



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF ANNUAL MEETING OF NENAGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
HELD IN THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, LIMERICK ROAD,
NENAGH AT 10.00 AM ON 12TH JUNE 2014**

Present: Cllrs. Fiona Bonfield, Dr. Phyll Bugler, John Carroll, Ger Darcy, Joe Hannigan, Hughie McGrath, Séamus Morris, Michael O’ Meara, Mattie Ryan.

Apologies: Marcus O’ Connor, Director of Services.

Also Present: Mr. Karl Cashen, Director of Services, Ms. Rosemary Joyce, District Administrator, Mr. Michael Hayes, Senior Executive Engineer and Lorraine Treacy, Staff Officer

Welcome: Rosemary Joyce welcomed all those in attendance to the first meeting of Nenagh Municipal District and introduced members of staff that were present.

Item 1
Names of Members
Nenagh
Municipal District The names of the members elected to Nenagh Municipal District were noted in order of election as follows: Joe Hannigan NP, Séamus Morris SF, John Carroll FF, Michael O’ Meara NP, Mattie Ryan (Coole) FF, Hughie McGrath NP, Dr Phyll Bugler FG, Gerard Darcy FG, Fiona Bonfield LAB.

Item 2.
Election of
Cathaoirleach Cllr. Hughie McGrath stated that he had been a member of Nenagh Town Council for the past ten years and that the “Nenagh System” had worked for years i.e. the first 5 members elected were given the opportunity of becoming Major over the term of the Council. He said that it was a fair and all-inclusive system. On this basis he proposed that Cllr. Joe Hannigan be elected Cathaoirleach for the Nenagh Municipal District. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Séamus Morris.

Cllr. Dr. Phyll Bugler proposed that Fiona Bonfield be elected as Cathaoirleach of Nenagh Municipal District and this proposal was seconded by Cllr. Mattie Ryan.

Cllr. Séamus Morris stated that he had been a member of Nenagh Town Council for the last 10 years and the system that was in place during this period was very fair and non-divisive and was based on how the people voted. He called for the start of a new era and said that the old politics had been rejected by the people. Cllr. Morris went on to say that, as the second person elected, he was prepared to withdraw his name from being considered for the position of Cathaoirleach and pass the opportunity to a Nenagh man i.e. Cllr. Hughie McGrath.

Cllr. Michael O' Meara supported Cllr. Morris and said that he was supporting Cllr. Joe Hannigan for the position of first Cathaoirleach of Nenagh Municipal District. He stated that the Lower Ormond area will be decimated under the Dáil electoral boundary changes and it was vitally important that the Municipal District send out a message that there is a good strong Cathaoirleach from the Lower Ormond Area. He was totally against the boundary changes and it was necessary to send out a strong message that they were not accepting these changes.

Cllr. Joe Hannigan stated that the people had spoken and had voted in a certain way. He expressed his disappointment at the actions of the parties in forming coalitions to secure control in the Districts. As the Councillor who had received the majority of the votes in the Municipal District he called for fair play and considered the current position undemocratic.

A vote then took place on the position of Cathaoirleach.

The following members voted for Cllr. Fiona Bonfield: Cllr. Fiona Bonfield, Cllr. Phyll Bugler, Cllr. John Carroll, Cllr. Ger Darcy, Cllr. Joe Hannigan and Cllr. Mattie Ryan.

The following members voted for Cllr. Joe Hannigan: Cllr. Hughie McGrath, Cllr. Séamus Morris and Cllr. Michael O' Meara.

The proposal to elect Fiona Bonfield was declared to be carried by six votes to three.

Cllr. Fiona Bonfield was presented with the chain of office and spoke of her great pride and honour at being the first chair of the Nenagh Municipal District and looked forward to working with all collectively to meet the needs of the community. She said that they all shared the same responsibility to the people who had elected

them and called on all to pull together and focus on what needs to be done for the good of Tipperary. She looked forward to a successful five years for Tipperary.

Cllr. Ger Darcy warmly congratulated Cllr. Bonfield on her democratic election as Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District. He stated that he had been 23 years as a Councillor and had represented the Lower Ormond Area. He had fought against the inclusion of this area in Offaly for Dáil Election purposes and had put down a motion to Government to have this changed after the next General Election. He reminded members that they were now members of the Nenagh Municipal District not Nenagh Town Council and that this included a huge rural area. He stated that the Nenagh Municipal District needs stability and members who will be able to agree budgets and County Development Plans in the interest of the people they represent.

Cllr. Hughie McGrath congratulated Cllr. Bonfield and stated that on a personal level he wished her well and would fully support her and that he will stand up and be counted where he considered it right to do so. He would take issues as they came and decide based, not on whether it was popular or unpopular, but whether it was right or wrong.

Cllr. Séamus Morris congratulated Cllr. Bonfield and stated that he will work with Cllr. Bonfield based on principles, issues and ideas and said it was time for everyone to work together.

Cllrs. Joe Hannigan, Mattie Ryan, John Carroll, Phyll Bugler and Michael O' Meara also congratulated Cllr. Bonfield and wished her well.

Cllr. Michael O' Meara expressed concern over the boundary change and stated that it was not good enough that it would not be changed until after the next General Election. Cllr. O' Meara appealed to all the Councillors to fight against the decision. He believed that a challenge should be taken.

Cllr. Darcy responded that it was an Independent Commission who had recommended the boundary changes. It was his understanding that the decision could not legally be changed until after the next General Election however he would welcome the reversal if that were possible.

Item 3.
Election of
LeasChathaoirleach

It was proposed by Cllr. John Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Ger Darcy and unanimously resolved that Cllr. Hughie McGrath be elected Leas-Chathaoirleach. Cllr. McGrath thanked his proposer and seconder and the other members for his election as Leas-Chathaoirleach.

Item 4.

Cllr. Hughie McGrath raised a query in relation to Standing Order No. 16.

**Consider and Adopt
Draft Standing Orders
of Nenagh Municipal
District**

He expressed concern that as an independent councillor, he may not have representation on a Committee and therefore may not be able to bring a Notice of Motion before the Municipal District.

Cllr. Séamus Morris suggested that a “sign-in” and “sign-out” sheet be used at the meetings of the Municipal District or that members would have to seek the permission of the Cathaoirleach to leave the meeting.

Rosemary Joyce, District Administrator, stated that the intention of Standing Order No. 16 was that issues were relevant to the Municipal District would be dealt with at district level but that if it was relevant to the whole Council it would be dealt with there.

In response to Cllr. Séamus Morris’s suggestion about a “sign-in” and “sign-out” sheet, Rosemary Joyce advised that there is only a statutory requirement to record attendance at the meeting.

Cllr. Ger Darcy suggested that this issue be discussed by the Standing Order Committee and it was proposed by Cllr. Darcy, seconded by Cllr. John Carroll and resolved that the Draft Standing Orders of Nenagh Municipal District be adopted.

Cllr. Phyll Bugler suggested that the Municipal District Meetings should take place at 10.00 a.m. Cllr. Séamus Morris proposed that they take place at 2.00 p.m. Cllr. Ger Darcy proposed that the meeting be adjourned for 5 minutes to discuss the matter. This was seconded by Cllr. Phyll Bugler and agreed by members. The meeting was resumed and the members agreed that the meetings of the Municipal District will take place at 10.00 a.m. and this would be reviewed in a year’s time.

Cllr. Séamus Morris suggested that a meeting of the Nenagh Municipal District should be held in August. Rosemary Joyce suggested that the members could decide at the July meeting if this was necessary. The members agreed to this.

**Item 5.
Appointment of
Members to Committees**

(a) Standing Orders Committee

It was proposed by Cllr. Ger Darcy, seconded by Cllr. John Carroll and resolved that Cllr. Phyll Bugler be appointed to the Standing Orders Committee.

It was proposed by Cllr. Mattie Ryan, seconded by Cllr. Phyll Bugler and resolved that Cllr. John Carroll be appointed to the Standing Order Committee.

It was proposed by Cllr. Phyll Bugler, seconded by Cllr. John Carroll and resolved that Cllr. Michael O' Meara be appointed to the Standing Orders Committee

It was also agreed by the members that the Cathaoirleach Fiona Bonfield and Leas-Chathaoirleach Hughie McGrath be appointed to the Standing Orders Committee.

(b) Nenagh Community Arts Centre

It was proposed by Cllr. Séamus Morris, seconded by Cllr. Ger Darcy and resolved that Cllr. Hughie McGrath be appointed to the Nenagh Community Arts Centre Committee.

It was proposed by Cllr. Mattie Ryan, seconded by Cllr. Ger Darcy and resolved that Cllr. Séamus Morris be appointed to the Nenagh Community Arts Centre Committee.

It was proposed by Cllr. Ger Darcy, seconded by Cllr. Phyll Bugler and resolved that Cllr. John Carroll appointed to the Nenagh Community Arts Centre Committee.

Item No. 6
Agree Schedule of
Monthly meetings
of Nenagh Municipal
District

Rosemary Joyce advised that it was proposed to hold the monthly meetings of Nenagh Municipal District on the third Thursday of each month. The first meeting would therefore be due to take place on 17th July 2014. Cllr. Séamus Morris suggested that the members agree to bring forward the first meeting as there were a number of issues that needed to be addressed. Rosemary Joyce urged the members not to do this as there was a need to arrange a workshop for the members in relation to reserved functions, budgets and their roles as members of the Municipal District and that staff were working on this at present. It was proposed to have this workshop at 10.00 a.m. on 17th July with the meeting to take place thereafter at 11.30 a.m. approx. The members agreed to this proposal.

A.O. B

Cllr. John Carroll asked that clarification be given at the next meeting as to what areas come within the remit of the contract for grass cutting. He also requested that consideration be given to the establishment of a dedicated maintenance crew to deal with amenity areas. This was supported by Cllr. Ger Darcy and Cllr. Phyll Bugler. Cllr. Carroll also referred to the issue of verge trimming at regional road junctions.

Cllr. Hughie McGrath referred to the grass cutting in Nenagh Town and complimented the executive for changing the contactor. Cllr. McGrath

requested that the Bye-Laws for the Amenity Areas and Taking in Charge of Estates be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Cllr. Phyll Bugler requested that the Council provide staff to support to the people in the amenity areas as Ballina in particular required assistance.

Cllr. Joe Hannigan requested that a dedicated crew be put in place for road maintenance. Cllr. Hannigan also requested that the issue of overnight parking in Terryglass be addressed.

Cllr. Michael O' Meara stated that the road works due to be carried out on the Main Street in Borrisokane will create a lot of disturbance in the town. Cllr. Joe Hannigan stated that there was need for consultation in the town.

Cllr. Hughie McGrath stated that some of the issues raised by the members are summer issues and requested that the executive speak to the Gardaí about the overnight parking. Cllr. Ger Darcy stated that there had been in the past a contact name in Nenagh Garda Station and in the Housing Section and that this system should remain in place.

Cllr. Mattie Ryan stated that there have been a number of instances of horses on the roads and this was a matter that required attention.

Cllr. John Carroll requested that the Bye-Laws applicable to the Amenity Areas be re-issued to the members and that the Council ensure that there is adequate signage in place.

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

Signed: _____

Cllr. Fiona Bonfield
Cathaoirleach

Date: _____

Signed: _____

Ms. Rosemary Joyce
District Administrator

Date: _____