

Minutes and Proceedings of Monthly Meeting of Loughrea Town Council held on the 11th April, 2011 in the County Council Offices, Barrack Street, Loughrea.

I latharai:

Mayor: Cllr. Michael Maher

Members: Cllrs. Geraldine Bane, Gabriel Burke, Sylvia Burke, Jimmy Curley, Norman Morgan, James Regan, Mary Gunter Nix.

Officials: Jim Cullen, Director of Services, Adrian Raftery, Executive Engineer, Lorraine Cooney, Clerical Officer, Galway County Council.

In relation to the minutes of meeting of the 14th March 2011, Cllr. Morgan stated that he had objected to the exclusion from the Agenda for the March meeting of an item he had submitted by way of correspondence. It was agreed that the minutes of the 14th March be amended to note Cllr. Morgan's objection.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 14th March, 2011

It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan, seconded by Cllr. Curley and agreed that the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 14th March 2011 in accordance with the amendment sought by Cllr Morgan and agreed by the council.

Matters Arising from Minutes of 14th March, 2011

St. Patrick's Day Parade

Cllr. Gunter Nix stated that the parade was a great success and wanted to thank all who helped.

C.I.E using Back Roads

It was noted that no response had yet been received from CIE

Signs on Roundabout

Cllr. G. Burke stated that the signs went up but that the trucks still were not abiding to the signs. Mr. Raftery stated that the signs were Information/Directional signs they were non enforceable and they had no weight restriction. It was then proposed by Cllr. G. Burke and seconded by Cllr. Morgan that the Roads Authority be requested to introduce a weight restriction and /or a maximum axel ban to prevent HGV's using the Main Street and across Mount Carmel Crescent. It was also suggested that consideration be given to the provision of a vehicle weighing station.

Bins Barrack Street Car Park

Cllr. Regan stated that the bins were still in Barrack Street Car Park. Cllr. Maher stated that he has spoken to the owners of the Funeral Home and they had proposed that they would bollard off the bins.

2. Correspondence

- ❖ Email from Leixslip Town Council regarding Notice of Motion – Cllr. Bane supported this motion and stated it was a good initiative.
- ❖ Letter from Chambers Ireland regarding Chambers Ireland's Excellence in Local Government Awards 2011 – Noted
- ❖ Letter from Monaghan Town Council regarding Notice of Motion – Noted
- ❖ Letter from Kilkee Town Council regarding Notice of Motion - noted.

3. Any Other Business

Playground Loughrea

It was agreed that if there were issues of Health and Safety involved, then the Town Council approves of the carrying out of the repair works for which a quotation of €3000 had been received from Creative Play.

Manhole Cover, Main Street, Loughrea

Cllr. Maher queried if there was anything being done with the manhole cover on Main Street he has had several calls from Residents. Mr. Raftery stated that there were legal proceedings in process regarding same and he would be in contact with Jim McGovern who is pursuing the matter for an update.

Footpath outside Temperance Hall

Cllr. Regan asked if anything could be done with the footpath outside the Temperance Hall Gate it was high dangerous. Mr. Raftery noted same.

The Fairgreen

Cllr. Regan asked if we could block up the gaps at the Fairgreen as we didn't want any unwelcome visitors. Mr. Raftery noted same.

Drains at Corry's Field

Cllr. Regan queried if the drains that were piped were going to be covered over. Cllr. Maher stated they were not and it was never envisaged to close them in.

Railings at Pumphouse, Lake Road

Cllr. Regan queried as to why the railing wasn't extended to both sides of the Pumphouse. Mr. Raftery stated they kept the railing to a minimum because of the Residents living around the Pumphouse.

Footpaths

Cllr. G. Burke queried if the County Council were reinstating the footpaths they dug up during the bad weather. Mr. Raftery noted same.

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Tidy Towns

Cllr. Gunter Nix stated that Tidy Towns 2011 was underway and they would appreciate any help they can get and wanted to thank the business community for their input so far.

Presentations

Cllr. Maher asked for clarity on the Presentations process. Cllr. Regan suggested that they only honour people of National Event achievements. It was agreed that there would be a meeting regarding same Monday, 18th April 2011.

Clothes Bank – Loughrea Family Resource Centre

Mr. Raftery stated that he had a call from the Loughrea Family Resource Centre asking if they could put a clothes bank in Barrack Street Car Park he advised against same because of security reasons and it was agreed that they could put the bank in Station Road Car Park beside the bottle banks where there are security cameras.

A presentation was made to John Shuaghnessy, Galway County Council, General Operative at Loughrea for over 30 years service to the Council.

This concluded the business of Loughrea Town Council Meeting held on 11th April, 2011.

Signed this 12th day of April, 2011. Mayor:

Michael Maher

Minutes and Proceedings of Monthly Meeting of Loughrea Town Council held on the 14th March, 2011 in the County Council Offices, Barrack Street, Loughrea

I latharai:

Mayor: Cllr. Michael Maher

Members: Cllrs. Geraldine Bane, Gabriel Burke, Sylvia Burke, Jimmy Curley, Pat Hynes, Norman Morgan, James Regan, Mary Gunter Nix.

Officials: Jim Cullen, Director of Services, Adrian Raftery, Executive Engineer, Ann Monaghan, Town Clerk, Martina Moloney, County Manager.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 14th February, 2011

It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan, seconded by Cllr. Curley and agreed that the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 14th February, 2011 be confirmed.

Matters Arising from Minutes of Meeting

Loughrea Swimming Pool

Mr. Cullen stated that a letter had issued to the Promoter with regard to restoring the site to its original state - the Promoter had agreed in writing to do same.

Feile na nGael

All Councillors acknowledged the works of the Feile na nGael Committee, and recognised that the Feile would bring huge benefits to the Town. The Feile to be held from 24th to 26th June.

C.I.E using Back Roads

It was noted that no reply had been received from the CIE with regard to CIE buses using the back roads.

Bins at Barrack Street Car Park

Mr. Raftery advised that while the bins had been removed from this location, they were now back in-situ. Mr. Raftery to discuss with the Community Warden.

St. Patricks Day Parade

Cllr. Nix advised that the Parade would commence at 12.30 and invited all members of the Council to attend on the day.

Signs at Roundabouts

Mr. Raftery advised that the new signs diverting HGV Traffic away from Mount Carmel were in place.

2. Presentation from Jim Murren, Western Regional Director, IDA.

Mr. Murren outlined the workings, policies and strategies of the IDA in Ireland since its inception in 1970. With specific regard to Galway and the West of Ireland he expressed the IDA's continuous commitment to development in the Region. While a number of incentives are in place to attract investors, he advised that the client makes the sole decision with regards to location. The most important sectors in Galway were the Medical Technology and ICT Sector of which there had been 12 new investments in Galway last year. With specific regard to Loughrea, he advised that the Cigna Property site of 30,000 square feet was a major piece of infrastructure in Loughrea, but needed to find the client to suit same.

Cllr. Hynes suggested that perhaps the breaking of the Cigna Property into smaller units should be considered. Mr. Murren recommended that the property should be left as is for the foreseeable future.

Cllr. Bane queried the situation regarding Strategic Investment Location Site in Athenry and the monies being spent on same. Mr. Murren advised that while no clients had been identified for this locale, that the IDA would proceed with developing this location.

3. Annual Financial Statement 2010

Proposed by Cllr. Burke, Seconded by Cllr. Morgan.

4. Notice of Motion – Cllr. Norman Morgan.

(a) that a recommendation be sent to Galway County Council to place a vehicle counting apparatus across the entrance to Railway Road at its junction with Cosmona, so that consideration could be given to making the private section of that road a public road.

Seconded by Cllr. Bane.

(b) that a vote of Congratulations be sent to our new Government, wishing it every success in restoring our country to a state of justice and fair play for all out citizens

Seconded by Cllr. Sylvia Burke

5. Any Other Business

Ms. Moloney, Galway County Manager addressed the meeting. She advised that from her previous visit two years hence, many changes had happened in Galway County Council because of the adverse economic position of the County. However, even with the scarcity of staff and financial resources of the Council, projects were still progressing in the County, ie the upgrade to the Waste Water Treatment Plant along with the upgrade to the Loughrea Water Scheme and the extension to same. With regards to the Roads Infrastructure, the M6 would play a huge part into opening up accessibility to Loughrea and its environs with regards to Tourism potential for the area. She gave praise to the

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work of the Tidy Towns Committee for their excellent work with ensuring the entrances to the town and the town itself always looked so well.

Ms. Moloney advised that the Loughrea Town Development Plan was being prepared in conjunction with a Core Strategy which would look at developing areas of tourism in rural areas, along with looking into assessing previous zoning decisions and amending same.

She acknowledged that the lack of response regarding Smarter Travel was very disappointing as it could have signalled Loughrea Town as a modern progressive centre for the future.

This concluded the business of Loughrea Town Council Meeting held on 14th March, 2011.

Signed this 14th day of March, 2011. Mayor: Michael Nícheallaigh

Minutes and Proceedings of Monthly Meeting of Loughrea Town Council held on the 14th February 2011 in the County Council Offices, Barrack Street, Loughrea.

I latharai:

Mayor: Cllr. Michael Maher

Members: Cllrs. Geraldine Bane, Gabriel Burke, Sylvia Burke, Jimmy Curley, Pat Hynes, Norman Morgan, James Regan, Mary Gunter Nix.

Officials: Jim Cullen, Director of Services, Adrian Raftery, Executive Engineer, Lorraine Cooney, Clerical Officer

DEPUTATION FROM NOEL LEAHY – LOUGHREA WIND SURFING & KAYAKING

Mayor Maher welcomed Noel Leahy to the meeting. Mr. Leahy thanked the Members for the opportunity to put his proposal forward.

Mr. Leahy explained that he hoped to set up a Wind Surfing and Kayaking Centre with his business partner Cathal Cavanagh, which would be modelled on the successful formula used at Rusheen Bay, Galway. They hoped to use the lake for the activities. He explained it would be an asset to Loughrea Town and that it would be creating 4 jobs during the summer months.

All the Members welcomed the proposal.

The Deputation left the meeting.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 10th January, 2011

It was proposed by Cllr. Curley, seconded by Cllr. Morgan and agreed that the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 10th January 2011.

Matters Arising from Minutes of 10th January, 2011

Loughrea Swimming Pool

Cllr. Regan asked if there was any update. Mr. Cullen stated that a letter was received from the Promoter on the 7th February 2011 and read the contents of the letter to the Councillors – the Councillors noted this.

Railings at Garrybreeda

Cllr. Nix thanked Mr. Raftery for putting up the Railings at Garrybreeda.

C.I.E using Back Roads

Cllr. G. Burke asked if there was any update on the C.I.E buses using the back roads. Mr. Cullen stated that a letter was sent to C.I.E on the 19th January 2011 and there was no reply yet.

Town Sweeping

Cllr. Bane asked if there was any replacement for the Town Sweeper. Adrian Raftery stated that we had a Member of the Outdoor Staff emptying bins 2 days a week and sweeping the streets 3 days a week.

St. Brendan's Nursing Home

Cllr. Bane asked if there was any update on the Nursing Home memorabilia. Cllr. Maher stated that a letter was sent to St. Brendan's Nursing Home on the 19th January 2011 and there was no response yet.

Tidy Towns

Cllr. Nix stated that the biggest problem facing the tidy towns at the moment was the picking up of the bags of litter they collect at the weekend and private individuals adding to the bags. She asked if the Community Warden could get involved in the picking up of same. Adrian Raftery said he would look into it.

Bins Barrack Street Car Park

Cllr. Regan asked if there were any updates on who owned the bins in the Barrack Street Car Park as private people were dumping in them and they were overflowing. He asked if they could be removed. Mr. Raftery said he would look into same.

2. Auditors Report on Annual Financial Statement 2009 - noted

3. Provision of Footpaths and repairs to existing footpaths in Former Town Commissioners Areas 2011 – No Allocation

Cllr. Maher stated we were lucky to receive this allocation for the past couple of years and it was unfortunate to lose it. Cllr. Regan stated that it was scandalous that this allocation was taken as it had done so much work in the past. Mr. Cullen stated it was disappointing as we were getting real returns for a modest amount of expenditure and it was a pity it had to come to an end.

4. Feile na NGael – Youth Sports Event 2011

Cllr. Maher stated that the event would be happening in June. He stated the parade would be taking place on the Friday evening at 7.30. He stated it was great for the town. Cllr. Curley proposed that the Town Council sponsor a page in the Events Programme of Feile na NGael at a cost of €900. Cllr. Nix agreed with the proposal and said it would be positive for the Town Council. Mr. Cullen heavily supported this idea and mentioned

that the full cost of the page in the Events Programme shouldn't fall back on the Councillors.

5. Correspondence

- ❖ Letter from Ronan Conway, Planning Enforcement, Galway County Council regarding development at St. Laurences Fields – Noted
- ❖ Letter from Monaghan Town Council regarding Notice of Motion – Noted
- ❖ Letter from Ballinasloe Town Council regarding transfer of Housing Functions – Noted
- ❖ Circular from LAMA regarding Spring Seminar – Noted
- ❖ Letter from Department of Transport regarding National Competition for Smarter Travel – noted.

6. Any Other Business

Road Funding

Cllr. Maher confirmed that €200,000 worth of funding had been obtained for the Gort Road and €210,000 for the main Athenry Road. All the Councillors thanked Adrian Raftery and Galway County Council for their part in this.

St. Patrick's Day Parade

Cllr. Nix asked if some of the Councillors could partake in the organising of the St. Patrick's Day Parade as some Members of the Committee had resigned and if they didn't get more voluntary help there would be no parade.

Rose Bed at Playground

Cllr. Bane asked if there was any update on what we were going to do with the Rose Bed at the Playground to prevent people parking on the bed. Mr. Raftery stated that he had met a Contractor and they would be putting decorative bollards up and this would solve the problem.

Potholes – Loughrea Town

Cllr. Regan asked if it was possible to fill the potholes on the side streets in Town. Mr. Raftery noted this.

Signs on Roundabouts

Cllr. G. Burke asked if the broken signs on the roundabouts could be fixed. He stated there were a lot of poles left without any signs. Mr. Raftery stated that he would speak to the NRA and seek some funding from them.

Presentation – John Shaughnessy

Cllr. Morgan asked that there be a presentation made to John Shaughnessy, Outdoor Council Worker who has retired. Cllr. Maher seconded and it was agreed a presentation would be made to Mr. Shaughnessy at the April Meeting.

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Rezoning of lands and unfinished Housing Estates

Cllr. Regan asked if there were any plans for rezoning of lands in Loughrea. Mr. Cullen stated that the Loughrea Town Plan had to be reviewed and that he would expect that the plan would be significantly different. He hadn't heard of any timeline but he would check it out.

This concluded the business of Loughrea Town Council Meeting held on 14th February, 2011.

Signed this _____ day of February, 2011. Mayor: Michael Maher

Minutes and Proceedings of Monthly Meeting of Loughrea Town Council held on the 10th January, 2011 in the County Council Offices, Barrack Street, Loughrea

Iatharai:

Mayor: Cllr. Michael Maher

Members: Cllrs. Geraldine Bane, Gabriel Burke, Sylvia Burke, Jimmy Curley, Pat Hynes, Norman Morgan, Mary Gunther-Nix, James Regan.

Officials: Jim Cullen, Director of Services, Adrian Raftery, Executive Engineer, Ann Monaghan, Town Clerk

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Annual Budget Meeting held on 13th December, 2010
Proposed by Cllr. Morgan, Seconded by Cllr. Regan

2. Confirmation of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on the 13th December, 2010
Proposed by Cllr. Morgan, Seconded by Cllr. Regan

Matters Arising from Minutes

Pay & Display

Following on Galway County Councils decision to provide Free Car Parking prior to Christmas Break and its success, all Councillors recommended the extension of this scheme indefinitely to encourage commercial activity in the town. Mr. Cullen stated he would raise the issue with the Roads and Transportation Department, Galway County Council. Any change of policy would include all areas covered under the Pay and Display System.

Smart Travel

Cllr. Maher stated that a response had issued from Michael Owens, Department and Transportation Section regarding current status of Smart Travel. However, it was agreed to write to Department of Transport on behalf of Loughrea Town Council to obtain this information officially.

Loughrea Swimming Pool

Mr. Cullen stated that a letter had issued to the promoter on the 29th November, looking for specifics with regard to timelines. Mr. Cullen to discuss with Mr. Kevin Kelly, Director of Corporate Services and issue a final letter from Galway County Council with strict dates for adherence. This letter would also make reference to returning the site to its original state.

Footpaths

The issue of commencing Footpath Programme in June/July was raised. Mr. Raftery to look into this. In the meantime, Mr. Raftery advised all Councillors to make up their list

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of Footpath Repairs they want included in the 2011 submission. It was agreed that Mount Pleasant would be included in the 2011 submission.

Railing at Garrybreda

Mr. Raftery advised that this work would commence shortly

2. Correspondence

- Edenderry Town Council re importance of Postal Service in Ireland – Noted
- Leixlip Town Council re proposal to cut minimum wage – Noted
- Macroom Town Council re NPPR Charges – Noted
- Tuam Town Council re speed inhibitor - Noted

3. Notice of Motions – Cllr. Bane

That the Town Engineer together with the Director of Services work with the relevant personnel in the roads section of Galway County Council & the Gardai to seek a solution to the growing problem of HGV's & buses using the Mount Carmel Road as a convenient access to town. Seconded by Cllr. Morgan.

Mr. Raftery advised that signs would be put up at the Loughrea Link Road Roundabout directing traffic towards Loughrea South and Loughrea North which would divert traffic away from the Mount Carmel Road entrance to the Town. With regard enforcing Weight Restrictions, this is not enforceable by An Garda Síochána, as there is no weighbridge within a 20 mile distance of the town. It was agreed that an Axel Ban could be put in place in the town - this change to take place as an amendment to the Loughrea Traffic Management Plan.

4. Any Other Business

One Way System Signage – Abbey Street

Cllr. Maher recommended additional signage at this location as a lot of people were heading up this way without realising that they were entering a One Way System. Mr. Raftery to look into same.

Rubbish at Barrack Street, Car Park

Cllr. Regan asked that this be investigated.

Abbey Street

Cllr. Regan asked that pothole in footpath near hairdressers be fixed.

CIE using Back Roads

Cllr. Curley recommended that a letter issue to the CIE recommending that they outline the routes used in the Town.

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Town Sweeping

Cllr. Burke queried as to who would be replacing Mr. Shaughnessy. Mr. Raftery advised that the employment embargo is in place so there would be no chance of replacing Mr. Shaughnessy. This may be resolved by putting the job out to contract or looking to see if there is flexibility in the system.

Angling Association

Cllr. Burke queried as to whether the Angling Association could commence a cleaning regime on the lake from the back of the Temperance Hall to the back of Cathedral. Mr. Cullen advised that this was private property.

St. Brendans Nursing Home

Cllr. Bane raised the issue of what was to become of the Memorabilia in the old home as lots of the pictures, statues etc could be of historical value to the town. It was agreed to write to J.J. Keane, St. Brendan's Nursing Home to ascertain what would happen to these items.

Manhole Cover – Abbey Street

Mr. Raftery advised that this would be fixed shortly

Presentation.

Cllr. Regan recommended that a presentation would take place in honour of both Mrs. Connaughton and Mrs. Phelan who have recently both turned 100 years of Age. It was agreed that this presentation would take place at the February Town Council Meeting

This concluded the business of Loughrea Town Council Meeting held on 10th January, 2010.

Signed this _____ day of January, 2011. Mayor: Michael Maher

Minutes and Proceedings of Annual Budget Meeting of Loughrea Town Council held on the 13th December, 2010 in the County Council Offices, Barrack Street, Loughrea.

I latharai:

Mayor: Cllr. Michael Maher

Members: Cllrs. Geraldine Bane, Gabriel Burke, Sylvia Burke, Jimmy Curley, Pat Hynes, Norman Morgan, James Regan

Officials: Jim Cullen, Director of Services, Adrian Raftery, Executive Engineer, Ann Monaghan, Town Clerk

Mr. J. Cullen, Director of Services, presented the Annual Budget for the year 2011. Mr. Cullen stated that the total proposed expenditure for 2011 is €84,920.00 and the estimated income at €8,630.00. The amount of the demand to be submitted to Galway County Council for 2010 will be €76,290.00 and the multiplier will be €3.04 which represents a small decrease on the 2009 level. He recommended the Budget be adopted.

Cllr. Maher acknowledged the additional monies of €1000 for Tidy Towns. Cllr. Bane queried as to whether the Chamber of Commerce Monies included monies for the St. Patricks Day Parade. Mr Cullen stated that it did and advised that the breakdown of the €1500 amount would include €1200 for Chamber of Commerce and €300 for St. Patricks Day Parade.

On the proposal of Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Morgan, it was resolved that the Budget of Loughrea Town Council for the financial year ending 31st December 2011, as set forth at A, B, C on the Form of Budget, be adopted and the Form of Annual Budget be signed by the Mayor and by the Town Clerk.

It was also resolved that the Demand be made on Galway County Council by the Loughrea Town Council for the sum of €76,290.00 for the financial year ending on the 31st December 2011, and that the Form of Demand be signed by the Mayor and by the Town Clerk.

This concluded the business of the Annual Budget Meeting.

Signed this 10 day of January, 2011. Mayor: Michael Maher

Minutes and Proceedings of Monthly Meeting of Loughrea Town Council held on the 13th December, 2010 in the County Council Offices, Barrack Street, Loughrea

I latharai:

Mayor: Cllr. Michael Maher

Members: Cllrs. Geraldine Bane, Gabriel Burke, Sylvia Burke, Jimmy Curley, Pat Hynes, Norman Morgan, James Regan.

Officials: Jim Cullen, Director of Services, Adrian Raftery, Executive Engineer, Ann Monaghan, Town Clerk

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 11th October, 2010

It was proposed by Cllr. Regan, seconded by Cllr. Morgan and agreed that the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 8th November be adopted.

Matters Arising from Minutes of 8th November, 2010

Loughrea Swimming Pool

Mr. Cullen stated that a response had been received by Mr. Kevin Kelly, Director of Corporate Services from the Swimming Pool Promoter. However, while being a statement of intent to proceed, it was short on specifics and exact detail. Mr. Kelly is to write to the promoter looking for more specific detail.

Pay & Display

Cllr. Bane complimented Galway County Council on its decision to allow Free Car Parking on the 4th, 11th and 18th December. Cllrs Bane and Hynes asked that Galway County Council look again at the issue of Parking Tickets being issued before 11am on Saturday Mornings.

Smart Travel

Cllr. Bane suggested that clarity be sought from the Department of Transport with regard to when or if a decision will be made on the Smart Travel Application.

Footpaths

Cllr Regan recommended that the Footpaths Programme be carried out at an earlier time in the year, as by leaving until later in the year, works were being hampered by bad weather conditions. With regard to the issue of Pots being used instead of Bollards on Moore Street, it was agreed that due to the volumes of traffic using the road and the safety implications to pedestrians, to monitor the situation and if necessary, the bollards could be put in place.

2. Correspondence

- Letter from Monaghan Town Council regarding Motion passed at November Meeting that the Council calls on the Government to increase the fuel allowance. Supported.
- Letter from Monaghan Town Council regarding Motion passed at October Meeting that the Council calls on the Government to address the plight of the self-employed who now find themselves unemployed, to access welfare assistance more speedily. Supported.
- Brochure from AMAI regarding Spring Seminar in Bantry on Feb 11&12th. Noted.

3. Notice of Motions – Cllr. Morgan

(a) That the Traffic Lights on the Old Galway Road be moved from their present location, which is approximately 30 metres west of the Westbridge Junction, and that they be relocated on the pole at the Junction, as motorists in a queue who go through said green light often find when they arrive at the junction that other traffic is crossing them; and as there are no traffic lights at the junction for the Old Galway Road traffic ; motorists are placed in a situation of confusion and great danger.

Seconded by Cllr. Gabriel Burke.

(b) That the double yellow lines be maintained on the south side of the road from the Westbridge Junction westwards out the Old Galway road, as the road is only wide enough to take two way traffic, and that the Traffic Wardens be instructed to deal appropriately, several times each day, with the illegal parking threat, which would allow a free flow of traffic and should also at least reduce the number of hold ups there each day.

Seconded by Cllr. Maher

© That the muck and rubbish be removed on a regular basis from all surface water shores throughout Loughrea Town so as to reduce the harm caused by flooding on our streets.

Seconded by Cllr. Sylvia Burke

4. Any Other Business

Potholes

The issue of potholes on Mount Carmel Crescent was raised and whether a ban could be put on large vehicles using the main street. Mr. Raftery advised that while a sign can be put in place, it is not enforceable as the An Garda Siochana don't have access to a Weighbridge. The only legal route to follow is to consider an Axle Ban in the Town.

Railing at Garrybreeda

Mr. Cullen advised that these works were important to the Town Council from a safety point of view and would commence prior to the end of the year.

Loughrea Town Council Meeting held on 13th December, 2010

Cllr. Maher wished all present Best Wishes for the Christmas and the New Year. He complimented all on their work on behalf of Loughrea Town Council during 2010.

This concluded the business of Loughrea Town Council Meeting held on 13th December, 2010.

Signed this 10 day of January, 2011. Mayor: Michael Maher

**Minutes and Proceedings of Monthly Meeting of Loughrea Town
Council held on the 8th November, 2010 in the County Council Offices,
Barrack Street, Loughrea**

I latharai:

Mayor: Cllr. Michael Maher

Members: Cllrs. Geraldine Bane, Gabriel Burke, Jimmy Curley, Mary Gunter-Nix,
Pat Hynes, Norman Morgan, James Regan.

Officials: Jim Cullen, Director of Services, Adrian Raftery, Executive Engineer,
Ann Monaghan, Town Clerk

A minutes silence was held in honour of Mr. Pat Fahy, R.I.P.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 11th October, 2010

It was proposed by Cllr. Curley, seconded by Cllr. Morgan and agreed that the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 11th October be adopted.

Matters Arising from Minutes of 11th October, 2010

Traffic Lights, Westbridge

All Councillors were complimentary of works completed on this project and that the lights were a great addition to the town with regard to traffic and pedestrian safety.

Loughrea Swimming Pool

Mr. Cullen stated that no reply had been received from the Promoter to a council letter of 14th September. A further letter had issued on the 8th November requesting a decision to be made by 31st Dec. Cllr. Burke stated that he had talked to the promoter and had been advised that a positive letter was on its way to Galway County Council. Cllr. Burke also stated that the accounts of the committee are audited on an annual basis and that the Accounts are placed in the local Library on a permanent basis for inspection. He brought a copy of the Accounts for 2008 & 2009 to be passed onto persons who request same.

Stony Brennan Plaque

Cllr. Regan to discuss same with Mr. Sweeney (owner of the Building on which the Plaque originally resided).

IDA Invite

Cllr. Maher stated that while Mr. Jim Murren was unable to attend the November meeting, he stated that he would be available to attend in early 2011.

Pay & Display

Cllr. Maher asked as to whether a decision had been made on free car parking in the town on Saturday mornings. Mr. Cullen advised that a decision on this matter was imminent.

Resurfacing of Gort Road

Mr. Raftery stated that the contractors were concentrating on the drainage aspect of the work first, to be followed by resurfacing. The work should be completed by Christmas.

Smart Travel

Mr. Cullen stated that no response had been received from the DoEHLG.

2. Correspondence

- Letter from Monaghan Town Council "That this Council vehemently opposes any proposal to abolish Town Councils, a move that would deprive the citizens access to the most basic form of democracy".
- Letter from Naas Town Council "That this Town Council immediately write to the Minister for Health and Children, Mary Harney T.D., urging her to reconsider the site for the proposed National Childrens Hospital". This was proposed by Cllr. Morgan and Seconded by Cllr. Hynes.
- Report from Letterkenny Town Council on "Submission on the Report of the Local Government Efficiency Review Group". Noted.
- Notice re "A National Tourism Conference" to be held by Clare Tourist Council. Noted.

3. Notice of Motions – Cllr. Morgan

(a) "That Cllr Morgan and Loughrea Town Council, be informed as to whether or not the complaint received from the proprietor of Maggie May's, regarding a foul smell, which he considered to be of human waste, coming from a surface water man-hole outside his premises on days of heavy rain, which complaint he passed onto Loughrea Co.Co. office, has been investigated, and if so, its findings". Not seconded.

(b) "That the matter of the Rights of pedestrians walking on footpaths in Loughrea be discussed and that especially regarding some second-level students who walk two or three across a footpath, expecting every other person to go out onto the road. That the Principals of St. Raphael's and St. Brigid's second level schools be requested to recommend to their students that they show courtesy and respect to other users". Not seconded.

Loughrea Town Council Meeting held on 11th October 2010

© "That the Director of Services, Mr. Jim Cullen inform Loughrea Town Council as to whether or not a Mayor of Loughrea Town Council has, or has not, the right to choose who he/she accepts or rejects proposals from. This is precise question which relates only to the Rights of Elected Councillors". Seconded by Cllr. Burke.

Mr. Cullen stated that he had dealt with this issue at previous meeting and that he would not address this issue again.

4. Any Other Business

Cllr. Maher complimented the Council on the completion of the following works: Traffic Lights completed ; Roadworks on Gort Road commenced ; Footpath works underway ; Drainage works at school completed. He Also congratulated Cllr Morgan on receiving his Masters Degree in Local History.

Parking off Old Galway Road

Cllr. Bane asked about putting additional yellow lines on the Boreen road off the old Galway Road as parking issues had arisen here. Mr. Raftery stated that this is an issue to be discussed at the Local Area Meeting as they had the powers to make decisions on these issues.

Footpaths

Cllr. Regan requested that additional bollards be placed at edge of footpaths as lorries were driving up onto footpaths. Mr. Raftery stated that a certain number of bollards had already been knocked on the Main Street. It was agreed to look into this issue.

Broken Pipe

Cllr. Nix raised issue of broken pipe at the Town Hall and stated that it could cause people to trip over it. Mr. Raftery said he would investigate.

Local Honours

Cllr. Maher advised that the presentation to Mr. Barry Shiel, Loughrea and Mr. Jarlath Fitzgerald would be taking place after the Meeting. Cllr. Regan requested support for the Loughrea Hurling Team in the County Final.

Christmas Party

The issue of holding a Christmas Party to be decided at a later stage.

This concluded the business of Loughrea Town Council Meeting held on 8th November, 2010.

Signed this 13 day of December 2010. Mayor: Michael Maher

Minutes and Proceedings of Monthly Meeting of Loughrea Town Council held on the 11th October, 2010 in the County Council Offices, Barrack Street, Loughrea

I latharai:

Mayor: Cllr. Michael Maher

Members: Cllrs. Geraldine Bane, Sylvia Burke, Mary Gunter-Nix, Pat Hynes, Norman Morgan, James Regan
Apologies: Cllrs Jimmy Curley, Gabriel Burke

Officials: Jim Cullen, Director of Services, Adrian Raftery, Executive Engineer, Ann Monaghan, Town Clerk and Anne Power Outgoing Town Clerk.

1 Confirmation of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 13th September

It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan, seconded by Cllr. Regan and agreed that the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 13th September, 2010 be adopted.

Matters Arising from Minutes of 13th September 2010

Traffic Lights, Westbridge

Cllr. Maher asked about the current status of Traffic Lights at Westbridge. Mr. Raftery stated that the road surfacing and road markings were now completed. Galway County Council is awaiting the ESB to connect. All relevant forms/fees have been issued to the ESB. Once the connection is made, the Contractor will come back to finalise job.

Cllr Regan also commented on the urgency to complete work as the junction was especially dangerous for pedestrians.

Election of the Mayor

Cllr Morgan asked for clarification regarding the election of the Mayor. Mr. Cullen reiterated that on the night of the Annual Town Council Meeting, the Mayor was elected and that was what the Meeting intended. He stated that he had no further advice to offer the Council on this matter.

Loughrea Swimming Pool

Cllr. Hynes asked for update. Mr. Cullen stated that the council had written to the Promoter of the Pool on the 14th September seeking clarification on a number of issues. However, no reply had been received to date.

Stony Brennan Plaque

Cllr. Maher stated that he had spoken to the owner of the Building on which the Plaque originally resided (Mr. Sweeney) and he said that he would be willing to fund the cost of putting the Plaque on a Plinth.

IDA Invite

Cllr Nix asked whether an invite had issued to the IDA. It was confirmed that Mr. Jim Murren, West Regional Manager IDA had accepted invite and confirmed that he will attend the November Town Council Meeting.

Tourism Initiative for Loughrea

Cllr Nix asked as to whether contact was made with Ireland West Tourism. It was agreed to contact them to see if Loughrea was included in their plan.

2 Correspondence

- Letter from Monaghan Town Council that Member adopted the following “that this Council deplors the proposal by ESB to increase charges by almost 5% at a time when the wholesale cost of same has been reduced by 2%”. This was proposed by Cllr Morgan and seconded by Cllr Bane.
- Letter from Clones Town Council “for a review of the application of the Habitual Residence Condition for social welfare claimants...”. Cllr Hynes proposed this motion. He stated that this condition made it very hard on persons returning from abroad to look after elderly relatives to claim the Carers Allowance. Cllr Bane stated that there is an Appeals System in place for such situations. Cllr Morgan also agreed that this is a complex situation. There was no seconding of this proposal.
- Letter from Daithi Mhac Eireannach regarding organising a benefit dance for Galway Hospice. He requested coming in to address the Town Council. It was agreed that the letter be marked as read and to wish him well in the benefit, but to let him know that Loughrea Town Council are not in a position to fund same at present.
- Memo re Cas
- ual Trading. Proposed by Cllr Morgan and seconded by Cllr Maher.

3. Notice of Motion – Cllr. Gunther Nix

- (a) “That a portion of the monies collected in Loughrea for paid parking be allocated for amenity use in the town”.

It was proposed by Cllr. Gunther Nix and seconded by Cllr Maher. Mr. Cullen stated that while the monies collected were in Loughrea, the persons paying said monies were from many different districts and as such the Car Parking monies are not specifically monies generated in Loughrea from Loughrea people. Mr Cullen stated that while Galway County Council did financially support all Tidy Town Associations through the Community and Enterprise Section, he agreed that the Tidy Towns Association was in need of additional financial support. He suggested allocating additional monies from Loughrea Town Council when preparing the estimates for the 2011 Budget.

- (b) “That Loughrea Town Council seeks funding from Galway County Council, in their budget provisions for 2011, to replace the dangerous and defective railing at Garrybreda Park”.

It was proposed by Cllr Gunther Nix and seconded by Cllr. Morgan. Mr. Raftery stated that he had gotten a price to fix same which came in at €5,000, which was prohibitively high. Mr. Cullen stated that it was necessary to determine if this was the liability of the Loughrea Town Council and if so the works would have to be carried out and this was agreed because of the Health and Safety implications.

4. Notice of Motion – Cllr. N. Morgan

- (a) “That a recommendation be sent to Galway County Council to provide adequate shores in appropriate positions on Mount Carmel Road, Loughrea, where flooding occurs whenever it rains, causing a hazard to motorist and pedestrians attending the Adult Education Centre and the Carmelite Abbey Church”

It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan and Seconded by Cllr. Maher. Mr. Raftery stated that a new surface water pipe was needed at this location. A request had been made to the OPW for funding, however, they’ve stated that this is a drainage issue and there is currently no funding available for these works.

- (b) “That Galway County Council be requested to state who is responsible for removing the tree branches, bushes or other growth which is blocking a full view of road signage by motorists, and take appropriate action”

Loughrea Town Council Meeting held on 11th October 2010

Proposed by Cllr Morgan and seconded by Cllr Burke. Mr. Cullen stated that it is the responsibility of each landowner. Mr. Raftery stated that in case of Health and Safety concerns, that the Council has the power to remove anything that impairs the full view of the road signage.

(c) That Galway County Council be requested to arrange to have the remaining ivy on the Garrybreeda Old Church ruin removed and the stonework pointed. Its importance is that Garrybreeda was a religious site in the year 1160, and in relation to Loughrea Town Castle 1243 and the Carmelite Monks settlement in Loughrea in 1300, Garrybreeda is a site of major historical and archaeological importance in Loughrea. Galway County Council may consider asking the Board of Works for financial support.

Proposed by Cllr Norman. Not seconded.

5. Any Other Business

Resurfacing of Gort Road

Cllr Regan asked for an update on the resurfacing of the Gort Road. Mr. Raftery stated the Contract for same has been signed. An amount of €300k was allocated for the project. The site has now been handed over to the Contractor and they are expected on site shortly. It is expected to be completed by the end of November.

Cllr Regan wanted to know if the road will be raised to avoid the flooding problems of last year. Mr Raftery stated that the raising of the road would have implications on the houses in the area and because of this the road was to be left at the same levels.

Cllr Bane asked where works would commence and end. Mr Raftery stated it was to start from Chartbuster and end at Coscarraig. Cllr Hynes and Morgan stated that this was very positive for the town.

Paid Parking in Loughrea

Cllr. Regan suggested free Car Parking in Long Term Car Parks up until 12 on a Saturday morning to accommodate persons leaving cars overnight. This was seconded by Cllr. Bane. Mr. Cullen agreed that this was an issue that needed some leeway. He stated that this issue is to be discussed at the next Management Team Meeting in Galway County Council and he will revert back re same.

Visit by County Manager, Martina Maloney

Cllr. Maher stated that an invite had issued to the County Manager to attend the next Town Council Meeting.

Loughrea Town Council Meeting held on 11th October 2010

Local Honours

Cllr. Maher proposed that at the next meeting he would like to set aside some time to honour the following for their contribution to Loughrea Town: Mr. Barry Shiel, Loughrea Fire Brigade and Mr. J. Fitzgerald. This was seconded by Cllr. Morgan. Cllr. Morgan to provide Scrolls for presentation on the night.

Cash for Cans

Cllr. Gunther Nix asked if this Scheme which is operational in Galway City could be ran in Loughrea Town as a project for Transition Year Students. Mr. Cullen stated that because of the compactness of Galway City and its level of collection points that it is probably more suited to the larger urban areas. He also stated that the Waste Management Policy of Galway County Council would prohibit competing with the private Waste Contractors. However, he stated that he would look into the issue further.

Smart Travel.

Jim Cullen stated that no response had been received on our application to date.

Tidy Towns

Cllr Maher thanked Galway County Council for the use of its machinery in aiding the work of the Tidy towns Association. Cllr Gunther Nix informed the meeting of a Fundraising Walk in aid of the Tidy towns to be held on the 23rd October.

Tribute

All Councillors and Officials paid tribute to the excellent work of the outgoing Town Clerk Anne Power and wished her the best of luck in her new role in Water Services.

This concluded the business of Loughrea Town Council Meeting held on 11th October, 2010.

Signed this 8th day of November 2010. Mayor: Michael Maher

Minutes and Proceedings of Monthly Meeting of Loughrea Town Council held on the 13th September, 2010 in the County Council Offices, Barrack Street, Loughrea

I latharai:

Mayor: Cllr. Michael Maher

Members: Cllrs. Geraldine Bane, Sylvia Burke, Jimmy Curley, Mary Gunter-Nix, Pat Hynes, Norman Morgan, James Regan

Officials: Jim Cullen, Director of Services, Adrian Raftery, Executive Engineer, Anne Power, Town Clerk

1 Confirmation of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 12th July 2010

It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan, seconded by Cllr. Curley and agreed that the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 12th July 2010 be adopted.

Matters Arising from Minutes of 12th July 2010

Correspondence from Cllr. Morgan raised at last Meeting

Cllr. Morgan referred to correspondence that he had requested to be circulated at the July Meeting in relation to proceedings of the Annual Meeting and asked for Mr. Cullen to comment on same.

Mr. Cullen stated the proceedings of the Annual Town Council Meeting took place in a particular manner and the Mayor was duly elected. He said that everything that happened there and subsequently was perfectly valid.

Cllr. Morgan stated that certain aspects of the proceedings at that meeting were not legal or valid.

Cllr. Maher stated that Cllr. Morgan should have raised this matter on the night of the Annual Meeting. He said that he was disappointed with Cllr. Morgan in how he brought up the issue, gave no advance warning of same and on the night when Mr. Cullen was not in attendance to advise on same. Cllr. Regan stated that this type of unnecessary action was giving the town bad publicity. Cllr. Gunter-Nix stated that Cllr. Maher was the unanimous choice of the Members as Mayor and it was very infantile of any member to take this attitude. She said that they should be working together for the benefit of the town. Cllr. Maher stated that the query had been answered by Mr. Cullen and he asked that the Media would not report on the matter in the local press.

2 Correspondence

- Response from Office of the Minister for Environment, Heritage & Local Government in relation to motion passed at March Meeting with regard to the reduction in Outdoor Staffing numbers.
- Letter from Ballina Town Council regarding Motion passed at July Meeting requesting the Minister for Environment, Heritage & Local Government and the Government to cease all proposals to reduce or dissolve democratically elected Local Authorities. This motion was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Regan.
- Letter from Macroom Town Council regarding Motion passed at June Meeting requesting the Minister for Environment, Heritage & Local Government and the Government to cease all proposals to reduce or dissolve democratically elected Local Authorities. This motion was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Regan.
- Letter from Killarney Town Council regarding Motion passed at July Meeting opposing the Fianna Fail submission to the Government White Paper on Local Government Reform.
- Letter from Passage West Town Council regarding motion passed at the July Meeting asking the Minister for Social Protection to develop a scheme whereby those in receipt of Job Seekers Benefit/Allowance can be used on a voluntary basis for the benefit of the community without reducing welfare entitlements.
- Letter from Inland Fisheries Ireland enclosing the public consultation document for the development of a Corporate Plan 2010 – 2014 for Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) and inviting Loughrea Town Council to make a submission providing views on the role and priorities of the IFI over the next five years.
- 7th Annual Conference on Substance & Alcohol Misuse – Killarney, Co. Kerry – 7/8 October 2010
- La Touche Legacy Committee – Local Democracy in Changing Times – Greystones, Co. Wicklow – 1/3 October 2010
- LAMA Autumn Seminar – Listowel, Co. Kerry – 8/9 October 2010
- National Tourism Conference – Ennistymon, Co. Clare – 25/26/27 November 2010

3. Notice of Motion – Cllr. Curley

(a) “The revival of the Loughrea Seven Springs Festival. This festival successfully ran in Loughrea from 1970 to 1985 attracting large crowds of people. In the process it provided a boost to the economy of the town as well as great entertainment. Every town has its festival – the Athenry medieval festival, the Ballinasloe Fair, the Gort Brazilian festival. The Seven Springs Festival could run in conjunction with the heritage week and coincide with the Athletic Club 10km road race, thus providing a family focused festival week in Loughrea, with something to cater for all ages.”

It was proposed by Cllr. Curley, seconded by Cllr. Maher. Cllr. Curley stated that Loughrea was one of the few towns that did not have an annual festival and he said that the revival of the Seven Springs festival would be a great boost for the town of Loughrea. He referred to the recent Summer Rally hosted by Loughrea and commented on the amount of business it had generated for the town. He suggested that other organizations in the town such as the Chamber of Commerce, the Lions Club, the G.A.A., etc. could all be involved. Cllr. Regan stated that he fully supported this proposal and suggested that a public meeting be called asking all interested parties to attend and this would determine the interest in it and where it should go from there.

(b) “That Stony Brennan is returned to his rightful place at the Westbridge, looking across at the Old Town Moat. He is part of our heritage and should be there for all to see if for no other reason to remind us where we came from. Additionally, in relation to my first point, he was always a central part of the Seven Springs Festival. People of Loughrea want him returned as was promised at the time of the redevelopment of the Westbridge area.”

It was proposed by Cllr. Curley, seconded by Cllr. Morgan. Cllr. Curley stated that the Stony Brennan plaque was removed during redevelopment of the Westbridge area and it should be returned back there. It was agreed by the Members that contact be made with the owners of the building to come to an agreement as to where it can be erected.

(c) That an update be provided in relation to the commencement of works on the Loughrea Swimming Pool. Many representations have been made in relation to the funding-raising carried out in 1996 querying what has happened with this money; what stage is the process at; how much money has been collected; who has control over the money; has any of it being spent and if so on what? There seems to be a lack of communication and information to the general public on this issue?

It was proposed by Cllr. Curley, seconded by Cllr. S. Burke. Cllr. Maher stated that at a recent Area Meeting, the Members were advised that planning permission for the pool had recently expired and the Council would be seeking confirmation from the proposed developer that the swimming pool development was still going ahead.

5. Cllr. Regan and other Members stated that they were shocked to hear that the planning permission had expired and queried why they were not made aware of same. Mr. Cullen said that this matter had been raised on many occasions. He said that he advised the members previously that the developer had been written to stating that the planning permission was about to expire and asking him what his plans were to which they had not received a comprehensive reply as yet. He said that further correspondence was being sent in the coming week asking him if he was going ahead and if so, to set out a project time-frame for it. In relation to the monies raised, he said that the Swimming Pool Committee had filed their audited accounts each year and which were available for public viewing and there could not be the slightest question in relation to everything being above board. He said that the Council had always been supportive of this proposal and had done all that was required on their part.

4. Notice of Motion – Cllr. Mary Gunter-Nix

(a) That Town Council Delegates to any Conference or Seminar furnish a summary to this Council on items discussed and issues raised, as required by Local Government Act – Section 142.

It was proposed by Cllr. Gunter-Nix, seconded by Cllr. Bane. Cllr. Gunter-Nix stated that this was a requirement of the Local Government Act and said that it was a reminder of members attending conferences to furnish the members with a summary. Cllrs. Regan & Curley stated that they would have a summary of the recent AMAI conference attended by them available for the next meeting.

(b) That Loughrea Town Council joins with other stake holders in town to plan a Tourism initiative for the town and its environs.

It was proposed by Cllr. Gunter-Nix, seconded by Cllr. Maher. Cllr. Gunter-Nix stated that Loughrea Town has never really capitalized nor highlighted its unique heritage and was unknown to the wider tourist world. She said that other towns were ahead of Loughrea in terms of tourism. She said that they needed to highlight what they had in Loughrea and promote it.

(c) That this Council invites the IDA to address a forthcoming Town Council Meeting on their attempts to attract/employment to the town.

It was proposed by Cllr. Gunter-Nix, seconded by Cllr. Curley. Cllr. Gunter-Nix stated that the number of people on the live register in Loughrea was now at 2,700 and it was important to find out from the I.D.A. what efforts have been made to try and attract industry into the town. Mr. Cullen advised that the I.D.A. would be written to and asked to attend a future meeting of the Town Council.

5. Any Other Business

Derelict Buildings

Cllr. Maher stated that there were slates coming off the roof of the house beside the Town Hall on Church Street. Mr. Cullen stated that the owner of the house has been written to and notice has been served.

Cllr. Regan queried how many Council houses in Loughrea town were vacant at present. Mr. Cullen said that he would make enquiries with the Housing Section in advance of the next meeting.

Cleaning of Gullies

Cllr. Maher stated that gullies around the town were being blocked up with litter, debris and leaves and asked that they be cleared out so as to avoid unnecessary flooding. Mr. Raftery advised that some had already been cleared but would continue to monitor them.

Casual Trading

Cllr. Maher asked for the update in relation to the proposed moving of the Casual Trading Area to the Main Street Car-Park. Mr. Cullen stated that there was a delay in implementing the Casual Trading Bye-Laws countywide and would have an update in advance of the next meeting.

Town Hall

Cllr. Maher said he was asked to enquire what exactly would have to be done to enable the Council to hand over the Town Hall to a group/committee/organisation. Mr. Cullen stated that it was his understanding that there was some proposal emerging that was going to come forward to the Council for consideration. He said that the Council would be happy to work with any group that had the necessary finance available to undertake such a project.

Galway Motor Club

Cllr. Curley proposed that a letter be sent to the Galway Motor Club to highlight how beneficial the recent summer rally was to the town of Loughrea. This was seconded by Cllr. Maher. Cllr. Regan also proposed that a letter be sent to the organisers of the Loughrea Sprint Triathlon held in Loughrea which was very successful and very well organised.

Litter Pick

Cllr. Maher referred to a recent litter pick carried out in a car-park in town in which two bags of rubbish were found. He advised that there was evidence in the bags which would

Loughrea Town Council Meeting held on 13th September 2010

allow prosecution to take place but when the Community Warden on duty was asked to remove the bags, he advised that it was not his area and he would report it to the local office the following Monday. Cllr. Maher said that it was very frustrating for the Tidy Towns Committee because when the bags were eventually collected, the evidence was destroyed at that stage. Mr. Cullen advised that this matter would be addressed.

Traffic Lights, Westbridge

Cllr. Regan queried when the traffic lights on Westbridge would be in working order. Mr. Raftery advised that the application for connection had gone to the ESB and they were waiting for the connection to be completed. He further advised that the surface at this junction would be done in the coming days and marking/lining would be carried out shortly after.

Drainage Works at Fitzzy's Corner

Cllr. Regan queried what works were being carried out in order to prevent the flooding problems that occurred at Fitzzy's Corner/Woodford Road last winter. Mr. Raftery advised that they were going to carry out more maintenance and redirect the flow of water around the town and the main works would be concentrated on Cross Street. He said that the proposal was sent to the Parks & Wildlife Section for their comments.

This concluded the business of Loughrea Town Council Meeting held on 13th September 2010.

Signed this 11th day of October 2010. Mayor: Michael Maher

Minutes and Proceedings of Monthly Meeting of Loughrea Town Council held on the 12th July, 2010 in the County Council Offices, Barrack Street, Loughrea

I latharai:

Mayor: Cllr. Michael Maher

Members: Cllrs. Gabriel Burke, Jimmy Curley, Mary Gunter-Nix, Pat Hynes, Norman Morgan, James Regan, Geraldine Bane, Sylvia Burke.

Officials: Adrian Raftery, Executive Engineer, Lorraine Cooney, Clerical Officer

The Meeting opened with prayer.

Cllr. Norman Morgan presented the meeting with a letter which was read out by Lorraine Cooney, Clerical Officer it stated the following:

“At the Annual Meeting of Loughrea Town Council, held on 21st June 2010, in the County Council Offices, Barrack Street, Loughrea, I, Cllr. Norman Morgan, an Elected Member of Loughrea Town Council, for 38 years, proposed Cllr. Michael Maher for the position of Mayor. This I did after outgoing Mayor Pat Hynes stated “We’ll get on to the next item – the election of Mayor”.

After I had made the above proposal Mayor Hynes said “I’ll now say a few words,” and he went on to thank those who had helped him in his year as Mayor.

Next he said that he was “Adjourning the meeting for fives minutes, as a mark of respect to the late Mrs. Donohue”, and he left the meeting. This was contrary to the ‘accepted practice’ of “Observing a minute’s silence,” in all such events.

When Mayor Hynes returned he, improperly, asked for proposals for Mayor. As I had already proposed Cllr. Michael Maher, it was Mayor Hynes’ duty to say “Cllr. Morgan has proposed Cllr. Maher for Mayor, do I have a seconder.” Instead, he cast aside my proposal and took an identical proposal from his friend, Cllr. Jimmy Curley.

All Cllrs. have a right to propose and Mayor Hynes, or any other Mayor, has no authority to deny any elected Cllr. his or her rights.

It should be noted that a Mayor may not properly adjourn a meeting; he or she is obliged to propose that an adjournment take place, and that the Cllrs. decide by vote. Otherwise, a Mayor may for a personal reason, for no reason, or for any reason, adjourn a meeting.

The legal position is that from the time Mayor Hynes came back from “His Adjournment”, what transpired was not legal. It is now required that the meeting in question be reconvened at the point after I, Cllr. Norman Morgan, proposed Cllr. Michael Maher for Mayor.

Loughrea Town Council Meeting held on 12th July 2010

Be it known to the Elected Members of Loughrea Town Council, that I, Cllr. Norman Morgan, am obliged to do everything in my power to restore to all Loughrea Town Cllrs., the rights legally conferred on them by the Voters of Loughrea."

Mayor Maher stated that he didn't know the legality of this situation but that he would get clarification from Mr. Cullen before the next meeting. It was then agreed that Mayor Maher would continue to chair this meeting.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 21st June 2010

It was proposed by Cllr. N. Morgan, seconded by Cllr. M. Gunter-Nix and agreed that the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting be adopted.

Matters Arising from Minutes of 21st June 2010

Gort Road, Loughrea

Cllr. Bane thanked Adrian Raftery for getting the metal barriers removed from the entrance to the Car Park on the Gort Road. Cllr. Bane queried if there was any update on the Tenders for the Gort Road. Adrian Raftery stated that this was dealt with by Road Design but he hoped that the works would be complete by the end of September.

Westbridge, Loughrea

Cllr. Curley queried if works had commenced on the lights for the Westbridge. Mr. Raftery stated that works had started and they were carrying out ducting works at the moment. Cllr. Curley queried if the Smart Travel Bid was achieved would plans for the lights at the Westbridge change. Mr. Raftery stated that these plans would not change and that the works should be complete in the next 3-4 weeks.

Derelict Buildings

Cllr. Gunter Nix thanked Adrian Raftery for the work the sweeper had done on the Town. Cllr. Gunter Nix queried if there was any update from the Environment Section on the Derelict Buildings in Town. Mayor Maher stated that he had met with personnel from Environment Section and they had identified nine buildings and that he would have an update in due course.

Garrybreeda

Cllr. Gunter Nix stated that the wall at the back of Ard Breeda Housing Estate which borders Garrybreeda Cemetery and Ard Breeda Housing Estate was still causing hassle. Cllr. Gunter Nix queried if there was funding available to repair same. Adrian Raftery stated that he would look at the Burial Ground Maintenance fund but this fund was minimal. He said that he would look at maybe having funding for these works made available in 2011.

Loughrea Smart Travel

Cllr. Sylvia Burke asked if there was any update on Smart Travel. Mayor Maher stated that he spoke to Michael Owens and there should be an update by the end of next week.

2. Correspondence

- Email from Breeda O'Driscoll, Wexford Borough Council in relation to the adoption of a Labour Party Bill in relation to Head Shops.

It was proposed by Cllr. G. Burke and seconded by Cllr. Morgan that in view of the reopening of Head Shops after only closing down for some days to adopt the Labour Party Bill which would mean that specific planning permission would be required for the change of use of a premises to open a head shop as a further measure to strengthen the law in this area.

- LAMA Autumn Seminar on "Local Government – Efficiency and Financing" – Listowel, Co. Kerry – 8th & 9th October 2010.
- 2010 La Touche Legacy Seminar – "Local Democracy – in Changing Times" – Greystones, Co. Wicklow – 1st – 3rd October 2010.
- Correspondence from Bandon Town Council in relation to the adoption of the WSIP 2010-2012.

3. Notice of Motions – Cllr. Norman Morgan

(a) That the traffic, parking and other signs in Loughrea; many of which are sloped, one in front of another, pointed in the wrong direction, rusted or in need of painting, pole missing a sign, bus stop markings faint, be brought to a standard as a matter of urgency, because legal prosecutions can be weakened by the present conditions.

It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan and seconded by Cllr. G. Burke.

(b) That the overgrown tree branches, hedges etc., which are obscuring road signs, be cut back.

It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan and seconded by Cllr. S. Burke.

(c) That the chain and bollards fence on the lake side of The Green be repaired. Chain and bollards give a much better view of the park – in a car the driver and passengers see about 6 metres less where there is a wall.

Loughrea Town Council Meeting held on 12th July 2010

It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan and seconded by Mayor Maher.

4. Any Other Business

Lake Road, Loughrea

Cllr. Bane referred to the pipe at the far end of the grove and enquired as to what it was for and was it approved. Mr. Raftery stated that it was a Surface Water discharge pipe and it was approved by the National Parks and Wildlife Services.

Cllr. Regan stated that after the heavy rain over the weekend the lake road was flooding at the end of the Grove. Mr. Raftery stated that he would examine same.

Athenry Road, Loughrea

Cllr. G. Burke stated that water was also lodging on the Athenry Road and stated that the gullies may be blocked. Adrian Raftery said that he would examine same.

Loughrea Firestation

Cllr. G. Burke welcomed the new Special Response Unit to the Loughrea Firestation. He stated there was nowhere to store it. Cllr. Maher asked Adrian Raftery to see if he could get clarification of a site to store the said Unit for the next meeting.

Other

Cllr. G. Burke proposed that a sympathy letter be sent to Buncrana Town Council after the car crash fatalities over the weekend. This was seconded by Mayor Maher.

This concluded the business of Loughrea Town Council Meeting held on 12th July 2010.

Signed this 13/09/2010 day of September 2010. Mayor: Michael Maher

**Minutes and Proceedings of Annual Meeting of Loughrea Town Council
held on the 21st June, 2010 in the County Council Offices, Barrack
Street, Loughrea**

I latharai:

Mayor: Cllr. Pat Hynes

Members: Cllrs. Geraldine Bane, Gabriel Burke, Sylvia Burke, Jimmy Curley, Mary Gunter-Nix, Michael Maher, Norman Morgan, James Regan

Officials: Jim Cullen, Director of Services, Adrian Raftery, Executive Engineer, Anne Power, Town Clerk

The Meeting opened with prayer.

Adjournment of Meeting

Mayor Hynes stated that as his capacity as Mayor, he was going to adjourn the Annual Meeting for five minutes owing to the death of "Babs" Bridie Donoghue, Bride Street, Loughrea whose husband was a former Member of Loughrea Town Council and a reporter for the Loughrea Area for the Connacht Tribune for many years. This was seconded by Cllr. Morgan. The meeting adjourned for five minutes.

The Mayor expressed his thanks to the Town Councillors, Members of the Press, to the people of Loughrea who elected him, J. Cullen, Director of Services, A. Raftery, Executive Engineer, A. Power, Town Clerk for their assistance during his term of office. He said that he enjoyed the year and he hoped he represented the town well and did his best for it.

Election of Mayor

Cllr. Maher was proposed by Cllr. Curley, seconded by Cllr. Bane.

As there was no other nomination the Mayor declared Cllr. Maher elected. Mayor Maher then took the Chair.

Mayor Maher thanked his proposer and seconder. He said that it was an honour and a privilege for him and his family to be Mayor of the Town of Loughrea. He also thanked the outgoing Mayor Cllr. Hynes. He stated that he looked forward to the challenges ahead.

Loughrea Town Council Annual Meeting held on 21st June 2010

Election of Deputy Mayor

Mayor Maher asked for proposals for the position of Deputy Mayor.

Cllr. Curley was proposed by Cllr. Bane and seconded by Cllr. Regan.

As there were no counter proposals, Cllr. Curley was elected Deputy Mayor.

Cllr. Curley thanked his proposer and seconder.

This concluded the business of Loughrea Town Council Annual Meeting held on 21st June 2010.

Signed this 12th day of July 2010. Mayor: Michael Maher

Minutes and Proceedings of Monthly Meeting of Loughrea Town Council held on the 21st June, 2010 in the County Council Offices, Barrack Street, Loughrea

I latharai:

Deputy Mayor: Cllr. Jimmy Curley

Members: Cllrs. Geraldine Bane, Gabriel Burke, Sylvia Burke, Mary Gunter-Nix, Norman Morgan, James Regan

Officials: Jim Cullen, Director of Services, Adrian Raftery, Executive Engineer, Anne Power, Town Clerk

1 Confirmation of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 10th May 2010

It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan, seconded by Cllr. G. Burke and agreed that the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 10th May 2010 be adopted.

Matters Arising from Minutes of 10th May 2010

Loughrea Smart Travel Bid

Cllr. Bane asked if there was any update on the Loughrea Smarter Travel Bid. Mr. Cullen informed the Meeting that they were waiting on the Department of Transport to arrange dates to pay a visit to the individual towns in advance of a final decision being made by the end of June. In relation to the interview, he advised that he and two other members made a presentation on the Loughrea Bid to the Department of Transport and the interview went well. He said that the Department were satisfied at the process used that gave rise to the bid and stated that the Department had indicated that further evaluations would be carried out. In response to Cllr. Bane, Ms. Power advised that copies of the bid would be circulated to each member of the Town Council in the coming days. She further advised that the A3 copies of the drawings would be available for collection in the Council offices.

Litter – Loughrea Town

Cllr. Gunter-Nix suggested that the Council provide a skip twice a year and invite people to dispose of items such as old electrical items and that it may eliminate a lot of illegal dumping going on presently. Mr. Cullen advised that he would be opposed to this as he had experience of this in other places and they did not find it worked to any great extent as the skips tended to be full within hours of being in place. He said that the Council would work with the Tidy Towns to ensure that they have what they need in terms of collection of rubbish, provision of refuse bags, etc. Cllr. Bane referred to the metal barriers stored at the entrance to the car-park on the Gort Road and stated that it was very

Loughrea Town Council Meeting held on 21st June 2010

difficult to clean up this area and queried whose responsibility it was. Mr. Raftery advised that he had tried to make contact with the Contractor who carried out the works on the Lakeshore Project to remove the metal barriers. He stated that if they were unable to contact the Contractor, the Council would remove them.

3 Correspondence

- Acknowledgement from Attorney General in relation to Motion passed at May Monthly Meeting.
- Acknowledgement from Office of the Minister for Education and Science in relation to motion passed at May Monthly Meeting.
- Correspondence from the Office of the Regional Director for Social Welfare Services in relation to motion passed at May Monthly Meeting.
- Correspondence from Environment Section, Galway County Council in relation to Grants for Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti Awareness Initiatives 2010.
- Letter from Monaghan Town Council regarding Motion passed at a recent Meeting requesting the Minister for Finance to explore the possibility of re-examining the basis on which rates are levied by Local Authorities on commercial properties throughout the country. This motion was proposed by Cllr. Morgan, seconded by Cllr. S. Burke.
- Letter from Castleblayney Town Council regarding Motion passed at April Meeting calling on the Government to provide a financial aid package or relief's for residential mortgage holders and S.M.E.'s (small and medium enterprises) who find themselves through no fault of their own, having great difficulty meeting their financial commitments at this time. This motion was proposed by Cllr. Morgan, seconded by Cllr. S. Burke.
- Request from McFadden's Funfair for use of Fairgreen from 28th August to 6th September 2010. On the proposal of Cllr. G. Burke, seconded by Cllr. Regan, the Members agreed to this request.
- Ards Tourism Conference 2010 – Ballywalter, Co. Down – 18/20 June 2010

5. Any Other Business

Illegal Dumping on Private Lands

Cllr. G. Burke referred to an incident of dumping that is taking place on private lands at the back of houses in Fahy Gardens. He stated that a portion of the fence was broken

Loughrea Town Council Meeting held on 21st June 2010

down and dumping had started to take place. Mr. Cullen advised that the matter be reported to the Local Office and that the Community Warden would be requested to do an inspection and complete a report to the Environment Section of the Council. In relation to the fencing, he advised that the Housing Section would be informed of same.

Carrig Gael Housing Estate, Galway Road

Cllr. G. Burke stated that during heavy rain, raw sewerage rises up in the road gullies at the entrance into Carrig Gael Housing Estate. He asked that the Town Engineer make contact with the Developer of the estate to ensure that he carries out the necessary works to deal with this problem.

Loughrea Tidy Towns

Cllr. Gunter-Nix thanked and complimented all the people who turned up on for recent clean-ups organised by the Tidy Towns Committee. She stated that it was a great example of community spirit. She also requested that the Sweeper would come once a week over the next number of weeks to ensure that the streets look clean in advance of adjudication for the Tidy Towns Competition. She also advised that they had put hanging baskets on poles throughout the town which were provided through the financial support of the business community.

Derelict Buildings

In relation to derelict buildings, Cllr. Bane queried what could be done to address this issue. Mr. Cullen advised that he would ask the relevant person in the Environment Section of the Council to have a look at the derelict buildings in the town. He advised that there was a long process involved and it was difficult to get success. However, he said that the level of dereliction in the towns had come down and what was left now was more striking. It was agreed that the Town Clerk would liaise with the Environment Section to see what they can do in relation to this issue.

Old Pumphouse at Coy's Boreen

Cllr. Bane referred to the old pumphouse at Coy's Boreen which she stated was in a poor state and needed attention. She asked that the fencing be replaced and that the weeds be sprayed. Mr. Raftery stated that they had sought funding under Health and Safety for works at this location for the past two years but were not successful in securing same. He stated that if he could secure funding from a different source he would look to getting the requested works carried out.

Railing at Garrybreeda

Cllr. Gunter-Nix referred that a section of the railing at the play area in Garrybreeda was broken and required replacement. She referred to a quotation that she had got for the replacement of the railing and asked for update on same. Mr. Raftery advised that he

Loughrea Town Council Meeting held on 21st June 2010

requested funding for this through playground maintenance but was advised that the 2010 allocation had already been earmarked and he would be requesting that funding would be made available for this in 2011.

Beach Guard – Long Point

Cllr. Bane queried what hours the beach guard was on duty at Long Point during the bathing season. The Town Clerk stated that she would check with Human Resources Section and advise Cllr. Bane on same.

Lining at the Westbridge, Loughrea

Cllr. G. Burke stated that the lining at the Westbridge was not very clear and requested that new lining be put in place. He stated that people not familiar with the area may assume they have right of way and there seemed to be a lot of confusion at this junction. Mr. Raftery advised that he was meeting the Contractor employed to carry out the civil works for the installation of the traffic lights at the Westbridge junction in the coming week and it was hoped that these works would commence at the end of June.

Gort Road, Loughrea

Cllr. G. Burke referred to the tar was rising on the section of road that was raised during the flooding on the Gort Road. Mr. Raftery stated that the improvement works on the N66 would be going out to tender by the end of June and it was hoped that the works would be completed by the end of September. However, he said in the meantime they would grit this section with a layer of chips.

Garrybreeda Wall

Cllr. Gunter-Nix referred to the wall at the back of Ard Breeda Housing Estate and which borders Garrybreeda Cemetery and Ard Breeda Housing estate. She stated that the wall was knocked and it now allows for unrestricted access through the cemetery to the estate. She asked that the Town Engineer would examine same.

This concluded the business of Loughrea Town Council Meeting held on 21st June 2010.

Signed this 12th day of June 2010. Mayor: Michael Maher

Minutes and Proceedings of Monthly Meeting of Loughrea Town Council held on the 10th May, 2010 in the County Council Offices, Barrack Street, Loughrea

Iatharai:

Mayor: Cllr. Pat Hynes

Members: Cllrs. Geraldine Bane, Gabriel Burke, Sylvia Burke, Mary Gunter-Nix, Michael Maher, Norman Morgan, James Regan

Officials: Jim Cullen, Director of Services, Adrian Raftery, Executive Engineer, Anne Power, Town Clerk

Apologies: Cllr. J. Curley

The Meeting opened with prayer.

1 (a) Confirmation of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 12th April 2010

Correction

Referring to issue on Poster Tags/Ties on Page 4 of the Minutes, Cllr. G. Burke stated that he was referring to the erection of advertising posters with tape and paste and he was asking people to refrain from doing so as it was unsightly.

It was proposed by Cllr. G. Burke, seconded by Cllr. G. Bane and agreed that the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 12th April 2010 be adopted.

Matters Arising from Minutes of 12th April 2010

Town Hall

Cllr. Maher queried if any repairs were carried out to secure the Town Hall as requested at the last meeting. Mr. Raftery stated that the doors and windows in the Town Hall had been secured as requested.

1 (b) Confirmation of Minutes of Special Meeting held on 26th April 2010

It was proposed by Cllr. G. Burke, seconded by Cllr. G. Bane and agreed that the Minutes of Special Meeting held on 26th April 2010 be adopted.

1 (c) Confirmation of Minutes of Special Meeting held on 27th April 2010

It was proposed by Cllr. G. Burke, seconded by Cllr. G. Bane and agreed that the Minutes of Special Meeting held on 27th April 2010 be adopted.

2. Annual Financial Statement 2009

On the proposal of Cllr. Morgan, seconded by Cllr. Maher, the Members approved the adoption of the Annual Financial Statement 2009.

3 Correspondence

- Circular NMS 1A/10 on National Policy on Town Defences from Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government.
- Correspondence from Gaeilge Locha Riach regarding grants available from Foras na Gaeilge for eligible businesses to erect external bilingual branding and signage. It was agreed that the application form would be made available in the Council Offices.
- Correspondence from The Wren's Nest Ponies requesting use of an area of the Fairgreen on Thursdays from 5 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. for pony rides. On the proposal of Cllr. G. Burke, seconded by Cllr. Regan, the Members agreed to this request. It was agreed that the area to be used would at the playground end of the Fairgreen.
- Letter from Mullingar Town Council regarding Motion passed at April Meeting requesting the Minister for Family and Social Affairs, to amend the eligibility criteria for the Mortgage Interest Supplement Scheme (M.I.S.) having regard to the existing anomalies contained in this Scheme.
- John Hewitt International Summer School – 26/30 July 2010 - Armagh

4. Notice of Motion – Cllr. N. Morgan

(a) That a recommendation be sent to the Government that the scheme which was previously used, whereby persons receiving unemployment money worked every second week, be offered to those interested in carrying out essential and necessary amenity work, which is not being adequately done due to our workforce been halved in recent years.

It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan, seconded by Cllr. S. Burke.

Loughrea Town Council Meeting held on 10th May 2010

(b) That a bye-law be enacted whereby persons who are found guilty of having their dogs drop dog-poop in our public parks or on our streets; those who let their dogs off their leads in places other than their own property; and that a person with a dog in a public place but without a Pooper-Scooper, would be prosecuted.

It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan, seconded by Cllr. Gunter-Nix.

(c) That the Minister for Education be called on to cancel the unconstitutional system which takes money from the tax-payers to pay a teacher a pension for a period that such teacher has not been teaching; but is employed as a T.D. or Senator; as the Constitution does not allow the Dail to privilege T.D.'s and discriminate against any other citizen.

It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan, seconded by Cllr. Maher.

5. Any Other Business

Litter - Loughrea Town

Cllr. Bane referred to the major litter problem in the Walks area and to the drains on either side of the Walks which seemed to be blocked. She also referred to the open area at the Lake at the entrance to the car-park on the Gort Road where there are a number of metal barriers stored. Mr. Raftery stated that the drains referred to in the Walks had been inspected by an Inspector from the O.P.W. in recent times and stated that an application for funding had been made.

After a discussion on problems of under-age drinking/littering, etc at the Walks and the Long Point, it was agreed to raise the issue at the next J.P.C. Meeting due to be held in June.

Railing at Garrybreeda

Cllr. Gunter-Nix stated that a section of the railing at the play area in Garrybreeda was broken and required replacement. She asked that the matter be addressed as soon as possible.

Athenry Road, Loughrea

Cllr. G. Burke queried if a DBM surface was going to be laid on the section of the Athenry Road where the water main was recently laid and referred to the poor road surface there presently. Mr. Raftery stated that a submission had been made to the N.R.A. for funding of same but no allocation had been made as yet.

Signed this

21

day of May 2010

Loughrea Smarter Travel Bid

Cllr. G. Burke asked what was the up-to-date in relation to the Loughrea Smarter Travel Bid. Mr. Cullen advised that the application had been made and it has been broadly supported by the vast majority of people in Loughrea. He advised that Consultants appointed by the Department were meeting Members of the Loughrea Smarter Travel Forum next week and interviews would be taking place the following week. He advised that a copy of the bid would be circulated to each Member in the next few days.

Cllr. Gunter-Nix complimented the Forum on getting the submission completed in a very short length of time and on the great job done. She proposed that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr. Owens who put so much work into the project. This was seconded by Cllr. S. Burke.

Potholes

Cllr. Maher referred to the condition of Mount Carmel Crescent Road and Abbey Terrace. Mr. Raftery advised that patching would not be adequate to address the potholes at Mount Carmel Crescent and they would have to be dug out and reconstructed. He stated that if monies were left over from the jobs that had been approved they would try and repair them.

Signage for Loughrea Town

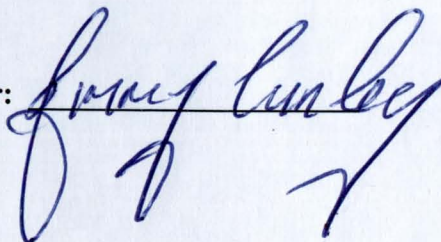
Cllr. G. Burke requested that more signage for Loughrea Town be erected on the motorway and the link road into Loughrea Town. He used the example of Ballinasloe Town that had signs indicating Ballinasloe East and Ballinasloe West and asked if something similar could be done for Loughrea. Mr. Raftery stated the N.R.A. was responsible for such signage and he would request extra signage for Loughrea. Cllr. Regan stated that lake was an asset that Loughrea town has and it was not being sold as a tourist attraction. Mr. Cullen advised that the N.R.A. only erected standard direction signs on motorways and they operated to very specific regulations regarding signage.

Set Date for Annual General Meeting

It was agreed that the Annual General Meeting would be held following the J.P.C. Meeting at 6.30 p.m. on the 21st June 2010 and the June Monthly Meeting would follow immediately after the A.G.M.

This concluded the business of Loughrea Town Council Meeting held on 10th May 2010.

Signed this 21 day of June 2010. Mayor:



**Minutes and Proceedings of Special Meeting of Loughrea Town Council
held on the 27th April, 2010 in the County Council Offices, Barrack
Street, Loughrea**

I latharai:

Mayor: Cllr. Pat Hynes

Members: Cllrs. Geraldine Bane, Gabriel Burke, Sylvia Burke, Jimmy Curley, Mary Gunter-Nix, Michael Maher, Norman Morgan, James Regan

Officials: Jim Cullen, Town Manager, Anne Power, Town Clerk

LOUGHREA SMARTER TRAVEL BID

Mr. Cullen informed the Members that following on from the adjournment of the meeting last night, he had earlier met with representatives from the Chamber of Commerce. He stated that he outlined to that Meeting the Council's view on the bid and asked them what their issues of concern were. He went through the measures/triggers that are included in the proposal to safeguard the concerns of the traders. He said that he left the meeting at that stage and the Chamber of Commerce continued to deliberate on the issue. He asked Cllr. Bane, who was at the Meeting, what the outcome of their deliberations was. Cllr. Bane stated that after discussion, the Chamber of Commerce had decided that they could not support the Loughrea Smarter Travel Bid.

Cllr. Morgan proposed that Loughrea Town Council support the Loughrea Smarter Travel Bid. This was seconded by Cllr. Gunter-Nix. A Vote was taken and the result was as follows:

For: Cllr. G. Burke, Cllr. S. Burke, M. Gunter-Nix, P. Hynes, M. Maher, N. Morgan (6)

Against: Cllr. G. Bane, Cllr. J. Curley, Cllr. J. Regan (3)

Mr. Cullen stated that he respected the way the vote was taken and complimented the Members on their decision.

Loughrea Town Council Special Meeting held on 27th April 2010

Minutes and Proceedings of Special Meeting of Loughrea Town Council
held on the 26th April, 2010 in the County Council Offices, Barrack
Street, Loughrea

USE OF FAIRGREEN

Ms. Power stated that a request had been received from Gerbola Circus for use of the Fairgreen from 8th – 11th May for the purposes of presenting circus entertainment and asked for the members approval to same.

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Burke, seconded by Cllr. Maher, the Members approved the use of the Fairgreen by Gerbola Circus from 8th – 11th May 2010.

Members: Cllr. Cecilia Barr, Gabriel Burke, Sylvia Burke, Jimmy Maher, Mary
Cannon, Michael Maher, Norman Morgan, James Power

The Meeting then ended.

Officials: Jim Cahill, Town Manager, Anne Power, Town Clerk

LOUGHREA SMARTER TRAVEL BID

Signed this 10 day of May 2010. Mayor: PAT HYNES

Signed this 10th day of May 2010. Mayor: PAT HYNES

**Minutes and Proceedings of Special Meeting of Loughrea Town Council
held on the 26th April, 2010 in the County Council Offices, Barrack
Street, Loughrea**

Iatharai:

Mayor:

Cllr. Pat Hynes

Members:

Cllrs. Geraldine Bane, Gabriel Burke, Sylvia Burke, Jimmy Curley, Mary Gunter-Nix, Michael Maher, Norman Morgan, James Regan

Officials:

Jim Cullen, Town Manager, Anne Power, Town Clerk

LOUGHREA SMARTER TRAVEL BID

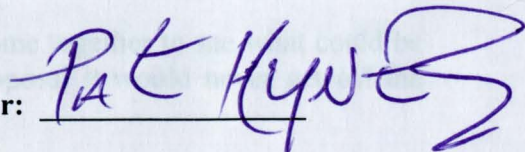
Mr. Cullen informed the Meeting that he had contact from the Chamber of Commerce and he stated that he had agreed to meet with them on Tuesday evening, 27th April. In that context, he suggested that Loughrea Town Council would defer making their decision on the Loughrea Smarter Travel Bid until after this meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan, seconded by Cllr. G. Burke and agreed to defer making their decision on the Loughrea Smarter Travel Bid and to adjourn their Meeting until 9.15 p.m. on Tuesday, 27th April.

Signed this

10th

day of May 2010. Mayor:



Minutes and Proceedings of Monthly Meeting of Loughrea Town Council held on the 12th April, 2010 in the County Council Offices, Barrack Street, Loughrea

I latharai:

Mayor: Cllr. Pat Hynes

Members: Cllrs. Gabriel Burke, Jimmy Curley, Mary Gunter-Nix, Michael Maher, Norman Morgan, James Regan

Officials: Jim Cullen, Director of Services, Adrian Raftery, Executive Engineer, Lorraine Cooney, Clerical Officer

Cllr. Geraldine Bane and Cllr. Sylvia Burke sent there apologies as they would not be able to attend this meeting.

The Meeting opened with prayer.

DEPUTATION FROM FRANK MITCHELL & MICHAEL MAHON

Mayor Hynes welcomed Frank Mitchell, Proprietor of the Arch Bar, Barrack Street, Loughrea to the Meeting. Mr. Mitchell circulated a copy of his presentation to each of the members present. Mr. Mitchell stated that the Town Hall, Loughrea is in a very seriously dilapidated state of repair and is a serious fire hazard. He stated all the glass in the windows are broken, the doors are rotten and that he fears for his life living on his own premises adjacent to the Town Hall because of the fear of fire and squatters. He said he does not feel safe or secure living in his home. He concluded by asking "Why can't this building be developed, maintained and supervised for the youth of our Town and District?"

Cllr. Curley thanked the deputation for coming. He stated that raising money by selling tickets may be an option to repair the Town Hall and something within the community needed to be done. He stated that the state of the windows and doors were appalling.

Cllr. G. Burke stated that Naomh Brendain Credit Union are holding a meeting Thursday night regarding the Town Hall and that something would be out on display in the next 4-6 weeks as to what their proposal for the Town Hall would be.

Cllr. Maher suggested that all the Voluntary Groups come together to see what could be done with the building and unless it was a viable proposal it would never get off the ground.

Loughrea Town Council Meeting held on 12th April 2010

Mr. Raftery stated that he would focus on getting the building secured and look at basic repairs but he had no funding as the Town Maintenance funding was not even enough to keep the basics in the town done.

The deputation then left the meeting.

Mr. Cullen stated that Galway County Council would look at what needs to be done to secure the building and would recommend to the Council that funds be made available to do repairs in the short term. He stated that in the long term that the local organisations look and see what can be done.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 8th March 2010

It was proposed by Cllr. N. Morgan, seconded by Cllr. M. Gunter-Nix and agreed that the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting be adopted.

Matters Arising from Minutes of 8th March 2010

Traffic Lights at Westbridge

Cllr. Regan asked if there was any update on the Traffic Lights at the Westbridge. Mr. Raftery stated that he was waiting for a quotation from Traffic Solutions on the erection of the lights but he had no timeframe as to when they would be completed. He stated that it would take a substantial amount of time due to the complex layout of the junction along with the number and nature of the services currently located underground.

Smart Travel Forum

Mayor Hynes stated the Chamber of Commerce was very opposed to the proposal of the pedestrianisation of Main Street. Cllr. Regan suggested an informal meeting of the Town Council take place to follow up on the previous meeting and to look at the emerging proposals in more detail. Mr. Cullen agreed and stated that it needed huge support to get it over the line.

Mr. Cullen said that we would check on the availability of the Consultants and would be in contact with them with regards to organising a meeting.

Bottle Banks

Cllr. Maher said he did not receive letter regarding the Bottle Banks. Mr. Cullen advised that the information would be forward to all Town Councillors.

Loughrea Town Council Meeting held on 12th April 2010

Road at Cosmona

Mr. Raftery explained the Contractors would be overlaying the road in the coming week.

Caheronaun Road

Cllr. G. Burke asked if the Council could fill the potholes on the Caheronaun Road. Mr. Raftery confirmed they would be filled.

2. Correspondence

- Acknowledgement from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government regarding Motion passed at March Meeting regarding reduction in personnel in Loughrea Engineering Area.
- Tarbert Community Care Ltd. Conference - Tarbert - 5th June 2010
- Control of Aquatic Invasive Species & Restoration of Natural Communities in Ireland - CAISIE - 22nd April 2010 - Athlone
- TJK Conferences Ltd - 28/29 May 2010 - Limerick
- LAMA Conference - Councillors Role in Changing Climate - 9th/10th April 2010 - Sligo
- BIDS Conference - 11th May 2010 - Dundalk, Co. Louth
- Housing Practitioners Conference 2010 - Enabling Innovative Solutions - A New Regulatory Environment for Social Housing - 27-28 April 2010 - Tullamore Court Hotel

3. Any Other Business

Toilets - Long Point

Mayor Hynes stated that he had received several phone calls as to why the toilets at the Long Point were closed over the weekend.

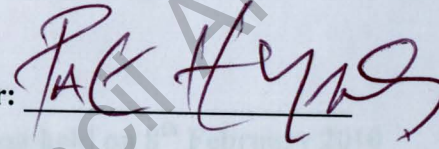
Mr. Cullen stated that they are only open during the Summer Season.

Loughrea Town Council Meeting held on 12th April 2010

Poster Tags/Ties

Cllr. G. Burke appealed to the Councillors to take away the plastic ties/tags from poles on Main Street and surrounding areas which were used to hang election posters.

This concluded the business of Loughrea Town Council Meeting held on 12th April 2010.

Signed this 1st TH day of May 2010. Mayor: 

Minutes and Proceedings of Monthly Meeting of Loughrea Town Council held on the 8th March, 2010 in the County Council Offices, Barrack Street, Loughrea

I latharai:

Mayor: Cllr. Pat Hynes

Members: Cllrs. Geraldine Bane, Gabriel Burke, Sylvia Burke, Jimmy Curley, Mary Gunter-Nix, Michael Maher, Norman Morgan, James Regan

Officials: Jim Cullen, Director of Services, Adrian Raftery, Executive Engineer, Anne Power, Town Clerk

The Meeting opened with prayer.

1 Confirmation of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 8th February 2010

It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan, seconded by Cllr. G. Burke and agreed that the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting be adopted.

Matters Arising from Minutes of 8th February 2010

Gort Road

Cllr. Bane stated that she had queries from residents on the Gort Road regarding planned works for the Gort Road. Mr. Raftery stated that funding was secured from the N.R.A. to reinstate the road permanently. He advised that Galway County Council would be commencing survey works followed by design works for this road. Contract Documents would then be prepared and the resultant tenders assessed and a suitable Contractor appointed to undertake the works. He stated the extent of the works would involve drainage works, road surfacing and footpath construction. In relation to how far out the Gort Road these works would go, Mr. Raftery advised that it depended on the tender prices received for the job. He advised that the allocation had to be spent by November and the works would have to be complete at that stage.

Cllr. Curley queried if works at the junction of Courthouse road was included in this proposal. Mr. Raftery advised that there was currently a difference in road levels at the junction and this was due to the Gort Road having to be raised due to the floods and it was therefore closed to deal with these differences in levels. He stated that it was proposed to reopen this road once the Gort Road was improved and to revert back to the original traffic layout. However, he advised that only the junction would be included in these works.

Loughrea Town Council Meeting held on 8th March 2010

Bottle Banks

Cllr. Maher queried if there was information in relation to how many litter fines were issued at the Bottle Banks at Station Road in recent times and how many had been paid to-date. Mr. Cullen advised that the information would be forwarded to Cllr. Maher.

Traffic Lights at Westbridge

Cllr. Regan queried when it was proposed to erect the traffic lights on Westbridge. Mr. Raftery advised that these works would have to go out to contract and he was unable to give a timeframe as to when they would be completed. Cllr. Maher stated that at the recent Travel Forum Meeting it had been indicated that the erection of the lights would be delayed until after a decision on the Loughrea bid for the Smarter Travel Initiative. Mr. Cullen stated that they would get clarification on this from Roads & Transportation Unit.

Swimming Pool

Cllr. Morgan asked if there was any information on the construction of the swimming pool for Loughrea. Mr. Cullen advised that a meeting had been organised in the coming week between the Council and the Developer. He stated that the Council was anxious that the project would start as soon as possible.

Smart Travel Forum

Cllr. Bane referred to the inaugural meeting of the Loughrea Smarter Travel Forum which had recently took place. She stated that it was an interesting meeting and a lot of different opinions were expressed. She said there was a lot of trepidation by the Business Sector. She stated that they had received a copy of the Stage 1 Bid and stated that it was a comprehensive document and that she would have serious concerns about some of what was proposed in it. She stated that people needed to be made aware that this was a Green Project and that while there are elements that would be very welcome; there were also elements that people would be anxious about. Cllr. Regan proposed that a Special Meeting would be held to discuss same. This was seconded by Cllr. Gunter-Nix.

Mr. Cullen stated that the Forum was established in a particular way and was representative of a number of different interest groups. He stated that it was quite right that the Town Council should meet to discuss and iron out issues in relation to this. He said that if agreement can't be reached the proposal would fail. He said that the Forum was still the conduit and whatever emerged from the Special Meeting would have to go through the Forum. It was agreed that a Special Meeting would be held on Thursday, 18th March at a time agreed by Mr. Owens.

2. To Note Auditor's Report on Annual Financial Statement 2008

On the proposal of Cllr. Morgan, seconded by Cllr. G. Burke, the Members noted the Auditor's Report on the Annual Financial Statement 2008.

3 Correspondence

- Brief Update from Roads & Transportation Unit on the preparation of the Stage II Bid for Loughrea Smarter Travel Town for the National Competition for Smarter Travel Areas.
- Correspondence from Roads & Transportation Unit to inform Members that the Council has adopted Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws in respect of certain roads within the administrative area of the County of Galway with effect from 29th April 2010.
- Correspondence from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government regarding restrictions on the Destruction of Hedgerows and the destruction of vegetation on uncultivated land.
- Correspondence from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government regarding Local Government Act 2001 (Section 142) Regulations 2010 – the regulations limit expenditure by local authorities on attendance by elected members at conferences/seminars/training/meetings or other events.
- Correspondence from Coiste Fhéile Pádraig in relation to St. Patrick's Day Parade on Wednesday, 17th March starting at 1.00 p.m. sharp.
- Letter from South Tipperary County Council regarding Motion passed at March Meeting requesting the Minister for Health and Children to reverse the H.S.E.'s decision to centralise all medical card processing to the PCRS offices in Dublin. This motion was proposed by Cllr. Morgan, seconded by Cllr. Maher.
- Letter from Tullamore Town Council regarding Motion passed at February Meeting requesting information from the H.S.E. regarding the assessment system in place for Medical Card Holders.
- Correspondence from John McCormack, Emerald Filling Station, Gort Road, Loughrea regarding proposed works on Gort Road. Mayor Hynes stated that Mr. McCormack was anxious that that the Courthouse Road be reinstated and reopened as soon as possible and was also anxious to know what works were proposed for the Gort Road. Mr. Raftery advised that a written reply had issued to Mr. McCormack on this issue and a copy would be sent to each Member. Cllr. G. Burke stated that his concern was that the traffic would back up with the combination of the proposed traffic lights and the Courthouse Road being closed

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off and he felt this would affect his business. Mr. Raftery stated that it was proposed to reopen the Courthouse Road once the Gort Road was improved and to revert back to the original traffic layout. Cllr. G. Burke suggested that the Council should put in a T-Junction at the junction of Courthouse road. Cllr. Morgan stated that this proposal was made over ten years ago by the Town Council but was rejected by the Town Council at that time. Mr. Cullen advised that a design for this was prepared in the past and it involved cutting through a section of the Green. Mr. Cullen asked the Members if they were in agreement in allowing the Council to use a section of the Green to improve the junction at this location as if agreement was not reached there was no point in wasting time in preparing another design. Cllr. G. Burke stated that on the aspect of safety, it would slow down traffic at the play area and it should be looked at. Cllr. Regan stated that he was happy with the junction as it was. Mr. Cullen stated that they would put this proposal in front of the Members for the next Meeting and it can be considered at that stage.

- 2010 La Touche Legacy Seminar – 1/3 October 2010 – Greystones, Co. Wicklow
- National Planning Conference 2010 – 15/16 April 2010 – Tullamore, Co. Offaly
- Nuclear Free Local Authorities Ireland Seminar – 19 March 2010 – Newry, Co. Armagh

4. Notice of Motion – Cllr. N. Morgan

(a) That Mr. Gormley, Minister for Local Government, be informed that since 2003, the number of Outdoor Workers in Loughrea has been reduced by 10 persons, which has resulted in reducing the workforce by half, making it impossible to provide an adequate service in our town and district; and that Mr. Gormley be respectfully requested to provide some means to improve our unsatisfactory situation.

It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan, seconded by Cllr. Maher.

(b) That a recommendation be sent to the Minister for Justice to set up a Review regarding the present law on Murder, Manslaughter and previous convictions.

It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan, seconded by Cllr. S. Burke.

5. Any Other Business

Graveyard Clean-Ups

Cllr. Maher stated that there were clean ups going on presently in both Garrybreeda and Mountpleasant Graveyards and requested that this rubbish would be collected on a

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weekly basis by the Council. Mr. Raftery asked that Cllr. Maher notify the Council when the bags were to be collected.

Floral Displays

Cllr. Maher asked if there was a budget for floral displays for the town. Cllr. Gunter-Nix stated that the Tidy Towns Committee provides funding for this and she agreed to liaise with the Council Gardener in relation to this.

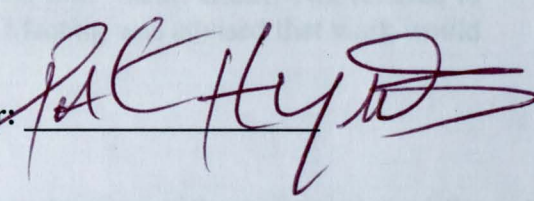
Deputation at next Meeting

Cllr. Curley requested that a deputation be received at the next meeting from a resident living on Barrack Street who has concerns about the Town Hall and its environs. This was agreed by the Members.

Footpaths at Cosmona

Mr. Raftery referred to the Loughrea Town Council Footpath Grants which were recently approved for 2010. He proposed that one of these proposals be removed and to include replacement footpath at Bullaun Road, Cosmona. He explained that the R-350 at Cosmona was currently being reconstructed as part of the grant funding received under the non-national annual roads programme. It was stated that the footpath at Cosmona is in poor condition and meets the criteria for the footpath grant and the works were necessary. Mr. Cullen stated that it made sense to do this while they were doing the road and said that it meant one of the footpaths would have to wait another year and whatever comes off would be first priority on the list for 2011. After discussion it was agreed by the Members that Repairs to footpath at Bullaun Road, Cosmona, Loughrea be included and the footpath on the Tynagh Road would be removed from the Loughrea Town Council Footpath Grants for 2010.

This concluded the business of Loughrea Town Council Meeting held on 8th March 2010.

Signed this 10th day of April 2010. Mayor: 

Minutes and Proceedings of Monthly Meeting of Loughrea Town Council held on the 8th February, 2010 in the County Council Offices, Barrack Street, Loughrea

I latharai:

Mayor: Cllr. Pat Hynes

Members: Cllrs. Geraldine Bane, Gabriel Burke, Sylvia Burke, Jimmy Curley, Mary Gunter-Nix, Michael Maher, Norman Morgan, James Regan

Officials: Jim Cullen, Director of Services, Michael Owens, Senior Executive Officer, Adrian Raftery, Executive Engineer, Anne Power, Town Clerk

The Meeting opened with prayer.

1 Confirmation of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 11th January 2010

It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan, seconded by Cllr. G. Burke and agreed that the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting be adopted.

Matters Arising from Minutes of 11th January 2010

Flooding

Referring to the Gort Road, Cllr. Bane stated that at the last two meetings she had requested that bollards be put in place on the section of road that was raised during the recent flooding so as to divide the footpath from the roadway and queried why this had not been done. Mr. Raftery explained that it was a case of prioritising works and trying to get these done within available staff resources. He stated that he had specifically asked that this work would be carried out, he would check to see if it had been done and he would follow through on it if it was found that it was not. Cllr. Gunter-Nix referred to the dreadful condition of the Cosmona Road. The Meeting was advised that work would be commencing on this road very shortly.

Swimming Pool

Cllr. Curley asked if there was any update of the construction of the swimming pool for Loughrea. Mr. Cullen stated that he had no further information and was not aware of any problems.

Derelict Sites

Cllr. Maher stated that he raised that issue of derelict sites in Loughrea at the last meeting and queried if there was any update on same. Mr. Cullen advised that there are

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regulations where certain areas can be designated as urban areas and Loughrea was included as one of the areas. He said that they would ask the Environment Section to pursue it. In reply to Cllr. G. Burke's query whether sites could be added to the Derelict Sites Register, Mr. Cullen advised that he get in touch with the Environment Section who will advise him on same.

Incident on Lake

Cllr. Morgan referred to a proposal made at the last meeting arising out of an incident that occurred on the lake during the Christmas period. After discussion, on the proposal of Cllr. G. Burke, seconded by Cllr. Maher, it was agreed by the Members that a letter of appreciation would be sent to Mr. McDonnell and Mr. McNally in appreciation of their help and their bravery during this incident.

2 Nomination of 2 Members to Loughrea Smarter Travel Forum

On the proposal of Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Morgan, Cllr. S. Burke was nominated.

On the proposal of Cllr. Curley, seconded by Cllr. Regan, Cllr. G. Bane was nominated.

As there were no other nominations, Cllrs. Bane & S. Burke was nominated to the Loughrea Smarter Travel Forum.

Mayor Hynes introduced Mr. M. Owens, S.E.O., Roads & Transportation Unit to the Meeting.

Mr. Owens referred to report circulated to the Members and outlined the background to the National Competition for Smarter Travel Areas. He said that the Stage 1 Bid for Loughrea Smarter Travel Town provided for the development of a range of infrastructural and promotional measures to achieve a significant change in travel behaviour in Loughrea with a particular emphasis on measures to promote walking and cycling. He said the key element of the bid was the development of a new sustainable transportation corridor with design emphasis on segregated high premium cycling and walking facilities, providing direct, safe and high quality access to Loughrea's educational sector. He outlined the key goals contained in the Vision for Sustainability in Transport; the criteria for Stage 1 selections; the bids shortlisted to Stage II; scoring system for Stage II; Stage II criteria; the key high level measures proposed; and timeframe for the development of the Stage II Bid. He explained that the preparation of Stage II Bid would involve an extensive public information and consultation process to ensure the bid benefits from and reflects the input of all the relevant stakeholders. In this regard and to facilitate the local community and stakeholders in actively participating in the preparation of the Stage II Bid, he said it was proposed to establish the Loughrea Smarter Travel Forum. He said it was intended the membership of the Forum would include representatives of all the key stakeholders including Electoral Members from the Loughrea Electoral Area and Loughrea Town Council, Roads & Transportation SPC,

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Loughrea Chamber of Commerce, Loughrea Community Forum, local employers, Educational Sector, Sports Clubs, An Garda Síochána. He also advised that it was proposed that an Elected Member from the Loughrea Electoral Area would serve as Chair of the Forum. He informed the Members that the Stage II Bid must be submitted by the end of April and funding for the successful bids would be from July 2010 to 2015. Mr. Owens stated that the overall budget for the successful bids was €50m. The Loughrea Bid, if successful, would mean funding of €5m with matching contribution of €1m. He said that the Department were providing funding of €50,000 for appointment of Consultants who will assist the Council in preparation of the bid. He said that he looked forward to coming back to the Members in April for a presentation on the Stage II Bid.

Mayor Hynes thanked Mr. Owens for his very comprehensive and detailed presentation to the Members. He congratulated and complimented the staff for including and getting Loughrea to the next stage of the competition and acknowledged that there was still a lot of work to be done. He said that it would be a wonderful project for the area if successful and would be immense benefit for the area. He said this project will have the support of all the Councillors here. Cllr. G. Burke asked what ideas they had in mind for inclusion in the plan. Mr. Owens stated that included in Stage 1 was a list of high level measures, some of which included the development of new transportation corridor; looking at options of putting in cycle lanes; development of a transportation node that will serve as an area for taxis; bicycle park, etc.; community cycle training programme; review of speed limits. He said that in the Stage II bid it was proposed to broaden this out and any additional new areas can also be included. Cllr. G. Burke asked that a copy of the Stage I bid would be circulated to the Members. Mr. Owens agreed that this would be circulated to the Members in advance of the next meeting. He said that it was intended that there would be a number of public meetings held between now and April. The consultants being employed would be reviewing the measures included in Stage I and would develop these further. Cllr. Bane said the possibility of having €5m invested in the town was very exciting and a huge possibility. She said she hoped the Forum would be successful as from previous experience, lack of information creates problems and it was important to keep the public informed. Cllr. Regan stated that the possibility of €5m in the town has to be welcomed, the Forum gave the opportunity for everyone to be involved and this was good news for Loughrea. In response to Cllr. Morgan, Mr. Owens stated that the total funding being allocated was €50m and there would be in the region of 3/4 successful bids and the final number of successful bids would depend on the value that the bids come in at. Mr. Cullen stated that it needed to be emphasised how much time Mr. Owens had put into this and that he really had been the driving force behind this project. He said the aim of the competition was to show how we are going to achieve changes in travel patterns and it had to be obvious we are capable in making change. He said that if the town were to have a chance to win this competition then cross-community grouping agreement is of vital importance. He referred to the interview process which forms part of the selection criteria and stated that what was included in the Bid, there had to be a genuine buy-in to what was being proposed. He said that he was confident that this can be pulled off.

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3 Correspondence

- Response from Roads & Transportation Unit in relation to Notice raised at last meeting requesting CCTV cameras is installed at Bus Stops on Main Street, Loughrea. Cllr. Morgan stated that he wanted to clarify that funding for the cameras should be made available from the monies taken in the parking meters. Mr. Cullen explained there were a number of issues to be considered. The monies taken in from paid parking are not generated by the people of Loughrea town and therefore the monies cannot be ring-fenced for any particular part of the county. He further explained that the Council has introduced paid parking to significantly increase the amount of parking in the town. He explained that they had to buy and extend Main Street Car-Park and Station Road Car-Park and develop them at a considerable cost. He said loans were raised at the time for this and they were still being paid off. He said there were ongoing maintenance costs such as traffic management; street lining, installation and maintenance of machines, emptying of machines, etc. He said Mr. Lavelle's reply was correct; there are no funds available to meet the cost of provision of CCTV cameras at Bus Stops on Main Street.
- Letter from St. Brendan's Education Centre inviting representative from Loughrea Town Council to serve on the new Board of Management. On the proposal of Cllr. Morgan, seconded by Cllr. Maher, Cllr. S. Burke was nominated. Cllr. G. Burke proposed that Cllr. Gunter-Nix. As there was no seconder, Cllr. Gunter-Nix withdrew her nomination. Cllr. S. Burke was nominated as the representative of Loughrea Town Council to serve on the Board of Management of St. Brendan's Education Centre.
- Letter from Monaghan Town Council regarding Motion passed at December Meeting in relation to reducing residential rents imposed by Local Authorities to their tenants.
- Letter from Killarney Town Council regarding Motion passed at January Meeting in relation to retention of the minimum wage.
- Correspondence from Galway County Community & Voluntary Forum regarding Briefing Seminar to be held in O'Dea's Hotel, Loughrea at 7.30 p.m. on 9th February regarding information on Galway County Council funding programmes for 2010.
- Correspondence from West Regional Authority requesting submissions/observations to be made by 9th April 2010 in relation to the Draft Regional Planning Guidelines for the West Region 2010 – 2022.
- National Conference - Our Towns 20:20 Vision – Co. Wicklow – 5/6 March 2010

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- 21st Colmcille Winter School Conference – Letterkenny, Co. Donegal – 26/28 February 2010
- LAMA Annual Conference – Sligo – 9/10 April 2010

4 Any Other Business

Bottle Banks

Cllr. Maher stated that the Bottle Banks in Station Road car-park were in a bad state over the past few weeks. He asked that information be supplied in relation to how many fines were issued in the past few weeks and many had been paid to-date.

Traffic coming off Slip-Road off Motorway

Cllr. G. Burke requested that extra signs for Loughrea Town be put up at Monearmore Roundabout for traffic coming off the slip road from the Motorway. Presently all traffic is directed towards the Cosmona Road to gain access to Loughrea Town. He stated that the Cosmona Road is in a very bad state and requested that extra signs be put in place to direct traffic north and south of the town. He also noted that when travelling from Ballinasloe to Loughrea, there were no signs indicating direction towards Loughrea Town as you exit Ballinasloe Town and asked that these would be put in place. It was agreed to pass on to these requests to the Roads & Transportation Unit.

Disabled Parking Bays

Cllr. Bane stated that the use of Disabled Parking Bays by able-bodied persons had become a problem and had witnessed on many occasions people parking in these spaces who were not entitled to do so. She asked that these bays would be monitored by the Community Warden and the local Gardai would be asked to patrol it and to issue Fixed Charge Notices for those who were not in compliance. Mr. Cullen stated that they would ask the Community Warden to pay particular attention to this.

This concluded the business of Loughrea Town Council Meeting held on 8th February 2010.

Signed this 8th day of March 2010. Mayor: Pat Hynes

Minutes and Proceedings of Monthly Meeting of Loughrea Town Council held on the 11th January, 2010 in the County Council Offices, Barrack Street, Loughrea

I latharai:

Mayor: Cllr. Pat Hynes

Members: Cllrs. Geraldine Bane, Gabriel Burke, Sylvia Burke, Jimmy Curley, Mary Gunter-Nix, Michael Maher, Norman Morgan, James Regan

Officials: Jim Cullen, Director of Services, Adrian Raftery, Executive Engineer, Anne Power, Town Clerk

The Meeting opened with prayer.

1 Confirmation of Minutes of Budget Meeting held on 14th December 2009

It was proposed by Cllr. G. Burke, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed that the Minutes of the Budget Meeting be adopted.

2 Confirmation of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 14th December 2009

It was proposed by Cllr. G. Burke, seconded by Cllr. Gunter-Nix and agreed that the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting be adopted.

Matters Arising from Minutes of 14th December 2009

Flooding

Cllr. Bane referred to the condition of the Gort Road which was raised at the last meeting and which has since deteriorated. Mr. Raftery stated that some funding had been secured for improvements on the Gort Road. He advised that a survey of the proposed works was needed, followed by a detailed design and preparation of contract documents. In response to Mayor Hynes regarding requested improvements to Courthouse Road, Mr. Raftery stated that the only works proposed are works which will tie in with the proposed improvements on the Gort Road, therefore the level of works on the Courthouse Road will be minimal at this stage.

Referring to Courthouse Road, Cllr. Bane stated that this road had not been used for through traffic since the flooding in November and people had got used to not using this stretch. Cllr. G. Burke supported this and stated that they should look at other alternatives for this road.

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Mr. Raftery stated that they were currently compiling a report in relation to the effects of the flooding in November for the Loughrea area. He stated that between 25/30 roads were badly affected by the flooding in the Loughrea Engineering Area. Cllr. G. Burke stated that the flooding at the entrance to Cannon's Sandpit in Masonbrook was particularly bad. He asked that the Council would examine this to see what can be done to relieve flooding at this location in future and suggested that part of the problem may be due to the water-tables not being opened regularly enough.

Swimming Pool

Cllr. Curley asked if it was still hoped that construction of the swimming pool for Loughrea would commence in February. Cllr. G. Burke said that it was his understanding that it would be commencing in February 2010.

Traffic Lights at Westbridge

Cllr. Regan queried when works would commence on the proposed traffic lights at Westbridge. Mr. Raftery stated that Outdoor staff was tied up at the moment between manning the distribution of water to households without water and maintenance of potholes on the road network, etc. and that it was hoped that works would commence on this job as soon as weather conditions improved.

Smarter Travel Areas

In response to Cllr. G. Burke, Mr. Cullen stated that Consultants had not yet been appointed.

3 Correspondence

- Letter from Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in reply to Town Council's Motion regarding business schemes that were supported by Foras na Gaeilge.
- Letter from Foras na Gaeilge regarding Motion passed at December Meeting.
- 18th Annual Kerry Environmental Recognition Conference on 4/7 March 2010 in Tralee.

4 Notice of Motion – Cllr. N. Morgan

(a) That a recommendation be sent to John Gormley, Minister for Local Government, that where houses that were flooded, having been granted Planning Permission by Galway County Council, to build on ground "liable to flooding", that the Council Officials who granted such Planning Permission be dismissed and sued by his, John Gormley's Dept.

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It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan. This proposal was not seconded.

(b) That a recommendation be sent to Galway County Council to erect CCTV cameras at the two Bus Stops at Main Street, Loughrea, to stop the almost continuous illegal parking in these said locations; and such be paid from funds collected from the parking meters.

It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan, seconded by Cllr. Maher.

(c) That Mr. Jim Cullen be requested to give a report to Loughrea Town Council on the effects of the flooding in Loughrea Town, including (a) if the bridges were adequate; (b) how the sluice gates were managed at the time; (c) what can be done to reduce such damage in the event of such a recurrence in future. This report could be given at the March Meeting, or as soon as possible after that.

It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan, seconded by Cllr. G. Burke.

Mr. Cullen stated that Mr. Raftery had advised earlier that a report was being compiled in relation to the effects of the flooding that took place in November and listing the roads affected for the Loughrea area.

5 Any Other Business

Loughrea Lake

Cllr. Morgan referred to an incident which happened on the lake over the weekend where a young girl fell into the lake and was rescued by Gerry McDonnell and his brother-in-law. He complimented the Council for putting up signs advising people not to go out onto the lake and closing the gates at the Long Point which helped prevent further accidents and tragedies from happening. He proposed that the Town Council present a scroll to Gerry McDonnell for his bravery. Councillors stated that it was important to get the message out to the public of the dangers posed with the thaw in place and to appeal to people to stay off the lake. Mr. Cullen said that all they can do was to send out the message that it was dangerous.

Exit at St. Brendan's Home

Cllr. Maher asked if it were possible to put a safety barrier in place on the Lake Road next to the lake at the exit out of St. Brendan's Home to prevent cars from slipping across the road, especially in frosty weather.

Ard Breeda Housing Estate, Loughrea

Cllr. G. Burke referred to the very steep slope coming out of Ard Breeda Housing Estate onto the Cahernaun Road, which was particularly dangerous during frosty weather and asked if anything could be done about this problem. Mr. Raftery advised that the

Loughrea Town Council Meeting held on 11th January 2010

Housing Estate was not in the Council's charge. He agreed that the gradient at this junction was very excessive and stated that a planning application had recently been lodged and part of the application included realignment of this junction, which if granted would help improve the situation there.

Town Hall Loughrea

Cllr. G. Burke advised the Meeting that it had been announced at the Naomh Brendain Credit Union AGM that Galway County Council had given permission to a committee set up by the Credit Union to invite and seek ideas as to what use could be made of the Town Hall. He said that the Committee was made up of five people and they would be inviting ideas/submissions from groups/companies as to what use can be made for the Town Hall. Any submissions would also have to include proposals as to how they would fund same.

The Members welcomed the announcement and agreed that it was a good concept. They stated that they would support them in whatever direction they go.

Derelict Sites

Cllr. Maher asked was there a time-frame on property owners whose site/buildings are deemed derelict, to carry out the necessary works. He said that there are a number of properties around the town that are derelict and asked was the onus on the owner to make their site/building safe. Mr. Cullen stated that the issue was covered under legislation and the Environment Section keeps a Derelict Sites Register. He said that they would continue to monitor these sites on an ongoing basis.

Water Supply

Mr. Cullen advised the Meeting that a big issue for Councils for the next while was water shortages owing to wastage of water and water leakages. He said that the Council has called on all households, businesses and farmers to immediately reduce the amount of water being used.

Disclosure of Donations

It was noted that the closing date for completed Disclosure of Donations Forms is 31st January 2010.

This concluded the business of Loughrea Town Council Meeting held on 11th January 2010.

Signed this 8TH day of February 2010. Mayor:

