

Minutes of proceedings of Monthly Meeting of Bandon Town Council held at the Town Hall, Bandon at 6.00pm Tuesday 14th Sept 2010

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

Present:

In Attendance:

Mr Noel O'Keeffe	Town Manager	Bandon Town Council
Mr Pat Moore	Town Clerk	Bandon Town Council
Ms Ray Crowley	Town Engineer	Bandon Town Council
Mr Peter O'Donoghue	Senior Engineer	Cork County Council
Mr Kieran McGeary	CEO	96/103FM

Apologies:

Cllr C McCarthy	Member	Bandon Town Council

Mr Peter O'Donoghue gave a presentation to the members on his findings and report to Cork County Council in relation to a traffic survey for the Bus set down at St Brogans School. Mr O'Donoghue detailed a list of meetings held with concerned parties and the following options that were discussed:

Parking opposite the school

Adjacent to the Town Park

Those options were turned down on Health & Safety grounds as the sightlines were not satisfactory.

He met with the Town Mayor and the Gardai on the 13th August

School Principal on the 19th August

VEC appointed Malachy Walsh as their consultant

Topographical Survey was completed and a copy of the report sent to the VEC

Met with the Parents Association on the 26th August

Mr O'Donoghue stated that he was clear on what was the preferred option but the outcome would be down to both the VEC and Dept of Finance.

He showed members the preferred option plan of the completed set-down area and was hopeful of meeting with the VEC to discuss same. In response to the member's queries he said:

- That funding would have to be provided by either the Dept of Finance or the VEC.
- Planning was a requirement and will take three months for approval

- The programme could take up to a year to complete but this time factor will depend on the agreement from the VEC
- The wall would have to be recessed
- Footpaths will need to be developed for the second phase
- Will keep the Town Council informed.

The report was welcomed and was well received and positive comments were issued in relation to the proposed development of the Shambles.

In response to a question in relation to surveying other schools, Mr O'Donoghue stated that a lot of time had been spent with the St Brogan's issue but that his intention was to revisit this at a later stage.

Mr O'Keeffe stated that the proposed development for the Shambles would be looked at in the overall context and would be incorporated going forward.

The members thanked Mr O'Donoghue for his presentation.

The Mayor welcomed Mr K McGeary, CEO of 96FM and C103FM to the meeting and in her welcome asked Mr McGeary what were the plans for the station in relation to its return to Bandon and for an update on the morning show which she felt was generalised on a county basis and that not enough time was allowed for West cork and in particular Bandon.

Mr McGeary stated in response that the flood in Nov 2009 had caused considerable damage to the stations equipment. They had looked at alternative accommodation but were tied into a contract with their existing landlord. He stressed that C103 FM were in the same situation as other businesses with regard to recovery from the flood but that they hoped to have the building revamped and were expecting to be back in business by Christmas. However the decision to continue as before would be based on changing circumstances as the public had a wider choice of alternatives stations from the internet but was hopeful that matter local would be aired but there was a need to amalgamate with the wider community as there were incidences of cross-over's which would have to be addressed.

In response to members queries in relation to the choice of venue for the programme Broadcast he stated that this was down to economics but stressed that the level of service to Bandon has not been reduced. There was an issue with staff, some had left to return to full-time education and others had opted for a shorter working week. There was also an issue with the provision of services which was not being supported by relevant businesses. Proposals to include more local issues and less national issues were being looked at. There were also proposals to provide more outside broadcasting coverage but programmes depended on content and they intended to be more visible with those broadcasting units in the future. He said there were issues being discussed at present but was unable to elaborate further as there was a level of sensitivity involved. In response to the Mayors comments that she would agree to differ and what more could be done to bring back the service Mr McGeary stated that interaction with the radio station would be of benefit. He also stated that they were working within the requirements as set out by the BAI and that the current programme model was vindicated by the level of listenership.

The members thanked Mr McGeary for his time and openness in attending the meeting.

1. Confirmation of attendance the special meeting held on Tuesday August 31st 2010

Proposed: Cllr O'Donovan

Seconded: Cllr Coleman

2. Minutes of the Special meeting held on Tuesday 31st August 2010

Proposed: Cllr Coleman

Seconded: Cllr O'Donovan

3. Confirmation of attendance the monthly meeting of Bandon Town Council held on Tuesday July 13th 2010

Proposed: Cllr Buckley

Seconded: Cllr O'Donovan

4. Confirmation of the minutes of the monthly meeting of Bandon Town Council held on Tuesday July 13th 2010

Proposed: Cllr Buckley

Seconded: Cllr O'Donovan

5. MATTERS ARISING

The Town Manager and Town Engineer were complimented for the speedy performance in removing the gravel from the river after the meeting of the 31st August

6. REPORTS FROM TOWN MANAGER AND TOWN ENGINEER

Town Manager's Report

- Mr O'Keeffe stated that he was very pleased with the outcome of the work on the N71 between Innishannon and Bandon and that he felt justified with the decision for the road closure due to the dangerous conditions that were encountered during this construction. He distributed photographs that were published in the Opinion to this effect. Further work to ensure the protection of the road subsiding will be required in October when the construction company will have to mould concrete retainers (gabions) in order to deal with unforeseen slippage and will necessitate a road closure by night.
- He also complimented all of those who worked flat out on this project including Mr Mullane the Project Engineer and Mr McCarthy who was responsible for the

overseeing of the project. He made special mention of the amount of work that was carried out with minimum disruption.

- In response to concerns raised in relation to the possibility of the road subsiding and the possibility of extending the present closure he stated that further work will be required in October when the construction company will have to mould concrete retainers (gabions) in order to deal with unforeseen slippage and will necessitate a road closure by night.
- With regards to the river works Mr O’Keeffe said that there were a number of incidents on site that were dealt with. The areas identified had been cleaned; agreement was reached with the fisheries on site to remove gravel. He again asked the members to provide assistance with the tree cutting and in response to Cllr Buckley and Cllr O’Donovan’s queries in relation to guarantees and the formal method of seeking permission from landowners he stressed the urgency of the situation and that if he had to write to each landowner it would not be completed within the timeframe allowed by IFI.
- He was informed by Lidl and the Riverview Shopping Centre that the work for their section had gone to tender and that interviewing for the work would be taking place in the immediate future and would be completed by the end of the month. He also stated that he intended to assist them with this project and would meet with them and the landowners who were involved..
- In response to Cllr Lanes query in relation to the ESB being granted permission to dig in the river he said that the work carried out in the river would have to be reinstated and that the ESB were not removing anything from the river. Mr Crowley stated that Cork County Council were allowed carry out similar work some years previously during the advance works for the Main Drainage Scheme.
- With reference to the early warning system the contract had been awarded to RPS Consulting Engineers. This would be a very valuable system in providing warning to the townspeople and would be particularly so when the Flood Relief Programme was complete. The Manager was hopeful that this system would be in place by December
- Mr O’Keeffe wrote to IFI but the position in relation to the removal of the gravel was unchanged.
- He stated that a response was received from Minister Lenihan’s Secretary and he issued an instruction to the Town Clerk to write again stressing the urgency of the situation. The Town Clerk reported that he had written to the Minister as directed
- Cork County Council had unanimously passed a motion asking the Minister to issue the necessary instruction for the river cleaning. This was faxed directly to the Minister so that the work could be completed within the existing timeframe.. He also stated that the Co Manager and the County Mayor have requested a meeting with the Minister. Cllr Buckley complimented Cllr Alan Coleman for bringing the motion to the County Council and thanked all who supported it. Other members concurred.
- In response to members queries he stated that he had written to the OPW but had not received a response.
- He stated that he intended with Mr Crowley to go to tender for the raising of the walls as Mr Crowley felt this would be of enormous benefit.
- He intended to invite Tenders for the Main Drainage Programme as soon as he receives approval for same. He pointed out a Capital Contribution was required

from Cork County Council but stressed that this scheme was critically important for the drainage in Bandon. He asked the members to lobby their party TD's, Senators to progress this.

- In response to Cllr Coughlan's question on the cost for the completion of the Main Drainage Scheme Mr O'Keeffe stated that similar schemes had cost in the region of €14M but in the current economic situation this figure could be reduced considerably. Cllr Coleman took issue with the requirement for Cork County Council having to raise 30% of the overall cost considering that the parameters had changed considerably.
- He read a copy of a report in relation to St Brogans School and said he would arrange for it to be circulated to the members.

Town Engineer Report

Cllr. Murphy O'Mahony

- (a) Dunmanway Road. Potholes on this road will be filled.
- (b) Cleaning of town sewers. These are cleaned on an ongoing basis and as required. Blocking up of drains is due to the inadequate size of the town's sewers and is not due to blockages in the sewers.
- (c) Public Lights in Millside Mews. These will be brought to the attention of the Public Lighting Engineer.

Cllr. Andrew Coleman

- (a) Gullies and roadside drains at Clancool Hill. These will be repaired.
- (b) Overgrown hedges in various areas of the Town. These will be cut where appropriate.
- (c) Road surface on South Main Street. This is in poor condition. However, it is not proposed to resurface this street at this time.

Cllr. Coughlan

- (a) Shores in Allen Square. These are cleaned on an ongoing basis. Blocking up of surface water at these shores is due to the inadequacy of the Towns sewerage network.
- (b) Dunmanway Road / Ball Alley Lane. Potholes on these roads will be filled.
- (c) Parking at the Shambles will be looked at.

Cllr. Lane

- (a) Footpath at Mill Place. This has now been finished.
- (b) Dead trees at the Shambles. These have been removed.
- (c) Broken drain at Macroom Road, Soccer Pitch. This has been repaired earlier this year.

Cllr. McCarthy

- (a) Road surface at St. Fintan's Terrace. Potholes on this road will be filled.
- (b) Road surface at Cloughmacsimon. Potholes on the road surface at Cloughmacsimon will be repaired on completion of the footpath work.

Cllr. O'Donovan

- (a) Hedge at Knockbrogan Steps. This will be cut.
- (b) Non return valves on drains at Brady's Lane. This will be looked at.
- (c) Footpath at Master Meats. This was constructed and funded by the Master Meats Company.

Cllr. Holland

- (a) The siting of Chip Van. The concern in relation to this is noted.
- (b) Dereliction at Roundhill Service Station. This will be followed up.

Cllr. McCarthy

- (a) Drains at D.J. Murphy's. These will be cleared. Again backing up of surface water at these drains is due to the inadequacy of the Towns Sewerage Network.
- (b) Connolly Street Brick pavement. Loose bricks on these pavements will be repaired.
- (c) Extension of walkway on Glasslinn Road. This is very desirable. Unfortunately, however, there is no funding available at the present time to carry out this work.
- (d) Ard An Chuillin. Concern is noted.

Cllr. Buckley

- (a) Grass cutting at Clancool. The issue of non collection of the cut grass will be brought up with the contractor.
- (b) Bollards at Fire Station. This will be looked at.

- (c) Double Yellow Lines at Station Road. These have been installed. Lengths at present unlined will be lined.
- (d) Clean drains. This is carried out on an ongoing basis.
- (e) Trucks in Watergate Street. This will be looked at.
- (f) Illegal dumping near Summerhill Heights. This will be looked at and if the perpetrators are caught they will be prosecuted.

7. MATTERS FOR THE TOWN ENGINEER

Cllr Murphy-O'Mahony:

- Trees in the Town Park need to be cut. In response Cllr Lane stated that the Town Park Trustees had contacted the Soccer Club following on from correspondence from the Town Clerk and that the matter was being dealt with.
- Traders had made representations in relation to altering the one-way system and asked for it to be referred to the MPC. Cllr Lane, Chair of the MPC in response stated that this had been discussed in detail by the MPC and on the advice from the Garda Siochana recommended that it should remain as it is for to change it would create a very dangerous intersection and it would also create more complications than was warranted.
- Lorry Trailer abandoned on the Dunmanway Road. The Town Engineer will have same removed.

Cllr Coleman:

- Repair gullies and clean drains on both sides of Clancool Hill outside John Broderick's and John O'Sullivan's.
- Cut back hedges adjoining footpaths in the town.
- Footpaths in Upper & Lower Ardan, height of same and the high level of litter in the Town. Mr Crowley stated that the footpaths were replaced at the height they were previously but there were plans to lift the road when it would be resurfaced. The footpaths were tapered to allow for access and egress. The Town Clerk stated that he was hopeful that the County Chief Litter Warden would attend the Oct scheduled meeting of the JPC.

- The Road condition at Hornibrook Cross adjacent to the Old Church in Kilbrittain is deteriorating
- Asked Mr Crowley to check who is responsible for the “Four Ghost Estates in Bandon”

Cllr Coughlan:

- Van Selling Produce on the street. Mr Crowley stated that this van was paying a parking charge but he would check with the Traffic Warden as to the time limit. There was a high court case pending dealing with the casual trading in the County and as such the bye laws were not being implemented until this case was adjudicated on
- South Main Street surface poor
- Paint the Disability Bay at Market St
- Asked Mr Crowley to arrange for additional tree planting in the town.

Cllr Lane

- There are a number of potholes on the Macroom Rd (L6 111)
- McSwiney Quay and North Main Street are in a bad condition
- Asked Mr Crowley to look into the amount of advertising signage in the town

Cllr O’Donovan:

- Asked Mr Crowley to provide signs-slow/Children at play at Sean Buckley Park
- Highlighted the problem with litter and the infestation of rats in relation to same.

Cllr R McCarthy

- Manhole at K O’Leary Roundabout
- Additional rumble strips to slow traffic speed

Cllr Buckley:

- Complimented Town Engineer for work carried out.

- Concurred with Cllr Coleman on the Ardan footpath issue.
- Asked about the bollard for Fire Station. Matter referred to JPC as this area is double yellow lined.

8. LOCAL ISSUES:

- Cllr Murphy-O'Mahony stated that €500,00.00 Grant Funding was available for local Community Initiatives-referred to Rec & Amenity Committee
- Proposed a vote of Congratulations to Bandon Tidy Town's Committee who were successful in procuring a bronze medal. Other members concurred.
- Mentioned age action week and asked that consideration be shown to elderly neighbours and family
- Referred to the closure of Millbrook and stated that it was an end to an era also she asked members to check their facts before discussions with the media as the information given in relation to the closure was an untruth. It was stated that the home had failed the audit while in fact no audit had taken place.
- Asked if there was an update to the motion on the Co Hospital. The Town Clerk stated that he was waiting for Cllr Buckley to send him information on this in relation to what works were required. Cllr Buckley felt that this was in the motion but stated he would arrange to have same sent to the Town Clerk.
- Replies were received from Ministers Lenihan and Manseragh in response to letter sent by the Mayor in relation to the river cleaning.
- The Mayor made reference to the sad announcement from Schering Plough in relation to the job losses announced.
- Thanked Cllr Alan Coleman for bringing the Motion on the River Cleaning to the full council.
- Cllr Coughlan wished the New Look Southern Star well. Town Clerk to write to the Editor.
- Congratulated Bandon Red Cross on their achievements
- Cllr O'Donovan stated that Bandon Town Council was 175 years old this year.

- Cllr R McCarthy congratulated the Kilmacsimon Swimming Club on their achievement in securing silver recently. Wished the team well in the World Championships.
- Cllr Coleman proposed a motion of sympathy to former Town Councillor Dr Anthony Calnan on the death of his brother Brian. Town Clerk to write a letter of sympathy.

Cllr Coughlan proposed an addition 15mins time extension

Cllr Buckley seconded.

9. REPORTS FROM SUB_COMMITTEES

St Patrick's Day:

Recreation & Amenity:

Cllr Coleman informed the members that the contractor was starting work this week. He thanked the Area office for its support.

Asked the Tidy Town for copies of their drawings for proposed work on the Community Garden

Web Site:

Cllr Lane stated this group had not met but she would arrange a meeting and have a report for the October meeting.

MPC:

Did not meet

JPC:

Cllr O'Donovan reported that a decision was made in relation to the CCTV cameras and that the Garda Station would house the recording equipment

Next meeting was scheduled for Last Friday in October

Area Roads:

The Mayor reported that Cllr Michael Creed was elected chair and that Cllr Kevin Murphy was elected Vice Chair.

Dredging of the river Bandon was discussed and a motion in relation to same was to go before the full council.

Discussion on pay-parking took place and Cllr Murphy-O'Mahony asked for support for Bandon Town Council in relation to this.

AMAI

Cllr O'Donovan circulated copies of the current newsletter which had an article and photo of Bandon Town Council

He stated that there was a lively discussion in relation to the proposed downgrading of Town Councils and that they were asked to urge members of their own councils to canvas TD's, Senators and Ministers for their support.

Notices of Motion:

Passage West in relation to the provision of a scheme for people in receipt of job-seekers Allowances/Benefit to be used for the Community benefit on a Voluntary basis. Taken as read

Correspondence:

The following correspondence was read.

Letter from Mr McPartland in relation to the river cleaning

Response from Mr O'Keeffe to Mr McPartland

Dr Buck IFI to Mr O'Keeffe

Mr O'Keeffe to Dr Buck

Dr Buck to Mr O'Keeffe seeking a detailed data requirement prior to allowing Cork County Council carry out further river works

Letter from Fleming Barrett in relation to the Bandon Mace: It was agreed unanimously to write and inform the Solrs that the Town Council were satisfied to let the Mace reside in the National Museum.

Draft Guide from CCC in relation to Residential Estate Development. Draft circulated

Notification from CCC in relation to the review of special speed limit bye laws in the county

Deputy Jim O’Keeffe report on the Civil registration Act. Members circulated with same

Copy of the Litter Pollution Acts 1997-2003 circulated to the Members

Response from Minister Gormley in relation to Local Government Reform, circulated to the members

Response from Minister Gormley in relation to Water Pricing, circulated to the members

Discussion Document from IFI for the Development of a Corporate Plan, circulated to the Members

Notification of Annual Conference on Substance and Alcohol Misuse:

Issues Paper from South West Regional Authority, Circulated.

Information document on a Flood Emergency Response Plan

Letter from Mr O’Keeffe to Mr. Mark Adamson OPW re dredging of river Bandon

Letter from Mr O’Keeffe to Dr Buck IFI seeking the removal of gravel from the River Bandon

Acknowledgement from Minister Lenihan

Letter from Teagasc re the closure of the Bandon office:

Response from Dr Buck to Mr O’Keeffe

UDC Status:

Cllr C McCarthy was elected as chair of the Committee.

Walled Town:

Cllr Coughlan met with Co Architects with Cllr lane. Met with Heritage Officer, positive meeting. Stated that as membership was expensive they were offered support with their application: Met with Minister Hannifin: seeking to purchase a wall map.

AOB

Bandon United in Action were holding a table quiz and members were asked to support same.

The Cultural Festival was complimented for their excellent work

Members were asked to support the Town Hall open night and it was agreed that the Council Chamber would be manned to provide information on the Town Council

That concluded the order of business and the next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 12th Oct

CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE