



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE DECEMBER MEETING OF NENAGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, LIMERICK ROAD, NENAGH AT 10.00 PM ON 17TH DECEMBER 2015

Present:

Cllrs. Fiona Bonfield, John Carroll, Ger Darcy, Mattie Ryan, Phyll Bugler, Joe Hannigan, Michael O' Meara and Hughie McGrath.

Also Present:

Mr. Marcus O' Connor, Director of Services; Ms. Rosemary Joyce, District Administrator; Mr. Michael Hayes, Senior Executive Engineer; Ms. Attracta Lyons, Administrative Officer, Mr. James Scott and Lorraine Treacy, Staff Officer.

Apologies:

Cllr. Seamus Morris

Item 1:

Minutes of November Meeting

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. M. Ryan and resolved that the minutes of the November meeting held on 19th November be adopted.

At the outset Cllr. Fiona Bonfield indicated that she was required to attend an urgent meeting of the ETB and would be leaving the meeting at approximately 10.30 – 11.00 for this purpose. She would return on conclusion of that meeting.

Cllr. J. Carroll requested that the Standing Orders be suspended in order to discuss an important issue. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. P. Bugler.

Cllr. Carroll referred to a letter issued by Minister Alan Kelly to the residents of Newport in relation to the allocation of €500,000 to Newport under the Limerick Hinterland Regeneration Programme. He said that he was not against

Minutes of December 2015 Nenagh Municipal District Meeting

such funding being allocated to Newport but expressed concern that there was also a commitment to provide €500,000 from the Council's Capital fund and the members had not been made aware of this. He went on to say that he felt undermined and requested clarification on the process of allocating capital funds.

Cllr. P. Bugler supported Cllr. Carroll and requested details of what the money would be spent on, detailed costings, where the project is and the timeframe.

Cllr. F. Bonfield said that the announcement of €1m for Newport was very positive news and that a further €500,000 was allocated to Clare and €1.5m to Limerick. She went on to say that she was disappointed with her fellow Councillors who were querying positive news for the town of Newport.

Cllr. M. Ryan referred to a public meeting that was held in Newport earlier in the year where the people of Newport expressed their desire for a Playground in Newport. He said the executive at that stage had advised that if a site for a Town Park could be obtained that money would not be an issue.

Cllr. G. Darcy requested that Mr. M. O' Connor give a response to the queries raised.

Cllr. J. Carroll indicated that he intended to withdraw from the meeting. Cllr. H. McGrath stated that questions had been asked and it would be disrespectful to leave before receiving the clarification requested.

Cllr. P. Bugler requested that a written statement be provided on where the €500,000 capital funding was coming from.

Mr. M. O'Connor advised the members that he was not in a position to provide a written statement but that he would do his best to answer the questions that had been asked. He advised that Limerick City and County Council undertook a study in relation to the impacts of regeneration on the hinterland of Limerick City including parts of Counties Limerick, Clare and Tipperary. He said the Study was

submitted to the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government and following consideration the Minister made a decision to provide a fund of €2.5m to assist areas within the Limerick Hinterland Study Area as follows: €1.5m to Limerick with €0.5m each to Clare and Tipperary. The funding is being made available to the local authorities on a matched euro for euro basis.

He went on to say that the area of Tipperary within the hinterland study includes Newport. Over the years, the need for community facilities has been highlighted by the Members and the community in Newport. This need arises from the population expansion in Newport and its environs arising from, amongst other factors, its proximity to Limerick. In response to this request by the Elected Members of the Council, the Council has over many years set aside provision within our capital budget and has publicly committed to provide a town park/playground within Newport. For some time now, the Council has been seeking to purchase lands in Newport for this purpose and has regularly briefed the Members of the Nenagh District on progress in this area.

He added that it has always been the position of the Council that additional funding will be required to meet our commitment for Newport in the same manner as the sourcing of external funding was necessary to provide the Nenagh Town Park and Leisure Centre. He said there may well be a perception that Tipperary County Council has made a financial commitment, without recourse to the Members, in order to secure this funding. In fact, the opposite is the case. The Department of the Environment Community and Local Government (DECLG) is making a commitment to Tipperary County Council to provide funding on a euro for euro basis for eligible projects subject to maximum funding of €0.5m. It will now be a matter for the Council to bring forward a proposal to the DECLG. As advised at the Council meeting on Monday last, the submission of any proposal (ie Town Park) to the DECLG will be discussed with the Members in advance of submission and commitment of financial resources. However, the Council is in the fortunate position of being able to bring forward a proposal having regard to the financial provision made in the Capital Account over many years and commitments given to the community in Newport at the request of the Elected Members.

He concluded by saying that the provision of this additional funding is welcome as (subject to purchase of land) it assures the provision of a much needed and high quality Town Park facility for Newport. He also indicated that the Executive had always tried to maximise the amount of funding coming into the County and had worked with various Ministers down through the years for that purpose and would continue to do so.

Cllr. M. O' Meara said that he was not against the provision of a Town Park in Newport but queried if the matching funding would otherwise be used for vital services. He referred to the provision of a playground in Borrsokane and stated that, while a grant was received, most of the funding came from other sources and the Committee had to fundraise. He queried how €500,000 could be provided for a playground in Newport when other towns have to fundraise.

Cllr. J. Hannigan said that while he welcomed any new funding announcement, he queried if it will affect other areas of the municipal district such as roads and amenities.

Cllr. J. Carroll, having returned to the meeting, said that it was the process he was most concerned about and in particular that Oireachtas Members were micro managing local authority affairs. He said that the Councillors need to be respected.

Cllr. P. Bugler expressed dissatisfaction at the lack of communication with Councillors and requested that the meeting be adjourned to allow the executive time to prepare a written reply. Cllr. J. Carroll supported Cllr. Bugler.

Mr. M. O' Connor repeated that he would not be able to give a written response today and said that he was surprised with some of the statements that had been made by the members. He said that it was not unusual for the Council to provide part funding for projects, giving the trim trail in Ballina, the MUGA and Nenagh Town Park as examples.

Cllr. G. Darcy enquired if the allocation of the €500,000 to Newport would have an effect on other funds like the Roads

Budget. Mr. O' Connor replied that it would not have an impact on the roads budget as they were funded through the revenue budget.

Cllr. J. Hannigan enquired if the funding was for a playground only. Mr. O' Connor advised that the funding would not be specifically for a playground – it would be for amenity facilities in Newport. It would not be for housing purposes.

Cllr. J. Carroll said that the Councillors did not have a clear indication of what the money was for and were being kept in the dark. Cllr. J. Carroll and Cllr. P. Bugler left the meeting.

Cllr. M. O' Meara said that he had no objection in principle to the provision of the funding for Newport but referred again to Borrisokane Town Park where most of the funding had been provided by the community. He was not however against the project. Cllr. M. O' Meara then also left the meeting.

Cllr. G. Darcy acknowledged that the people in the Lower Ormond Area had to work hard for their playground but that he couldn't see any good walking out of a meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Hannigan and seconded by Cllr. M. Ryan that the meeting be adjourned for 15 minutes.

When the meeting reconvened Cllr. J. Hannigan said that he had to back up his fellow Councillors saying that a legitimate argument had been made. He said public representatives need to be informed and consulted with and the process in this case is not as it should be.

A discussion then took place in relation to the recent flooding which had taken place.

Cllr. H. MacGrath enquired if any emergency funding was available in respect of damage caused by the recent flooding. He referred in particular to roads at Rathmartin and Ballyartella.

Cllr. G. Darcy stated that if emergency monies were available it was important to ensure that the Nenagh Municipal District is well catered for. He added that he wished to thank

all the outdoor staff for all their hard work in the recent days. He referred to flooding in Carrigahorig and to all the smaller roads which were now becoming over trafficked with people trying to avoid flooded roads. He asked that the Council take a special look at the roads in the parish of Lorrha and AGLISH and was concerned about further damage that might occur if there was severe frost.

Cllr. M. Ryan supported the previous speakers' request for emergency funding. He also called for more inlets to be opened.

Cllr. J. Hannigan referred to flooding at Carrigahorig and Ballinderry and wished to commend all the outdoor staff for their assistance. He also referred to roads at Coolross where an action group had been formed because of the condition of the roads. He expressed concern that staff were not available to open inlets because of work which was taking place on the N65.

Both Cllr. H. McGrath and Cllr. M. Ryan also wished to be associated with the praise given to the outdoor staff.

Mr. M. O' Connor also complimented the outdoor staff for their response to emergencies over the last two weeks. He said that the floods were very bad for the last few weeks with the Shannon rising to almost 2009 levels which caused a lot of difficulties. He referred to the number of phone calls that came through the Call Management System on the previous Saturday at which time practically all the outdoor staff were mobilised. He spoke of particular problems in Ballina but said that with the help of the Fire Brigade they were able to avert a serious situation. He went on to say that an assessment of the costs of clean-up countywide stood at between €50,000 and €70,000. He said the exact figures for permanent damage will not be known until the floods have subsided and the damage can be assessed.

Cllr. G. Darcy referred to the road at Coolross, Racthcabbin. He said that there is a stream flowing down the road and there is a need to get specific funding for this road.

Cllr. J. Hannigan stated there is a need for an independent authority with responsibility for the Shannon Basin. He questioned as to whether water should have been released earlier from Ardnacrusha with the weather that had been forecast.

Mr. M. O' Connor advised the members that controlling the levels of the water is a complicated issue. He referred to a visit to Parteen and Ardnacrusha and a meeting with the ESB. He said that there is a sophisticated computer system which normally sends information on levels on a weekly basis and in the current conditions every second day. He said that the levels at Parteen can't be easily adjusted as there is a fall of 16 inches in the level between the levels in Portumna and Ballina. He suggested that the members visit Parteen and Ardnacrusha when the current crisis is over. Cllr. M. Ryan said that such a visit would be useful.

Cllr. H. McGrath referred to the farming community along the Shannon River which have been badly affected and said that farmers needed support.

Cllr. J. Hannigan left the meeting in support of his colleagues.

Cllr. G. Darcy proposed that the meeting be adjourned for lunch. This was seconded by Cllr. M. Ryan and agreed.

**Item 2.:Update from
Community & Economic Staff**

An up to date report on activities in the Community & Economic Development Directorate along with the 1916 Centenary Programme was circulated to the members.

**Item 3:
Action Plan**

The Action Plan from the November meeting was noted.

**Item 4.
Policy on Sponsorship of
Roundabouts**

Ms. R. Joyce reminded the members that the Policy on Sponsorship of Roundabouts had been presented to the full Council recently and at that meeting it was agreed that it would be left to the members of each district to decide if they wished to implement it. The members agreed to place the item on the agenda for the January meeting.

**Item 5.
NMD Activities 2015**

A list of the activities carried out in the Nenagh Municipal District in 2015 which was circulated to the members was noted. In particular the members referred to the District

Awards Evening and wished to thank the staff who organised it. Ms. R. Joyce advised the members that Nenagh Tidy Towns Committee wished to convey their apologies for not being able to attend on the night.

Cllr. M. Ryan said that there was a lot of work done in the Nenagh Municipal District throughout the year and in particular he referred to the overlay at Rearcross.

Mr. M. O' Connor said that when the Municipal Districts were set up it was unclear how they would work but that it was now apparent that they were working well with a lot of works done which were not all roads related. He thanked Ms. R. Joyce and all the staff of the District for their hard work. All the members present wished to be associated with these remarks.

Item 6. **Update on Projects**

Gills Garden

Ms. R. Joyce advised that the final layout drawings have been forwarded to the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government for approval.

Nenagh Traffic Management Plan

Ms. R. Joyce advised that it is hoped to present the Consultant's Report on the Submissions received to the members early in the New Year.

Commemoration of Thomas MacDonagh 2016

Ms. R. Joyce advised that an announcement of capital funding for the Commemoration of Thomas MacDonagh 2016 had been received. She advised that the funding will be used towards the purchase of land which will be leased to the Cloughjordan Community Development Committee for a Remembrance Garden and a Statue of Thomas MacDonagh in the centre of the town. She went on to say that there will also be available, within the next week, a Calendar of Events for 2016.

Cllr. G. Darcy complimented Ms. Joyce on the work done by her on this project.

Newport Town Park

Mr. M. O' Connor said that the first site identified was still the preferred site and discussions are still ongoing with the landowners. Cllr. G. Darcy enquired as to when information

on the Town Park will be brought back to the members. Mr. O' Connor said that there will be a Part 8 process and Ms. Joyce said there will be regular updates given to the members.

Town Centre Forum

Ms. R. Joyce referred to the Programme of Events for the Christmas period that was planned by Nenagh Chamber of Commerce and complimented the Chamber on their work in bringing in new members to the Chamber.

Cllr. H. McGrath also complimented the Chamber of Commerce for their positive and proactive approach. He said that the Town Centre Forum has worked.

Roadworks Programme 2015 & CIS Schemes

Mr. M. Hayes advised the members that the 2015 Roadworks Programme and CIS Schemes were complete.

Cllr. G. Darcy referred to the roadworks at Ballingarry and in particular to the drawing away of soil and the effect it was having on the condition of the road. Mr. M. Hayes advised that most of the soil had been drawn away at this stage but that the Council would do their best to keep the road clean.

Item 7. **Engineer's Checklist**

Cllr. H. McGrath referred to the condition of the road at Knockalton. All the members present agreed with Cllr. McGrath. Mr. M. O' Connor said that he couldn't disagree with the members and said the road was in a shocking state and negotiations were still ongoing with landowners. Cllr. McGrath enquired if a non-slip surface could be considered in the interim. Mr. O' Connor said that this could be considered.

Cllr. H. McGrath referred to the works being carried out by Bord Gáis in Nenagh and enquired if the gas line could be extended to John O' Connor in Lisbunny Business Park. Mr. M. O' Connor advised that Mr. O' Connor should contact Bord Gáis himself.

Referring to the road at Latteragh, Mr. O' Connor advised the members that nine to ten routes were identified and during the public consultation process there were approximately twenty five viewings of the proposals. He added that the potential routes will now be reduced to four

or five and there will be further public consultation in relation to these routes on the 19th January and he suggested that the members attend on the day to view the proposals.

The members raised a number of other issues in relation to the Checklist which were responded to.

Item 8.
Notice of Motion

Notice of Motion No. 585 submitted by Cllr. F. Bonfield

I am calling on Tipperary County Council to erect some school flashing lights at Ballinahinch School. This is a priority out here at the moment because of the location of the school and the lack of parking facilities around the area. Oncoming traffic need more appropriate warning notice of a school ahead.

The motion was proposed by Cllr. F. Bonfield and seconded by Cllr. M. Ryan.

Ms. R. Joyce read out a response to the Motion as follows:

"The school at Ballinahinch is located within the 50 km/h speed limit. Currently there are road markings and "School Ahead" signs to indicate the presence of the school. An assessment will be carried out to determine if the provision of flashing lights is within Council policy at this location"

Item 9.
Delegated Employees Orders

A list of Delegated Employees Orders from 1st November 2015 to 30th November 2015 as circulated to the members was noted.

Item 10.
Correspondence

The following correspondence was noted:

1.	Letter of thanks from Fr. Des Hillery re Vote of Sympathy for Archdeacon Hogan.
2.	Email from Killeen National School to thank the Nenagh Municipal District for the Certificate and prize money received at the Nenagh Municipal District Awards Evening.
3.	Email from Billy Grace, Silvermines National School to thank the Nenagh Municipal District for a wonderful evening at the Nenagh Municipal District Awards.

4.	Letter from Monaree Residents Association to thank the Nenagh Municipal District for the lovely evening at the Nenagh Municipal District Awards.
5.	Acknowledgement Letter from Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine re TAMS 2 Grant Scheme.

Item 11.
Votes of Congratulations/
Sympathy

None.

Item 12.
A.O.B

Cllr. G. Darcy referred to the source for Ardcroney GWS near the N52. He said that there is a small drain beside the source and the tributary has risen very high. He said the tributary is outside the drainage area and enquired if the drainage area could be extended in order to try and carry out works to alleviate the problem.

Mr. M. O' Connor advised that the Council is not in a position to vary the drainage districts as these are set down by the OPW. However under the Local Authority Works Act, drainage in non-specific areas can be carried out and there may be a possibility that some works come be carried out under this Act.

Cllr. G. Darcy thanked everyone for their co-operation throughout the year and extended his best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

This concluded the business of the meeting, a true copy of which we hereby certify.

Signed:


Cllr. Ger Darcy
Cathaoirleach

Date:

21/11/16

Signed:


Ms. Rosemary Joyce
District Administrator

Date:

21/11/16

