

**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF MACROOM TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, MACROOM ON  
TUESDAY, 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2010**

**PRESENT:** The Mayor, Cllr McSweeney, presided. Cllrs. Coughlan, Counihan, Cullinane-McCarthy, Foley, Lucey, Melia, McCathy and O'Connell.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr. John O'Neill, Town Manager  
Mr. Brendan Fehily, Town Engineer,  
Ms. Breda Duggan, Town Clerk

**LAUNCH OF MACROOM TOWN COMMUNITY POLICING**

The Mayor welcomed Inspector Sugrue, Sergeants Lynch & O'Sullivan and Garda Doyle to the Launch of the Macroom Town Community Policing. Sergeant Lynch circulated booklet on the Macroom Community Policing Initiative that also detailed the names of the Gardai and the different areas of the town that they had been assigned to.

The Mayor stated that this initiative will be very well received by the people of Macroom especially the elderly. She went onto say that this will improve relationships between the Gardai and Community and will lead to a safer and better community. Inspector Sugrue stated that this Launch coincides with Garda Community Safety Week. He went on to outline the benefits of the Gardai and the community working together and stressed that this initiative will only succeed with active input from the Gardai and the residents in each area. All the Members in turn welcomed this initiative.

The Gardai then left the Meeting.

**MEETING WITH BOARD OF MANAGEMENT, ST. COLMAN'S BOYS NATIONAL SCHOOL**

- The Mayor welcomed Fr. Burke, Chairperson of the Board of Management and Mr. Martin Clancy, Principal of the School to the Meeting. Cllr Counihan stated that he and other Members of the Council requested that the Board of Management attend this meeting so as to be made familiar with developments ie position regarding road, playing area, etc. Fr. Burke stated that the issue of the playing area is with the Department of Education. Fr. Burke stated that he and Mr. Clancy had met with the Town Manager, Town Engineer and Town Clerk in September regarding the roadway to the school and expressed their disappointment at the lack of progress and co-operation on the matter. Fr Burke stated that the area outside of the school boundary was out of their control as they did not own it and criticised the level of Bond in place by the Council. The Town Clerk stated that when the level of Bond is being calculated it is assumed that the works will be

completed to a certain standard and the amount in the Bond is merely to finish off such works not actually to construct a roadway. Cllr Coughlan pointed out that the Town Council has no responsibility for putting in a roadway. Cllr O'Connell enquired if the autism unit is open during the summer months. Mr. Clancy stated that it can close at the end of June. Fr Burke stated they have been unable to contact the developer, had started legal proceedings but may take three years to come to Court. It was noted that the permission will expire in July of this year and that the Council may consider calling in the Bond. It was agreed that the way forward is for all parties to work together and it was agreed that the Mayor, Manager and Town Clerk would meet with the Board of Management .

1) **MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON 23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH, 2010**

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2010 were adopted on the proposition of Cllr Lucey and seconded by Cllr Counihan.

2) **MATTERS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES and ENGINEERING ISSUES**

a) **Junction at Kelleher;s Garage**

In response to Cllr Foley the Town Engineer stated that Currans are currently renewing the lining and that a line may be painted at this junction.

b) **Missing kerbs at Main Street**

Cllr Melia expressed his disappointment at the missing kerbs not having been replaced on Main Street and stated that it is a safety issue. The Town Engineer stated that the contractors have been instructed to replace the kerbs. It was agreed in the interests of safety that the Council should do the work immediately.

c) **School at Cork Street**

Cllr Counihan expressed his disappointment at the non-attendance of the Manager earlier when the Board of Management were present. The Manager stated that there is a certain format to be followed, that he had advised the Mayor that he would not be attending and was aware of the issues of the roadway. The Manager stated that he had met with the developer at the request of the Council which resulted in some works being done which included the footpath. He stated that the Council have called in Bond previously and may do so in this case.

- d) Drain in front of Twomeys Shop**  
In response to Cllr McCarthy the Town Engineer stated that the drain will now be attended to as he had received permission from the AIB today to go into their property.
- e) Mill Stream**  
In response to Cllr Counihan the Town Clerk stated that she had not contacted Waterways of Ireland. She stated that a drain is being made to be filled with stones leading back to river that should take away the water lodging in that particular area.
- f) Water at bottom of Oakwood**  
In response to Cllr Foley the Town Engineer stated that a gulley is required at this location.
- g) Bridge from Weirs to Sullane Weirs Housing Estate**  
Cllr McCarthy raised the issue of the gateway from Sullane Weirs not closing and the unsuitability of the Bridge for buggies etc and said it was a safety issue. The Meeting was informed by the Town Clerk that she tried to ascertain some time ago who was responsible for putting up the Bridge but failed to do so.
- h) Flashing school light at Railway View**  
In response to Cllr Melia the Town Engineer stated that there was a problem with the control panel. To be followed up by the Town Engineer.
- i) Surface water at Dan Corkery Place**  
Cllr Melia highlighted the problem of surface water gathering in front of the last house at Dan Corkery Place.
- j) Right of Way through McInerneys development**  
Cllr Lucey asked the Town Clerk to follow up with McInerneys regarding opening the right of ways through this development.
- k) Directional signs**  
Cllr Cullinane-McCarthy expressed her annoyance at Kilmichael Pitch & Putt Club being invoiced for €100. The Town Clerk stated that Section 254 of the Planning Regulations requires local authorities to charge for signs. The Town Manager stated that he would look at the matter.

- l) Light at Grotto**  
Cllr Cullinane-McCarthy stated that the light at the Grotto is not working.
- m) Grate near Grotto**  
The Mayor stated that the grate at this location is noising when traffic goes over it and requested that it be attended to.
- n) Flooding in front of Hospital**  
Cllr Counihan stated that this problem is still occurring.
- o) Brushing of footpaths**  
Cllr Lucey asked if the footpaths could be brushed throughout the town, the same as last year.
- p) N.R.A. Funding**  
Cllr Coughlan requested that the funding allocated for Hartnett's Cross should be pursued by the Engineer to ensure that it is spent in Macroom town.

**3) URBAN ROAD GRANT PROPOSALS 2010**

The Town Engineer circulated list of possible works to be funded through the Urban Road Grant and suggested that this list roll over to 2011/2012 and to include other more urgent works as well. The List included:

- Coolyhane Road (by Creedons, Bealick Mill to New Bridge)
- Sleaveen (top of the Hill)
- Coolyhane (North of Speed Limit)
- Millstreet Road (From Ros Alainn NW to Urban Boundary)
- Bowl Road (from Council Yard to Castle Court).

It was agreed that the following should also be included:

- Footpaths at St. Colman's Park
- Section of Ard na Greine where the old estate joins the new estate.
- Barrett Place
- O'Connor Park
- Outside AIB to Frank Twomey's shop.

**4) MANAGER'S ORDERS AND PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

A list of Manager's Orders made and a list of Planning Applications received since the last meeting, as circulated, were noted.

**5) AMENITY GRANT APPLICATIONS, 2010**

Cllr Melia stated that the Boxing Club had missed the deadline for applying and that they were anxious to apply. It was agreed that nothing could be done as the closing date was specific.

The Members went through the list of applications received and noted that Sullane Weirs Residents Association did not qualify. The Town Clerk to notify them to apply under Estate Management Grants. It was agreed on the proposal of Cllr. McCarthy seconded by Cllr. Counihan to allocate the Grant of €8,500 as follows subject to invoices and proof of payment being received beforehand:

Macroom G.A.A.	€2,000
Macroom Soccer Club	€1,400
Macroom Scouts	€2,000
Macroom Judo Club	€1,400
Macroom Girl Guides	€ 500
Macroom Allotments	€1,200

**6) NOTICE OF MOTION FROM CLLR CULLINANE-MCCARTHY**

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Cllr Cullinane-McCarthy and seconded by Cllr Foley: *“In light of the economic plight we now find ourselves in, and the collapse of the building industry, I am calling on all Councils to review their Development Charges. We are no longer in the Celtic Tiger era and we need to make drastic changes to kick start our economy again, in all areas of business, costs are falling and Councils need to drastically reduce development charges to adapt to changing times”*

**7) CORRESPONDENCE**

**a) Pioneer Abstinence Association**

Correspondence from Mrs. Mary Buckley of the above association seeking funding. On the proposal of Cllr McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. Lucey it was agreed to give €200.

**b) Conferences**

TJK – Defamation Seminar - noted.

Tarbert Community Care June 5<sup>th</sup> Conference – noted.

Celtic Conferences on JPC – On the proposal of Cllr McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. Melia it was agreed that Cllr O’Connell would attend.

2010 La Touche Legacy Seminar – noted.

Trevor Bowen Summer School – noted.

**c) Notice of Motions**

a) Castlebar Town Council on the banking crisis that involved doubling of the national debt was adopted on the proposition of Cllr Foley and seconded by Cllr. Counihan.

b) Balbriggan Town Council call on the Minister for Education not to cut back on the number of Special Need assistants was adopted on the proposal of Cllr McCarthy and seconded by Cllr Coughlan.

c) Bandon Town Council strategy required to tackle youth unemployment was adopted on the proposal of Cllr Foley and seconded by Cllr Cullinane-McCarthy.

**d) General correspondence**

a) 2010 Excellence in Local Government Awards from Chambers Ireland – noted.

b) Valley Wheelers doing “on the spot” cycle in Macroom on this coming Friday and Saturday in aid of Marymount Hospital. On the proposal of Cllr. Counihan, seconded by Cllr. Foley it was agreed to give €100 to the cause.

c) Bee for Battens – Tony Heffernan organising fundraiser to raise funds to send his two terminally ill children to the U.S. for treatment. Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> May stopping off in Macroom (200 Motorcycles, etc). On the proposal of Cllr Counihan, seconded by Cllr Foley it was agreed to give €100 to the cause.

**8) ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**a) CCTV Monitoring**

A long discussion took place on the above. Cllr Cullinane-McCarthy voiced her disapproval and stated that the CCTV was effecting business in the area and was not in favour of the camera being used from a van. Cllrs Foley and Melia expressed their reservations too. Cllr O’Connell and Lucey stated that either a motorist parks legally or illegally and and is a straight forward matter. Cllr O’Connell proposed and Cllr Lucey seconded that the Council purchase CCTV and monitor the clearway. The Town Manager stated that a Report will be prepared on the matter for the next meeting and the CCTV will be stopped in the meantime.

**b) Defibrillators**

In response to Cllr Foley the Town Clerk stated that the Town Council were not holding this matter up as was intimated.

**c) Vote of Congratulations**

- a) **Macroom Soccer Team**  
Cllr Foley proposed a Vote of Congratulations to the Macroom Soccer Club who on the Premier Division.
- b) **Fintan Goold**  
Cllr O'Connell proposed a Vote of Congratulations to Fintan Goold, member of the Cork Team that won the Football League.
- d) **Minutes on Website**  
Cllr Melia stated that he had been requested if more detail could be included in the Minutes and if the comment box on the website could be open to allow comments. It was agreed to allow the comment box to be opened.
- e) **Old ESB Office**  
Cllr Foley highlighted the poor state of the old ESB office. The Town Clerk to follow the matter up.
- f) **Signs by Auctioneers**  
Cllr Coughlan stated that a number of auctioneers signs are thrown down and should be confiscated.
- g) **Spring Clean**  
Cllr Coughlan thanked the people who turned off for the 3 evenings of the Spring Clean.
- h) **Appeal to Young People**  
Cllr McCarthy wished to appeal to young people, now that summer is coming, to bring bags to ensure that no litter is deposited in areas where they congregate.
- i) **Mayor's Reception**  
The Mayor stated that the May Monthly Meeting will be held earlier to allow Reception to follow.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.**

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**MAYOR**

**DATE:**\_\_\_\_\_

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**TOWN CLERK**

