

Minutes of monthly meeting of Ardee Town Council held in Mid-Louth Civic Services Centre, Fairgreen, on Wednesday 8th January, 2014

In Attendance: Councillors: Fintan Malone (Chairperson), Jim Tenanty, Leonard Hatrick, Michael Farrelly, Mary Kavanagh, Pearse McGeough, Dolores Minogue, Finnan McCoy, Pdraig McKenny

Apologies: Pdraig Judge, Senior Executive Engineer

Officials: J McGuinness, Director of Services & Town Clerk

MINUTE 01/14

Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. Michael Farrelly and seconded by Cllr. Jim Tenanty, the minutes of the meeting of 11th December, 2013 were adopted.

On the proposal of Cllr. Finnan McCoy and seconded by Cllr. Michael Farrelly the minutes of the Budget Meeting of 11th December 2013 were adopted.

MINUTE 02/14

Matters Arising

J. McGuinness confirmed that there was no response from the Louth GAA Board in relation to the proposal to site the County pitch in the Ardee area. He also confirmed that there was no response from the National Roads Authority in relation to lighting on the main street of Ardee. The Members expressed disappointment that no replies had been received to date.

J. McGuinness, Director of Services advised the members in relation to some data that was outstanding from the Budget Meeting in relation to Conference spend in 2013 and it was noted that the total spend was €1816.31 which was made up by AMAI membership of €550, AMAI Conferences (Spring and Autumn) €575 and travel and subsistence for conference attendance €691.31.

It was also noted that the surplus to hand in the Capital Account as at December was €53,313 however it was noted that this figure will change once the Financial End of Year exercise was completed.

After a discussion it was agreed that the Members would consider possible projects for marking the end of Ardee Town Council and that this could be

funded from the Capital balance. This was proposed by Cllr. P. McKenny and seconded by Cllr. J. Tenanty.

MINUTE 03/14

Planned Works

S. O'Reilly gave a brief in relation to the current work schedule of the Middle Area staff and in particular the Ardee Town Council crews. It was noted that the budget for 2014 was not yet available and this would dictate any new works. A number of queries were raised including;

- Road condition at the Cottages of Mullenstown,
- Number of Local Contribution Schemes applied for,
- Loose man hole at Ulster Bank,
- Drogheda Road/William Street traffic box.

MINUTE 04/14

Proposed Name Change for 'Castleguard' Road

Further to discussion at the December meeting another discussion took place in relation to the possibility of naming the 'Castleguard' Road which is the road that links the N33 and Hail St. and is sometimes known as the Link Road.

A number of names were suggested and in conclusion it was agreed that the Council would write to all the schools in the Ardee area inviting them to make a submission in relation to the naming of the road and that any proposals should be submitted to the Ardee Town Clerk by January 31st next.

It was also stated that this was open to any person in Ardee to make a submission in this regard.

MINUTE 05/14

Notice of Motions from Other Councils

Donegal County Council:

"That Donegal County Council acknowledge the vital work of the Credit Union movement within the county and understands that a credit union's main strength is that it is local. Further, Donegal County Council supports the Irish League of Credit Unions in their fight against the over zealous regulatory regime and moves toward consolidation being imposed on them by the Government and the Central Bank".

This motion was agreed on the proposal of Cllr. Leonard Hatrick and seconding of Cllr. Pearse McGeough.

Donegal County Council:

“Regarding the recent suggestion that Vehicle Motor Tax may be decentralised (similar to Driving Licence Applications) I ask Donegal County Council to support a proposal that Motor Tax should be left with Local Authorities who have excellent records as far as this work is concerned”.

This motion was proposed by Cllr. Leonard Hatrick and seconded by Cllr. Michael Farrelly.

Longford County Council:

“That the members of Longford Town Council call on the AMAI to challenge the recently published Local Government Bill as it is a direct attack on local democracy and goes against the core principles of the European Charter of Local Self Government”.

On the proposal of Cllr. Pádraig McKenny and seconded by Cllr. Michael Farrelly this motion was agreed.

MINUTE 06/14

Correspondence:

AMAI Spring Seminar 2014:

On the proposal of Cllr. P. McKenny and seconding of Cllr. F. McCoy it was agreed that two Ardee Town Council delegates would go to the AMAI Conference as advertised. A discussion did take place in relation to the general matter of conferences and travel with a number of points being made.

MINUTE 07/14

Any Other Business

A number of matters were raised by the members of Ardee Town Council as follows:

- **Pay Parking Update:** In response to Cllr. F. McCoy, J. McGuinness gave an outline of the current status of the Pay Parking Bye Law changes and it was noted in conclusion that no changes would be implemented until after Saint Patricks Day and that the current Scheme will stay as is until that date.
- **Vote of Sympathy to Nelson Mandela:** On the proposal of Cllr P. McGeough and seconding of Cllr. L. Hatrick, the Council passed a vote of sympathy to Nelson Mandela RIP.
- **Nettuno Town Twinning:** On the proposal of Cllr. J. Tenanty and seconding of Cllr. P. McKenny it was agreed to invite the Nettuno delegation to Ardee as part of the Saint Patricks Day arrangements. A

subsequent discussion took place and it was agreed that Council would meet in sub committee to arrange the itinerary for the visit and to agree the sharing of the arrangements.

- **Traffic Crossing:** Sean O'Reilly advised the members of the previous advice given in relation to the location of the crossing at Market Street.
- **Bus Stop:** On the proposal of Cllr. D. Minogue it was agreed to write to Bus Eireann in relation to the ceasing of a bus stop relating to the Monaghan Dublin Airport Schedule which previously stopped in Ardee
- **Private Estates not Taken In Charge:** On the proposal of Cllr. F. Malone and seconding of Cllr P. McKenny it was agreed to write to the Minister for the Environment regarding the ring fencing of elements of the Local Property Tax paid, to be used for works to bring private estates not Taken In Charge to a satisfactory condition to facilitate Taking In Charge. It was also proposed and agreed that this should be circulated to all Town Councils.
- **New County Development Plan:** It was agreed that Ardee Town Council would make some form of submission to the forthcoming issues paper in relation to the proposal to safeguard the zoning of all Ardee Town Council lands as Recreational and Civic Use and that the IDA lands at Currabeg retain their current Zoning status of Industrial.
- **Speed Limit Bye Laws:** J. McGuinness advised the Members that the Speed Limit Bye Laws are currently in public consultation with a closing date of 10th February.
- **Built Heritage Scheme:** J. McGuinness advised the Members of the availability of the Built Heritage Scheme which relates to protected buildings and funding now available for their preservation and maintenance.
- **Other matters within AOB:** A number of other matters were discussed including;
 - A dangerous wall adjacent to Fire Station,
 - Saint Patricks Day commemorations and Committee arrangements
 - On the proposal of Cllr. P. McKenny and seconding of Cllr. M. Kavanagh it was agreed that the Council consider a memorial arrangement for all those from Ardee who fought in various wars and that it also be considered as part of the scheme mentioned earlier. It was agreed that the Council would ask the Arts Officer to prepare a potential project.

On the proposal of Cllr. Fintan Malone and endorsement of Cllr. Pearse McGeough it was agreed to wish Miriam Roe, former Town Clerk of Ardee well in her new work assignment and the Members agreed unanimously to send their best wishes and thanks for all cooperation in the past. This concluded the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____