

## South Tipperary County Council

### Minutes of South Tipperary County Council Meeting held in The Council Chamber, County Hall on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2011

<b>In the Chair</b>	Cllr. Sean McCarthy
<b>Present</b>	Cllrs. T. Acheson, L. Ahearn, S. Ambrose, M. Anglim, J. Brennan, J. Crosse, J. Crowe, J. Donovan, P. English, J. Fahey, M. Fitzgerald, S. Healy, D. Landy D. Leahy, S. Lonergan, L. McLoughlin, R. Molloy, M. Murphy, MI Murphy, J. O'Brien, E. O'Meara, D. Ryan, T. Wood.
<b>Apologies</b>	Cllrs Mary Hanna Hourigan and Sylvia Cooney Sheehan
<b>In attendance</b>	E. O' Connor, B. McEvoy, E. Drennan, S. Carr, C. Curley, S. Keating, G. Walsh, D. Holland, A. Fennessey
<b>Meetings Administrator</b>	Mr. John O'Mahoney
<b>Minutes</b>	On the proposal of Cllr. Pat English and seconded by Cllr. Darren Ryan the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 13 <sup>th</sup> December, 2010 were adopted.

#### Matters Arising

<b>Frosty Weather – Christmas Period</b>	Members complimented all staff both indoor and outdoor for all their hard work during the exceptionally cold frosty weather over the Christmas period. Members acknowledged that a lot had been learned since the cold spell last year and that the Local Authority was better prepared and that better procedures had been put in place to deal with the difficult situations which it faced. Members acknowledged that even more lessons had been learned from this year's cold spell and acknowledged that a huge problem for householders was the water pipes in houses which are not buried deep enough.
--	---

Members suggested that maybe some of the money that has been earmarked for installation of meters through the Country be used instead to renew some of the water mains.

Mr. Sean Keating, Director of Services also acknowledged the dedication of all staff both indoors and outdoors especially plumbers and their crews, during the Christmas period and thanked members for their understanding and support during the bad weather. Mr Keating went on to say that the call centre had received over 3,000 calls over a six day period with many of the calls relating to frozen pipes on consumer side. Mains leaks were dealt with very quickly and smaller connection-type leaks are well under control, despite the number rising. Mr. Keating also highlighted the fact that 125% more water was used than was normally produced and that running taps were putting a strain on our resources which lead to water having to be conserved. Mr. Keating acknowledged that a lot of lessons had been learned from last years and the recent cold spell and that discussions were already taking place with a view to putting improved procedures in place.

Cllr. J. Fahey suggested that householders should be encouraged to purchase a water putt which gathers rainwater which would conserve supplies.

Following discussion it was agreed to seek additional funding for mains rehabilitation works and to request that regulations in relation to the depth of water pipes be reviewed.

**ESB  
Maintenance  
Works**

Cllr. J. O'Brien requested that the Council write to the ESB to ensure that planned maintenance work would not in future be carried out the week before Christmas when businesses are at their busiest.

## **Home Help**

Members raised serious concerns in relation to reductions in Home Help hours particularly to the elderly. A number of members referred to specific cases that they were aware of where significant reductions had been implemented despite reassurances that had been received in a letter dated 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2010 from the HSE stating that "there are currently no budgeting restrictions on access to home help". Members also expressed concerns about the level of service which will be available into the future in terms of bed units a Cluann Arann, Tipperary and also that applicants are experiencing delays in having their applications assessed for Carers Allowances. Following discussions, it was agreed to write to the HSE to request a meeting to discuss the situation with regards to these issues.

## **Conferences**

On the proposal of Cllr. Michael Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr. Jimmy O'Brien it was agreed that: -

Cllrs. Michael Murphy, Cllr Tom Acheson be nominated to attend conference organised by Esperanza Enterprises entitled European Legislation on Human Rights, Irish Legislation and Irish Case Law, The Effects on Local Authority Housing Insurance Issues to be held at The Kingsvalley Hotel, Merlin Park, Dublin Road, Galway City on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2011.

Cllrs. Marie Murphy, Michael Murphy, Louise McLoughlin, Liam Aherne, John Crosse, Michael Fitzgerald, Jimmy O'Brien, Seanie Lonergan, Mary Hanna Hourigan, Siobhan Ambrose, Joe Brennan, Denis Landy be nominated to attend conference organised by ICLRD entitled The Changing Business, Community and Spatial Planning Landscape: Doing more with Less to be held at the Radisson BLU Hotel & Spa, Ballincar, Rosses Point, Sligo on 20<sup>th</sup> –

21<sup>st</sup> January, 2011.

Cllrs. Michael Anglim, Jimmy O'Brien, Richie Molloy be nominated to attend conference organised by Kadenza Consultancies entitled Volcanic Ash, Major Flooding; Freezing Spells – Crises Impacts on Ireland to be held at The Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> – Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2011.

Cllr Tom Wood be nominated to attend conference organised by Esperanza Enterprises entitled Compliance with Planning Permission Enforcement of Conditions of Planning Professional Indemnity Insurance and Bonds to be held at The Kingsvalley Hotel, Merlin Park, Dublin Road, Galway City on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> – Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2011.

Cllrs. Michael Fitzgerald, Sean McCarthy, Michael Anglim, Jack Crowe be nominated to attend conference entitled The Role of State Institutions & Law Reform in Promoting Ireland's Economic Future to be held at Thomond Park Stadium, Limerick on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2011.

**Section 183  
Notices –  
Disposal of land  
at Shanballyduff  
& Templenoe,  
Cashel**

It was proposed by Cllr. Tom Wood  
Seconded by Cllr. Louise McLoughlin  
And Resolved: -

"That in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, we hereby approve of the disposal of 0.191 hectares (0.472 aces), at Shanballyduff & Templenoe, Cashel, Co. Tipperary, in accordance with the terms of the Notice under the above Section as circulated on the 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2010."

**Finance  
(a) Financial  
Report for year  
to 30<sup>th</sup>**

Ms. Eileen Drennan, Head of Finance referred to the Financial Report which had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Revenue Account report shows at 30<sup>th</sup>

**November,  
2010**

November 2010 €70.6 million of the annual expenditure budget of €82 million has been spent. The Annual Financial statements are currently being prepared. Ms. Drennan informed the meeting that overall there will be a small deficit but that the Capital account for the financial year 2010 is expected to balance.

This position was noted.

**(b) Approval to  
over-  
expenditure**

It was Proposed by Councillor Michael Fitzgerald  
Seconded by Councillor Michael Anglim  
And Resolved –

“That in accordance with Section 104 of the Local Government Act 2001 excess expenditure in respect of the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010 be and is hereby approved as follows: -

<b><u>Programme</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
A01 Maintenance & Improvement of LA Housing	€685,000
A03 Housing Rent and Tenant Purchase Administration	€7,000
A07 RAS Programme	€710,000
A11 Agency & Recoupable Services	€70,000
B01 NP Road Maintenance & Improvement	€60,000
B03 Regional Road Maintenance & Improvement	€2,500,000
B07 Road Safety Engineering Improvement	€10,000
B08 Road Safety and Promotion	€10,000
C07 Agency & Recoupable Services Water	€40,000
D05 Tourism Development and Promotion	€40,000
D06 Community & Enterprise Function	€160,000
D11 Heritage & conservation Services	€15,000

E08	Waste Management Planning	€50,000
E14	Agency & Recoupable Services	€350,000
F03	Outdoor Leisure Areas Operation	€15,000
F04	Community Sport and Recreational Development	€25,000
F05	Operation of Arts Programme	€35,000
G05	Educational Support Services	€550,000
H03	Administration of Rates	€25,000
H05	Operation of Morgue and Coroner Expenses	€35,000

**Draft Timber Procurement Policy 2011**

Mr. Denis Holland, E.E., referred to report which had been circulated to members before the meeting and explained that there is a whole new emphasis on the use of timber, which is being driven by many factors, not least of which are climate change and government policies worldwide. Mr. Holland went on to say that South Tipperary County Council recognises that the production and manufacture of timber based products has significant economic, environmental and social impacts. Sustainable forest management is about preserving forests as a source of life for all who depend on it. South Tipperary County Council believes that timber should be harvested in such a way that it does not threaten the range of associated goods and services that forests provide in contributing to human well-being, poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihoods. Mr. Holland urged the members to adopt the South Tipperary County Council Timber Procurement Policy 2011 in order to ensure that South Tipperary can achieve these objectives.

It was proposed by Cllr. Pat English  
 Seconded by Cllr. Joe Brennan  
 And Resolved: -

"That we the members of South Tipperary County Council hereby adopt the Timber Procurement Policy 2011, the terms of which were circulated with the agenda for the meeting of the Council held on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2011".

**County  
Managers  
Orders for  
January**

County Managers Orders for the month of January were noted.

**Notice of Motion**

**Speed Limit at  
Fawnagown,  
Lacken and  
Kilshane**

The Council considered the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. MI Fitzgerald and Denis Leahy: -

**"That the default speed limit for the area's of Fawnagown, Lacken and Kilshane be dropped from the present 80km to 50km"**

The review of the Special Speed Limits throughout the County will be completed in 2011.

This process involves consultation with the Elected Members (which has already taken place) followed by consultation with An Garda Siochana and the National Roads Authority (due to take place in April 2011) followed by Public Consultation (July 2011). Following consideration of comments and submissions received during the above process, a presentation will be made to the Strategic Policy Committee (September 2011) prior to submission for the consideration of the Elected Members of the Council (October 2011). The Notice of Motion requesting "That the default speed limit for the area's of Fawnagown, lacken, and Kilshane be dropped from 80km to 50km" submitted by Councillors Michael Fitzgerald and Denis Leahy will be considered prior to

making the presentation to the Strategic Policy Committee in September 2011.

Mr. Billy McEvoy, Director of Services informed the members that although it is a reserved function there are National Guidelines which need to be followed and that the Council would be consulting with the Gardai, National Roads Authority and report back to the Strategic Policy Committee later in 2011.

**Rathcoole Cemetery, Fethard**

The Council considered the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Richie Molloy: -

**“That South Tipperary County Council replace the gate at Rathcoole Cemetery in Fethard as it’s in a deplorable condition”.**

A new gate for Rathcoole Cemetery will be manufactured and erected within the next 4 weeks.

**Public Lighting at the Crescent Estate, Boherlahan**

The Council considered the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Tom Wood: -

**“That the Manager would advise as to the situation at the crescent estate, Boherlahan where Council applicants are housed without any public lighting or no estate management i.e. Cleaning”.**

The developer responsible for completion of the above estate went into liquidation prior to fully completing the works. The Council has met on site with representatives of Airtricity, who have responsibility for public lighting, with a view to resolving the issue as soon as possible. It is anticipated that the problem can be resolved within the coming weeks.

In relation to their normal estate services such as servicing of litter bins etc., this will be done on a regular basis through the Cashel Area Office.

**Traffic Calming Measures along the N24 Road**

The Council considered the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Denis Leahy:-

**“That South Tipperary County Council and the National Roads Authority recognise the stated wish of the people in Limerick Junction in implementing The 2005 Local Area Plan and install proper Traffic Calming Measures similar to those on other locations along the N24 road such as Boher, Oola, Bansha, and further acknowledge that at pedestrian crossing and Traffic lights without full Traffic Calming Measures would make the situation more dangerous.”**

As advised at the Annual Budget meeting in December, South Tipperary County Council has applied to the National Roads Authority for funding in 2011 to construct a Traffic Calming Scheme for Limerick Junction. The design concept consists of Gateway Signage to optically reduce the road width at each end of the village and enhanced lighting along the National Primary Road to provide an ‘urban’ feel to the village setting. The carriageway will be narrowed on the Monard side of the village to 7.0 metres by kerbing and providing footpaths on either side of the road to serve existing housing and to provide pedestrian connectivity between the railway station, the village centre and the race course. The carriageway lanes will be further reduced in width by incorporating a hatched area along the centre of the road. The available road width on the approach to the village from Tipperary Town will only permit a footpath

on one side which will connect with the recently constructed footpath to Tipperary Town, kerbing and soft landscaping will be provided on the other side of the road to again provide road users with the sense of an urban environment together with hatching along the road centreline to further reduce the apparent width of the carriageway. It is the intention of the Council, subject to National Roads Authority funding and approval, to provide the Traffic Calming infrastructure in 2011.

**Resolutions from other Local Authorities**

**Macroom Town Council**

That any monies collected for N.P.P.R. Charges be collected by the Local Authority involved, be it Borough, Town, County or City Council and be re-enforced within that Council".

**Votes of Congratulations**

- Archbishop Liam Slattery on his appointment as Archbishop of Pretoria
- John Guiton, Sports Journalist on his retirement from the Tipperary Star

**Votes of Sympathy**

- The family of John Doyle, former Tipperary Hurler
- Donal Tuohy, Cahir Area Office on the death of his mother Mary Tuohy

**Any other Business**

Proposed loss of Housing Functions

Cllr. Denis Landy circulated a recent newspaper article regarding government plans to set up regional housing authorities that will result in city, town and county council housing departments being merged in a bid to save money and become more efficient.

Members expressed their opposition to such a plan as it would not be in the constituent's interest as it would be more beneficial if such matters were dealt with at local level.

It was agreed to write to the Minister calling on him to reject the proposals to strip Local Authorities of their housing powers and to advise the member's representative organisation on this issue.

The meeting then concluded.

**Signed/\_\_\_\_\_.**      **Dated/\_\_\_\_\_.**  
**Cathaoirleach.**

**Signed/\_\_\_\_\_.**      **Dated/\_\_\_\_\_.**  
**Meetings Administrator.**