

South Tipperary County Council

Minutes of South Tipperary County Council Meeting held in The Council Chamber, County Hall on 3rd October, 2011

In the Chair	Cllr. Michael Fitzgerald
Present	Cllrs. T. Acheson, L. Ahearn, S. Ambrose, M. Anglim, J. Brennan, S. Cooney, Sheehan, J. Crosse, J. Crowe, J. Donovan, P. English, J. Fahey, B. Fitzgerald, M. Hanna Hourigan, D. Leahy, S. Lonergan, L. McLoughlin, S. McCarthy, R. Molloy, M. Murphy, MI Murphy, J. O'Brien, E. O'Meara, D. Ryan, B. Shoer, T. Wood
In attendance	B. McEvoy, S. Carr, G. Walsh, E. Horgan, S. Reidy, P. Britton
Meetings Administrator	Mr. John O'Mahoney
Civic Reception	Following consideration by the Whips, it was agreed by the members to accord a Civic Reception to the All Ireland Minor football Team in Grangemockler at a date to be decided.
National Housing Award	<p>The Cathaoirleach informed the members that he had the honour of attending the ICHS National Social Housing Conference in Galway where South Tipperary County Council received two awards – category winners in the provision of housing for families for the Cois Abhainn Scheme in Ballyporeen and for the Part V housing project by Inis Housing Association in Monard. He congratulated all involved in achieving these awards.</p> <p>The ICSH Community Housing awards were initiated in 2003. The award encouraged, recognised and rewarded excellence in the delivery of social housing. It promoted and showcased how innovative design could help create sustainable communities and impact</p>

positively on the lives of the tenants and residents, the local and wider community and contribute towards a greener environment.

In 2011, there were approx. 30 entries. The competition was open to all housing associations housing co-operatives and local authorities. Mr. Ger Walsh, S.E.O. Housing, made a presentation to the members on the Cois Abhainn Scheme highlighting the various aspects of the scheme that merited the award.

Adjournment

It was agreed to adjourn the meeting for one hour to allow VEC members to attend a VEC function.

Resumption

Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. Denis Leahy and seconded by Cllr. Louise McLoughlin, the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 5th September, 2011 were adopted.

On the proposal of Cllr. Denis Leahy and seconded by Cllr. Louise McLoughlin, the minutes of the special meeting held on 12th September, 2011 were adopted.

Conferences

On the proposal of Cllr. L. McLoughlin and seconded by Cllr. MI. Murphy, it was agreed that:-

Cllr. Tom Wood be nominated to attend conference organised by Kerry Life Education Ltd entitled "Getting a Grip 2011 – Substance Misuse – A Health or Criminal Justice Issue?" to be held at Europe Hotel & Conference Centre on 6th and 7th October, 2011.

Cllrs. Sean McCarthy and Jack Crowe be nominated to attend conference organised by TJK Conference Ltd entitled "Local Government & Planning Seminar for Councillors to be held at Patrick Punch Hotel, Limerick on 7th – 9th October, 2011.

Cllrs. Louise McLoughlin and Darren Ryan be nominated to attend conference organised by Esperanza Enterprises entitled "New Government Regulations and how they affect the Domestic Home" to be held at The Kingsvalley Hotel, Merlin Park, Dublin Road, Galway City on 7th – 9th October, 2011.

Cllr. Louise McLoughlin be nominated to attend conference organised by Federation for Victim Assistance entitled "Victims of Crime – the Cost of the Community to be held at Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry on 14th and 15th October, 2011.

Cllrs. Michael Fitzgerald, Jimmy O'Brien, Denis Leahy, Joe Donovan and Siobhan Ambrose be nominated to attend conference organised by Esperanza Enterprises entitled "Social Housing Assessment Regulations 2011 at Carlton Atlantic Coast Hotel, Westport on 14th – 16th October, 2011.

Cllr. John Fahey be nominated to attend conference organised by Celtic Conferences entitled "Optimising Taxation Allowance and Benefits & Revenue On-Line Workshop" to be held at Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork on 21st – 23rd October, 2011.

Cllr. Darren Ryan be nominated to attend conference organised by Kadenza Consultancies entitled "The Role of the Councillor in Education and the Community" to be held at City North Hotel, Gormanstown, Co. Meath on 28th and 29th October, 2011.

**Clonmel
Environs
Development
Plan 2008-2014
Variation No. 2**

Ms. S. Reidy referred to the Proposed Variation No. 2 of the Clonmel & Environs Development Plan 2008 that had been circulated to the members and stated that the purpose of the variation as altered was to ensure that the Clonmel & Environs

Development Plan was in compliance with the Core Strategy provisions introduced by the Planning & Development (Amendment) Act, 2010 and introduced changes to the written statement of the plan and the phasing of lands already zoned for new residential development purposes.

It was proposed by Cllr. B. Shoer
Seconded by Cllr. L. McLoughlin
And Resolved: -

“That pursuant to the provisions of Section 13(b) of the Planning and Development Acts, 2000 – 2010 and having considered the Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Clonmel & Environs Development Plan 2008, the Section 13(4) Manager’s Report, the resulting Members’ Directions and Proposed Material Alterations to Proposed Variation No. 2 and the Manager’s Report of August 2011 including the Manager’s Recommendations contained within, to the extent that it applies to the administrative area of South Tipperary County Council hereby resolve that the Proposed Variation No. 2 as amended by the Proposed Material Alterations and the Members’ Directions resulting from a workshop held on 24th August, 2011 be made”.

**Preliminary
Flood Risk
Assessment**

The proposed submission to the Office of Public Works in response to the draft Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment had been circulated to the members for consideration. The submission made comments on the flood risk mapping, the areas for further assessment and the implications for insurance purposes of the Flood Risk Assessment and Management Plans Programme.

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Anglim
Seconded by Cllr. D. Leahy
And Resolved: -

“that pursuant to the provisions of Section 8(2)(c) of the European Communities (Assessment and Management of Flood Risks) Regulations 2010 and having considered the Draft Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment hereby resolve to make a submission to the OPW of the Council’s observations.”

Appointment of Representative to Joint Libraries Committee

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

“That Councillor Martin Browne be and is hereby appointed to the Joint Libraries Committee as representative for Cashel Town Council”.

Tourism Overview

Ms. Eileen Horgan presented an overview of tourism in the South East and Tipperary. The goal of Failte Ireland was to grow the region’s share of bednights by at least 8% by 2013 while maintaining the share of the domestic holiday bednights at 18%. Actions for 2011 developed by South Tipperary Tourism Company were outlined together with tourism activities and festivals that had been held in the various towns.

Members thanked Ms. Horgan for her informative presentation and made suggestions/comments as follows: -

- Gravestones – internet site to be set up where people can view headstones in local graveyards
- Facilities for campervans
- Lack of musical entertainment at night for tourists in our towns and villages
- Improved signage for South Tipperary
- Provide directions on signage entering Carrick-on-Suir for Ormond Castle & Manor House
- Investigate tourism potential of Red

- Hill Road (Cappawhite to Holyford)
- Town Hall, Fethard – possible tourism use
- Genealogy tourism

Sustaining & Growing Retail Activity in South Tipperary 2012 – 2014

A draft plan on sustaining and growing retail activity in South Tipperary for the period 2012-2014 had been circulated to the members for consideration. Over the last number of years the retail sector and small service sector in South Tipperary had experienced on-going and growing difficulties in terms of sustaining their business as a result of the current decline in the broader economic health of the country. The Strategic Policy Committee for Physical and Economic Planning and Development had worked with the relevant stakeholders and explored options on how to address this and what supports/assistance could be provided. The plan covered issues and actions relating to – planning and provision of retail; current business issues, economy in general/promotion of towns, streets, signs and events; parking; co-ordination across the county; district service centres/village shops and services; tourism/promotion and financial issues.

Cllr. Michael Murphy, Chairman of the SPC outlined the work undertaken by the SPC in the formulation of the document and the positive actions contained in the plan and recommend the acceptance to the members.

Draft Commercial Incentive Scheme

A draft commercial incentive scheme had been circulated to the members. Ms. Sonja Reidy summarised the scheme, the aim of which was:

- To reduce the number of ground floor vacant properties in the town/village centres
- To improve the commercial offer and diversity in our centres
- To encourage the provision of local

- commercial ventures
- To assist in job creation and ongoing employment
- To increase the rates collection for South Tipperary County Council that would not otherwise be collected in order to maintain local services.

To qualify for the Commercial Incentive Scheme, the subject site must primarily be a ground floor unit located on lands zoned for Town Centre or Village Centre use (in Holycross, the qualifying zoning is Commercial) within the administrative area of South Tipperary County Council.

In response to queries from members Ms. Reidy clarified aspects of the scheme. She confirmed that town and urban councils would adopt their own incentive scheme.

Following extensive discussions both policies were proposed by Cllr. MI Murphy seconded by Cllr. Joe Brennan and agreed.

County Managers Orders for September

County Managers Orders for the month of September were noted.

Notice of Motion

Maintenance on the N24 road from Carrick on Suir to Dove Hill

The Council considered the following Notice of Motion in the names of Cllr. Bobby Fitzgerald:-

“Given the increase in accidents on this primary section of road can essential road repairs and maintenance be carried out on the N24 road from Carrick on Suir to Dove Hill, together with appropriate signage to reflect concealed entrances of residents located on the route”.

This Council is engaged on a rolling programme of road strengthening works on the N24 corridor through South Tipperary with funding provided by the National Roads Authority. 6kms of the N24 were strengthened between Kilsheelan and east of the railway bridge at Ballinderry in 2010 and a further 2kms will be strengthened on the western approach to Carrick-on-Suir this year. Sections of the N24 which have not yet been strengthened are maintained through annual funding provided by the National Roads Authority. South Tipperary County Council will contact the NRA Regional Safety Engineer to discuss the appropriate measures with respect to the recent accident at this location.

ESB Pole at Crossogues

The Council considered the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. John Fahey: -

“I am calling on this Council to put pressure on the ESB to relocate a pole at Crossogues, Gortnahoe so that the junction can be made safe”.

The Council would carry out works over the coming weeks to demark the junction in such a manner to make the junction safer. In the meantime, the Council would continue to liaise with the ESB regarding the relocation of the pole”.

Cllr. Fahey asked that this matter be pursued if no response was received from the ESB within one month.

Sugar Beet Industry

The Council considered the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. John Fahey: -

“That this Council asks the Minister for Agriculture why the feasibility studies in relation to the sugar beet industry are taking so long and calls

him to expedite the finalisation of these studies”.

Members spoke in support of the motion and it was agreed to write to the Minister for Agriculture.

**School Zone
Flashing lights
on the n24
corridor in
Carrick on Suir**

The Council considered the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Bobby Fitzgerald: -

“That the Council writes to the NRA requesting...”In the interest of safety can school zone flashing lights be located on the N24 corridor in Carrick on Suir on both sides of Scoil Mhuire Secondary School and Christian Brothers Secondary School located in the area”.

The roads section of South Tipperary County Council would liaise with the National Roads Authority Regional Road Safety Engineer with regard to the locating of flashing warning lights on the approaches to Scoil Mhuire Secondary School and Christian Brothers Secondary School in Carrick on Suir.

**Resurfacing
roadworks at
Ballydoyle**

The Council considered the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Pat English: -

“That resurfacing roadworks be carried out on the New Inn road at Ballydoyle (back entrance to Ballydoyle Stud). This road serves the Delahunty families, Morrisseys, O’Gormans, Haydens and others”.

This Notice of Motion refers to the Blackcastle Road – Road No. LP1411 and was not included in the 2011 Cashel Area Works Programme, which was nearing completion. Minor surface repairs would be undertaken over the coming weeks, subject to available resources.

This road can be considered as part of the 2012 Cashel Area Works Programme.

The Control of Horses Act 1996

The Council considered the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Pat English: -

“That South Tipperary County Council implements The Control of Horses Act 1996, which will improve the mind-set of horse owners towards the welfare of horses and all animals”.

The Control of Horses Act 1996 was being implemented in South Tipperary County Council and the Council were particularly active in relation to horses found wandering on the public roads. In these situations the Council has no hesitation in rounding up these horses and then transporting them to a pound outside Cork City.

In relation to cases of neglect or mistreatment of horses, the Council’s Veterinary Officers will respond to any such cases which are reported to the Council and following investigation, where the Veterinary Officers are satisfied that neglect and mistreatment has taken place and where the owners of the animals can be identified the matter is reported to the Gardaí. The Garda Síochána also has jurisdiction under the Control of Horses Act.

Discontinuation of Local Authority Refuse Collection

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

“That while regretting the pending discontinuation of our Local Authority Refuse Collection Service, I call on Management to do everything possible to:

- (a) Have the Waiver Scheme protected for those**

- (b) experiencing hardship**
- (b) Ensure the protection of jobs for Council staff presently working in the Refuse Collection Service**
- (c) Ensure that the contract with the private sector does not create a monopoly with resulting problems for the customer”.**

The Council had recently signed a contract with Clean Ireland recycling for the disposal of the refuse collection service in the county. Arrangements were currently being made for the handover of the service to this private operator and it is expected that same will be completed by 31 October 2011. The agreement with Clean Ireland Recycling provides for the guaranteed continuation of the waiver scheme currently in operation for a period of twelve months to ensure protection for those experiencing hardship.

Furthermore, the Council has given a commitment to those staff members involved in refuse collection that they will be deployed to other duties within the Council once the handover has been completed.

The members would be aware that recent developments in household waste collection have seen the entry of new private companies into South Tipperary, who are providing refuse collection services to households. Currently, up to eight different companies provide such services and the contract recently signed by the Council will not create, or assist in the creation of, a monopoly in the refuse collection market.

A number of members expressed their dissatisfaction at the discontinuation of the refuse service and the way that this

was communicated to them.

The County Manager referred to difficulties being experienced by the Council in competing with the private sector while maintaining a waiver system. He regretted having to take the decision to discontinue the service but advised that in the current economic climate it was no longer sustainable.

**Civic Amenity
Centre, Cashel**

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

“That due to the pending discontinuation of the Council Refuse Collection Service, Management would advise as to the situation regarding the Civic Amenity Centre in Cashel relating to the section dealing with the Councils own collection of household waste”.

The Council’s facility at Waller’s lot, Cashel consists of a recycling centre and waste transfer station. The waste transfer station has been used by the Council for the transfer of its waste (both residual and dry recyclable) to onward destinations. Discussions are underway with Clean Ireland Recycling for the possible continued use of the waste transfer station for the same purpose and it is envisaged that – if finalised such arrangements would be reviewed in due course in the light of circumstances then pertaining.

**Staffing levels
at Saint Patricks
Hospital**

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

“That this Council seeks an urgent meeting with HSE personnel to discuss concerns at the serious reduction in staffing levels at Saint

Patricks Hospital and the closure threat hanging over the twenty three bedded, Saint Clares Unit”.

During discussion on the motion members referred to threats to services in Cluain Arann and Mount Sion, Tipperary also and it was agreed to write to the HSE to request that an appropriate representative of the HSE would attend the November meeting of this Council to discuss overall services in South Tipperary.

Bend at lower approach to Newtown Upper National School

The Council considered the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Bobby Fitzgerald: -

“In the interest of safety could the bend at the lower approach to Newtown Upper National School, Carrick on Suir be removed which will facilitate a clearer view and allow safe parking”.

There were no proposals and no funds available in the 2011 Fethard Area Works Programme to carry out the works referred to in this Notice of Motion. Proposals for the 2012 Fethard Area Works Programme can be considered, subject to available resources.

Anonymous complaints in relation to Planning Issues

The following Notice of Motion was not moved in the absence of Cllr. Seanie Lonergan: -

“That this Council change the policy of taking complaints anonymously from people in relation to Planning issues who’s only reason for doing so is to waste the County Council’s time to settle private Agenda’s.

Resolutions from other Local Authorities

Carrick-on-Suir Town Council

I call on this Council to write to the Minister for Social Welfare, to provide funding for a national waiver scheme for

refuse collection service”.

Kilkee Town Council

“Calling on Clare County Council to make available to the elderly and vulnerable Carbon Monoxide alarms”.

Votes of Sympathy

- Martin Nolan on the death of his wife Mary
- Ann Comerford on the death of her husband PJ
- Marian Power on the death of her father Dick
- Carmel Hanrahan on the death of her sister in law Tess

The meeting then concluded.

Signed/_____. Dated/_____.
Cathaoirleach.

Signed/_____. Dated/_____.
Meetings Administrator.