the points raised as follows:

- A workshop can be arranged prior to the next monthly meeting to agree a protocol for Civic Receptions.
- The allocation of funding for a grants scheme will initially be a budgetary item for the full County Council and then for the Municipal District Members.
- A meeting will be arranged with the Templemore Twinning Committee to discuss the matters raised.
- The Council is endeavouring to source a viable tenant for the Templemore Town Hall which will keep it alive, maintain the building and generate an income.
- Any commitments given in 2014 in relation to the Town Hall will be honoured.
- No decisions have been taken in relation to the future of buildings which are currently vacant or become vacant.



– There has been high community involvement / commitment in erecting banners, flags and bunting in towns and villages throughout the County and it would not be appropriate for the local authority to get involved in one town.

It was agreed that a Workshop will take place on Wednesday 22nd. October, 2014 at 10.00 am followed by the October Monthly Meeting at 11.00 am.

3 Housing Function.

Clare Curley, Director of Services, Aidan Fennessy, Senior Executive Officer and Michelle Maher, Senior Staff Officer, Housing Section were in attendance for this item.

The Area Director advised that a schedule for the attendance of Directors at Municipal District meeting on a rotational basis has been drawn up. He added that if an item for consideration at a Municipal District meeting requires the attendance of a Director of Services, this will be arranged.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the Housing Staff to the meeting. He stated that all members are in favour of the provision of social housing and that the issue of a policy document on the topic by the Department is imminent.

Clare Curley thanked the Cathaoirleach for the welcome. She circulated a contact list for housing staff and a summary of the number of applicants for rehousing per location, the housing stock and the up-to-date position in relation to the upgrading of housing stock under the Energy Efficiency Scheme in the District.

The Cathaoirleach indicated that there is serious disquiet in Roscrea with the proposal by the County Council to construct 10 social houses at Glencarraig, Roscrea and he asked for the situation to be clarified.

The Director of Services outlined the position as follows:-

- A bid was put in at the request of the Council for the purchase of 12 unfinished houses at Ashbury and the bid was accepted.
- The County Council was subsequently advised that a substantially higher bid had been received from a third party.
- The County Council informed the Department in December that they were not proceeding with the purchase of the 12 houses and requested that the €1.1m allocation be 'ring-fenced' for Roscrea.
- The Department asked for an alternative proposal and a project appraisal was submitted. No plans have been prepared.

Members made the following points in response:

- A bid was on the table prior to the Council's bid being made.



- The plan was cobbled together to save the €1.1m for Roscrea and rescue the Minister.
- There are issues in relation to the suitability of the Glencarraig site - access through a private estate, the capacity of the roads, water supply and sewers to serve the additional houses, the absence of community facilities in the area (only a creche has been provided).
- It is unacceptable what happened in this case, the Council were not advised of the purchase of this land.
- Discussing County Council business in the Dail is inappropriate.
- A contractor moved onto the site last week - who gave them access, why were they there and what were they doing?
- The priority for Roscrea is a Town Park and the land should be developed for this purpose.
- There is an urgent need for social houses in Roscrea with 180 applicants on the housing list as currently there are very few houses available for renting.
- An alternative access road for the proposed 10 houses should be provided through the adjoining site.

Clare Curley indicated that:

- The County Council did not have prior notice of the third party bid.
- No plans have been submitted to the Department.
- She has no control over what is raised in the Dáil.
- The Housing Section would have no role in progressing plans for a Town Park.

It was agreed on a proposal by the Cathaoirleach, Councillor M. Smith to adjourn the meeting for 10 minutes to allow Councillors time to consider the terms of an appropriate resolution.

Following the resumption of the Meeting, it was proposed by Councillor M. Smith, seconded by Councillor D. Doran and resolved:-

"That the Templemore-Thurles Municipal District Councillors request a full Master Plan regarding the total lands acquired at Glencarrick, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary by Tipperary County Council, house type and design and their exact location and seek approval for a new separate entrance from the Department."

The following general items were raised:

Item	Response
Funding for the purchase of single houses.	There is no capital funding currently available for the purchase of single houses.



Flooding at Oakfield Drive, Thurles (34 to 38).	The complaint will be investigated.
The Glebe, Thurles - house owners request that the ditch at the side of the house be cut back.	The request will receive attention.
Update on the completion of the development at Ashgrove, Monadreen, Thurles.	The Council are completing the roads, footpaths, open space and public lighting in the occupied part of the estate. An offer for the unfinished houses was not accepted by the developer.
Condition of individual houses in Cluain Glas and Ard Mhuire, Thurles which have been vacated by the owners and repossessed by Banks.	The Council are not in a position to undertake works on such properties.
Need to have a Tenant Liaison officer based in Thurles.	There are 2 tenant liaison officers and a senior social worker based in Nenagh and three tenant liaison officers based in Clonmel. The matter will be reviewed.
Resurfacing of rear access roads at Collins Park, Thurles - half of the roads have been resurfaced.	The situation will be reviewed in the context of the funding available.
Delay in relocating a demountable house for a sick man in urgent need of rehousing.	The Council are endeavouring to have the demountable house relocated at the earliest possible date.
Insulation of the local authority housing stock in Templemore.	A survey of the housing stock is in progress and a number will be upgraded under the 2015 Energy Efficiency Programme. Energy efficiency works have been completed to all former North Tipperary County Council and Thurles Town Council properties.
Sewerage problem in a private estate on the Clonmore Road, Templemore - the developer is gone.	The matter will be investigated.
Criteria for allowing tenants to transfer to alternative accommodation.	A new allocations scheme is being drawn up which will incorporate the best elements of the schemes which were operated by the two County Councils prior to the merger.



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

It was agreed to take the following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor S. Hanafin at this stage as it relates to housing.

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

"Given the problem many Resident Associations have collecting subscriptions from some house owners and the resultant financial difficulty in maintaining their estates, I am requesting that Tipperary County Council include a "Good Neighbour" clause into all RAS and Lease Agreements requiring proof that, where applicable, all relevant Residents Association subscriptions are paid up to date".

Councillor Hanafin pointed out that the planning authority require the provision of open space in all developments but expect the residents to take responsibility for the subsequent maintenance.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor D. Doran.

The District Administrator read the following response:

'The County Council will encourage RAS and Leasing tenants to participate in resident associations and pay any associated fees. A clause can be included in the Tenancy Agreement but the Council would not be in a position to enforce it or seek proof of payment'.

The Members noted the position .

It was agreed that the Motion be referred to the Housing SPC for consideration.

4 Littleton Cemetery.

The Municipal Director referred to the update on Littleton Cemetery which was circulated by the Chief Executive in August. He indicated that:

- It has been decided, following detailed consideration of the Engineer's Report, to go with a drainage solution over public and private lands, a thrust bore pipe will be provided under the R449 (Old N8) Road, with the surface water discharging to drains on private land.
- Work will commence as soon as the formal agreements with the landowners involved are completed.

The Members welcomed the progress and urged that the work be completed as a matter of urgency.



5 Election of Representatives (2) to the Roscrea Enhancement Steering Group.

The District Director advised that:

- It is proposed to re-establish the Steering Group with a view to advancing further elements of the Enhancement Plan in 2015.
- The Area Engineer has completed a significant amount of work - eg the upgrading of Madden's Lane.
- The County Manager has assigned Marian Carey, Executive Planner to take the project forward in 2015.
- There has been good co-operation and support from Roscrea Chamber of Commerce through Brian King and others.

The Cathaoirleach pointed out that all members of the Area Committee were on the Steering Group and that all members should be entitled to attend meetings of the new Steering Group. The District Director indicated that he had no issue with the Cathaoirleach's proposal but recommended that two/three members be elected to the Steering Group.

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

"That the Cathaoirleach, Councillor M. Smith and Councillors J. Hogan and M. Lowry be elected to the Roscrea Enhancement Steering Group."

6 Update on the 2014 Work Programme.

The District Engineer circulated an update on the Templemore-Thurles District Roads Programme 2014.

The following items were noted:

Parnell Street, Thurles.

The District Engineer outlined details of improvement works (undergrounding of ESB cables, removal of poles and resurfacing) on Parnell Street / Cuchulainn Road which will be carried out by contract in October. He indicated that the work is being co-ordinated with ESB improvements in the area and as a result, some of the costs are being shared.

Members expressed concern that the work will cause serious traffic disruption as Parnell Street carries a huge volume of traffic daily and recommended that the work be carried out at night. It was suggested that the schools be advised of the road closures in advance so that they can circulate details to the parents. It was also suggested that a leaflet drop be organised.



The District Engineer indicated that the road closure will only operate periodically over the four weeks and that he will contact the Gardai, the schools and the businesses affected in advance.

Members welcomed the works and complimented the District Engineer on accessing the funding.

Thurles Town Block Grant.

The District Engineer advised that work on the overlay of Mathew Avenue and Castle Avenue which is being financed under the Block Grant will commence on Monday.

Community Involvement Schemes.

The District Engineer advised that there are two Community Involvement Schemes in the Thurles Area with the possibility of another one if the local contribution is forthcoming.

Extension of footpath at Ashbury, Roscrea.

The Municipal Director advised that:

- The extension of the footpath at Ashbury, Roscrea will commence in the coming weeks.
- The work is being funded from savings generated in other areas.
- Discussions relating to the construction of the footpath at the front of the GAA field are ongoing.

Thurles Regional Water Supply Scheme - Permanent Reinstatement of Roads.

Members expressed concern at the delay in completing the permanent reinstatement of the roads, following the laying of watermains, under the Thurles Regional Water Supply Scheme. It was pointed out that grass areas outside houses where materials etc were stockpiled require attention. Members queried the extent of the reinstatement, the cost of same, if there is sufficient money allocated to complete the work and who will be completing it.

It was agreed that a comprehensive report on the matter be prepared for the next meeting.

Miscellaneous Items Raised.



Item Raised	Response
Repair of faulty public lights - 3 lights in Moyne are out of order for months.	The Roads Section will be requested to take up the matter with Airtricity.
Repair of footpaths at Pallas Street, Borrisoleigh, Templetuohy, Church Street, Templemore and Bouladuff from the Church to the main road.	No funding has been allocated in the 2014 Budget to undertake footpath repairs at these locations.
The poor condition of the roads in the Gortnahoe / Ballysloe / Grange area - a special allocation is required.	The matter will be referred to the Roads Section for attention.
Implementation of safety measures at Turtulla Cross (there was another traffic accident at the junction recently) - the erection of public lighting would improve the situation.	The situation will be reviewed with the NRA Inspector. Funding has been allocated for an asphalt overlay at the junction.
St. Anne's Terrace and Tara Drive, Gortnahoe - ramps and resurfacing required, parking in estates causes problems for emergency vehicles.	The situation will be examined.
Repair of footpaths at Cabra Road (Liam Skehans) and Mill Road (Clearys and Jim Skehan).	The requests will receive attention.
Extension of the footpath from the town to Drish Bridge - the NRA advised the Council in 2010 to submit an application for funding.	The Roads Section will be asked for an update.
Roads in the Rossmore and Fantane areas are in poor condition - additional funding required.	The matter will be referred to the Roads Section for attention.
Review of the current 3 Year Roads Programme (2014 - 2016) - 4 of the Councillors were not involved in the preparation of the programme.	There may be scope in 2015 for a review of the programme as a number of roads have been dealt with ahead of schedule.
Issue with road closures - the Council should be more sympathetic to the effect on businesses. The Thurles / Limerick road was closed on Munster Final Sunday. Hollyford was badly hit by a recent road closure but access could have been allowed as the damaged bridge was at the other side of the village.	The matter will be referred to the Roads Section for consideration.



Templemore issues:- – Flooding problem outside Clarke's Hardware. – Restoration of the single yellow line outside St. Sheelan's College. – Clearer signage required on the Borrisoleigh Road before the entrance to Abbey Furniture.	The requests will receive attention.
Issue with the 'build-outs' on the Templemore Road, Thurles between the Creamery and the Ursuline Convent - they could pose a hazard for cyclists.	The situation will be examined.
Active Travel Programme - plans should be formulated to upgrade the Ladyswell Walk and the Jimmy Doyle Road loop which have become major walking routes in the Town.	The matter will receive attention.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The grant allocated for the Low Cost Safety Scheme at the Monastery Road, Roscrea appears insufficient for the work required. 	The matter will be reviewed.

7 Update on Special Projects.

The District Director gave the following update on Special Projects:

Project	Current Position
The Roscrea Enhancement Scheme.	Upgrading of Madden's Lane is in progress. Work programme for 2015 is being identified.
Extension to Templemore Town Park.	An architect will be appointed in due course to prepare a Master Plan for the land acquired.
Thurles Town Park.	Tenders have been invited for the construction of the Town Park.
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. It is anticipated that the project will go to tender before the end of year.



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.
Repair of Thurles Swimming Pool.	Tenders have been received and are being assessed by the Architect. The report on the tenders will be considered by the Board of Thurles Swimming Pool Ltd as soon as possible.

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

8 **Notices of Motion.**

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

It was agreed to adjourn consideration of the following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor W. Kennedy to the October Monthly Meeting:

"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."

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

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

"I am seeking assurances from the District Management that going forward, there will be no cuts in the funding for both the Christmas Lights in Thurles and the level of funding available to clubs, committees and voluntary groups in town."

Councillor D. Doran seconded the Motion.

The District Director responded as follows:

As indicated earlier in the meeting, the Municipal District Members will decide on the allocation of funding for specific items such as Christmas Lights in Thurles and grants for clubs etc subject to the overall budget adopted by the full County Council.

The Members noted the position.



(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 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 J. Ryan seconded the Motion.

The District Administrator gave the following response:

Most HGVs currently use the Jimmy Doyle Road. A traffic movement 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 include school traffic, hence the delay in commencing the counts until September.

Councillor Doran expressed disappointment with the response and argued that his proposals would aid traffic flow significantly.

It was agreed that further consideration of the Motion be adjourned to the October Meeting pending the completion of the survey and counts and the improvement works on Parnell Street.

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

It was agreed to adjourn consideration of the following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor D. Doran to the October Monthly Meeting:

"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."

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

It was agreed to adjourn consideration of the following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor S. Hanafin to the October Monthly Meeting:

"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."

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

The following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor S. Hanafin was considered earlier in the meeting:

"Given the problem many Resident Associations have collecting subscriptions from some house owners and the resultant financial difficulty in maintaining their estates, I am requesting that Tipperary County Council include a "Good Neighbour" clause into all RAS and Lease Agreements requiring proof that, where applicable, all relevant Residents Association subscriptions are paid up to date".

9 Correspondence.

(a) Travel Expenses.

The District Administrator advised the Members that the Department has issued a circular advising local authorities that the difference between the Department of the Environment travel rate (60.88c per km) and the Department of Finance Rate (59.07c per km) in determining the travel element of the annual expenses allowance is taxable. He indicated that Tipperary County Council propose to apply the lower rate of 59.07c per km as the administration involved in taxing the additional 1.81c would be significant.

The Members noted the position.

(b) Other Correspondence.

It was agreed to adjourn consideration of items of correspondence to the October Monthly Meeting.

10 Votes of Congratulations / Sympathy.

A vote of sympathy was passed to Tom Conway, who is employed in the Templemore-Thurles Municipal District, on the death of his brother, Tony.



11 Any Other Business.

(i) Meeting in Roscrea.

Councillor D. Doran proposed that a meeting of the Municipal District be held in Roscrea to show solidarity with the Roscrea "Stands-Up" Committee.

The Area Director cautioned against adopting the proposal as it would most likely generate similar requests from other areas.

It was agreed that consideration be given to holding the December Monthly Meeting in Roscrea.

(ii) Water Supply in the Curraheen / Ballinure Area.

Councillor J. Ryan asked that a report on the water supply in the Curraheen / Ballinure area be available for the October Meeting.

THAT CONCLUDED THE OFFICIAL BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: 22nd. October, 2014.

SIGNED: _____
MEETING ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: 22nd. October, 2014.