

**Minutes of proceedings of Monthly Meeting of Bandon Town Council held at the Town Hall, Bandon at 7.00pm Tuesday Jan 19<sup>th</sup> 2010**

**Present:**

Cllr Gearoid Buckley	Mayor	Bandon Town Council
Cllr Margaret Murphy-O'Mahony	Deputy Mayor	Bandon Town Council
Cllr Rose Holland	Member	Bandon Town Council
Cllr Sean O'Donovan	Member	Bandon Town Council
Cllr Deirdre Lane	Member	Bandon Town Council
Cllr Rachel McCarthy	Member	Bandon Town Council
Cllr Andrew Coleman	Member	Bandon Town Council
Cllr Gillian Coughlan	Member	Bandon Town Council

**In Attendance:**

Mr Noel O'Keefe	Town Manager	Bandon Town Council
Mr Pat Moore	A/Town Clerk	Bandon Town Council
Mr Ray Crowley	Town Engineer	Bandon Town Council

**Apologies:**

Cllr Cindy McCarthy	Member	Bandon Town Council

Cllr M Murphy-O'Mahony proposed a suspension of standing orders to discuss the recent visit by Dr. Martin Mansergh, T.D.: Minister of State with special responsibility for the Office of Public Works (OPW) and his announcement of €9.6M for Bandon Town Flood Relief Scheme. This was seconded by Cllr D Lane and agreed. Cllr Murphy-O'Mahony welcomed the news and thanked her fellow members for their efforts and paid tribute to the Town Manager for the sterling work that he put into procuring the commitment from the Minister and his Department. She also proposed that the Town Council would formally write to the Minister and thank him for the allocation. This was unanimously agreed.

Cllr Buckley added his congratulations but felt that the preliminary announcement needed to be copper fastened and that an assurance should be obtained from the Minister.

Mr O'Keefe, Town Manager that it was team effort on behalf of the Town Council to obtain the funding and stated that the Minister had given an assurance and that also Mr Michael Collins, senior official with the OPW had also given the commitment based on the recommendation to the Minister prior to the announcement. Mr O'Keefe in response to Cllr Murphy-O'Mahony query regarding the process detailed the following procedure:

- Scoping report prepared
- Submission made on the Flood Relief Scheme to the OPW in Jan
- He personally met with senior officials from the Dept
- Met with the Minister and received the commitment
- Distributed copies of the submission to the Members
- Steering group to be appointed
- Preliminary works to be instigated

- Consultant brief prepared, Mr Kieran Thornton will be involved in this stage.
- Provision would include an early warning system
- When dredging will take place all stakeholders will have to be taken into account.
- Felt that the long term proposal would lead to future prevention rather than short term compensation.

Cllr R McCarthy agreed with the manger and stated that when the gravel is being removed from the river that a balance between cleaning the river and not interfering with the river bed needs to be achieved.

Mr O'Keeffe stated that he envisaged that it would be similar to the Mallow Relief Scheme and that talks with the Fisheries Board will have to take place.

Cllr Coughlan complimented the Manager and the effort that he put into the submission. She made reference to page 11 of the report and stated that Dr Kiely, an expert on Flooding could be contacted and referenced his website [www.irishfloodwarning.com](http://www.irishfloodwarning.com) as a starting point. Mr O'Keeffe said that he had spoken to Mr Collins from the OPW who stated tht the OPW had learned from experience about early warning systems and in particular from the Blackwater Flooding. Mr O'Keeffe also stated that work may be devolved to Cork County Council and dealt with under Part 8 of the Local Government Planning Act 2000.

Cllr Coleman referred to the Town Managers report after the flooding and the points outlined. He stated that the manager had delivered on his proposal and complimented Mr O'Keeffe on obtaining the necessary funding. He agreed with the Manager and referred to the achievement as a collective success with was dealt with by the Town Council as a team and congratulated the manager who dealt with this issue in an express manner on behalf of the Town Council.

**1. CONFIRMATION OF ATTENDANCE FOR the 2010 Budget Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> Nov 2009**

**Proposed: Cllr R McCarthy**

**Seconded: Cllr G Coughlan**

**2. MINUTES OF THE 2010 BUDGET MEETING OF BANDON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON Nov 26<sup>th</sup> 2009**

**Proposed: Cllr D Lane**

**Seconded: Cllr R McCarthy**

**3. CONFIRMATION OF ATTENDANCE FOR Tuesday Dec 8<sup>th</sup> 2009**

**Proposed: Cllr D Lane**

**Seconded: Cllr M Murphy-O'Mahony**

**4. MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF BANDON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON Tuesday Dec 8<sup>th</sup> 2009**

**Proposed: Cllr G Coughlan**

**Seconded: Cllr M Murphy-O'Mahony**

## 5. MATTERS ARISING

## 6. REPORTS FROM TOWN MANAGER AND TOWN ENGINEER

### Town Manager's Report

- The Town Manager stated that he had already given a report on the flood issue
- Mr O'Keeffe clarified recent report concerning the documentation for the proposed Sewerage Scheme and stated that he had contacted the DOE who conformed that the documentation was received with a number of months. He stressed that the pressure needs to be maintained on the scheme
- Northern Area Drainage seeking a budget for same
- N71 is in a bad condition due to the very bad weather that was evidenced which left a large number of pot holes to be repaired. This is an issue that is prevailing throughout the county and his department will need to prioritise the works. This is going to take time and it may be months before a complete reconstruction is achieved. Council Staffs have been going flat out since 19<sup>th</sup> Nov and he praised their efforts.
- In response to Mayor Buckley's query concerning reinstatement Mr Crowley stated that all repairs on national Roads would consist of Hot Rolled Asphalt and that Secondary Roads would consist of Cold Tar & Chips. However he said that it would depend on traffic use and where there was a high level that materials used for national roads would be used.
- Mr O'Keeffe stated that this was a harshest winter in forty years and stated that every effort will be taken to reinstate the roads.
- Intends to arrange for Mr Kieran Thornton to attend the next meeting and give an update report and Mr Thornton would answer any questions from the Members.
- In response to members concerns in relation to the Major Accident Emergency Plan he intends to invite Mr David Hickey to the March meeting ad also at the next meeting of the Committee he is proposing to have a community strand included in the plan.
- Mr O'Keeffe stated that he is presenting a paper at the Irish Institute of Engineers National Conference with Mr Thornton on the recent flooding in Bandon. This conference will be chaired by Deput John Gormley, Minister for the Environment.

Cllr Coughlan thanked the manager and stated that the idea of a Community Strand has merits but that there needed to be a system in place to activate this and in this concept she had discussions with the Town Clerk in relation to the Civil Defence.

Cllr O'Donovan informed the meeting that he had been in contact with Mr Liam Fitzgerald, Acting Civil Defence Officer and has arranged with him to visit Bandon on a recruitment campaign. He asked for the members support with this. Cllr Coleman welcomed this news and complimented Cllr O'Donovan for his fast actions.

Cllr R McCarthy concurred and queried the army deployment on the 30<sup>th</sup> Dec when Bandon was under flood threat where the army bypassed Bandon and went to the aid of Skibbereen. Mr Crowley stated that the army were actually on standby for Bandon on that night but having monitored the situation he felt that there was no real threat and the army were stood down.

### **Town Engineer Report**

The Town Clerk voiced the following report from Mr Ray Crowley, Town Engineer, on issues raised at the November meeting:

- I refer to your recent letter in connection with the above and the following is my response.

Cllr. Buckley

1. Harte's Car Park Pedestrian Crossing. This will be examined to ascertain if there is a suitable location.
2. Blackberry Lane Dumping. The location of this lane is not clear.
3. Overgrowth of Bypass. Where is this overgrowth?
4. Potholes on Kilbrittain Road. This will be filled.

Cllr. Coughlan

1. Yellow Lines. These will be renewed in 2010.

Cllr. R. McCarthy

1. Cork Road. This will be repaired in 2010 if funding is available.
2. Dunmanway Road. This will also be repaired if funding is available.
3. Lr. Kilbrogan Park. This will be looked at. This estate has not been taken in charge by Cork County Council.

Cllr. C. McCarthy

1. Damaged wall at Kilbrogan Hill will be repaired.

Cllr. Murphy-O'Mahony

1. Yellow box junctions will be painted in 2010.
2. Cluid Car Park will become available as a public car park when work on the car park is completed.

Cllr. O'Donovan

1. Shore at Brady's Lane. This will be looked at and cleared, if found to be blocked.
2. Footpaths at McSwiney Quay will be repaired.
3. Traffic lights at Innishannon. These were damaged during construction of the recent roadworks. The NRA has undertaken to repair the lights.

## 7. REPORTS FROM SUB\_COMMITTEES

- **St Patrick's Day:** Did not meet
- **Recreation & Amenity:** Did not meet, Cllr Coleman to arrange a meeting before the next monthly meeting
- **Web Site: Cllr Lane** Spoke to Trevor Collins who has agreed to facilitate the council requirements
- **MPC:**
  - Meeting Scheduled for Feb:
  - Three written nominations received and on a proposal by Cllr Coughlan seconded by Cllr Murphy-O'Mahony the following were elected to the committee:
    - Mr Don McCarthy
    - Mr Gearoid O'Driscoll
    - Mr Bob Deane
- **JPC:**
  - Meeting Scheduled for Jan 29<sup>th</sup> Cllr O'Donovan stated that he had an expert willing to attend the meeting but there was a question of expenses for €280.00 approx.. it was agreed to fund him on the proposal of Cllr Coughlan seconded by Cllr R McCarthy.
- **SPC**
  - The Town Clerk read correspondence from Corporate Affairs in Co Hall in relation to the establishment of the various Strategic Policy Committees and that two nominations were sought from Bandon Town Council.

Cllr G Coughlan was proposed by Cllr S O'Donovan and seconded by Cllr Murphy-O'Mahony.

Cllr R McCarthy was proposed by Cllr Coleman and seconded by Cllr Murphy-O'Mahony

Cllr G Buckley declared an interest and proposed himself. As there was no seconder for Cllr Buckley and no further nominations were received Cllrs Coughlan and R McCarthy were agreed as the two nominations for Bandon Town Council.

## 8. NOTICES OF MOTION

Motions received from Cllr G Buckley for discussion:

"That this council asks the full County Council to investigate the possibility of establishing a Volunteer Task Force, that can be activated in time of emergency. This voluntary task force should aid and operate under the guidance and control of County Council Staff".

In view of the fact that there is an existing Volunteer force, Civil defence which comes under the auspices of the Environment Department of Cork County Council that funds and trains recruits and there is a full time Civil Defence Officer employed to manage this unit Cllr Buckley withdrew this motion.

"That this Council requests that all correspondence with regard to County Council service charges are accompanied with information about service charge waivers."

After a brief discussion it was agreed to forward the following motion to area Roads for discussion:

"That Bandon Town Council calls on Cork County council to advertise the Waiver Scheme so that people who are entitled to it may apply"

"That this Council asks the relevant government department to supply funding to the HSE specifically for the completion of the proposed additional accommodation works at Bandon Community Hospital" This was agreed, Cllr Buckley to forward the necessary information to the Town Clerk who will then write to both the Finance and Health Departments.



Cllr Murphy-O'Mahony proposed a time extension which was seconded by Cllr Coughlan and agreed.

## 11. MATTERS FOR THE TOWN ENGINEER

### Cllr R McCarthy

- Thanked the Town Engineer and his staff for the support and assistance during the bad weather and in particular for the supply of water. She also praised Mr A Buckley of the County Fire Service for his help.
- Public lights on the Main Bridge
- Condition of the Crossbarry Road, Old Cork Rd and Kilbarry Rd

### Cllr S O'Donovan

- Raised the threat of another flood on the 30<sup>th</sup> Dec and in particular the drain at Brady's lane. In response the Town Engineer stated that this drain was a combination of Sewer and Storm and that there would be an ongoing problem until the planned Drainage works was completed. In response to Cllr O'Donovan's query in relation to the size of the opening the Town Engineer informed him that this was a roding eye for clearing blockages.
- In response to the query on Wall repairs damaged during the flood Mr Crowley informed the meeting that work was due to commence in late Feb and that Keating were the contractors appointed by the NRA for this project

### Cllr G Coughlan

- Complimented MR Crowley and his staff for all of the work carried out during the bad weather
- Asked if it could be possible to salt & grit non-national roads.
- Back Road to Cork is in a bad condition
- Clean the Drains and shore in particular Allen Sq and Hamilton
- Raised the issue of the bottle bank. The Town Clerk in response to this query stated that it was policy not to place bottle banks where an amenity site exists. It was decided that the Mayor would raise this at Area Roads in January.

### Cllr Margaret Murphy-O'Mahony

- Queried the availability of the Cluid car park to which Mr Crowley responded that he was hopeful for its return in the near future and the delay was due to the weather.
- Ditches on the old South Bank belonging to the Mart are overgrown.
- Letter to Trustees, Town Clerk wrote to the Soccer Club however he intends to write to Ms Neville who is one of the trustees
- Asked the Town Engineer to investigate the numerous pot-holes and arrange for their repair

### **Cllr D Lane**

- Receipt of a letter from St Brogans Parents Association, however this matter was raised earlier in the meeting and was deferred to the Feb meeting.
- Asked for a set of Final Accounts for the pay-parking to be presented to the Feb meeting. Town Manager to arrange for same.
- Follow up on derelict sites
- House on Kilbrogan Hill discharging water onto the public footpath
- Inform members when disruptive work is planned
- Additional Litter Bins

### **Cllr R Holland**

- Complimented Mr Crowley and his staff for the work carried out during the bad weather.

### **Cllr C McCarthy**

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### **Cllr A Coleman**

- Water situation was a very serious issue where parts of Bandon had no water; Cllr Coleman complimented Mr Crowley and his staff and in particular singled out Mr Mervyn Clarke who was a great source of help and assistance above and beyond the call of duty.
- Referenced a pipe outside K Shannon's residence.

### **Mayor G Buckley**

- Branch extending out at the Rices Road and Kilbrittain Junction.
- Sewerage Drains on Market St, Mayor referenced premises employing drain companies to free the drains. Mr Crowley in response to this issue cited the proposed Drainage Programme and said this situation would be resolved when the New Drainage Scheme would be completed as the current situation is not satisfactory.
- St Fintins School on Chapel St is becoming an issue with Anti-Social behaviour and there is also an issue with littering here. To be referred to Ms Neville in Co Hall
- Dumping at Knockbrogan Terrace
- Questioned the position with regards to the taking in charge of Meadowlands Est. Mr Crowley to check same.

## 12. AOB

- Cllr Sean O'Donovan proposed a vote of Sympathy to the Crowley family on the death of Flor Crowley
- Raised the issue of Bandon Becoming a Plastic Free Town
- Queried the payment of rates. Town Clerk responded that he wrote to the Head of Finance re same. There is a system in place where the rate payment can be collected on an agreed schedule with the Rate Collector
- Cllr Coughlan was congratulated on the birth of her son Ronan and congratulations were also extended to her husband.
- Write to Michael Lawlor extending the best wishes of the Town Council on his success in the All Ireland talent Contest
- Congratulations to the Town Manager on the submission for the Flood Relief Grant and Town Clerk to write to the Minister re same.
- Query re Broadband, Town Clerk to check with relevant Engineer in Cork County Council
- Congratulated C103 re coverage in relation to the Bad Weather.
- Cllr Lane proposed that Bandon Town Council would co-host the public meeting planned for the 29<sup>th</sup> Jan which Cllr Buckley seconded . Cllr O'Donovan proposed that the Town Council not attend which was seconded by Cllr Coleman.. The Town Clerk stated that the Town Council has a public meeting monthly which is attended by the press. After a short discussion on a vote of 5-3 it was agreed not to attend.
- Cllr Murphy-O'Mahony raised the issue with the Mayor with reference to letters distributed throughout the Town stating his personal commitment from the Minister in relation to the approval for the €9.6m for the flood relief scheme. A discussion ensued where the members showed their disapproval towards the Mayor for this action and asked him to send out another letter clarifying the situation. This request was refused by the Mayor and on a proposal by Cllr O'Donovan seconded by Cllr Coleman it was agreed to send out a letter from the Town Council outlining the series of events with regard to the grant approval.

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2010 at 6.30pm.

This Concluded the Business of the Meeting

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**CATHAOIRLEACH**

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**DATE**