

Minutes of monthly meeting of Ardee Town Council held in Mid-Louth Civic Services Centre, Fairgreen, on Wednesday 8th May, 2013

Cathaoirleach: Mary Kavanagh

Other Members: Michael Farrelly, Pearse McGeough, Dolores Minogue, Finnan McCoy, Padraig McKenny, Fintan Malone, Cllr Jim Tenanty, Cllr Leonard Hatrick

Officials: Joe McGuinness, Director of Service
Miriam Roe, Town Clerk
Padraig Judge, Senior Executive Engineer

MINUTE 34/13

Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. F. Malone and seconded by Cllr. M Farrelly, the minutes of the meeting of 10th April, 2013 were adopted.

MINUTE 35/13

Matters Arising:

Nettuno Visit: Cathaoirleach spoke about the recent visit of some Council Members to Nettuno. She expressed her thanks to Ms Emma Tormey who acted as interpreter for the duration of the visit and it was agreed to send a letter of thanks to Ms Tormey. Cllr Tenanty added that there was a connection made between Ardee Community School and a school in Nettuno and that a local artist has agreed to send some pieces to be displayed at an exhibition in Nettuno.

The Gathering - Cllr Farrelly circulated a list of all Ardee Town Commissioners / Ardee Town Council members and asked if the Members could provide contact details for same. It was still proposed to have this event to co-incide with the 10th Anniversary of Ardee Baroque. Cllr McGeough stated that caution must be exercised with regard to the expense of such an event.

MINUTE 36/13

College Park: Following on from Aprils meeting, the Members were asked for their suggestions / ideas with regard to developing the College Park area. Cllr Malone stated that it was an historical area with the Chantry College and Old Saint Marys. He suggested that perhaps a walk around / through the park could be developed with planting etc.

Cllr Farrelly mentioned the idea of softball, however the space available was too limited.

Cllr McCoy agreed with Cllr Malones suggestion that the park be developed and perhaps used as an 'age friendly' area. He also stated that this was not the location for ball games as it was too small and a lot of the residents were older people.

Cllr Minogue agreed also with Cllr Malone and McCoy

Cllr Tenanty suggested that it possibly be offered to a group for a nominal fee who would maintain the area after the Town Council was disbanded.

Following discussion it was decided to write to the Residents Assoc, Active Retirement, Tidy Towns, People with Disabilities and Student Council to ask them to attend a special meeting to discuss their ideas. A maximum of 2 reps per group to attend. Date 29th May, 2013 at 6.00pm.

MINUTE 37/13

Proposed Clean Up:

At the Councils April meeting Cllr McGeough suggested a clean up of the Riverside walk take place again this year. Town Clerk circulated a discussion document with regard to timing and location of same. It was agreed following discussion that Town Clerk would liaise with Tidy Towns and co-ordinate an evening and location prior to the Tidy Towns judging which would be most beneficial. Cllrs to be advised by text.

It was also agreed on the proposal of Cllr McCoy and seconded by Cllr Tenanty to write to the NRA with regard to the litter problem on the N2 approach (Carrickmacross) to Ardee.

MINUTE 38/13

Planned Works:

P. Judge circulated a report in relation to the planned works for the forthcoming month and works undertaken since the last report.

- Manhole / chamber repairs
- Litter bins installed at bus stops on Link road and Main Street
- Repairs on N52, N2 at boys school and lay by adjacent to St Marys GFC
- Resurfacing of Market Sq and Bridge St, car parks
- Reinstatement completed on N2 by Water Services
- Checking & cleaning of gullies at various locations.

Members noted the following:

- Cllr McCoy:** Thanked Council for works at St Marys
Update re bus stop at Sliabh Breagh – Awaitig response from
Bus Eireann following correspondence sent after last meeting.
Thanked Airtricity rep in the area for his quick response to
requests – Letter to be sent to Airtricity commending Ross
- Cllr Farrelly:** Traffic Lights at Cherry Brook / Sliabh Breagh
- Cllr Tenanty:** Thanked Council for potholes filled in the area.
- Cllr Malone:** Road breaking up across from Castle.

MINUTE 39/13

Notice of Motion from Other Councils:

- **Middletown Town Council** – *“This Council demands that the Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland challenge and reject the proposal/strategy for the abolition of Town Councils in the “Putting People First – Action Programme for Effective Local Government”.*
- **Middletown Town Council** *“This Council calls on the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government to reconsider the proposal/strategy for the abolition of Town Councils in the “Putting People First – Action Programme for Effective Local Government*

It was agreed on the Proposal of Cllr McKenny and seconded by Cllr Malone to endorse the above resolutions.

- **Ballyshannon Town Council** - *“Ballyshannon Town Council call on Minister Alan Shatter, T.D. to withdraw the harsh and unfair proposed pay cuts to An Garda Siochana and other frontline services’.*

This was agreed on the proposal of Cllr McKenny and seconded by Cllr McGeough.

MINUTE 40/13

- **AMAI policy document** – circulated to all Members
- **Ardee Tidy Towns** - It was agreed on the proposal of Cllr McKenny and seconded by Cllr Malone to donate €2,700 to Tidy Towns.

MINUTE 41/13

Any Other Business

Bus Shelters: Cllr McGeough asked if bus shelters can be erected at the two bus stops on N33. P Judge to progress with Bus Eareann.

Bank of Ireland: Cllr Farrelly commented on the new working arrangements in the Bank of Ireland whereby they are not accepting coins in certain instances with only one counter open. This is causing queues out the door and the two machines in the bank are not working. Following a discussion it was agreed on the proposal of Cllr McKenny and seconded by Cllr Malone that a letter be sent to the local branch and head office expressing the dissatisfaction with the service and their treatment of customers particularly in rural towns.

It was also agreed on the proposal of Cllr McGeough and seconded by Cllr Farrelly to write to other councils asking for their support in this regard.

Riverside Walk: Cllr Malone stated that there were more occurrences of anti social behaviour in the area and asked if a fence could be built along the rear of the properties on John Street. J McGuinness stated that whilst he had sympathy for the residents, there was no funding available for this.

Tourist Guide: Cllr Malone mentioned that a pocket guide to Ardee had previously been produced and suggested that this might be done again next year to coincide with the opening of the Castle. It was suggested that funding for same should be requested when the estimates are drawn up.

Anti Social Behaviour: Cllr Farrelly stated that there were a number of instances of anti social behaviour over the bank holiday weekend. Including fence burned at Riverside walk, post box broken at Tierney Street, Planter broken and placed in road at Hale St, hedge fire at Dawsons Demesne and anti social behaviour at sheds at Currabeg. It was agreed to send a letter to the Superintendent of an Garda Siochana and also to discuss at the next JPC meeting.

Sean O'Carroll Street: Cllr Tenanty raised the issue of HGV's and busses using Sean O'Carroll Street. P Judge informed the members that a traffic count was to be set up to assess the intensity of use by these vehicles and will revert with results. As regards the issue of speeding, this is a matter for An Garda Siochana.

Western By-Pass: Questions were raised by Cllr Malone regarding the funding for the Western By-Pass. P Judge to refer to RSU and revert to Council.

Vote of Sympathy: A vote of sympathy was passed to the family of Mr Johnny Brennan who died tragically.

This concluded the meeting.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____