

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY MEETING OF
NORTH TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, LIMERICK ROAD,
NENAGH ON MONDAY 21ST MARCH 2011 AT 2P.M.**

Present Cllr. John Kennedy, Mayor - Presided

Cllrs. Dr. Phyll Bugler; John Carroll; Jim Casey; Billy Clancy; Pauline Coonan; Ger Darcy; Seamus Hanafin; John Hogan; Micheál Lowry; Hughie McGrath; John ‘Rocky’ McGrath; Jonathan Meaney; Eddie Moran; Séamus Morris; Virginia O’Dowd; Michael O’Meara; Denis Ryan; Jim Ryan; Mattie Ryan; Michael Smith.

Also Present Joe MacGrath, County Manager; Liam McCarthy, Head of Finance & Corporate Services; Marcus O’Connor, Director of Services; Matt Shortt, Director of Services; Karl Cashen, Director of Services; Brian Beck, Senior Planner; Gerry McGarry, Financial/Management Accountant; Rosemary Joyce, Meetings Administrator/Senior Executive Officer; Brian Clancy, Administrative Officer ; Liam Bergin, Senior Executive Officer; Sharon Kennedy, Senior Executive Officer; Eamonn Brennan, Senior Executive Officer; Seamus Deely, Executive Engineer; Michael Woulfe, Senior Executive Engineer; Nuala O’Connell, Senior Executive Planner; Attracta Lyons, Administrative Officer; Michèle Maher, Senior Staff Officer and Mary Quigley, Assistant Staff Officer.

Votes of Sympathy Votes of Sympathy were passed to the following:-

- Susan Ffrench on the death of her father Aidan Ffrench
- Hazel Maher on the death of her grandmother
- Sean Hogan on the death of his sister, Máire Hackett
- Ryan Family, Newtown, Cloughjordan on the death of Paddy Ryan
- Frank O’Halloran on the death of his brother-in-law Paddy Ryan
- Jim Burke, Ashley Park, Nenagh on the death of his Aunt.
- Lyons Family, Portroe on the death of John Lyons
- Collins Family, Gortlassobrien, Ballina, on the death of Christy Collins

Votes of Congratulations Votes of Congratulations/Best Wishes were passed to the following:

- St. Patrick’s Day Parade Committees throughout the County.
- Nora Butler on the launch of her CD “My Home lies in Tipperary”.
- Deputy MI. Lowry, Noel Coonan and Alan Kelly on their success in the General Election.
- Máire Hoctor on the significant contribution made by her to the Council and the County
- Presentation Convent, Thurles, on winning All Ireland Junior B Camogie Title

The Mayor also wished the candidates in the upcoming Seanad Elections the best of luck.

Item 1.1
Minutes of
February 2011
Monthly Meeting

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. S. Morris and unanimously agreed that the minutes of the February 2011 Monthly Meeting be adopted.

Item 1.2
Action Plan

Members noted the Action Plan Progress Report, copy of which had been sent to them via e-mail.

Item 2.1
Finance Quarterly
Report

Members noted the Finance Quarterly Report, copy of which was circulated via email.

Mr. L. McCarthy advised that the Annual Financial Statement for 2010 would be brought before the Council at a future date. It was agreed to provide comparative figures from the previous year in relation to collection rates in future reports.

Item 2.2
Schedule of
Uncollected Rates

Members noted the schedule of uncollected rates for 2010, copy of which had been circulated to them via email. Concern was expressed at the impact of the recession on business people, particularly small rural businesses.

Mr. L. McCarthy advised that the Council would deal with ratepayers on a case by case basis and businesses who had difficulty in meeting their rates liability should engage with the Council with a view to agreeing payment plans. He also advised that the Budget adopted by the Council was based on achieving the income therein and any reduction in this income would affect the Council's cashflow.

Item 2.3
Annual Report of
Audit Committee

Members noted the Annual Report of the Audit Committee, copy of which had been circulated to them via email.

Mr. Joe MacGrath thanked the Audit Committee for their work during the year. He advised that he had no difficulty with the recommendations set out in the report and that these would be pursued.

Members agreed with the views of the Audit Committee in relation to the complexity of the Balance Sheet and recommended that the format of the Accounts be simplified. It was agreed that this should be referred to the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government.

Cllr. D. Ryan and Cllr. J. Meaney, Members of the Audit Committee, paid tribute to the external members on the Committee (Mr. Eamonn O' Toole, Mr. Liam Irvine & Ms. Marion Hayes) and commended their input into the process.

Item 3.1
Disposal of Land
at Ballina

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. J. Meaney and resolved that pursuant to Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000, the disposal of approximately 0.25 Hectares at Ballina, Co. Tipperary to Ballina Tidy Towns Group be carried out in accordance with the terms of the Notice dated 9th March, 2011 sent to each Member, and in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

Item 4.1
Housing
Quarterly Report

Members welcomed the Housing Quarterly Report, copy of which was circulated via email.

Concerns were raised regarding the length of time taken to re-allocate vacant housing stock; the proposed income thresholds under the Social Housing Assessment Regulations 2011; the move away from solid fuel to oil in Council housing in view of the increasing cost of oil and the shortage of private and public houses in some areas such as Roscrea.

Ms. S. Kennedy informed the Members that the Capital Allocation for 2011 under the Social Housing Investment Programme Allocations for all four authorities in North Tipperary was €4.484 million. She stated that this would primarily meet current commitments but would not provide for new purchases in 2011. She also outlined details of the allocations for traveller accommodation, the remediation schemes, long term leasing and the Rental Accommodation Scheme. She advised that full details would be sent out to members.

Mr. E. Brennan replied to queries in relation to the Social Housing Assessment Regulations 2011 and advised that further details would be brought back to the Council at a later date.

Item 4.2
Adoption of 2011
Fixed Term
Purchase Scheme

The 2011 Tenant Purchase Scheme was welcomed by Members. Mr. K. Cashen gave an outline of this Scheme and advised that this did not replace the existing 1995 Tenant Purchase Scheme which still remained in force.

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Smith, seconded by Cllr. M. O'Meara and resolved that pursuant to Section 90 of the Housing Act, 1966 and in accordance with the Housing (Sale of Houses to Long-Standing Tenants) Regulations 2011, the 2011 Fixed-Term Tenant Purchase Scheme be and is hereby adopted.

Item 5.1
Planning &
Development
Quarterly Report.

Members noted the Planning & Development Quarterly Report, copy of which was circulated via email.

Item 5.2
Planning &
Development
Register

Members noted the Planning & Development Register for the months of January and February 2011, copy of which was circulated via email.

Item 5.3
Templemore &
Environs
Development Plan

Members considered the Manager's Report on the submissions received on the review of the Templemore and Environs Development Plan 2006-2012 and the preparation of the Draft Templemore and Environs Development Plan 2012-2018 and on the proposal of Cllr. P. Coonan, seconded by Cllr. M. Smith it was agreed to proceed with the preparation of the Draft Plan.

Item 6.1
Environment
Quarterly Report

Members noted the Environment Quarterly Report, copy of which was circulated via email.

Mr. K. Cashen replied to queries raised and stated that a presentation would be made at a future meeting by the Consultants who were involved in the procurement process in relation to the Landfill.

Item 6.2
Annual Report on
Prevention &
Control of Litter
2010

Members noted the Annual Report on the Prevention & Control of Litter 2010, copy of which was circulated via email.

A discussion took place regarding illegal dumping and littering, particularly on roads and parking areas on the motorways. Members called for requirements to be introduced identifying how households dispose of their waste. Cllr. J. Meaney suggested that a requirement similar to WEEE be brought in for large items such as couches, mattresses, etc.

Mr. M. Shortt gave details of dates for WEEE Collections in Templemore and Thurles. He also advised that Cameras were being introduced to identify those involved in illegal dumping.

Mr. J. MacGrath stated that this was an issue which was not unique to North Tipperary and it required to be addressed at national level. He would take forward the matters raised with his colleagues at national level. He also stated that a considerable amount of the items being dumped illegally could be recycled free of charge.

Item 7.1
Quarterly Report

Members noted the Community & Enterprise Quarterly Report, copy of which was circulated via email.

Item 8.1
Delegation Orders

Members noted Delegation Orders made by the County Manager, which came into effect on 31st January 2011, under Section 154 of the Local Government Act 2001.

Item 9.1
County
Manager's Report
on the
Development and
Promotion of
Tourism in North
Tipperary

Members noted the County Manager's Report on the Development and Promotion of Tourism in North Tipperary, copy of which had been circulated to them via email. It was agreed to take Notice of Motion No. 13,058 in the name of Cllr. V. O'Dowd in conjunction with this item.

Mr. J. MacGrath outlined details of his report and referred to the various Bodies involved in Tourism and Tourism Promotion in the area and the very positive work which was on-going. The purpose of the report was to look at what the Council could bring to the equation to build on the positive work. He had met with many of the agencies involved in tourism, had attended a Tourism Industry Briefing and was the chair of the Lough Derg Marketing Group. He noted that Shannon Development employs a Tourism Officer for North Tipperary. He added that it was difficult to obtain accurate figures in relation to visitor numbers and noted that only 2 of the top 10 visitor attractions within County Tipperary are located within North Tipperary. He also noted that North Tipperary was behind in the number of overseas visitors to counties within the Shannon Region.

Mr. MacGrath advised that he proposed to assign a person with responsibility for tourism who, working with other Agencies, local authorities and voluntary groups and using available expertise, would drive three priorities – preparation of a Strategic Blueprint for the future development of tourism in North Tipperary; the development of products working in close collaboration with the Tourism Agencies and Organisations and Investment Sourcing to support both the key objectives of the Tourism Strategy and development of Visitor Attractions.

Members thanked Mr. J. MacGrath for the initiative proposed by him and complimented him on an outstanding Report, which they agreed was very positive. They identified particular strengths that North Tipperary has to offer and areas which could be further developed. Members also referred to the upcoming visit of President Obama to Ireland and the opportunities that may arise from this to promote North Tipperary. Mr. MacGrath advised that this had been raised at the Corporate Policy Group meeting. The specific details of the visit were not yet known. He undertook to make contact with the appropriate agencies and to report back to the Council.

Item 10.1
Reports on
Strategic Policy
Committee
Meetings

It was noted that no SPC Meetings had taken place since the last Council Meeting.

Item 11.1
Report on
Meetings held by
Area Committees

Summaries of the following Area Committee meetings were noted:

- Thurles held on 31st January 2011
- Templemore held on 9th February 2011
- Nenagh held on 7th March 2011
- Newport held on 14th March 2011

Item 12.1
Attendance at
Conferences

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Ryan, seconded by Cllr. J Carroll and resolved "That pursuant to Section 142 (5) of the Local Government Act 2001 and having regard to (i) the benefits likely to accrue, (ii) the general interest of this administrative area and of the local community (iii) the estimated cost of the proposed attendance and the provision made for such purposes in the annual budget, hereby nominate those listed hereunder to attend the following Conference/Seminar"

Seminar/Conference /Similar event	Dates	Venue	Nominees	Estimated Cost
Carlow 9 th Annual Tourism Conference – A River Runs Through It	3 rd – 5 th March	The Seven Oaks Hotel, Athy Road, Carlow	Cllr. Eddie Moran	€500
Regional Seminar on Planning & Development (Amendment) Act 2010	29 th March	Millenium Hall, Cork City Hall, Cork	Cllr. John Kennedy	€500

Regional Seminar on Planning & Development (Amendment) Act 2010	11 th April	Dublin Castle Conference Centre, Dublin	Cllr. John Carroll	€500
Regional Seminar on Planning & Development (Amendment) Act 2010	15 th April	Douglas Hyde Lecture Centre, Athlone IT, Athlone	Cllr. Eddie Moran Cllr. Mattie Ryan Cllr. Jonathan Meaney Cllr. Seamus Morris Cllr. Hughie McGrath	€500
LAMA Spring Seminar – Economic Revival: A Role for Local Government	29 th – 30 th April	Fairways Hotel, Dundalk, Co. Louth	Cllr. Mattie Ryan	€500
The Local Government Planning Service	11 th – 13 th March	Silver Tassie Hotel & Spa, Ramelton Road, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal	Cllr. John Kennedy Cllr. John ‘Rocky’ McGrath	€500
Association of County & City Councils Annual Conference	24 th – 25 th March	Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly	Cllr. John ‘Rocky’ McGrath	€500
Managing Public Relations – A guide to effective Public Relations	11 th – 13 th March	The Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare	Cllr. Billy Clancy	€500

Item 12.2
Reports on
Conferences

Members noted the following Reports on Conferences: -

Conference/Seminar Title	Date Of Conference	Reports Received from:
Carlow Tourism 9 th Annual Tourism Conference – A River Runs Through It	3 rd – 5 th March 2011	Cllr. Eddie Moran

Item 13.1
Mayor’s Business

None.

Item 14.1
County
Manager’s/
Directors Business

Mr. J. MacGrath referred to the Enterprise Support Unit for new and expanding businesses. He advised that Mr. M. Shortt, Mr. B. Beck and Ms. A. Lyons were assigned responsibility for this Unit which would ease the path for those with business ideas. The Unit would not be a source of finance – this was the role of other agencies. It was proposed that the Enterprise Support Unit be formally launched and that an invitation be extended to Minister Phil Hogan to launch it. Members agreed to this proposal.

Ms. R. Joyce advised that the Corporate Policy Group would meet with Members of the Oireachtas on the day of the April Council Meeting. She requested Members to forward any items they wished to have raised with the Oireachtas Members to her.

Ms. R. Joyce confirmed that Bishop Emeritus Willie Walsh and Caleb Powell had accepted the invitation from the Council to a Joint Civic Reception in their honour. This would be held directly after the Council Meeting on 18th April 2011.

Item 14.2
County
Manager’s/
Directors Orders

Members noted the County Managers/Directors of Services/Heads of Functions Orders for the months of January and February 2011.

Item 15.1
Tenders

Members noted the following Schedule of Tenders:-

John Ryan Construction, Ballyegan, Birr, Co. Offaly in the sum of €49,000 excluding Vat for renovation works to house at Lisnaviddoge, Templemore
Nagle Agricultural Consultants, Jonestown, Edenderry, Co Offaly in the sum of €27,132.02 inclusive of VAT – Agricultural Consultant – Thurles & Newport Regional Water Supply Schemes
Cherryfox Developments Ltd., 19 Lord Edward Street, Limerick in the sum of €183,044 excluding VAT for refurbishment works to House at Cullenagh, Ballina

Item 16.1
Notices of Motion

Notice of Motion No. 13,058 submitted by Cllr. V. O’Dowd was dealt with in conjunction with Item 9.1 on the Agenda.

No. 13,058

“I am calling on North Tipperary County Council, Nenagh Town Council and Nenagh Chamber of Commerce to work with the Tourism Officer and the Tourism Forum to fund a marketing officer for North Tipperary”.

No. 13,059

Notice of Motion No. 13,059 was proposed by Cllr. J. Casey, seconded by Cllr. J. Carroll:

"To call on all Councils to work together in order to retain the rights for the delivery of water services in Ireland".

The following reply was read out: -

‘The members are advised that, on January 28th 2011, the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government sought expressions of interest from Consultants to carry out an assessment on the feasibility of establishing a national water utility.

The call for expressions of interest stated:

“The assessment should determine the most effective structure(s) for delivering high quality competitively priced water services to customers (domestic and non-domestic) and for infrastructure provision. In particular, the review will consider whether a national water utility would be more efficient and cost effective than the existing implementation and operation structures across the 34 city and county councils. It is anticipated that this review will cover the legal framework and financial and economic dimensions as well as organisational issues, having regard to international experience and relevant examples of best practice. The appointment will be on a fixed price lump sum basis with the study to be completed by 30 September 2011.”

Following a discussion, it was agreed to circulate this Notice of Motion to other Councils.

No. 13,060

Notice of Motion no. 13,060 submitted by Cllr. Hughie McGrath

"To call on the County Manager to place a temporary reduced speed limit of 60km on the N52 at Congar until such time as the new road is completed by the NRA"

As Cllr. H. McGrath was not present when this item was reached it was agreed, in accordance with Standing Orders, to send a written response to him on the Motion.

No. 13,061

Notice of Motion no. 13,061 submitted by Cllr. John Hogan

“I request that North Tipperary County Council design and build a pedestrian crossing outside the main gate of the Sacred Heart Primary School in Roscrea. This is a local issue that I wish to bring to the attention of the full Council.”

As Cllr. J. Hogan was not present when this item was reached it was agreed, in accordance with Standing Orders, to send a written response to him on the Motion.

Item 17.1
Correspondence

Members noted the following correspondence copy of which was circulated to them via email: -

	From	Subject
1.	Office of Minister for Health & Children	Acknowledgement to Council's letter regarding proposed transfer of ICU beds to Limerick Regional Hospital.
2.	Office of Minister for Environment, Heritage & Local Government	Reply to Councils letter calling for the amalgamation of the four Joint Policing Committees in North Tipperary.
3.	Clones Town Council	Reply to Councils letter calling for the amalgamation of the four Joint Policing Committees in North Tipperary.
4.	Office of Minister for Environment, Heritage & Local Government	Reply to Councils letter regarding rate waiver scheme.
5.	Office of Minister for Communications, Energy & Natural Resources	Reply to Councils letter regarding liberalization of the Postal Service.
6.	Monaghan Town Council	Letter outlining Motion adopted by them requesting incoming Government to instigate a system of granting the Irish Diaspora the right to vote in Irish elections.

Item
Any Other
Business

None

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

Signed: _____
Cllr. John Kennedy,
Mayor

Date: _____

Signed: _____
Ms. Rosemary Joyce,
Meetings Administrator

Date: _____