

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY MEETING OF
NORTH TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, LIMERICK ROAD,
NENAGH ON MONDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 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 and Áine Mc Carthy, Staff Officer.

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

- The Corbett Family on the death of Betty Corbett
- Eamonn De Stafort on the death of his wife Máire
- Ann Hayes on the death of her nephew Gerard Gleeson
- Gleeson Family Kilcoleman on the death of Mary Gleeson
- Ryan family, Gortnagoona on the death of Annie Ryan

Item 1.1
Minutes of
January 2011
Monthly Meeting It was proposed by Cllr. J. Carroll seconded by Cllr. J. Casey and unanimously agreed that the minutes of the January 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 It was agreed to defer consideration of this matter until the March Monthly Meeting.

Item 2.2
Schedule of
Uncollected Rates It was agreed to defer consideration of this matter until the March Monthly Meeting.

Item 3.1
Annual Report of
Audit Committee It was agreed to defer consideration of this matter until the March Monthly Meeting.

Item 4.1
Disposal of Land
at Lorrha It was proposed by Cllr. M. O'Meara, seconded by Cllr. S. Morris and resolved that pursuant to Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000, the disposal of 5.5M² at Lorrha Village the ESB be carried out in accordance with the terms of the Notice dated 20th January, 2011 sent to each Member, and in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

Item 5.1
Planning &
Development
Quarterly Report It was agreed to defer consideration of this matter until the March Monthly Meeting.

Item 5.2
Planning &
Development
Register

It was agreed to defer consideration of this matter until the March Monthly Meeting.

Item 6.1
Community &
Enterprise
Quarterly Report

It was agreed to defer consideration of this matter until the March Monthly Meeting.

Item 6.2
Community,
Sports & Cultural
Grant Scheme

Members were advised that the payment of €100,000 under the Community, Sports & Cultural Grants Scheme to Thurles Enterprise Centre was recommended by the Thurles Area Committee.

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Casey, seconded by Cllr. J Ryan and resolved that €100,000 is granted to Thurles Enterprise Centre under the Community, Sports & Cultural Grants Scheme.

Item 7.1
Delegation Orders

It was agreed to defer consideration of this matter until the March Monthly Meeting.

Item 8.1
Reports on
Strategic Policy
Committee
Meetings

It was noted that no SPC Meetings had taken place. A schedule was circulated to members showing the dates for meetings of each Strategic Policy Committee for 2011 and the proposed Work Programmes for 2011. This was noted by members.

Item 9.1
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

Members raised a number of concerns in relation to the deterioration of roads across the County and requested a special meeting to discuss roads. Various issues were raised in relation to the employment of temporary staff, the materials used for road repairs, removal of water from potholes, the impact on roads of increased salt usage, specific roads problems and the TÚS Scheme.

Mr. M. O'Connor responded to the members' queries and advised that most areas had begun to take back temporary staff and that others would be doing so over the next few weeks. He advised members that the TÚS Scheme is being run by the Leader Partnership. In relation to the patching units he informed members that there were three patching units at present with a fourth on order which would make work more efficient by having a unit in each electoral area and he added that these units filled all potholes with compression which allows water to be blown out of potholes. He stated that macadam is the superior material to use on roads but the Council does not have the budget to use this on all roads. He advised members that there is a low rate of spread of salt and the technical advice was that this would not damage roads if properly constructed. In relation to the Dromin Road he informed the members that work would commence on this within the next two weeks. Referring to issues raised in relation to the compact junctions on the N62, Mr. M. O'Connor advised the members that the area of road that was being referred to was designed by the NRA and the Council had raised concerns with them in relation to same. Mr. J. MacGrath advised that it was not a matter for North Tipperary County Council to correct the junctions concerned as they were neither designed nor built by the Council. It was a matter for the N.R.A.

Mr. J. MacGrath informed the members that he had been in contact with the North Tipperary LEADER Partnership in connection with the TÚS Scheme and had indicated that the Council was interested in same. The Scheme had only recently been launched and LEADER was not yet in a position to discuss same in detail. He would continue to liaise with them to see how North Tipperary County Council could benefit from the Scheme.

Following discussion it was agreed that the Roadworks Programmes would first be brought to Area Meetings and then brought back to the full Council. Mr. J. MacGrath advised members that the Area Meetings could be brought forward if necessary in order to facilitate finalising the Roadworks Programme.

Item 10.1
Attendance at
Conferences

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Casey, seconded by Cllr. D. Ryan 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
Taking Care of Business 2011	16 th February	Convention Centre, Spencer Dock, Dublin	Cllr John Carroll	€500
Finding Opportunity in the Green Economy	26 th January	Tipperary Institute, Thurles	Cllr Jim Casey	€500
Launch of Obesity Hub and Health data workshop	15 th February	Room G11, Brookfield Health Sciences Complex, UCC	Cllr John Hogan	€500

Item 10.2
Reports on
Conferences

Members noted the following Reports on Conferences: -

Conference/Seminar Title	Date Of Conference	Reports Received from:
Finding Opportunity in the Green Economy	26 th January 2011	Cllr Jim Casey

Item 11.1
Mavor's Business

Cllr J Kennedy requested that the closing date for the CARS scheme be extended by a further 2 weeks and Mr. J. MacGrath agreed to an extension of the date to 9th of March advising members that this would be the final extension to the closing date.

Cllr J. Kennedy wished the best of luck to all of the candidates taking part in the General Election and in particular to Cllr. Billy Clancy and Cllr. Séamus Morris.

Item 12.1
County
Manager's/
Directors Business

Mr. J. MacGrath briefed the members on the outcome of the Organisational and Corporate Review that was ongoing since September 2010. He advised members that the review of services and assessment of the need to focus on the delivery of strategic programmes which are integral to the future economic development of North Tipperary was now complete and arising from this review, the following measures would be implemented during 2011:

- A1 The establishment of a Business Support Unit
- A2 Focus on Tourism Development and Promotion
- A3 Merger in one Directorate of programmes aimed at assisting and nurturing Community Development
- A4 Various Strategic Infrastructural and other projects

- B1 Revised delegation of functions
- B2 Re-location of Motor Tax Offices to the Civic Offices
- B3 Delivery of services in Thurles in one location
- B4 Analysis of transactions in Area Offices with objective of assessing appropriate levels of service and staffing
- B5 A number of internal reviews of services including a review of the efficiency of the operation of the Machinery Yard; review of the on-call arrangements and establishment of an Income Task Force.

He also advised that refurbishment works were being carried out on Roscrea Courthouse.

Members welcomed the County Manager's review and the initiatives being undertaken and complimented him on the progress already being made.

Ms. R. Joyce reminded members that the Ethics Declarations needed to be submitted before the end of February.

She informed members that the Corporate Policy Group had considered the request from Cllr. V. O' Dowd to host a Civic Reception to honour Caleb Powell, the President of the IRFU and were recommending same to the Council. This was unanimously agreed by members on the proposal of Cllr. V. O' Dowd, seconded by Cllr. J. Meaney. Following discussion it was proposed that the Civic Reception for Mr. Powell be a joint Civic Reception with the Bishop Emeritus of Killaloe, Willie Walsh which had previously been agreed by the Council. It was also agreed that the Civic Receptions for the North Tipperary Branch of the Irish Wheelchair Association and the Community Alert Groups in North Tipperary be held as a separate Joint Civic Reception.

Ms. R. Joyce also drew members attention to correspondence from the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government on upcoming seminar on the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 and requested that any members interested in attending would contact her as soon as possible.

Item 12.2
County
Manager's/
Directors Orders

It was agreed to defer consideration of this matter until the March Monthly Meeting.

Item 13.1
Tenders

It was agreed to defer consideration of this matter until the March Monthly Meeting.

Item 14.1
Notices of Motion

Notice of Motion No. 13,058 submitted by Cllr. V. O'Dowd

"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".

It was agreed to defer consideration of this matter until the March Monthly Meeting.

Notice of Motion no. 13,059 submitted by Cllr. Jim Casey

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

It was agreed to defer consideration of this matter until the March Monthly Meeting.

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"

It was agreed to defer consideration of this matter until the March Monthly Meeting.

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."

It was agreed to defer consideration of this matter until the March Monthly Meeting.

Item 15.1
Correspondence

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

	From	Subject
1.	Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government	Training for Elected Members on the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010

2.	Nenagh Town Council	Letter advising of rejection of our Motion relating to Joint Policing Committees
3.	Department of Justice & Law Reform	Reply to Councils letter regarding Joint Policing Committees
4.	Office of the Taoiseach	Acknowledgement to Councils regarding Postal Services
5.	Office of Minister for Communications, Energy & Natural Resources	Acknowledgement to Councils regarding Postal Services
6.	Office of Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Employment	Acknowledgement to Council letter requesting Waiver Scheme for Commercial Rate Payers
7.	Office of Minister for Environment, Heritage & Local Government	Acknowledgement to Council letter requesting Waiver Scheme for Commercial Rate Payers
8.	Office of Minister for Finance	Acknowledgement to Council letter requesting Waiver Scheme for Commercial Rate Payers
9.	Office of Minister for Environment, Heritage & Local Government	Acknowledgement to Council letter requesting a national publicity campaign in the run-up to winter
10.	Office of Minister for Environment, Heritage & Local Government	Acknowledgement to Council letter regarding Climate Change Bill
11.	Office of the Táiniste & Minister for Education & Skills	Reply to Councils letter regarding Higher Education Grant Scheme.
12.	Office of Minister for Education & Skills	Letter requesting submissions on amalgamation of VECs
13.	South Tipperary County Council	Email outlining unanimous support for Councils notice of motion regarding the re-establishment of the sugar processing industry in Ireland
14.	South Tipperary County Council	Email outlining unanimous support for Councils notice of motion regarding postal services in Ireland
15.	Clonmel Borough Council	Email outlining motion adopted by them regarding postal services in Ireland.
16.	Castlebar Town Council	Email outlining motion adopted by them regarding recent increases in mortgage rates.
17.	Castlebar Town Council	Email outlining motion adopted by them regarding protocols in primary and secondary schools.
18.	Fonduireacht an Phiarsaigh	Letter requesting nominations for Pádraig Pearse Awards 2011
19.	Comhairle na Mire Gaile	Letter requesting nominations for National Bravery Awards
20.	Local Authority Members Association (LAMA)	LAMA Audited Accounts for 2009
21.	Office of Minister for Finance	Reply to Council's letter requesting NAMA style debt write off scheme for households with serious mortgage arrears problems.
22.	National Roads Authority	Reply to Council's letter requesting earlier notification of Road Allocations.
23.	Office of the Minister for Transport	Reply to Council's letter requesting earlier notification of Road Allocations.

Ms. R. Joyce made members aware that the closing date for submissions to the Office of the Minister for Education and Skills in relation to the amalgamation of VEC's was February 25th.

All Members agreed that they were opposed to the amalgamation of the VECs and they did not wish to make a submission and that a letter to this effect should issue to the Department of Education and Skills.

Item 16.1
Any other
business

Cllr V. O' Dowd asked if the Council would again contact the NRA requesting that a sign be put in place on the M7 notifying motorists of high winds. Mr M. O'Connor advised he would again bring this matter to the attention of the NRA.

Cllr G. Darcy requested an update on the situation at Ballaghveny Landfill. Mr. K. Cashen updated members and advised that landfill operations will cease on Saturday 26th of February. He added that the Civic Amenity element will remain open on Fridays and Saturdays and one member of staff will be redeployed into the Nenagh Recycling Centre. The Nenagh Recycling Centre will in the coming weeks operate from a Tuesday to Saturday and the public will be made aware of this once the new opening hours are finalised.

Mr. K. Cashen advised members that they received seven expressions of interest in response to the public procurement process with the private sector and following this four companies attended interviews with the consultants, the landfill manager and himself on the 26th and 27th of January. He added that a draft report had been received from consultants and there would be further engagement with the consultants on this. The procurement process was ahead of target. Further updates would be given to members at future meetings. He also advised that the Council would meet with the local community if there were any concerns.

Cllr. J. Kennedy advised members that the Official Launch of the Lough Derg Way would take place on Saturday 26th February at 12 noon in Dromineer.

Cllr. J. Ryan expressed concern that 5 ICU beds were to be transferred from Nenagh to Limerick Hospital and he requested that the Council should write expressing the members concern at the removal of this vital service. He added a meeting with the CEO of the HSE should be sought to establish what the future plans for the hospital are. This was agreed by members.

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: _____