

Minutes of proceedings of Monthly Meeting of Bandon Town Council held at the Town Hall, Bandon at 7.00pm Tuesday 11th Jan 2011

Present:

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

In Attendance:

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

Apologies:

		Bandon Town Council

1. Confirmation of attendance for the monthly meeting of Bandon Town Council held on Tuesday 14th Dec 2010

Proposed: Cllr R McCarthy

Seconded: Cllr D Lane

2. Confirmation of the minutes of the monthly meeting of Bandon Town Council held on Tuesday Dec 14th 2010

Proposed: Cllr S O'Donovan

Seconded: Cllr D Lane

3. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr O'Donovan asked for the mins to be amended to include his suggestion that the pay-parking on Glasslin Road should be exchanged with the car-park in Brady's Lane in order to regulate the traffic parking and ensure that there would be parking available for customers who frequent businesses in this locality.

4. REPORTS FROM TOWN MANAGER AND TOWN ENGINEER

Town Manager's Report

- The Bandon Main Flood Scheme has commenced and the main consultants appointed have arranged an open day on the 25th Jan in the Town Hall to hear submissions from the public and will meet beforehand with the Town Councillors and the three Bandon Area County Councillors.
- The Manager was disappointed with the Public launch of Flood Early warning system (FEWS) on Wed 15th December as the numbers registered was very poor in relation to the number of people affected in the Nov 2009 Floods and also considering the events of the past twelve months. Twenty eight people turned up to register however this number has increased to one hundred. He asked the members to promote the programme and ensure that those that could be affected in the event of a flood threat are encouraged to register in order to receive the necessary warning.
- He also stated that the system had been tested live in December and it worked very well. A copy of the test report was distributed to the members and to the press. Mr O'Keeffe stated that he was putting the programme forward for the Engineers Ireland Award and that he also intended to roll out this system in the other river basin areas in due course.
- The walls adjacent to the river have been raised.
- The Sewerage Scheme is progressing well, with 14 expressions of interest received and Mr O'Keeffe is hoping to have the pre-qualifications by the end of January. He stated that there is a need to keep this highlighted in the Dept of the Environment and asked Members to use their influence with the Oireachtas Members to keep exerting pressure.
- The recent bad weather meant that grit was spread on the roads and when the rains came this grit was washed into the gullies which resulted in build ups of water as the piping is not big enough to deal with the capacity of water and grit.
- Cllr Rose Holland proposed that the Town Council would write to the Minister of the Environment and highlight this issue. The Mayor welcomed this suggestion and seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed.

- Mr O’Keeffe received a letter from Lidl and Riverview Shopping Centre that stated the work would be going ahead shortly as there were unavoidable holdups which were nearly resolved.

The Mayor concurred with Mr O’Keeffe in his disappointment with the response to the FEWS considering the amount of time that this issue was given in 2010 and appealed to all who were affected to avail of this system and ensure that they would receive advance warning should the situation in Nov 2009 be repeated.

In response to Cllr O’Donovan’s query in relation to the measuring of the river, Mr O’Keeffe said that there were three points in place which were strategically placed to give an accurate measurement.

Cllr Buckley complimented the County Council on the System and stated that the amount of detail was excellent and he was very impressed with same.

In conclusion the Manager reminded the members that the consultants would be meeting with them on the 25th and he asked for them to attend if possible, it was important that this would be approved by the existing Government in the event of a General Election.

Town Engineer Report

1. Cycle Lanes around the Town. This is a good idea and will be looked at to ascertain if there are suitable locations.
2. Cracks in walls at Ardan. These are probably repaired and the issue will be taken up with the Contractor.
3. Imposing pay parking in Brody’s Land and Glaslinn Road off street car parks. This will be discussed at the next MPC meeting.
4. Finger Post Signs needed around town centre. This will be looked at.
5. Dirty road at Kilbrogan Street. The Contractor will be instructed to clean this road.
6. Trees stuck on Weir. Because of the danger involved these cannot be removed. However, they will be removed when they float downstream of the weir.

5. MATTERS FOR THE TOWN ENGINEER

Cllr Murphy-O’Mahony:

- Highlighted the Road between Allen Sq and Hamilton High School which is in a very bad condition.

- Grit that was spread during the bad weather needs to be cleaned. Expressed appreciation to the staffs who worked to ensure that traffic and pedestrians were able to commute.
- The roads around Bandon were in poor condition after the snow and ice and asked for them to be repaired.
- Asked Mr Crowley if the Members could be informed in advance of water being shut off. Suggested informing the Mayor who would inform the other Councillors.
- Asked for the shopping trolley to be removed from the river near the foot-bridge.

Cllr Coleman

- Concurred with the Mayor re the condition of the roads in the Town
- Complimented the County Council and the Garda Siochana on the new speed solar clock on O'Mahony's Ave/Castle Road which is very effective and beneficial.

Cllr Holland

- Agreed with the previous comments concerning the roads.
- Asked the Engineer if he would consider putting a set of Christmas Lights on the tree outside the Council Office in 2011

Cllr C McCarthy

- Road surfaces in Market St, Deerpark Hill and Bandon Bridge are in poor condition

Cllr Lane

- Asked for an update on the contractor in Ardan. Mr Crowley stated that he was not happy with the situation but that he received assurances from the Contractor that the matter would be dealt with satisfactorily next week. His men had to work over the Christmas Period on an urgent job and he had to allow them holidays in lieu which interrupted his schedule but that this matter would be resolved before the end of January. In response to the question of the contract with this contractor Mr Crowley stated that this was near completion.

- Cllr Lane asked for a complete re-surfacing of the Old Cork Road which is in a very poor condition.

Cllr S O'Donovan

- Highlighted a large pothole outside the Funky Fish which he stated was an accident waiting to happen.
- Asked for Bollards to be place by the footbridge as the yellow box was ineffective.
- Asked for ramps at the exit to Cluid car park as traffic was not yielding and it was a danger to pedestrians

Cllr Coughlan:

- Stated that the Ballylangley Road which was used during the closure of the Innishannon Road was now in a very poor condition.

Cllr R McCarthy

- Highlighted the following roads:
- Upper Main St
- Concurred with Cllr Lane re Old Cork Road and as there is a huge volume of traffic on this road servicing schools etc it should be prioritised
- Jordan's Corner
- Lights at Ard An Chuillin Est: .Mr Crowley stated that Airtricity had the contract for maintenance for public lighting and agreed with Cllr McCarthy that the fastest way to have lights repaired is to ring the contractor directly and give them the number of the light which is printed on same.

Cllr Buckley

- Footpath at Poachers Inn damaged and in poor condition

- Asked Mr Crowley for an update on the footpath programme. Mr Crowley in response stated that the work for 2010 is now complete and that there was no allocation of monies for 2011

6. LOCAL ISSUES:

Cllr Murphy-O'Mahony:

- Congratulated the Bandon Ladies who organised a successful and enjoyable Cork Simon Ladies Lunch on Sat 9-01-11 and stated that all of the monies raised would stay in Cork
- Warned the public about credit card scams and stated that people need to be vigilant especially with their credit card details.

Cllr Coleman:

- Suggested that the Town Council would write to the Dept and suggest that grants could be applied for lagging water pipes which would be of major benefit in the result of a repeat of the bad weather. Cllr Holland supported this suggestion which Mr O'Keeffe commented on as having great merit as the problems associated with the recent bad weather spell were on the private side of the water distribution. It was agreed that Mr Moore would write to Minister Gormley. Mr O'Keeffe also stated that People in new houses had redress from the structural guarantee and also if the pipes were not the recommended depth this could be addressed to the surveyor who inspected the house.

Cllr Holland

- Acknowledged the work of the St Vincent de Paul Society over the Christmas period.

Cllr C McCarthy

- Complimented the organisers of the Skate & Play which she thought was very positive and suggested that the Town Council should look at facilities for young

and old alike. Cllr Coughlan agreed and it was decided to refer this issue to the Recreation & Amenity Committee for consideration

Cllr S O'Donovan

- Again raised the issue of Derelict Sites. Mr Crowley stated that this was an ongoing problem due to the slow process where the owners have to be identified. There were two fulltime staff in Co hall dealing with this issue and he stated that a notice for the Bandon Area was being issued this week. In response to Cllr Buckley comments re Kerry County Council he stated that the biggest problem was ownership of the properties that were tied up in Company ownership and that there were companies within companies which was difficult to track.

Cllr Coughlan

- Congratulated the Bandon Athletic Club for a successful day.
- Asked for consideration to be given to creating a path/track for walking in the Town Park. Cllr Lane mentioned that there were leases in place with the Soccer and Athletic Clubs which would have to be considered. Cllr Coughlan asked for the Town Park Trustees to be invited to a meeting of the Town Council to progress this issue. Cllr Coleman seconded this suggestion which was agreed.

Cllr R McCarthy

- Suggested that the Recreation & Amenity Committee could look at the Civic Reception proposal and make a recommendation on same to the Town Council
- Thanked Mr Crowley for his assistance over the Christmas period and asked for correspondence to be sent to Cork County Councils housing dept complaining of the poor quality of service provided over the holiday period where the emergency number was left ring out. The Town Clerk pointed out that Cork County Council had provided the service by contract and that the onus was on

the contractor to fulfil their obligations. He felt that it would be a good idea to write to the housing section and provide feedback on this service.

Cllr Buckley

- Complimented the Council staff for their work over the holiday period
- Suggested that Grit Bins would be installed to facilitate residents in housing estates to ensure that the roads and footpaths are gritted. Mr Crowley in response stated that Cork County Council had placed grit in various locations throughout the County for this purpose. Mr O’Keeffe added that this issue was being looked at by Senior Management and that there was a pilot scheme in Cork City which was being monitored.

7. REPORTS FROM SUB_COMMITTEES

St Patrick’s Day:

- No meeting. Cllr C McCarthy proposed a contribution of €1,250.00 from Bandon Town Council towards the parade. This was seconded by the Mayor, Cllr Margaret Murphy-O’Mahony and was agreed unanimously.

Recreation & Amenity:

- Cllr Coleman informed the members that the project was at completion stage and was hoping for an official launch in Feb. He also stated that the walk adjacent to the complex would be funded as part of the MUGA. Project.
- He stated that Cork County Council through Cllr Veronica Neville nominated Bandon Town Council’s MUGA Development for the LAMA Awards Public Community Project Finalists (Best Recreation Facility) and were shortlisted for same. The awards night is being held in Dublin on Saturday 22nd Jan. It was agreed to send three Councillors and the Town Clerk to represent the Town Council. Cllrs Murphy-O’Mahony, Coleman and Holland were proposed by Cllr Coughlan and seconded by Cllr Buckley. This was agreed unanimously.

Web Site:

- No meeting

MPC:

- Cllr Lane said she would organise a meeting in Feb/March

JPC:

- Next meeting was scheduled for 29th April 2011

Area Roads:

- The mayor said that the Council staffs were congratulated for their endeavours during the bad weather.

UDC Status:

- No meeting

Walled Town:

- No meeting

8. MOTIONS

Cllr Buckley proposed the following motion:

"That this Council write to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage & Local Government to request that eligibility to vote in General Elections be extended to Irish citizens living abroad"

Cllr R McCarthy seconded the motion. Cllr Murphy-O'Mahony stated that she was opposed to the Motion as she felt that people who choose to live abroad should not have a say in who is elected. Cllr Coughlan felt that there could be legislation which would not allow this change without a referendum. The Town Clerk stated that he would check same. Cllr Buckley agreed to defer the motion to the Feb meeting.

Cllr Buckley proposed the following motion:

"That this Council will convene a planning committee, made up of every member. This committee will devise a strategy/programme for the remaining term of this current Council. This Plan/Strategy will outline SMART objectives and goals."

The Mayor stated that the Municipal Policy Committee was fulfilling this role in compliance with the Local Government Act 2001. Cllr Coleman concurred with the Mayor and said that this Committee was established for such a function. Cllr Lane stated that any member could submit any issue for discussion and that the final decision would rest with the Town Council who is the democratically elected authority. As there was no seconder for this motion Cllr Buckley withdrew it.

Motion from Tuam Town Council in relation to fitting speed inhibitors on cars driven by persons under the age of 25 was taken as read.

9. CORRESPONDANCE:

The following correspondence was read.

List of charges for amenity sites from Cork County Council

Murphy Long & Taffe in relation to 1 St Bridgid's Tce. Town Clerk to refer to Ms Veronica Neville, Solicitor

Restaurants Association re reducing charges: As the Town Council has no rating function this letter was taken as read.

Managers order re assignment of the Ethics Registrar to Mr Maurice Manning for the period January 1st 2011 to December 31st 2012.

Guidelines on the Ethics Framework for the members:

Notice from AMAI re Annual Subscription and Spring Conference 2011

10. AOB

Cllr O'Donovan reminded Councillors that the AMAI Spring Conference was being held in Bantry and suggested that Members attend for the experience. The Town Clerk mentioned that there might be a charge associated with attendance but would check same.

The Town Clerk circulated the Ethics Declaration form to the members and reminded them that they had to be returned before Feb 28th or they would be in breach of the Local Govt Act. This was important as the Local Government Auditor could check on this as part of his/her duties and there were serious penalties for non-compliance.

The Town Clerk stated that the Local Government Audit for 2009 was scheduled for 31st Jan 2011. Members were presented with copies of the unaudited accounts in October 2010.

That concluded the order of business and the next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 8th Feb 2011

CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE