

South Tipperary County Council

Minutes of South Tipperary County Council Meeting held in The Council Chamber, County Hall, Clonmel On Monday 2nd March, 2009.

In The Chair	Cllr. Tom Ambrose
Present	Cllrs. L. Ahearn, M. Anglim, J. Crosse, J. Crowe, J. Donovan, S. Healy, J. Fahey, M. Fitzgerald, D. Foley, R. Kennedy, C. Kinahan, D. Landy, S. Lonergan, S. McCarthy, A. Moloney, S. Meagher, P. Norris, S. Nyhan, J. O'Brien, R. O'Meara, B. Shoer, T. Wood, D. Ryan and M. Maguire
Apologies	Cllr. K. Bourke
In Attendance	E. O'Connor, B. McEvoy, E. Drennan, C. Curley, S. Keating, S. Reidy, G. Walsh
Meetings Administrator	Mr. John O'Mahoney
Minutes	On the proposal of Cllr. D. Foley and seconded by Cllr. A. Moloney the minutes of Council Meeting held on 9 th February, 2009, were adopted.
	<u>Matters Arising</u>
	<u>Litter</u> Cllr Foley condemned the littering of roadsides and referred in particular to the condition of the Glenconnor Road. He stated that this type of littering was an affront on the community. Members supported Cllr Foley.
	<u>Surplus Lands</u> Issues were raised regarding surplus lands following road developments and Mr. McEvoy undertook to discuss the matter with the NRA
Conferences/ Seminars	On the proposal of Cllr. D. Foley, seconded by Cllr. J. Crosse it was agreed that:- Cllrs. S. Nyhan, E. O'Meara, J. Crosse, S. Meagher, J. Donovan, C. Kinahan, J. Fahey, M. Fitzgerald and D. Landy attend conference organised by Colmcille Winter School entitled "Ireland and the Economic Recession" on 27 th February – 1 st March, 2009

Cllrs. L. Ahearn attend conference organised by Combat Poverty Agency entitled “Revisiting the Cost of Children: Theory and Evidence from Ireland” on 3rd March, 2009.

Cllrs. S. Nyhan, J. Crosse, L. Ahearn, D. Foley, S. Meagher, A. Moloney, D. Landy, P. Norris, S. Lonergan, T. Ambrose, and J. Donovan attend conference organised by Rattoo Heritage Society entitled “The 17th Annual Kerry Environmental Recognition Conference” at The Golf Hotel, Ballybunion, Co. Cork on 4th – 8th March, 2009.

Cllrs. T. Wood and E. O’Meara attend conference organised by Clonakilty District Chamber of Tourism entitled “Local Sustainable Tourism – Management in a Global Economic Slowdown” at Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork on 6th – 8th March, 2009.

Cllr. Susan Meagher attend conference organised by Irish Rural Link entitled Rural Broadband Seminar at Moate, Co. Meath on 20th March, 2009.

Cllrs. J. O’Brien and S. Meagher attend conference organised by Westport Tidy Towns entitled “The National Tidy Towns Conference” held in Westport on 27th March, 2009.

Cllrs. E. O’Meara, M. Fitzgerald, J. Crowe, J. Fahey, J. Crosse, M. Anglim, S. Nyhan and T. Ambrose attend conference organised by Kerry Literacy & Cultural Centre entitled “The Economic & Social Benefits of Preserving our Cultural Heritage” on 26th – 27th March, 2009.

**Local Government
Auditors Report on
Annual Financial
Statement 2007**

Ms. E. Drennan, Head of Finance referred to the report of the Local Government Auditor for 2007 and stated that the Auditor had reported on the Annual Financial Statements of South Tipperary County Council and certified them to be a true and accurate account of the financial position of the Council.

Rate Collection 2007

Ms. E. Drennan, Head of Finance, reported to the members on rate collection for 2008 in accordance with Article 40(2) of the Local Government (Financial Procedures and Audit) Regulations 2002. The total amount of rates due for collection in 2008 was €7,420,966.64. The amount collected was €7,131,949.25. The total carried forward to 2009 was €289,047.39. There was a satisfactory level of collection at 96%.

**Village Enhancement
Schemes**

Ms S Reidy outlined the purpose of the scheme which was to facilitate and guide co-ordinated improvements to the village streetscapes and to provide for the enhanced visual quality

and amenity provision in the villages. Draft schemes were prepared for Ardfinnan, Ballyclerihan, Dundrum, Killenaule, Kilsheelan and Lisvernane and these were presented to the communities at public meetings. Schemes were now finalised for Ardfinnan, Ballyclerihan and Kilsheelan and were circulated to the members. The schemes would be implemented over the coming years subject to funding being available from development contributions.

Public consultation would commence shortly in advance of preparing schemes for Ballingarry, Ballyporeen, Bansha, Clogheen, Golden, Holycross and Mullinahone.

Members indicated their agreement to the three schemes as proposed.

Re: Tidy Towns / Village Competition 2009

The Cathaoirleach referred to the Environmental Awards Ceremony in December at which it was announced that a new competition was being introduced to provide extra support in the sum of €10,000 for a town or village in South Tipperary in the 2009 National Tidy Towns Competition. The competition was managed by the Council's Environment Section and, based on the criteria which was established to facilitate the adjudication, a total of 20 committees were eligible to compete of which 10 actually applied

Based on the competition criteria, the entry received from the Emly Tidy Towns Committee was adjudged the winner, with Cashel Town a close second

Members congratulated Emly Tidy Towns Committee on their success in the competition and wished them every success in their efforts to secure the overall National Tidy Towns Award in 2009. They also congratulated Cashel and praised the work of the volunteers.

Members referred to various litter blackspots in the County and the need to enforce litter prosecutions.

**Variaton No. 1 Clonmel
and Environs
Development Plan 2008**

It was proposed by Cllr. Tom Ambrose
Seconded by Cllr. Derry Foley
And Resolved:-

“that having considered the proposed Variation No. 1 to the Clonmel and Environs Development Plan 2008, which was placed on public display for the period from Monday the 8th December, 2008 to Thursday the 15th January 2009 and the Manager's Report and Recommendation dated 30th January 2009 we the Members of Clonmel Borough Council, approve without amendment, the Variation No. 1 of the Clonmel and

Environs Development Plan 2008, as circulated in accordance with Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act 2000. The purpose of the Variation is:-

- (1) Omit lands at Kilsheelan village from the Clonmel and Environs Development Plan 2008.
- (2) Amend the 'zoning matrix' set out in Chapter 9 of the Clonmel and Environs Development Plan 2008.

**South Tipperary
County Council
Climate Change
Strategy**

Mr. Denis Holland introduced Mr. Paul Kenny, Senior Energy Consultant with Tipperary Energy Agency Ltd.

Mr. Kenny informed the meeting that a Climate Change Committee with representatives from each section and area of the Council had been established with sub-teams formed. Energy use in each section had been analysed and actions for 2008-2010 established and a draft strategy was in place. Key projects for 2009 included:-

Fethard Area Pump and Controls;
Hydro power plant for Rossadrehid intake;
Wind Turbine for Tipperary Town water supply;
Insulation and Heating controls for County Hall;
Pool covers for Clonmel Borough and Tipperary Town pools;
LED Christmas Lighting roll-out where appropriate;
Public Lighting Pilot Projects;
Micro Wind turbines for remote sites.

Mr. Kenny outlined the expected results and projected cost and savings. He also outlined other actions that were proposed.

Members thanked Mr. Kenny for his presentation.

Other Issues

Taking of Estates in Charge

Cllr Shoer referred to the non-completion of housing estates and in particular Churchview, Ballyclerihan. He outlined concerns regarding the pumpstation in this estate and asked that the developer be requested to carry out the necessary works.

Mr. O'Mahoney undertook to investigate the matter. He stated that the planning section were actively pursuing enforcement against developers.

Housing Grants

Cllr Healy requested that a meeting be sought with the Minister for the Environment to discuss the allocation for the Housing Adaption Grant for People with a Disability, Housing Aid for Older People and Mobility Aids Grant. This

was seconded by Cllr Foley.

Spreading of slurry on agricultural lands

The Council considered the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Jimmy O'Brien:-

“That this Council calls on the Minister for Agriculture to immediately change the closed period for the spreading of slurry on agricultural lands”.

This motion received the support of the members.

Lime Free Water – Monroe

The Council considered the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Billy Shoer:-

“That this Council source lime free water to mix the with the water supply from Monroe to all housing estate north of the Bypass Clonmel, to reduce the lime content of this supply, that is causing concerns and a financial cost to domestic users and their household appliances.”

The Council is using water from the boreholes to supply the area north of the Inner Relief road in Clonmel. The remainder of the Borough is supplied from Glenary and Poulavanouge.

The boreholes are being used because the two existing plants are not capable of serving the whole area.

Water from the boreholes is pumped to the distribution network serving the area on the north of the town. It was necessary to manage the pressure in the system so it is not possible to mix the Glenary Water with the water from Monroe.

Hence the two types of water are distributed in separate zones.

Clonmel Area Members spoke of the problems being encountered by householders due to the lime content of the water and expressed their dissatisfaction with the reply. They asked that officials do everything possible to improve the supply. Similar problems in the Fethard/Drumdeel area and Garrymore/Clogheen/Ballylooby areas were raised.

Killalone/Riverwalkway Clonmel

The Council considered the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Billy Shoer:-

What is the up-to-date position on the new legal advise sought on the right of way at Killalone/River Suir walk way, Clonmel”.

An application for funding under the Interreg Programme was made in February 2009 through the County Heritage Officer, for the upgrading of the towpath from Carrick-on-Suir to Clonmel and a response is awaited.

With regard to land ownership our legal advice indicated that there may be significant legal issues involved in establishing title to property at Killaloan. Because of the complex legal nature of the issue, progress may take some time and will of course be dependent on the availability of resources. We will however continue in our efforts to progress the matter.

Following discussion it was agreed that every effort would be made to progress the matter. A further update would issue.

Agency Houses Respond and Cluid

The Council considered the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Billy Shoer:-

“Has the Council received any response from our last correspondence to the Dept of Local Government regarding the sale of Agency houses Respond and Cluid”.

Following discussion it was agreed that the Department would be requested to include all voluntary houses in any proposed sale scheme.

Gritting Service

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

“That in view of the dangerous road conditions experienced this winter and the failure of the local authority to provide a gritting service, the Manager would outline the cost of same and what if any emergency funding is available in such circumstances”.

South Tipperary County Council provides an effective winter maintenance service and the issue of winter maintenance has been discussed in detail at the recent Council Monthly Meetings. With a total road network of approximately 3,000km, it is not possible to provide a winter maintenance service to the total network. Accordingly, roads are prioritised as follows: -

1. Category of Road (Motorway, National, Regional, Local)
2. Volume of traffic using Road (most heavily trafficked roads receive priority)
3. The large urban centres, so as to maximise the benefit to road users

The provision in the 2009 Budget for winter maintenance is €264,000. It should be noted that this has been the coldest winter for a number of decades and the number of call-outs to date far exceed the number of estimated call-outs based on previous experience. To date, over the 2008/2009 winter period, there have been 42 No call-outs. Therefore, the Budget Allocation for winter maintenance 2009 is already exhausted.

We have written to the National Roads Authority (NRA) seeking an additional allocation for winter maintenance and a meeting is to be arranged with the NRA to discuss this issue.

Roads Section is constantly reviewing the situation and if necessary, funding will have to be found for the additional costs from within existing Road Budget resources.

Members complimented roads staff on their response to the recent severe weather conditions.

**Energy rating system
on residential buildings**

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

“That the Manager would update the members on the proposals for energy rating system on all buildings residential and otherwise as announced by the Department of the Environment”.

The Council has recently appointed a panel of assessors to carry out a Building Energy Rating (BER) of all Local Authority Houses which have been rented since the 1st of January, 2009.

This work will commence shortly and the backlog since the beginning of the year will be cleared as soon as possible. The system will also be extended to cover any public buildings occupied since the 1st January, 2009.

The foregoing is required under the EU Directive on the Energy Performance of Buildings (EPBD) which was adopted into Irish Law as regulation in 2006.

The Council will continue with the improvement works programme to our housing stock which will upgrade the insulation and fabric standard and will have a beneficial effect on all future BER Ratings achieved.

In response to an enquiry by Cllr Wood, it was clarified that both private and local authority housing would require an

energy rating. An official list of assessors would be available on the Sustainable Energy Ireland website.

€200 tax on second and subsequent dwellings

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

“That the Manager advise on the €200 tax on second and subsequent dwellings as announced in the budget, when and how it will be implemented and what revenue is expected to be collected in South Tipperary under this Scheme”.

I wish to advise that legislation in relation to the “€200 tax on second and subsequent dwellings” has yet to be finalised. It is anticipated that when such legislation has been finalised, details in relation to its application will be issued to all local authorities. As soon as such information is received the Council will implement the legislation as required. We will keep the members advised in due course.

This motion received the support of the members.

Health Centre, Bansha

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

That we call on the H.S.E. to give a clear commitment regarding the future of the Health Centre, Bansha”.

Clonmel Area Members spoke of the problems being encountered by householders due to the lime content of the water and expressed their dissatisfaction with the reply. They asked that officials do everything possible to improve the supply.

Similar problems in the Fethard/Drumdeel area and Garrymore/Clogheen/Ballylooby areas were raised.

Cllr Fitzgerald spoke of the uncertainty in Bansha and surrounding areas of the future of the Health Centre. It was agreed to write to the HSE in this regard.

Clean-up in conjunction with Fás

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

“That the Manager outlines the up to date position in relation to plans for an Environment clean-up in conjunction with FÁS for 2009, in view of the success of the initiative in 2008”.

I wish to confirm that discussions have already taken place with Mr. Liam O’Brien of FÁS and I am pleased to confirm

that arrangements are already being made to implement another clean-up of the roadsides in South Tipperary. It has been agreed that the clean-up operation will commence in mid-March and will run for a period of 4 weeks. There will be 25 teams of FÁS participants deployed under FÁS supervision to undertake the clean-up.

These arrangements will be co-ordinated through the Area Engineers who will arrange for the bags of litter to be collected at various drop-off points and transported to Donohill Landfill for disposal. This partnership approach between FÁS and South Tipperary County Council is to be commended and it is hoped that this co-operation will continue to operate in future years.

Also, there will be a formal launch of the clean-up at which the Cathaoirleach and FÁS representatives will be present. Details of the launch will be notified as soon as arrangements have been finalised.

Members thanked Fas for their participation again in the Clean Up Operation.

Bridge over the River Suir in Golden

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

“That repair works be carried out as a matter of urgency to the bridge over the River Suir in Golden”.

Following discussions with the National Roads Authority in relation to the bridge at Golden and structural repairs required, a meeting has been arranged for Monday, 2nd March on-site between the Area Engineer and the NRA.

Repair works will be carried out as soon as possible after the meeting.

HSE South Forum

The Council considered the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Billy Shoer:-

“That this Council call on the HSE Forum South to appoint one of the four councilors on the HSE South Forum to the newly established Steering Committee to review all the acute services at South Tipperary General Hospital, this committee will consist HSE Staff and four consultants one from each of the following General Hospital, South Tipperary, Kilkenny, Wexford and Waterford Regional”.

Members supported the motion.

**Resolutions from other
Local Authorities**

Carlow County Council

“That we the Members of Carlow County Council oppose the closure of Bethany House and call upon the Health Service Executive to upgrade Bethany House to the proposed H.I.Q.A. standards”.

Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council

“That this Council supports the important role played by County and City Councillors and workers on Harbour Boards, condemns the government proposals to remove or reduce numbers of Councillors and workers as outlines in the Harbours (amendment) Bill 2008 and calls on the Minister to ensure that these measures are not implemented”.

Kerry County Council

“That the members of Kerry County Council call on the Government to introduce a one-off special tourist tax relief of up to 20% for Irish residents who will holiday at home this year in light of the current economic/financial climate which we are in”.

Muinebeag Town Council

Pursuant to an audit in FAS that any savings identified be used for the extension of a community employment programme with particular regard to the maintenance and upkeep of community facilities”.

Votes of Sympathy

- Eamon Lonergan on death of wife Lena
- Ann Delahunty on death of husband Dessie
- Walter and Ann Wall on the death of their son Stephen

Conclusion

The meeting then concluded

Signed/_____ Dated/_____.
Cathaoirleach.

Signed/_____ Dated/_____.
Meetings Administrator